

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Analytic Process

The Nam Theun 2 (NT2) Hydropower Project is the largest infrastructure development project in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). As a result of the potential impacts the project may have on the development of the area, international funding institutions have requested a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) in order to analyse the combined impacts of a number of projects, either implemented together or in a sequence and of future developments and plans, in relation to NT2. The CIA includes:

- ∄# Effects other (future) developments in the area have on the type and magnitude of the NT2 impacts. (Added impacts)
- ∄# Impacts of development in other sectors that are induced by NT2 activities and its supplementary components. (Induced impacts)

The primary geographic areas covered are the Mekong Basin, Nam Kading, Xe Bangfai and Hinboun basins and the linear development zone of the transmission lines and roads. In addition, border areas are covered in relation to social development, transport and biodiversity.

Two development scenarios are presented based on a 5-year and 20-year planning horizon. These scenarios cover a number of sectors by examining the present situation, existing plans and development trends. Sectors covered are: hydropower, transport, irrigation, water supply and sanitation, urban development, fisheries, forestry, industry, social development (including ethnic minorities, health, education and social disparity), and conservation (biodiversity issues).

The anticipated output from the CIA is a comprehensive understanding of the cumulative impacts of the NT2 Project in the regional context. In addition, the CIA will form part of the ongoing consultation process with stakeholders for detailing interventions and, perhaps, serve as a model for future CIA studies of large infrastructure projects.

Administrative and Legal Framework

The planning and future implementation of the NT2 Project conforms to both the Lao national legal requirements and policy, and the safeguard policies and guidelines of the ADB, WBG and other financing institutions. The basic legal framework consists of the Environmental Protection Law and other key legislation covering forestry, water management, land use and resettlement. A number of technical assistance projects have assisted GoL over the past 15 years to establish new laws, policies and guidelines that meet the requirements of international donor organisations.

Lao PDR is committed to the provisions outlined in a number of international conventions and treaties. This includes the Agreement on the Cooperation for Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin (Mekong River Commission), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB), the Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Requirements and safeguard policies of the ADB and WBG have also played a key role in the planning of NT2. In particular guidelines on environmental assessment, natural habitats, involuntary resettlement, indigenous people, cultural property, dam safety and international waterways. An extensive consultation process has been undertaken with all stakeholders in accordance with donor requirements.

NT2 Project and its Predicted Impacts

The key technical features of the NT2 Project include a 48 m high dam on the Nam Theun creating a reservoir covering an area of 450 km² in the wet season. Water will be diverted through a headrace tunnel to a powerhouse located on the Gnommalath Plain where it will be discharged into a channel and into the Xe Bangfai. A catchment area of 4,013 km² will supply the reservoir with water of good quality during the wet season. Minimum bypass flow from the dam will be 2 m³/s, reducing existing flow along the Nam Kading. Discharged water from the power plant will double the flow during the dry season and add about 10% in the wet season in the Xe Bangfai. The total installed capacity will be 1074 MW.

From a social and environmental point of view the key mitigation actions and management interventions will consist of:

- ⌘ Resettlement of about 5000 ethnic minorities on the Nakai Plateau to resettlement villages and a rehabilitation plan promoting new livelihood systems.
- ⌘ Forestry and Fisheries management plans for resettlers.
- ⌘ Impacts from the construction and running of four camps with approximately accommodation for 4200 workers.
- ⌘ Health and education plans and capacity building for existing government organisations and organisations created specifically to mitigate the effects of the NT2.
- ⌘ Measures to regulate and restrict release in the Xe Bangfai, restrict erosion and sedimentation, construction of an aeration weir and other measures to mitigate changes in water quality and water flow.
- ⌘ Infrastructure improvements for existing provincial roads and new access roads.
- ⌘ Social and environmental management plan for the NT2 Catchment (Nakai-Nam Theun NBCA) to introduce conservation measures to preserve biodiversity and promote sustainable socio-economic development.

Assumed Sector Developments

Sector developments are based on an analysis of existing development trends and plans with an emphasis on aspects that may combine with impacts caused by the NT2 Project.

