The Linkage of Transboundary Mekong Water Governance and Livelihood of 3S Rivers Community in Cambodia

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The importance of 3S System

- The transboundary river system of Srepok, Sesan and Sekong (3S) are major tributaries to lower Mekong.
- Critical important for people living in the basin – livelihoods, cultures, social etc.
- Provide essential water and sediment flows to the downstream floodplains
- Serve as major routes for fish migration, production and biodiversity conservation.
Livelihood Impacts Caused by Dam Operation
“Impacts Experienced From Yali Dam since, 1996”

- Reduce wet season flow and increase dry seasons flows;
- Disrupts water and sediment flow to downstream;
- Pollution and worsen water quality;
- Riverbank and bed Erosion caused villagers to move or relocation;
- Often droughts: The water shortage and irregular water fluctuation;
- Flash Flooding: Destroy properties, people death, losses of livestock.
Impacts to Livelihood of people along Sesan river in Cambodia

- Flooding in upstream and water fluctuation in downstream;
- Blocks fish migration;
- Loss of deep water pools up with sedimentation;
- Loss of food security and decrease in household income,
- Abandon village and houses, far from rivers;
- Decrease tradition, and culture of indigenous people.
Hydropower development in the 3S region

- **Lower Sesan II**  
  *(operation since 2017)*
- Lower Sesan 1&3
- Upper Sesan 4
- Lower Srepok 3&4
- Sekong
- Prek Liang 1 & 2.

(Source: ODC  
https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/hydropower-dams/)
Lessons Learned

- EIA are not properly conducted, transboundary impacts not considered;
- Lack of community participation & information sharing;
- No compensation for losses/damages;
- No resettlement program on downstream in Cambodia;
- Lack of cooperation mechanism, little or no community or civil society engagement;
- Have no proper plan respond to common problems.
Recommendation to the MRC

- Establish Rivers-Based Organization (RBO) for 3S basin, engaging affected communities and civil society;
- Strengthening cooperation among CNMC and VNMC to fulfill the IWRM project agreement on 1995;
- Create dataset for 3S trans-boundary cooperation;
- Increase public participation for all stakeholders engagement;

Prepare by 3SPN and members of Rivers Coalition in Cambodia (RCC)
Recommendation to the government

➢ Keep the Mekong and 3S rivers free flow;

➢ Provide the legislation and commitment to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) for sustainable livelihoods;

➢ Issue legislation to strengthen payment for ecosystem services to hold the developers accountable and compensate to the loss of ecosystem services;
Thank you for your attention

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Q & A