

Social Safeguards Final Report

LAO:LOAN 2780: Nam Ngum River Basin Development Sector Project (Additional Financing)

Prepared by **Office of the National Project Management**, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the **Asian Development Bank**

NOTES

- (i) The fiscal year (FY) of the Government of LAO PDR ends in October. FY before a calendar year denotes the year in which the fiscal year ends, FY 2011 ends in October 2012.
- (ii) In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars, unless otherwise stated.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Nam Ngum River Basin Development Sector Project additional Financing covers 4 provinces namely Vientiane Province, Luangprabang Province, Xaisomboun province and Xiengkhouang Province. Activities are implemented through three components and one office of the national project manager such as:

(1) Integrated water resource management component assigned under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE),

(2) Integrated Watershed Management Component assigned under the Project Management Division, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,

(3) Agriculture Extension Component under the Department Agriculture Extension and Cooperative, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

(4) The office of the national project manager is under the Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The additional financing project was used the similar approach, methodologies and implementation arrangements. Some activities were deepened collaboration among central agencies, provinces, districts, and villages through institutional capacity development; others were continued and expanded the coverage projects' target villages within the NNRB. The project activities have the similar nature and magnitude with those of the previous project in terms of social safeguard impacts. The project activities have been supported:

- (i) Institutional and human resources capacity building development,
- (ii) Disseminating developed watershed landscape continuum plans and improving land use planning at the district and villages level, and
- (iii) Consolidating and expanding sustainable agricultural extension services including Khet (village cluster) extension service center (KESC) and village development revolving fund (VDRF) operations in ongoing and additional villages.

This report has been prepared by the National Safeguard Consultant. The objective of the report is to provide results or outcome of project implementation related to social safe guard compliance with ADB's safeguard policy and related GoL's policy as well. The social safeguard activity is a necessary task and is done in order to examine and monitors the impact from the project activities implementation whether it has negative impacts to local residents in the project areas.

The report summaries social safeguard assessments from 2012-2015, It comprises of 6 sections which includes:

(i) Introduction, (ii) Summaries of social safeguard assessment, (iii) Method of safeguard assessment, (iv) Outputs and outcomes, (v) Project activities sustainability, and (vi) Conclusion and recommendations.

II. SUMMARIES OF SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ASSESSMENT AND WORK COMPLETIONS

The assignment of social safeguard has been conducted from the period of 2012-2015 including:

- (1) Prepare a project-specific social safeguard implementation manual;
- (2) Prepare social safeguard reports and progress in social aspects as part of quarterly project progress reports;
- (3) Prepare and organize training on social safeguard and development through on-the-job training and the implementation of recommendations and corrective actions.
- (4) Assist the project to implement and comply with social safeguard requirements and development strategy and plan, including information disclosure and data collection for monitoring
- (5) Monitor the compliance with requirements as described in the project documents, in consultation with beneficiaries and LFNC and LWU, and provide recommendations.
- (6) Report related issues with social safeguard and development to MAF and ADB.

III. METHOD OF SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ASSESSMENT

Potential impacts have been assessed by means of a site visit, discussions with local authorities, grievance redress mechanism committee, group members and beneficiaries. The most significant impacts arisen from the project are major improvements to the quality of life in the selected villages from the project activities (i) watershed land continuum plans and improved land used planning at the district and villages level (ii) consolidating and expanding sustainable agricultural extension services (KESC) and village development revolving fund operations which are ongoing in the KESCs and additional villages running smoothly.

The social safeguard assessment was conducted by the national safeguard together with project counterparts of each district and province. The project activities were assessed by mean of field visit and discussion with local authorities, grievance redress mechanism committee, this including some construction works in 4 provinces in 10 districts, the activities included:

- i) Small scale irrigation schemes rehabilitation

- ii) Gravity fed system (Nam Lin),
- iii) Improvement of Access Road, and
- iv) Agricultural extension services Center (KESC).

The social safeguard impact assessment was prepared and checked and evaluated before and after the construction of the small scale infrastructures. The grievance redress mechanism committees from central to local have been formed. Before the small scale infrastructures have been implemented, the district grievance redress mechanism committee has to consult with the communities and concerned parties who will implement the activities, if the activity has negative impacts to the communities, such activity must be resolved by the committee. After the construction, the social safeguard consultant and the district safeguard counterparts together with the committee have to check and evaluate such activities and report back to their authorities and concerned parties. Since the project implemented, no grievance has been arisen. All infrastructures activities benefited to communities. The details of infrastructure activities are listed in table 1 below:

1. Small scale infrastructure improvement

Table 1 Small Infrastructure Improve Activity List

No	village	District	Province	Activities	Status
1.	PhouPhadang	Longxan	Xaisomboun	Gravity Fed System	O&M
	San phatong	Longxan	Xaisomboun	Borehole installation	O&M
	Na Mone	Longxan	Xaisomboun	Access road	O&M
	Nam Ying	Longxan	Xaisomboun	Irrigation rehabilitation	O&M
2.	Phanxay	Longcheng	Xaisomboun	Irrigation rehabilitation	O&M
	Muang Ome	Anouvong	Xaisomboun	Irrigation rehabilitation	O&M
	Ao Tai	Anouvong	Xaisomboun	Gravity fed system	O&M
3.	HouyHok	Kasi	Vientiane	Gravity Fed System,	O&M
	PhouHinLek Fai	Kasi	Vientiane	Gravity Fed System	O&M
4.	KornKeo-Kornkang	Hinhuep	Vientiane	Access road improvement	O&M
	Phabong	Hinhuep	Vientiane	Gravity Fed System	O&M
5.	Vangpho	Vangvieng	Vientiane	Irrigation rehabilitation	O&M
6.	Dandsoung	Phoukhoun	Luang prabang	Gravity Fed System	O&M
	PhouviengNai-Phonkham	Phoukhoun	Luang prabang	Access road improvement	O&M
7.	Somboun	Phoukoud	Xiengkhuang	Sanitation	O&M
9.	Nong	Pek	Xiengkhuang	Access road improvement	O&M