Hydropower is the most planned sector with long-term development plans for the region. Hydropower development in Yunnan Province in PR China is likely to have the greatest impact on hydrology in the Mekong Basin with a potential installed capacity of 15,600 MW and active storage of 23,200 mill.m³ by 2025. A number of projects are planned in Lao PDR, of which NT2 is the largest. No significant hydropower development is planned for Thailand. It is unlikely that Cambodia will develop larger project in the Mekong Basin in the next 20 years and only a few projects are planned on Vietnam tributaries. NT2 will account for 12% (2010) and 7% (2025) of the active storage capacity in the Mekong Basin. In terms of kW per m³, the Chinese projects produce about four times more power compared to the planned projects in Lao PDR.

Transport is a dynamic growth sector and potentially a key factor in the reduction of poverty and socio-economic development in Lao PDR and the region. Considerable funds are being channelled into this sector with the goal of linking all major towns in the country. There are plans for several important transportation corridors linking Lao PDR to Thailand and Vietnam,

including the East-West Corridor (Route 9), with a bridge at Savannakhet, Route 8 in Bolikhamxai to the Vietnamese border and Route 12 in Khammouane. Many of these roads link up with roads to be upgraded by the NT2 Project.

Irrigation development depends on availability of funds, proper management and technological level and standards. By far the largest and most intensively cultivated irrigated dry season rice areas are found in the Mekong Delta. By 2000 these double-cropped areas constituted around 87% of the total area of dry season irrigated rice in the Mekong Basin. Lao PDR and Cambodia, where a doubling appears possible, have the largest percentage wise expansion potential for dry season irrigated rice. From the local perspective, the Xe Bangfai Basin has the largest potential where more than a 50% expansion of dry season irrigated area may be possible.

Water supply and sanitation are linked to growing demand due to population increase and urbanisation. Estimates for increased water consumption show a need for three times the existing supply by 2025 when up to 80 million people may inhabit the Lower Mekong Basin, up from 55 million at present. In the NT2 Project area, several towns have plans to expand or establish water supply and sanitation projects to cope with growing demand.

Urban development trends in the local context are concerned with population increase due mainly to in-migration from rural areas or from outside of the Project area to the towns of Thakhek, Mahaxai and Gnommalath in Khammouane Province and Lak Xao in Bolikhamxai. Along with urbanisation come the challenges of town planning, water supply and sanitation.

Fisheries are a key development sector both locally and in the Mekong region. Future hydro-power development and subsequent changes in water flow and water quality will affected this sector in the short and long-term. At present in the Lower Mekong Basin, fish and aquaculture yields are increasing but this may not be sustainable with present methods and technology. The NT2 reservoir is expected to give rise to new fisheries.

Forestry concerns both commercial logging and utilisation of forests used by local communities for harvesting of NTFPs and traditional products. Forest cover in the Mekong Basin is dwindling with an estimated total cover of 34.4%, Lao PDR having approximately 40%, which is likely to decline to 30% given the present trends. Commercial logging in the Project Area has been extensive and there is currently overcapacity in the timber-processing sector. A number of plans deal with reforestation and the establishment of plantations.

Industry as a sector is concentrated in towns, the most important in the Project Area being Savannakhet where there are a number of light industries established. Wood processing is the most important industry in Bolikhamxai and Khammouane Provinces. Potential industries being developed are oil refineries, textiles, canning and construction materials.

Mining is developing rapidly in the Lao PDR and may lead to increased pollution and wastewater discharges. Tin, zinc and lead are being extracted in the Nam Pathen Valley on a tributary of the Nam Hinboun and this may be contributing to increased turbidity and heavy metal concentrations in the water. Some gypsum mining in Donghene District and large-scale mining of gold and copper are taking place in Xepon District, Savannakhet. Further developments in the future may prove to be economically viable.

