

The 6th Regional Stakeholder Forum

Second Regional Information Sharing on Pak Lay Prior Consultation Process

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Second Draft Technical Review on Social and Economics

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Contents of Presentation



y rice field (Right Bank



Maize Plantation

I. Background

II. Main review findings

- Baseline Information
- Predicted Impacts before Mitigation
- Mitigation Measures
- Residual Impacts after Mitigation

III. Considerations for MRC Joint Committee



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River Bank Erosion and Garbage D

Normally Observed at Right-Bank

I. Background – Principles of Social Impact Assessment

What can we expect from a social impact assessment?

- A systematic SIA describes the **baseline** situation (pre-project or without project), predicts the **impacts of the project (before mitigation)**, defines **mitigation measures**, and presents the **residual impacts after mitigation**. These contribute to a decision on whether the project should proceed.
- At the core of this analysis would be the expected **impacts before mitigation**. These determine who is potentially affected by the project, which aspects of the baseline situation need to be described, and how – for each of the subgroups affected – they will be addressed to achieve the objective (improvement of quality of life).



I. Background - Who is affected by the Pak Lay HPP?

Local Impacts:

- upstream of the impoundment, 5 villages indirectly impacted by the project with a total population of 1,377 people
- in the impoundment, 8 villages with 3,647 people that will be displaced
- downstream, 12 impacted villages with 15,363 people
- 3 villages with 1,714 people who will be host communities of the resettled population

Cumulative and transboundary impacts in a 5 km corridor along the Mekong:

- Zone 1 – Northern Laos, 0.9 Mil
- Zone 2 – Thai-Laos, 2.6 Mil
- Zone 3 – Southern Laos, 0.6 Mil
- Zone 4 – Cambodia, 8.5 Mil
- Zone 5 – Vietnam, 12.5 Mil

II. Main Review Findings – Baseline and Impacts

Baseline Situation:

- Most information taken from Pak Beng SIA and about 10 years old
- Information on locally affected population selectively updated in 2015-2017
- Some information not consistent or not relevant
- Data sources such as SEA, Council Study, SIMVA, national statistics not used

Impacts before Mitigation:

- Most typical local impacts covered
- No clear descriptions of scope and methods
- Different documents use different categorization approaches, largely qualitative



II. Main Review Findings – Mitigation and Residual Impacts

Mitigation:

- Mitigation of land acquisition and displacement impacts **reasonably well defined**, with a budget of USD 24,500 per resettled person, in line with international practice
- Mitigation of other local impacts **only superficially described**; targets not clear
- **Lack of clarity** on whether actions reported have been undertaken or only planned
- **No mitigation measures identified for transboundary** downstream zones (despite strong dependence on river, medium to major negative impacts, and the statement “all impacts mentioned can be mitigated by monitoring, management and technical measures”)

Residual Impacts after Mitigation:

- Not discussed (experience shows that not all impacts can be mitigated, and not all mitigation measures are successful)



II. Main Review Findings – Social Dependence on Mekong

Degree of Dependence on the Mekong River and Its Ecosystems

Zones	Degree of Dependence*	
	Left Bank	Right Bank
Zone 1: Northern Laos (0.9 million people) Pak Tha (KM 2281) to Pak Heuang (KM 1736)	3.7	3.8
Zone 2: Thai-Laos (2.6 million people) Pak Heuang (KM 1736) to Ban Woenbuk (KM 904)	3.1	2.7
Zone 3: Southern Laos (0.6 million) Ban Woenbuk (KM 904) to Cambodian border (KM 723)	3.3	3.2
Zone 4: Cambodia (8.5 million) Cambodia border (KM 723) to Vietnam Border (KM218)	4.1	4.0
Zone 5: Southern Vietnam (12.5 million) Vietnam border (KM 218) to Mekong Delta (KM 0)	4.1	4.2

* Estimated by the Pak Lay project team (Scale: 1=Very low, 2=Low, 3=Medium, 4=High, 5=Very high)

III. Recommendations (1)

BASELINE AND IMPACTS

- **Update information on locally affected populations**, which includes detailed baseline data on all aspects of livelihoods and living conditions that could be affected, using also MRC data such as CS, SIMVA ect...
- **Give consistent information** on people affected, budget used for mitigation and other details, and **more clarity** on actions having been implemented or planned for implementation
- **Update information on downstream/transboundary affected populations**, consistent with MRC social monitoring protocols, including baseline data on livelihoods and living conditions potentially affected in the TbESIA
- **Provide quantitative impact predictions** where possible and be consistent with relevant MRC studies such as the Council Study



III. Recommendations (2)

IMPACTS & MITIGATION

- Any TbESIA should be based on the expected **project-specific impacts of the PLHPP**, and not generically stated
- **Targeted mitigation measures** for all predicted impacts, designed to at least maintain, if not improve, the livelihoods and living conditions for all affected groups
- Where practical, cumulative impacts should be addressed through **joint mitigation and monitoring actions with other developers, government agencies, and the MRC**; and
- **Clear commitments** in terms of budget, implementation plans, monitoring and adaptive management responsibilities



Stakeholder Comments – We Care!

First SHF comments	Lao Govt responses	MRCS TRR coverage
Concerns over floods happening in Thailand in downstream communities, and lack of coordination for water management among the MCs	Downstream villages identified, will discuss water management within Lao territory. Envir and Social management committees will set out communications strategy using modern technology	Recommended MCs to consider coordination mechanisms for dam operations, and water level management
How can we carry out Tb social impact assessment and link to technical assessment?	Tb social impact assessment report divided areas to zones and provided baseline information	Tb SIA was out of date and taken from Pak Beng project, requested updating. PG provides for linkages between technical areas and socio-economic impacts
Energy assessment will be done as part of the socio-economic impact?	Will consider all of the cumulative impacts	Energy assessment out of the TRR scope, but the Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy is undertaking a comprehensive review
Community resettlement and livelihood restoration are big concerns, who will be responsible?	RAP set out preliminary livelihood restoration plans, will set up committees for implementation and monitor, and follow Decree 84, learning from Nam Ou1-7 and Nam Ngum 5 dams	Include reviews on RAP, financial provision of 24.5K per resettled person is adequate, but challenges lie in implementation and monitoring

Thank you

