National Information Sharing on PNPCA LPHPP

9th MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum

5th February 2020

Luang Prabang Lao PDR

Office of the National Water Resources
Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat
Main objectives:

➢ To share data and information on the LPHHP to public

➢ To listen and gather their concerns and suggestions on the LPHPP
The 1\textsuperscript{st} meeting in Nakhon Phanom on 24\textsuperscript{th} Dec. 2019; 175 Participants

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} meeting in Amnat Charoen on 28\textsuperscript{th} Jan. 2020; 155 participants

The 3\textsuperscript{rd} meeting to be held in Loei in the last week of Feb. 2020

The expected participants: 500 in total

- Central, regional and local governmental representatives
- Local people/NGOs/civil society
- Mass media
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Approach to the meetings

✓ PNPCA processes
✓ LPHPP details
✓ TRR
✓ Questions & Answers
Concerns & Comments

1. Remedies and funds
   ✓ Measures for supporting the affected people are requested.
   ✓ Propose to the project to have damage insurance with compensation fund.
2. Dam Safety

✓ The active fault lines in the vicinity of the project may create dam failures

✓ Dam break fully studied and Emergency and Early Warning Action Plan in place.
3. Fishery and fish passage

- Expected reduction in natural fish species and no. of catches
- Lessons learned from the Xayaburi should be applied with further modification of LPHPP.
- More in-depth study be conducted on effective fish passages for this project
- Establishing fish breeding stations
4. Changes in mainstream hydrological regime

• Relatively low flows in wet season and high flows in dry season compared to normal due to dam operations.

• Early low flow periods at end of wet season due to dam impounding wet season flow for upcoming dry season releases.

• Sediments trapped upstream of dams reducing sediment load to downstream river reach.

• Clearer water downstream in particular during dry or low flow periods.
5. River bank erosion

- Less sedimentation along river bank, causing river bank erosion
- Land loss due to the bank erosion.

6. People livelihood losses

- River bank cropping areas in dry season affected as river is too far for the farmers to access the water for cropping.
- Cropping areas are flooded and damaged.
- Localized sand beaches in the mainstream did disappear which are used as people recreation areas and cultural festivals such as boat racing and Loykratong festival.
6. People livelihood losses (Cont.)

✓ The natural fishing farmers will catch lower amounts from the main stream and connecting tributary as natural fish migration and food for fish are negatively affected.

✓ The unusually Low water levels in the mainstream could damage the dry season fish habitats.
7. Data/information sharing

• Project’s water releases plan shall be shared with downstream countries for response preparation by people and communities downstream.

• The project’s water management data/information should be also shared.
8. More comprehensive project impact documents required

- More detail on transboundary impacts are needed to further consider mitigation measures.
- More study on project water management and impacts, e.g. *Fish passage system, sediment releases pattern, socio-economic impacts* and etc., are needed to support the project design and operation.
- Climate change should be incorporated in the impact study.
9. Others

• Requests are made to the project owner and Lao PDR government to provide the remedies and supports to Thai people and communities affected.

• Basin-wide management is thought to be a sustainable solution.

• Measures for mitigating impacts on fishery, river bank cropping, bank erosion, among others, are required.
Media Attention
Thank you for your attention