

3) SOME OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

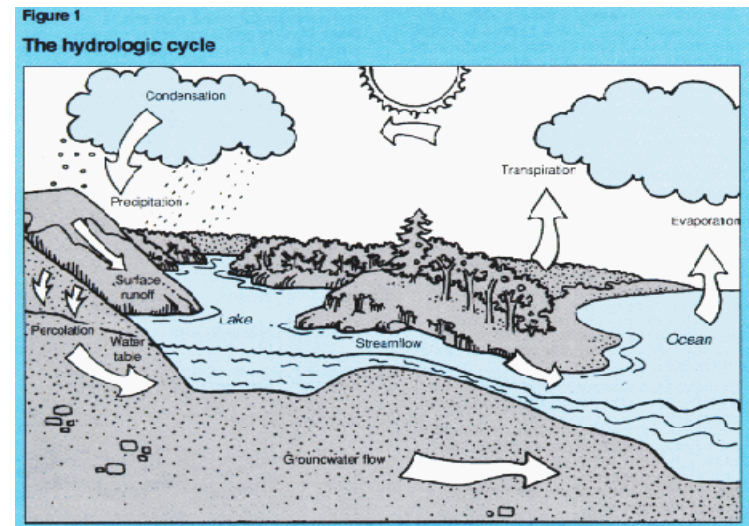
OVERALL CONCLUSIONS: 1

- **Water cycle critical for adaptation**

As much as climate change mitigation is about energy, climate change adaptation is about water.

→ Majority of the climate change impacts felt due to the changes in hydrological cycle (floods, droughts & storms)

→ Climate change impacts thus mediated to environment and livelihoods through alterations of hydrological cycle



OVERALL CONCLUSIONS: 2

- **The importance of timescales**

Climate change adaptation requires long-term perspective (unlike mitigation that requires more immediate action)

→ Both shorter- and longer-term view crucial

→ Adaptation needs to be based on understanding of the changes –and their causes– at different timescales

→ While the biggest CC impacts likely to be felt over several years and decades, there are more immediate changes taking place already now (e.g. hydropower)

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS: 3

- **Remember the broader context**

While climate change is estimated to bring significant long-term changes to the Mekong floodplains, also other factors likely to induce environmental changes

→ Most important such “change factor” is the already on-going hydropower development in Mekong upstream

→ Local developments (e.g. agriculture) as well

→ Cumulative impact assessment needed

→ Plus there is life beyond water and environment: social, economic, political & institutional changes critical

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS: 4

- **Build adaptation capacity on already existing strategies**

Adaptation capacity requires similar things than sustainable development : no magic there!

→ Not to be considered as a new, separate entity that would be replacing the previous concerns and attempts

→ Enhance adaptation capacity to impacts of environmental changes overall, not just of climate change

→ Adaptation should build on already existing efforts to support local livelihoods and enhance the living conditions