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

Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Minh, Socio-Economic Specialist, Planning Division, MRC Secretariat
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)

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• Some information is difficult to find or outdated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

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