Social Development covers a number of sub-sectors or themes: health, education, ethnic minorities and social disparity. In terms of health and education, the existing services are weak in terms of lack of skills, materials, equipment and funding. The spread of HIV/AIDS and other STIs is of concern as mobility, urbanisation and in-migration increase. There is also a trend toward increased social disparity between households in communities (advantages of human, material and financial resources lead to advantages in employment opportunities),

between rural and urban areas (growing gap in services and wealth) and between men and women (trends favour men) due. In addition, ethnic minorities are being integrated and assimilated and lose their cultural identity as a result of socio-economic change, cultural contact and loss of traditional livelihoods.

Conservation is a key issue since there are several areas in the Project Area that are classified as having very high biodiversity value for SE Asia, in particular the Nakai - Nam Theun NBCA and the Vu Quang National Park in Vietnam. There have been a number of positive developments in terms of policy, ratification of international agreements and conventions, the establishment of 20 NBCAs and the development of conservation management plans. However, there are clear trends that illegal hunting and trading in wildlife is seriously threatening many endangered species and the biodiversity of many NBCAs. Enforcement of laws and regulations is weak.

Impact Zones

The study distinguishes between five main zones in order to present the analysis of scenarios in a systematic manner:

- ≠# Nakai Plateau– area dominated by NT2 Project activities in Nakai District, Khammouane Province
- ≠# Nakai-Nam Theun NBCA covering a large part of the Nam Theun catchment.
- ≠# Xe Bangfai Basin and surrounding downstream areas covering most of Khammouane and Savannakhet Provinces in Lao PDR
- ≠# Nam Theun/Nam Kading and Nam Hinboun Basins and surrounding areas covering a number of districts in Bolikhamxai Province, including Khamkheut (Lak Xao)
- ≠# Mekong Basin covering the mainstream Mekong from the mouth of the Nam Kading to the Mekong Delta, including the Great Lake.

Predictions of Cumulative Impacts

The tables on the following pages give a brief summary of the predictions of cumulative impacts as identified for the different impact zones.

Summary of Cumulative Impacts for the Nakai Plateau Impact Zone

Nakai Plateau	
5-year scenario	20-year scenario
<p>The impacts will be dominated by NT2 project activities. Some additional impacts are however, envisaged due to improved access and activities “following” the construction work and temporary population increase.</p> <p>The most important impacts will be increased pressure on wildlife, increased risk for STIs including HIV/AIDS and increasing frequency and severity of vehicular accidents.</p>	<p>The situation will have stabilised but will have changed significantly compared to the initial situation. Communication both north and south will be radically improved and the reservoir will have attracted new activities like commercial fisheries and tourism. It is assumed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠# Sanitation and water supply will be improved. ≠# The Odomsouk population will possibly have increased with more than 180% in relation to number of inhabitants before the start of construction activities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €# Commercial fisheries will be established. €# The health conditions will be improved with reduced incidence of malaria and food and water borne diseases, and there will be a shift from communicable towards non-communicable diseases. €# Health and education services will be struggling to keep up with demand due to population increase. €# There will be increased employment in service sector including tourism. €# There will be increased cultural integration on the Plateau with blurring of ethnic borders and loss of identity.
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Summary of Cumulative Impacts for the Nakai-Nam Theun NBCA Impact Zone

Nakai-Nam Theun NBCA	
5-year scenario	20-year scenario
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €# Migration of fish from the Nam Theun affected by the establishment of the reservoir €# Better protection of biodiversity and forest resources through SEMFOP while at the same time threats to biodiversity will come from extractive activities and hunting linked to developments on the Vietnamese side of the border including road building and increased population. €# Improved social service delivery in terms of availability of medicines, possible reductions of malaria and nutritional problems, improved access to education. €# Some integration of ethnic minorities and adoption of elements from dominant lowland Lao culture but not to the same extent as with the Plateau communities €# Some improvement in terms of poverty alleviation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €# Effect on fish biodiversity and production will depend on whether the development of reservoir fish population become dominated by small pelagic species confined to the reservoir or by larger species using the tributaries in the NBCA for breeding. €# Increased threat to biodiversity through population increases on the Vietnamese side of the border leading to increased exploitation of the NBCA . €# Further improvements in social services including immunisation coverage, hygiene and nutrition, health centres and functioning village schools. €# Natural population increase will result in considerable out-migration and labour migration to urban areas for shorter or longer periods. €# The process of integration with the lowland Lao culture will have proceeded further and led to assimilation of small Vietic groups. €# Significant reduction of poverty in terms of food security, better market access and employment opportunities.

