

# Preface

This report presents the output of the Global International Waters Assessment for the Mekong River carried out by the Southeast Asia START Global Change Regional Center (SEA START RC), Environmental Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, in collaboration with the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Assessment studies were undertaken in accordance with the methodology developed by GIWA (GIWA 2001) and by conducting Scaling and Scoping Workshops organised by GIWA in collaboration with the SEA START RC. The workshops were attended by specialists with diverse expertise (see Annex I for a list of workshop experts and other contributing authors to this report).

The boundaries as well as the main physical and socio-economic characteristics of the Mekong River region were deliberated by the regional experts in order to provide sufficient background information and to define the area within which the impact assessment studies were conducted. Environmental and socio-economic impacts of the region were studied, based on the GIWA Scaling and Scoping Methodology.

The aims of this report is to present, in a single document, the available information on environmental and socio-economic impacts in the Mekong River region.

