



Progress and Status of the Prior Consultation Process for the Proposed Sanakham and Phou Ngoy Hydropower Projects, and the Don Sahong Extension

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Sanakham Hydropower Project (SNHPP)

- **9 Sep 19**: Submission of SNHPP from Lao PDR for PC
- **30 Jul 20**: Official starting date
- PC process is on-going with various events completed:
 - 3 JCWG meetings in 2020 and 2021
 - A special session of JCWG in 2021
 - A special session of JC in 2022
 - 2 regional consultations on **24 Nov. 2020 (10th RSF)** and **30 Nov. 2021 (2nd day of the 11th RSF)**
 - A number of national information sharing in Cambodia and Viet Nam
 - A number of technical meetings between MRCS and developer
 - 3 bilateral meetings between Lao PDR and Thailand in 2022 and 2023, facilitated by the MRCS



- Run-of-river project
- 5th in the Cascade of hydropower projects in LMB
- Installed capacity: 684 MW
- Expected construction date: 2020
- Expected operations start date: 2028
- Total cost: 2,073 Million USD

Sanakham Hydropower Project (SNHPP)

- Key Outputs:
 - ❑ Rapid Assessment Report – Oct 2021
 - ❑ Final Technical Review Report – Mar 2022 (with 4 draft versions)
 - ❑ Additional assessment on Tb impacts caused by rapid water fluctuation with a focus on hydraulics and sediment transport – Sep 2022 – Aug 2023

Sanakham Hydropower Project (SNHPP)



- **Further activities/milestone to be conduct toward completion of the PC Process:**
 - Review of the existing and available data and information, and conduct of additional survey if needed, and holding technical meetings regarding fisheries, and socio-economics/livelihood on the Thai communities closed to the project
 - National Information sharing on SNHPP in Thailand
 - Member Countries to submit their Reply Form (Country's official position toward the proposed SNHPP project and its PC process)
 - Hold special meeting of the MRC Joint Committee to discuss the Statement and Joint Action Plan

Phou Ngoy Hydropower Project (PNgHPP)

- 1 Oct. 20: Submission from Lao PDR for PC
- Due to concerns on potential backwater effects which may cause Tb impacts to Thailand and request for additional information, the official starting date of PC process has not yet been agreed upon.
- Some activities to date:
 - 1st pre-meeting of JCWG on draft scoping assessment report (Jul 2022)
 - Meetings between MRCS and Lao PDR/Developer on Thai concerns (Jul, Aug 2022)
 - A regional working session on additional information and assessment (Aug 2022)
 - A meeting between TNMC and PNgHPP developer on Thailand's concern and suggestion for additional information on impacts and mitigation measures (Oct 2022)



- Run-of-river project
- 7th HPP submitted for PC process
- Install capacity: 728MW
- Expected construction: 2022
- Expected operation: 2029
- Total cost: 2 billion USD

Phou Ngoy Hydropower Project (PNgHPP)

- Key Outputs:

- Scoping assessment report – Jul 2022
- Supplementary report on Thailand's concerns (by Developer/LNMC) – Jun 2023



- Run-of-river project
- 7th HPP submitted for PC process
- Install capacity: 728MW
- Expected construction: 2022
- Expected operation: 2029
- Total cost: 2 billion USD