Summary of Cumulative Impacts for the Xe Bangfai Basin and Surrounding Districts Impact Zone

Xe Bangfai Basin and Surrounding Districts	
5-year scenario	20-year scenario
<p>The impacts of the NT2 operation will have started to be felt. In addition, the new Road 12 will have significant impacts. The cumulative impacts are likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊘ Increase in untreated wastewater due to population increase around Gnommalath and Mahaxai may add to the oxygen depletion problems caused by the reservoir and make the water less fit for consumption and fish production. ⊘ Higher pressure on biodiversity in terms of hunting and logging due to influx of people and improved access to the area. Improved management and enforcement efforts in the Nakai Nam Theun NBCA might increase the pressure on other NBCAs. ⊘ There will be commercialisation and intensification of agriculture in Mahaxai and Gnommalath, but the irrigated rice area will yet only be moderately expanded. ⊘ Logging in undisturbed forest and other areas will increase ⊘ Gnommalath and Mahaxai urban areas will expand considerably, possibly experiencing a doubling of the population while ad hoc planning will characterises the expansion of settlements. ⊘ STI and HIV/AIDS prevalence will have increased and vehicular accidents will have become more common. ⊘ The capacity of the various district services will have been strengthened considerably due to NT2 Project support. 	<p>No new large-scale hydrological changes are foreseen, but the transport corridors and accompanying urbanisation will be a significant development in relation to cumulative impacts. In summary the impacts are likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊘ The oxygen depletion problem will be reduced due to less organic matter in the reservoir and better wastewater treatment. ⊘ Agriculture development will cause local eutrophication problems and heightened levels of pesticides in drainage water, consequently in fish might be experienced. ⊘ Change in flow regime may have lowered biodiversity and fish production due to disturbed spawning cycles. On the other hand increased flooding may have increased flood plain and “back swamps” production of fish. ⊘ There will be better sanitation, health services and improved awareness on health issues. Water-borne illnesses and intestinal parasitic infestations will have been substantially reduced as will mortality caused by malaria and dengue fever. ⊘ The District centres of Mahaxai and Gnommalath will have grown substantially, possibly with more than 200% while the population of Thakhek may have increased with more than 140%. The service sector including tourism will grow and the cement industry in Mahaxai will have expanded and created more employment. ⊘ Some assimilation of ethnic minority groups in urban areas will have occurred, but cultural identity will to at larger extent be retained in rural areas.

Summary of Cumulative Impacts for the Nam Theun, Nam Kading and Nam Hinboun Basin and Surrounding Districts Impact Zone

Nam Theun, Nam Kading and Nam Hinboun Basins and Surrounding Districts	
5-year scenario	20-year scenario
<p>Nam Kading and Nam Hinboun will experience the combined impacts of the NT2 and the Theun-Hinboun Extension projects, in addition to the developments caused by the improvement of the Route 8 corridor, and increase in cross-border trade and population movement. The predicted impacts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €# In Nam Kading downstream Theun-Hinboun dam, the impact from NT2 will reduce the discharge in the flood season. Adding Theun-Hinboun Extension, the cumulative impact will be that a larger part of the flood spills over Theun-Hinboun dams will be diverted into the Nam Hinboun, thereby further reducing the spills into the Nam Kading. €# The reduction in flood periods will affect fish migratory behaviour and will probably make any ascent by migratory fish (not very significant at present) past the Theun-Hinboun dam impossible. €# There will be increased threats to biodiversity due to population increase and increased trans-border traffic. However, the WCS wild-life conservation project will tend to counteract the negative development trend. €# The remaining and limited forested areas will be increasingly encroached upon but participatory village forestry will have been introduced. €# Irrigated areas and irrigation schemes will increase along Nam Hinboun. €# Lak Xao will increase to a population of 17,000 – 18,000, representing a growth of more than 33% in relation to present number of inhabitants. Part of the growth will be due to in-migration. €# Gradual integration of ethnic groups into the mainstream economy will speed up slightly due to NT2 project-related activities, population influx, increased urbanisation, improved infrastructure and growth in the service sector. €# The vulnerable Vietic groups will be under particular pressure of integration. 	<p>No additional hydropower expansion is planned in the basin. The development will be dominated by the increase in transport related activities and impacts and developments on the Plateau. The main impacts will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €# Nam Kading NBCA, Phou Hin Poun NBCA and Nam Chat/Nam Pan Provincial Conservation Forest are likely to experience an increased pressure of cultivation, logging and hunting as a result of improved protection of Nakai Nam Theun NBCA. €# The rural urban migration trend will be reinforced and the size of Lak Xao will have grown to 27,000 –28,000, an increase of more than 110% compared to today's population. €# It is likely that smaller ethnic groups in or near Lak Xao, including some Vietic populations, will be fully assimilated and will lose their ethnic identity. €# Hmong cultural traditions and language are likely to continue despite changes in the socio-economic conditions in the area.

