

8 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS

8.1 Introduction

In this chapter some of the challenges and obstacles faced in managing the developments that are foreseen as the cumulative impacts in the 5-year and the 20 year perspective are described.

Many of the issues mentioned below have been addressed earlier in studies and plans prepared as part of the NT2 project preparation process. The purpose of this analysis is to highlight some of the most important issues and to see these issues in perspective of the broader development impact scenarios.

8.2 Challenges and Recommendations

8.2.1 Implementation Capacity and Competence

Existing Situation

The social and environmental programmes and plans in connection with the NT2 Project will impose demands on government institutions and agencies on all levels charged with the responsibility of implementing them. These plans include the Ethnic Minority Development Plan and the Resettlement Action Plan, which together constitutes the Social Development Plan (SDP), and the Social and Environmental Frameworks Operations Plan (SEMFOP) for the Nakai-Nam Theun NBCA.

The executive part of the resettlement and livelihood restoration activities will be handled by the Resettlement Management Unit (RMU) while implementation will be taken care of by the District Resettlement Working Groups in close cooperation with the Village Resettlement /Compensation Working Groups. The SEMFOP will be implemented by the Nam Theun 2 Water Management and Protection Authority (WMPA), consisting of an executive secretariat under the direction of a board.

Both the RMU and the WMPA will rely heavily on the district staff of both government agencies and mass organisations for the implementation of their mitigation, resettlement and development activities. The staff will be required to work both on a full and part time basis with the RMU and the WMPA for lengthy periods of time, particularly during the construction phase.

A recent project study carried out under the ADB Capacity Building Assistance Project (ADB, 2004) assessed the availability of district staff in relation to the requirements for the implementation of the SDP and the SEMFOP.

As indicated by the results shown in Table 31 the district that is going to face the largest staff deficiencies is Nakai District, which in order to balance out the RMU and WMPA requirements will need an additional 125 staff. The other districts will also face substantially increased demands on their technical and administrative capacity.

Develop joint principles and plans for management and protection of border biodiversity areas.	Will provide a basis for better management.	Established systems of sustainable use of the most valuable biodiversity areas in the country.
Integrate China and Myanmar more into the MRC and GMS cooperation and initiatives.	Better information exchange.	Might have an influence on the development and operation of Chinese hydro-power project, and consequently on downstream impacts.
Strengthen the legal mechanisms for implementation of the Mekong Agreement.	Will facilitate implementation of the principles for fair and equitable use of water resources and contribute to conflict resolution between countries.	Will improve the processes of consultation regarding downstream impacts of projects. Might lead to modification of project plans and reduce negative impacts.
Give MRC a leading role in water related Cumulative Impact Assessments and Strategic Impact Assessments.	Better upfront awareness of environmental and social impacts related to sector developments in the Mekong Basin.	A more balanced development of water related sectors and less negative environmental and social and impacts.