

Social Assessment for CEPF prepared by International Rivers

Project Title:

Same Company, Two Dams, One River - Using Hydrolancang's China Domestic Practice to mainstream biodiversity, fisheries and livelihood protection for the Lower Sesan 2 Dam Project.

1. Background

The proposed project is expected to have impacts on the communities affected by the Lower Sesan 2 Dam in Cambodia and Manwan and Nuozhadu dams on the Lancang River in China.

The Lower Sesan 2 Dam is estimated to displace 4,574 people (1,052 households) from seven villages in four communes. At least 38,675 people, including a large number of indigenous people in at least 86 villages located along the Sesan and Srepok rivers and in the reservoir area would lose access to the vast majority of their fisheries resources due to the dam blocking fish migrations from the Mekong and Sekong rivers up the Sesan and Srepok rivers. In addition, at least 87 villages in Cambodia located along tributaries of these two rivers would also lose access to migratory fish. In total, at least 78,000 people living above the Sesan 2 Dam site are expected to lose access to migratory fish.

The official resettlement number for the Manwan Dam announced during the dam design stage was 3,052 people in seven towns in four counties of Dali, Lincang and Simao areas. However, this number was underestimated and 7,260 people were actually displaced in the end. 52% of the resettled people are minorities. A total of 46,719 people are impacted by the construction compound, cofferdams and reservoir inundation. The reservoir inundation by itself relocated 14,364 people in 32 towns in 9 counties. 6 of these 9 counties are minority autonomous counties. There are over 20 minorities impacted by the inundation, including Dai, Yi, Hani, Lagu, Wa, Bai, and Bulang ethnicities.

2. Impact Assessment

We don't foresee that the project will bring adverse impacts to the local communities either in Cambodia or in China. One of the objectives of the project is to increase awareness of the impacts and mitigation strategies of the Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Project among the Cambodia communities. We view that a better understanding of the range of mitigation strategies adopted by the developer of completed large dam projects in China, may create new advocacy and leverage points for local indigenous communities impacted by the Lower Sesan 2 project, so they can better protect their livelihoods and receive more support from the dam developer in absorbing the project's impacts.

3. Free, Prior and Informed Consultations with Affected Communities

In the early phase of the project, we will review the primary research conducted on the impacts of Lower Sesan 2 and if required may conduct our own consultations with local community groups as part of the research and analysis phase of the project. To do this, International Rivers will work with local NGOs and community leaders to conduct community meetings and one-to-

one interviews on communities' expectations of the Dam Developer, HydroLancang, regarding biodiversity, fisheries and community impact mitigation.

We will inform participants of the purpose of the interviews and how the information may be used. To avoid adverse consequences for the participants in the interviews, we will assume that all interviewees will want their identity to remain anonymous and not record any identifying details. We will take all measures to avoid the possibility of reprisals by the company or the government, such that if any other preventative measures arise during the project data collection period we will take such measures.

At this stage we do not foresee that meetings or workshops planned with the local communities impacted by the Nuozhadu and Manwan dams in China will be required. There has been a lot of study of the social impact mitigation strategies in Chinese and English. In 2013, we also completed field trips along the Lancang River to observe and collect information about the resettlement measures for Nuozhadu and Manwan dams. This information is likely also to be relevant and was obtained with the consent of the local community members providing it and with the identities of the participants remaining anonymous.

To disseminate our final analysis and findings, we will work with local NGOs to organize informative and participatory workshops among the impacted communities and representative groups in Cambodia, share with the communities the findings and have open discussions with them about the alternative mitigation strategies. All the meetings will use translators to ensure that participants can understand the meeting in their local language. The final report may also be shared with the local communities through our local NGO partners in China.

4. Grievance Mechanism

The project will create grievance mechanism. In our interactions with local community groups and via our website, we will provide contact details of the International Rivers China Program team and Southeast Asia team through which grievances can be lodged. The mechanism will enable persons who are dissatisfied with the project, have questions, or have a disagreement with any member of the project team, to raise concerns. In addition we will make available the details of an independent third party available on project flyers and our website to also receive complaints in relation to the project. We are currently contacting Chea Phallika from NGO Forum on Cambodia and Youk Senglong from Fisheries Action Coalition Team to act as a third party. Once this mechanism is finalized we will inform the grant manager of the final third party grievance moderator. Finally, we will ensure general details of the grievance and how it was resolved will be disclosed to project stakeholders.