Summary of Cumulative Impacts for the Mekong River Basin Impact Zone

Mekong River Basin (Includes the impacts of planned hydropower developments in all GMS countries)	
5-year scenario	20-year scenario
<p>The dominant factor will be some additional development of hydropower in Yunnan and Lao PDR. The impacts and are calculated to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €# Dry season discharge at Savannakhet may increase by 70% corresponding to a water level increase of 65 cm. During floods, the discharges may be reduced by around 10% corresponding to a reduction of water levels by 85 cm. €# At Kratie the average annual maximum flow will be reduced from the present baseline of 35,250 m³/s to 33,565 m³/s (5%). €# At the Tonle Sap River confluence (Phnom Penh) the water level will be reduced by about 25 cm during floods and increased by about 28 cm in the dry season. The Great Lake responds to the Mekong changes by lowering the average annual maximum level of the lake by 22 cm, compared to an annual variation in maximum level of about 2,5 – 3 m. €# The changes in flow pattern will have a small negative impact on floodplain and Great Lake fisheries as these are favoured by high wet season water levels. €# The changes in flow pattern will, however, have a small positive impact by damping damaging flood incidents and by the increased dry season water level that will support irrigation and reduce salt intrusion in Mekong Delta. 	<p>The dominant factor will be further development of hydropower in Yunnan and Lao PDR. The impacts and are calculated to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €# Dry season discharge at Savannakhet may increase by 135% corresponding to a water level increase of 1.2 m. During floods, the discharges may be reduced by around 20% corresponding to a reduction of water levels by 1.6 m. €# At Kratie the average annual maximum flow will be reduced from the present baseline of 35,250 m³/s to 31,020 m³/s (12%). €# At the Tonle Sap River confluence (Phnom Penh) the water level will be reduced by about 60 cm during floods and increased by about 70 cm in the dry season. The Great Lake responds to the Mekong changes by lowering the average annual maximum level of the lake by 54 cm, compared to an annual variation in maximum level of about 2,5 – 3 m. €# The changes in flow pattern will have a significant negative impact on floodplain and Great Lake fisheries as these are favoured by high wet season water levels. €# The changes in flow pattern will, however, have a significant positive impact by damping damaging flood incidents and by the increased dry season water level that will support irrigation and reduce salt intrusion in Mekong Delta.

In addition to the predicted cumulative impacts, as shown in the tables above, also the specific impacts of the NT2 project, on downstream Mekong conditions has been calculated. It should be noted that assessment of the NT2 induced impact downstream is undertaken to determine whether or not such impacts have significant impact on the long-term sustainability of the ecological system downstream. In this context, the significance is determined based on whether or not the induced impacts are within the range of normal fluctuation.

The results are as follow:

- €# Between Pakhinbound and Xe Bangfai outlet there will be a reduction in both dry season (about 2 cm) and wet season (23 –29 cm) water level. The increased pumping cost for dry season irrigation will not be measurable. The reduced wet season level will have a positive impact by reduce flooding of the flood prone and highly developed agricultural land on the Thai side of the river.

