

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

PROPOSAL FOR LUANG PRABANG HYDROPOWER PROJECT'S PRIOR CONSULTATION

THE FIRST REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING ON LUANG PRABANG HYDROPOWER PROJECT
06 NOVEMBER 2019, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

Ms. Duong Hai Nhu, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, Office of CEO, MRC Secretariat



Background

LPB HPP has been submitted to MRCS on 31 July 2019 and to notifying countries on 3 Sep 2019.

The PC process to **evaluate potential transboundary impacts of the proposed water use**, through the MRC Joint Committee.

Stakeholder engagement to **enhance mutual understanding and collectively contribute recommendations and suggestions** for minimising and mitigating possible harmful effects on the environment and people at transboundary level.

Stakeholder consultations to ensure a mechanism to raise awareness and to involve people who will be directly and indirectly affected, as well as local and national government agencies, private sector / developers, the regional donor and academic communities, media, and the wider public represented by CSOs.

Proposed stakeholder engagement for LPB HPP

Approaches

- **Information sharing:** project documents, summary version of the proposed project, technical review report, MRC Website & government agencies' websites, riparian languages
- **Feedback and comment mechanism:** Web-based submissions of stakeholders' comments, feedbacks and comments via e-mail, comment matrix, Regional Stakeholder Forum's proceedings
- **Consultations and dialogues:** Dialogues with developer, Dialogues with key stakeholders, In-country informal meetings, National consultation meetings, Regional consultation meetings, ...

Methodologies

- Early stage engagement → common understanding and building trust with critical stakeholder groups.
- Being open and proactive facilitator, actively identifying potential collaboration mechanism → constructive consultation environment
- Exploring a better hearing format → MRC Stakeholder Consultation Comment Box as an interactive tools, more instructive panel discussions during the regional meetings.

Communication

Specific messages

- PNPCA is an indispensable process that provides detailed information about a country's project and opportunities for the public to provide recommendations
- The water diplomacy (provided by MRC) is an effective platform to conduct negotiations and provide technical expertise for the prior consultation process. MRC has certain mandates to facilitate the consultation process. MRC cannot decide on behalf of member countries.
- MRC actively provides information to all stakeholders and welcomes their participation in the process.



Primary Audience:

- Member governments (decision makers, NMCS and relevant line/implementing Agencies)
- Development Partners
- NGOs, civil society, activists
- Media (regional, international)

Secondary Audience:

- Academic/research institutes on water and environment
- Private sector, developers and consulting companies
- Provincial/local authorities, people in the affected riverine communities

Communication channels

- Press release
- Opinion pieces
- Media tour
- Interviews
- LPB HPP web 
- Facebook
- Brochures
- Video clips
- Information package
- Consultation comment box 

National consultations

1. 1st National meetings

- Cambodia: 21 October 2019
- Thailand: December 2019 (TBC)
- Vietnam: 4 November 2019

2. 2nd National meetings

- Cambodia: 9 January 2020 (TBC)
- Thailand: January – March 2020 (TBC)
- Vietnam: January 2020 (TBC)

3. 3rd National meetings

- Cambodia: 13 March 2020 (TBC)
- Thailand: January – March 2020 (TBC)
- Vietnam: January 2020 (TBC)

Regional Stakeholder Forums

1. The 8th MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum, 5-6 November 2019 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, Day 2

- (1) early information sharing,
- (2) common understanding of PNPCA process and mandate,
- (3) reaffirming stakeholder engagement in good faith and the enhanced MRC mechanism
- (4) soliciting of preliminary views on the project
- (5) gaining comments and suggestions on approach and methodology for Technical Review Report.

2. The 2nd Regional Information Consultation on Prior Consultation Process for LPB HPP – 6 February 2020

- (1) Updates on national consultations
- (2) Discussion and recommendations on draft Technical Review Report

Other platforms

- dialogues, meetings with developers, CSO representatives
- Participate in partner's events: dialogue, presentation, panel discussion
- Etc ...



THANK YOU

One Mekong. One Spirit.