Update – MRC’s Preliminary Design Guidance (PDG)

The 4th Hydropower Forum – Developers Dialogue
10th – 11th August 2017
MRCS, Vientiane, Lao PDR
Update of the MRC’s PDG (DG2018)

1. Objective of MRC’s DG2018

- **Updated DG2018** for proposed mainstream and (significant tributary) dams on LMB provides:
  - Contemporary, research based performance standards, design and operating principles;
  - Covering compliance monitoring and adaptive management;
  - To be endorsed by the Joint Committee by mid-2018
Update of the MRC’s PDG (DG2018)

2. Principles (adapted from PDG2009)

MRC’s Design Guidance 2018 will be provided in the form of:

1. **Performance targets, design and operating principles for mitigation** (not prescriptive design requirements);
2. Emphasise **joint compliance monitoring and adaptive management**;
3. Adopts **a consistent approach** across the basin in the design of individual dams, as well as the proposed mitigation and management measures.
4. Allows developers the **flexibility to identify and propose the best solutions**.
3. Lessons Learned from PNPCA Implementations

- **Guidance** on *minimum primary data requirements*;
- *Good social impact assessment and resettlement practices*;
- Emphasis on the **avoidance** of impacts (through strategic planning);
- Options for **joint planning, join coordination and join monitoring** particularly at trans-boundary level;
- Elaborate on **Adaptive Management**;
- **Guidance** as to *quality of the EIA* to avoid delays in the provision of adequate information for assessment;
- **Operating rules** for projects are often not provided in PNPCA documents;
- **Inclusion of the need for Trans-boundary CIA requirements** – with reference to current MRC preparation of guidance for TbEIA.
**Update of the MRC’s PDG (DG2018)**

4. ISH0306 Mitigation Guidelines: across the lifecycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Phase</th>
<th>Master Plan</th>
<th>Feasibility Study</th>
<th>Project Design</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigation</td>
<td>SEA, CIA, EIA</td>
<td>Understand the characteristics of the impact</td>
<td>Design and Operation measures, mitigation rules and procedures, compensation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitigation Focus</td>
<td>Avoidance</td>
<td>Mitigation (incl. minimization)</td>
<td>Compensation</td>
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5. Consideration of Additional Sections in DG2018

1. **Hydrology and Water Flow**: Dealt with separately in PNPCA (*ramp rates, flow variation, minimum flows etc.*);

2. **Socio-economics and Livelihoods**: Considered in PNPCA but no guidance, focus on transboundary and take account of national standards;

3. **Transboundary EIA**: Currently under preparation by MRCS through WB funds, will allow separation of local and Tb impacts to be fully set out.
6 Scope of Review

- **All sections** of PDG2009 will be reviewed and selectively updated;
- Philosophy to be used “**performance standards**” rather than “prescriptive designs” will be retained;
- **New sections** may be added to cover areas of agreed gaps as highlighted bullet 2.5;
- **Clear links** to Mitigation Guidelines (ISH0306);
- **Stakeholder inputs** and ideas will be gathered where possible;
- **Consultation** with, and **endorsement** of, MRC Member Countries will be vital to gain an agreed set of guidelines in DG2018.
Update of the MRC’s PDG (DG2018)

7 Steps and Method

1. Agree Objectives and Scope by MRCS – July 2017, and Joint Committee – November 2017;
2. Mobilise a Team of Key Experts;
3. Gather inputs from regional and national experts (+developers) who have familiarity with PDG2009;
4. Draft revised and updated Clauses (Draft V0.1);
5. Discussion with MRC Secretariat (V0.2), then with MCs for National Review and Consultation (Draft V0.3);
6. Regional Meeting of MRC (JC Task Group- TBC) – to seek consensus on final wording of DG2018 V1.0; and
7. Finalise DG2018 V1.0 and report to JC for endorsement.
### Update of the MRC’s PDG (DG2018)

#### 8 Timeline

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEPS</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PDG Review Timeline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agree Objectives,Scope : Secretariat (July 17); JC (Aug 17)</td>
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<td>National and Regional Consultation</td>
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<td>Procure Technical Team</td>
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<td>Mobilise Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gather inputs and lesson learned from PNPCA and ISH0306</td>
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<td>Draft Revised Clauses V0.1</td>
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<td>Internal Secretariat discussion and Draft V0.2</td>
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<td>National Review and consultation of DG2018 V0.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Include National comments Draft V0.3 DG2018</td>
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Thank you