## Recommendations – Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Dam: Current Livelihoods of Local Communities. A Baseline Study.

* **For the Royal Government:**
1. Should recommend the project developer to conduct a more detailed and specific study on the environmental and social impact assessment in a good quality, honest manner with comprehensive participation in discussions and consultations with the directly affected people. It should conduct extensive awareness raising among stakeholders before starting the implementation of the project. This includes provision of sufficient opportunities for civil society to contribute to commenting on the EIA report.
2. As dissemination of information on the development project, compensation and resettlement does not seem to have clear activities, ensure that all information is made publicly available and people who will be affected can receive sufficient and certain information. In particular, give opportunities to people to share comments, make decisions, and show their satisfaction for the development project, compensation, and the proposed new settlements.
3. Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation team to monitor the project implementation activities before, during and after the construction to ensure that the company abides by the government’s guidelines and principles to avoid breach of trust and contract, which can have negative impacts on the people.
4. Establish a compensation assessment commission and provide compensation with clear planning, and manage the implementation of compensation to ensure accountability, transparency, justice, and safety for the people in communities that are to receive compensation. Compensation for the impacts covers not only lost assets, but also lost time and efforts that the people have invested in their old places, and includes compensation for long-term impacts and support for people’s livelihoods until they can strengthen their own living conditions. Moreover, in the future, a law on compensation should be enacted to provide compensation for impacts by development to ensure that people will not lose benefits or suffer due to development, especially, in accordance with the government’s poverty reduction policy.
5. Resettlement of affected people, especially specific locations and timeframes, must be planned in detail and in advance. Moreover, most people who live in the Proposed Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Dam areas rely on agriculture, including farming, plantation, fisheries and NTFPs. Therefore, resettlement must take into accounts resources that people need and benefit from on an ongoing basis at the resettlement areas to ensure occupation security and food security for livelihoods.
6. Encroachment and land tenure in the new settlements may lead to land conflicts among people and other parties, so the government must ensure land tenure security and right to land tenure for the people by establishing a task force responsible for expediting land ownership or land registration.
7. Indigenous people are the target of closest attention for development because they are vulnerable. Indigenous people live in forested, mountainous areas and rely on the natural environment, such as forest, wildlife, rivers, creeks, etc. because they cannot adapt to a living style without these resources. Therefore, their rights and the kind of development that should be implemented to ensure that they are not victimized by development should be closely examined. Any development needs to preserve their traditions and religions.
8. Negative impacts and mitigation measures indicated by the EIA and the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment as suggested by experts should include preventive measures to avoid effects on people’s safety and security later.
9. A Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be enacted to ensure perfection, quality and effectiveness of environmental impact assessment, and compliance with existing laws.
* **For the Hydropower Dam Development Company:**
1. Implement principles and guidelines as stipulated by laws and Sub-Decrees of the Kingdom of Cambodia, such as environmental and social impact assessments with full participation from people in each community, have clear compensation and resettlement plans, and be responsible for damages caused by the dam construction.
2. Most people did not receive clear, official information on the development project, compensation and resettlement, so ensure that such information is made publicly available and people to be affected have access to sufficient and clear information. In particular, allow people to share their comments, to take part in decision making, to express their satisfaction of the development project, compensation and proposed new settlements.
3. Prepare compensation for immediate impacts or for basic needs before notifying people to resettle to prevent shortage of shelters, food, other basic needs. Compensation for indirect and long-term impacts and impacts on time and labor must also be well-prepared, fair, acceptable, and timely.
4. Ensure coordination of compensation or replacement cost to make similarity with the assets and resources in the people’s old villages, such as houses, residential land, farmland, plantation land, locations close to forest, water sources, and fertile soil for livelihoods.
5. After relocation, people’s livelihoods may not be the same as before because it will take a long time to develop the new place and to create jobs, so the company must plan people’s livelihood restoration so that they can have stable livelihoods.
6. Communities directly and indirectly affected in the project area should have access to electricity at an affordable rate, which is lower than the rate for sale to outside the area because they are also taking part in developing the hydropower project. ​
7. ​There should be thorough discussions with the government, and study of sustainable development approaches for both natural environmental resources and society. In particular, attention needs to be paid to development that affects indigenous people to ensure that they can conserve their customs and traditions without affecting their livelihoods.
* **For Relevant NGOs:**
1. Work closely with communities to monitor all the company’s activities or implementation progress, identifying those that are of irregular or negative nature for the people so that implementation will be under constructive critiques aimed at progress.
2. There should be partner working groups with the government to ensure that the company complies with the government’s principles and to improve people’s livelihoods after resettlement.
3. Provide training for, and share advocacy methodology with, those communities to be affected so that they will be aware of their rights and roles in development.
4. Provide additional training on hygiene, health, and vocational training so that people will gain more knowledge and skills and thus will be able to take up new occupations after resettlement.
* **For Communities:**
1. Organize as community groups with leaders and the people’s commission in each village to share information and monitor the development project. Compile important documents related to the project, and seek assistance or report immediately if irregularities occur from the beginning of the project to secure common interest in the community.
2. Must know their rights and roles in participating in national development, and must take part in discussions/consultations on the proposed development in order to be aware of plans. They also have to bring issues to discuss and exchange ideas among people and village authorities before seeking additional support as necessary.
* **For Other Researchers:**
1. Study in details the impacts of the project on the environment natural resources and climate change.
2. Study income restoration program, which is a people’s need in order to seek assistance from organizations for support and restoration of people’s income.
3. Study about floods management for large-scale hydropower dam or study experiences of floods management from hydropower dams by other countries that have been successful and give recommendations for implementation of this hydropower project and other hydropower projects in Cambodia.
4. Study the advantages and disadvantages of constructions of large-scale hydropower dams, including a comparion of impact and benefit analysis of dam construction.
5. Study the living conditions and impacts of the Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Dam Development on the people affected indirectly by the project.