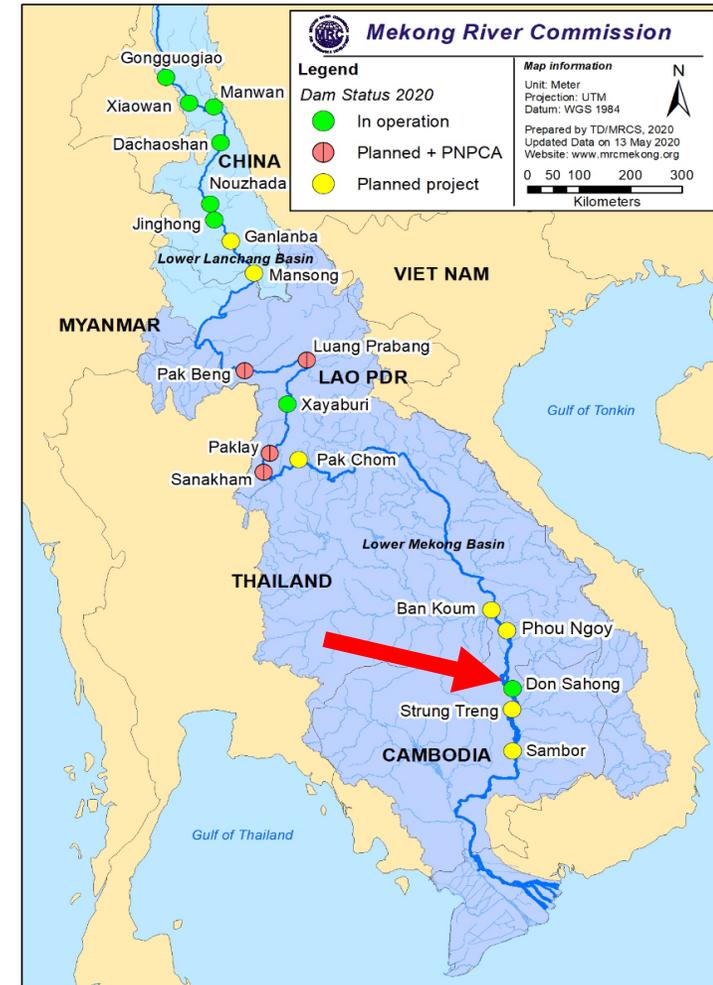
Phou Ngoy Hydropower Project (PNgHPP)



- **Further activities/milestones to be conduct toward the official starting date of the PC Process:**
 - With support of the MRCS, developer with Thai experts to jointly review and conduct necessary data and information collection on hydrology/hydraulic, fisheries and socio-economic
 - Results/outcome of the joint review and necessary data/information collection to be presented to the PNPCA JCWG in Dec 2023.
 - Starting date to be discussed in early 2024.

Don Sahong Hydropower Project (DSHPP) Extension

- **2 Jun 22:** Submission of DSHPP extension (for an additional turbine from four to five units) by Lao PDR for Notification
- MRCS conducted a review of the submitted documents and presented to the JC at its 54th meeting in Sep 2022
- Following the JC's request, Lao PDR submitted four additional documents in Dec 2022
- MRCS conducted the review and updated the draft review report and submitted to MCs in Sep 2023 for national information sharing.



- Adding one additional turbine-generator unit (65MW) - use in wet season (Jun. – Nov.)
- Expected construction: Dec. 21
- Expected operation: Oct. 24

MRC's Review – Key points

- ❑ **Hydrology:** Addition of the new turbine represents a 25% expansion of an existing power plant, which will only operate during the wet season. 🖱️ It is unlikely to be a concern during higher flows but may be an issue with the delayed start of the wet season flows due to upstream developments and climate change. 🖱️ It is therefore recommended that the operational rules for the additional turbine are based on the maintenance of flows over the Khone Phapheng Falls and not on a specified calendar period for the wet season.
- ❑ **Sediment:** The submitted report provided shows that 8% of the total annual water volume flows through the Hou Sahong Channel, and that sedimentation over few years of operation has only amounted to 0.1%. However, no additional sedimentation modelling has been reported nor any sediment study report provided.
- **Environmental and social impacts:** Report mentioned some impacts during construction (noise and dust from powerhouse excavation, water quality, increased traffic around the project site), no additional environmental (impacts on fisheries) and social impacts, over and above the existing impacts, will occur.

MRC's Review - Recommendations on Technical Aspect

- ❑ More information regarding **hydraulic analyses** should be shared, specifically concerning flows in all the distributary channels.
 - Developer should particularly demonstrate that any changes in flows over the Khone Phapheng Falls (or changes to the period of minimum flow) are negligible.
 - Additionally, developer should demonstrate that any alterations to flows in the channels modified for fish passage are also deemed negligible.
- ❑ The proposed **operating rules for the commencement and cessation of operations for additional turbine** should be based on flows in all distributary channels rather than calendar dates.
- ❑ **Data collected on sediments, fish passage and fisheries** throughout the design, construction and operational phases should be shared and utilised to strengthen the conclusions that any impacts will indeed be negligible.
 - Fish tracking is recommended as one of data collection needs for the fish passage monitoring programme.

MRCs's Review - Recommendations on PNPCA Process

- Member Countries could conduct national consultation or information sharing, if necessary, in their country to provide the update to their national stakeholders as well as collect their comments or view.
- Share information on the DSHPP Extension at the MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum
- The comments and views will be recorded and reported to Lao PDR (and developer) and JC for their consideration.



Thank you.

