

The natural hazards breakout group identified a number of challenges related to researching and improving decision making related to natural hazards within the Lower Mekong Region. The first issue considered was the diversity of hazards within this region, which are listed below (in alphabetical order):

- Drought
- Earthquakes
- Fire
- Health hazards (e.g. Malaria)
- Inland flooding
- Landslides
- Storm surge
- Volcanos

In addition to the number of very different hazards, the group identified four challenge areas.

1. Data

- Inundated with data → difficult to process and validate
- High cost of data

2. All models have significant costs, even open source ones because of effort required to build and configure

3. Credibility of hazard warnings → Ensuring there is trust between operational experts and general public

4. Disseminating correct information to public

In response to these challenges, the group identified three areas for potential collaboration across the region.

1. Satellite data processing, data validation, and sharing computational resources
2. Common, standardized, and accepted GIS layers that can be easily accessed for the whole region
3. Developing reusable software components (e.g. models, web GIS platforms)