

DRAFT TECHNICAL REVIEW REPORT FOR THE LUANG PRABANG HYDROPOWER PROJECT – SOCIO-ECONOMICS

THE 9TH MRC REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM

DAY 1: THE 2ND REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING ON PRIOR CONSULTATION FOR LUANG PRABANG HYDROPOWER PROJECT

05 FEBRUARY 2020, LUANG PRABANG, LAO PDR

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OUTLINES



Background



Main Review findings



**Public comments from 8th RSF
and MRC's address in 2nd TRR**



Recommendations

Background (1)

- **Principles of Social Impact Assessment**
- A systematic SIA covers: **Baseline** situation (pre-project or without project), **impacts** of the project (**before mitigation**), **mitigation measures**, and **residual impacts** after mitigation.
- Impacts and mitigation: Identify potentially **affected population** and expected **changes in their livelihoods and well-being**, and how – for each of the subgroups affected – impacts will be addressed to achieve the objectives of improving or at least maintaining livelihoods and well-being.
- *(Picture from Bangkok Tribune)*



Background (2)

- Compensation
- Resettlement
- Livelihood restoration
- Community/Social Development
- Public health support

Groups of Project Affected People (PAP)

- Group 1 – fully submerged – 6 villages, 581 households, 2,285 persons
- Group 2 – partially submerged – 9 villages, 692 households, 3,855 persons
- Group 3 – losing farmland – 8 villages, 671 households, 2,330 persons
- Group 4 – downstream affected by construction – 3 villages, 189 households, 904 persons
- No specification of potential downstream/upstream affected communities

Types of Expected Impacts

- Positive impacts on employment, economic activities, road connectivity
- Loss of land and assets, and affected livelihoods such as fishing, cargo and tourist boat transport, gravel extraction, collection of NTFP
- Loss of Buddhist temple and stupas, cemeteries, spirit houses
- Noise, dust, communicable diseases
- Reduced nutrient intake, affecting health outcomes for **transboundary communities**

Main review findings

Baseline Situation:

- Information on local communities is up to date with survey from early 2019, but has gaps especially on river related livelihoods (fishing, boating, gravel extraction...)
- No baseline information for downstream or upstream zones
- Some information is difficult to find or outdated
- More data sources such as SEA, Council Study, SIMVA, could be used

Impacts and Mitigation:

- Most typical local direct impacts are covered, although could be more consistent and gender and ethnicity disaggregated
- Mitigation measures related to physical and economic displacement of people in directly affected areas are well defined but with no budget info
- Mitigation measures for non directly-displaced people are much less detailed, e.g. tour operators in LPB, fishermen, etc.

No details on baseline, impacts or mitigation in other parts of LMB

Public comments from 8th RSF and MRC's address in 2nd Draft of TRR

Public comments from 8 th RSF	MRC's address in 2 nd draft of TRR
Limited baseline information on transboundary communities	Flagged up clearly in TRR
Little or no transboundary impact mitigation consideration	Flagged up clearly in TRR, and addressed more fully in a separate paper on reasonable and equitable use
No information on alternative projects of greener nature or market demand for energy	These subjects, while very valid, are not covered in the PNPCA process. There are suggestions in the Sustainable HP Development Strategy
No full Cost and Benefit analysis	This analysis is not subject to the PNPCA review/FS and it will be explored using the previous MRC Studies under the MRC Joint Platform as a working paper
A Mekong Fund could be used to mitigate transboundary impacts	Mekong fund issue will be further explored under the MRC Joint Platform

Recommendations

Additional information to be provided during or post PNPCA:

- Information on methods and data sources for baseline, impacts and mitigation
- Up-to-date information on downstream and upstream zones livelihoods and living conditions
- Quantitative impact predictions, drawing from relevant MRC studies
- Targeted mitigation measures for all predicted impacts
- Joint mitigation and monitoring where practical
- Clear commitments in terms of budgetary, implementation, monitoring and adaptive management





THANK YOU

One Mekong. One Spirit.