

Open Letter to the Mekong River Commission

by Dr. Lilliana Corredor, Founder & Coordinator, Scientists for the Mekong
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The MRC should stop finding excuses to reprimand Laos and stop any further Hydropower Dam development in the Mekong River mainstream and major tributaries.

Every member of the MRC and of the National Mekong Committees of the 4 countries (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia & Vietnam) KNOW that Hydropower: is NOT sustainable; is NOT a Clean & Green Energy technology; is a constant source of GHG emissions (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O); is blocking fish migrations now for the 2nd year; is risking the Food Security of 60 Million poor; is leading to the extinction of hundreds of aquatic species including the Giant Cat Fish, Giant Ray, Irrawaddy Dolphins, and dozens of fish species vital to the diet of communities in the Mekong River; is significantly reducing Biodiversity; is blocking a high percentage of vital sediments and nutrients that ensure the productivity of the river; is changing the geo-morphology of the river; is further damaging the Tonle Sap lake & Wetlands; is reducing water quality and thereby affecting the health of millions who depend on it for survival, and affecting aquatic life; is ensuring the sinking of the Delta by lack of sediments; is ruining the productivity of the Delta both on land and in the aquatic ecosystem by lack of rich nutrients, which are being withheld by the sediments blocked by the upstream Dams; is promoting an "**Environmental Refugees Exodus**" that could reach 10 Million people forced to leave the Delta because of sinking lands ruined by salinization; is impacting the economies of Vietnam and Cambodia by loss of fisheries & productive lands; **is actually INCREASING POVERTY and Despair**, instead of "*improving the standard of living and decreasing poverty*" as advertised; is displacing tens of thousands of people of poor communities from their homes, lands and cultural sites, while offering a dismal compensation, which does not support the people to cultivate food or to fish, forcing them into a "market-life style" promoted by the Chinese, but without appropriate training nor money for food!

It is disgraceful & Shameful that you allow a Humanitarian Crisis as never before seen to occur, in the name of "Economic Development". You are effectively allowing loss of Food Security & drastic Ecosystem damage for Trade Agreements that benefit the Elite, Developers, Companies and Banks. Your lack of responsibility is outrageous and Unethical!

We urge you to STOP the "diplomatic excuses" and take action! There are enough studies that support a Ban on hydropower in the Mekong basin for all the reasons stated above, as the MRC itself advised in 2010.

We suggest you listen to our first **Podcast**, which offers the public an Overview of this "**Mekong River Ecocide**", and spells the facts as they are. A forthcoming second Podcast will address: the MRC lack of responsibility & lies denying the Pak Beng Dam will go ahead, on the same day the Laos General Director of Mines & Energy told the media that "it WILL go ahead because it is a good project"; we'll also expand on the impacts on the Mekong Delta, the Tonle Sap Lake & Wetlands, Aquaculture and more.

Link to Podcast #1:

<http://resistanceradioprnrn.podbean.com/e/resistance-radio-lilliana-corredor-031217/>

***Clean Waters and Productive Water Ecosystems
are the RIGHT of every human, animal and plant on Earth***

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