- ⚡ At the Tonle Sap River confluence, the Mekong water levels may be increased by about 2-3 cm in the dry season (from elevation 0.8 masl) and reduced by around 3 cm during floods (from elevation 8 masl).
- ⚡ The Great Lake responds to the Mekong changes by lowering the wet season water level in the Great Lake by about 1% of the normal year-to-year fluctuation in wet season flood level. Therefore, NT2 impact on all aspects of the Great Lake including the fish production is considered "insignificant".
- ⚡ The construction of the NT2 reservoir will cause only minimal retention of sediments and thus not have any significant impact on Mekong sediment balance.
- ⚡ The changes in flow pattern will have an insignificant negative impact on floodplain and Great Lake fisheries, which are favoured by high wet season water levels.
- ⚡ The changes in flow pattern will have a positive but insignificant impact by damping damaging flood incidents and by the increased dry season water level that will support irrigation and reduce salt intrusion in the Mekong Delta.

Recommendations and Interventions

The table below summarises the recommended mitigation and compensatory activities and initiative described in section 8.2 and assessments of their impacts in the 5-year and 20-year perspective. The impacts identified in Chapter 7 combined or modified by the assumed results of the recommendations will constitute the “Best Practise Scenarios”.

Summary of Best Practise Actions and Scenarios

Action	5-year impact	20-year impact
Establish a plan for staffing and training needs in connection with NT2 and other projects in the area.	Resettlement and livelihood restoration and development appropriately carried out.	Maintenance of adequate livelihoods in the resettlement villages.
Provide training and equip STEA and SEMD with resources needed for monitoring and follow up of NT2 and other projects.	Better quality assurance of the NT2 resettlement social development and resettlement process.	Environmental assessment and safeguarding established as a procedure in connection with development projects
Strengthen the role of the government as regulator through capacity building and establishment of a development framework.	A more balanced development process and a clearer role for the private sector in development process.	Better government control of the development process.
Strengthen integrated planning institutions at all levels of government through focusing on environmental assessment, capacity building and clarification of roles.	A more balanced development taking into consideration overall development goals and more efficient resource allocation between sectors.	A more effective and sustainable use of available natural and financial resources.
Establish programmes to increase the competence and capacity of the administrative staff for nature conservation.	Gradually improve the control of activities in the NBCAs.	Will lessen the pressure otherwise induced by the focus on Nakai –Nam Theun NBCA.
Develop a comprehensive and balanced plan for the establishment of new protected areas and NBCAs	Improved institutionalization of conservation efforts.	Might substantially improve the protection of NBCAs. Will allow for a more efficient use of resources for protection of biodiversity.

Explore the possibilities for setting up a fund for NBCA management with contribution from larger development projects (e.g. hydropower development).	Improved protection of NBCA surrounding the Nakai-Nam Theun NBCA .	More resources for management of NBCAs countrywide.
Develop EIA regulations and Environmental and Social Units / Divisions in all relevant ministries.	Secure that impact assessments are made for all project categories.	Give a better control of development activities and provide for balanced assessment of development projects.
Carry out an EIA for the Mahaxai cement factory.	Better overview of cumulative effects and a better basis for planning of mitigation activities.	Less long terms and lingering environmental and social effects.
Develop Strategic Impact Assessments for the most important and relevant sectors.	Improved basis for planning and prioritization of development projects.	A more balanced development with less negative environmental and social ramifications.
Increase the EIA competence and capacity in all sectors both in Central administration and in the Provinces.	More professional handling and control of the EIA processes.	Efficient implementation of mitigation and compensation measures related to development projects.
Establish bilateral legal arrangements between Lao PDR and Vietnam for planning, management and control of Nature Protection Areas.	Provide the basis for better control and protection of Nature Protection Areas.	Significantly improved control of illegal practises and trade in timber and wildlife.
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 of Chinese hydropower project, size, sequence, operation etc. and consequently on the 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 water related 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.