	Or Anh	Pek	Xiengkhuang	Access road improvement	O&M
10.	Phosay	Phaxay	Xiengkhuang	Gravity Fed System	O&M

O&M= operation and maintenance

2. Agricultural extension service center (KESCs)

Agriculture extension services center activity is implemented by the local authorities of Agriculture sector under the supervision and advice of the Department of Agriculture Extension and Cooperative and under the support of NNRBDSP-AF project. During the Additional Financing project 23 KESCs have been supported in all 10 districts in four provinces. The activities were implemented both inside and outside KESCs. Inside KESCs, 3 main activities are implemented including agriculture production, livestock raising both intensive and extensive, and capacity building activities. Agricultural productions activities included home garden, cash crops, fruit trees and industrial trees. Livestock raising included small animal, large animals, and poultry raising. Capacity building includes training, exchange lessons, study tour, on the job training. The KESCs is listed in table 2.

Table 2 the agricultural extension services Center (KESC)

No	Khet Extention Service Center	District	Province
1	Phontong	Phonhong	Vientiane
2	Phabong	Hinhuep	
3	Napho	Vangvieng	
4	Pakphor		
5	Thin On		
6	Ban chieng	Kasi	
7	Nong Bouthong		
8	Pha Chao		
9	Nam Pa Chat	Longxan	Xaysomboun
10	Luangphanxay	Anouvong	
11	Phouvieng Noy	Phoukhoun	Luangprabang
12	Souy-Viengxay	Phoukoud	Xiengkhouang
13	Lad Ghai		
14	Naxaithong		
15	Phiengluang		
16	Phan	Pek	
17	Thonghai		
18	Ladbouk		
19	Gnot Ngum		

20	Khangvieng	Phaxay	
21	Ladhouang		
22	San Ou dom		
23	Khangsan		

The social safeguard consultant and the district safeguard counterparts together with the committee also checked and evaluated such activities and report back to their authorities and concerned parties. In addition they followed up those activities from time to time. Since the project implemented, no grievance has been arisen. All agriculture extension activities benefited to communities. Many farmers received services from the KESC both training and materials for their production. The activities are further expanded to other farmers.

IV. OUTPUTS AND OUTCOME

1. Outputs of the consultant

- 1.1 Social safeguard implementation manual Produced.
- 1.2 Grievance redress mechanism documents produced and applied.
- 1.3 Grievance Redress Committees at the Village clusters (Khet) level, District level and the Central level formed.
- 1.4 Quarterly social safeguard reports produced
- 1.5 Final social safeguard reports produced

2. Outcome of social safeguard activity

The social safeguard activity has been implemented in order to prevent mainly negative impacts to the communities while project is being implemented in those areas. In case some project activities affected the communities, the grievance redress mechanism committee must be played their important role to redress their grievance.

Small scale Infrastructure Improvement

Small Scale infrastructures implemented by the Nam Ngum River Basin Development Sector Project-Additional Financing have been significant positive environmental and social impact in kind of improvement of their livelihood, increase productivity, and reduce poverty in the target villages. These activities were focused on the living improvement of ethnic minority group and vulnerable people as well as gender equality in target villages of ten districts in four provinces such as: gravity water supply could reduce the burden of women and children in terms of fetching water. All target villages satisfied with good drinking water and have better sanitation. The access road also benefited them in terms of transportation of their products to their houses as well as to the local market which can travel both seasons. Since these activities have been implemented, no

significant negative impacts and conflicts to the communities in and around project areas. All infrastructures activities benefited to communities.

V. PROJECT ACTIVITY SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure the project activities are sustained and in line with the safeguard statement after the project ends, the safeguard activity assessment has been conducted and investigated the current situations in each small scale infrastructure activity, and also agriculture extension activities at KESCs. The results show that each small scale infrastructure activity has been implemented is followed the safeguard's rules and regulations. The grievance redress mechanism committees from central to local have been formed particularly at local level and still exist and following and monitoring for time to time. In KESCs has also implemented the existing project activities and prepared short, medium and long term plans in order to sustain project activities while project will be ended. The possibility to achieve sustainability, the KESCs has to be the ownership and take role as specified in the KESCs' regulation in order to proceed and extent the existing activities. The increased involvement of communities must be encouraged to ensure project activity sustainability.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

1. Conclusion

In conclusion, social safeguard activity has been implemented to prevent and resolve negative impacts to the communities and is regularly followed up. It is obviously seen that the project activities both agriculture extension activities and infrastructure activities have very limited negative social impacts. In the most cases, it has positive social impacts especially gravity fed system, access road, and small scale irrigation scheme. In addition, the agriculture extension activities which are implemented both inside and outside KESCs have mainly caused positive social impacts, communities in the project areas are satisfied with those activities.

2. Recommendations

The recommendations should be done during project ends are as follows:

1. The grievance redress mechanism committee at local level should be maintained in order to assist the communities.
2. The involvement of communities must be encouraged to ensure activities sustainability.
3. Existing and planned activities must be proceed and extended by KESCs both within the KESCs and target villages.
4. Follow up activities including agriculture extension activities and infrastructure activities must be done by the KESCs regularly in cooperation with communities for its sustainability.
5. Income generation must be identified by KESCs based on the potential activities in the KESCs and target villages.

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