

## **Draft Minute**

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> 7L Sub-area Meeting Champasak Grand Hotel, Champasak province February 25-26, 2010**

#### **1. Objectives of the meeting**

- To dialogue and identify current situation, issues and opportunities for strengthening management and development within the aim of sustainable use of resources and poverty reduction in the 7L - Sekong Basin sub-area.
- To promote stakeholder participation in river basin planning in LMB at the national tributary level
- To introduce the MRC BDP2 planned activities process to stakeholders in the Sekong Basin and collect feedback,

#### **2. Opening remarks**

- The Vice Governor of Champasak Province kindly gave a welcome remarks to the meeting. He gave an appreciation for the MRC's effort in developing the Basin Wide Development Strategy for the Lower Mekong Basin, and carrying out the preliminary Sub area (SA) 7L study. He remarked that the Lao government has given a high priority to water development sector which given its high potential to strengthening the national socio-economic development. The MRC IWRM Development Strategy will be useful in guiding the decision making process in Lao PDR for sustainable use and development which taken the Mekong Basin wide sustainability into account.
- A representative from Lao National Mekong Committee, Mr. Chanthanet Boualapha - Deputy Director of Water Resource Department kindly give a brief information on the background of the MRC and BDP SA study and Development a Basin Strategy, including role of MRC/BDP, and the importance of the SA meeting.
- A representative from Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Mr. Sourasay Phoumavong, Director of Planning Division, kindly gave a brief speech. He said that the most important objective of the 1<sup>st</sup> 7L SA meeting is to provid an opportunity for stakeholders at different levels to dialogue and share their information, prospective and concerns related to development of water and related resource in the Sekong basin (7L). All comments and recommendation from this meeting will be used to improve the SA study report, and develop the Mekong IWRM Strategy.

### **3. Roles of MRC and Basin development planning**

- Mr. Aloune Sayavong, National BDP Coordinator, Lao National Mekong Committee kindly gave a presentation on the brief introduction of the MRC, BDP and 7L SA activities and meeting. *(Please see the presentation.)*
- The representative from Earth Systems Lao Co., Ltd., shared a query for further clarification from Mr. Aloune as well as other representatives from MRCS, central and local government about the differences between role and responsibility of MRC, central and provincial government in the management of the water sector in Lao PDR.
- Mr. Aloune referred to organization chart of the MRC in order to explain role and responsibility of MRCS, LNMC, and central government. *(Please see the presentation)*
- Director of Planning Division, MRCS explained to the meeting that the role of MRC is to provide technical knowledge and advice that will support decision making in water sector.
- Mr. Chanthaneth also added that MRCS and the Water Resource Department (WRD) are working together in order to develop the IWRM Mekong Strategy. The Strategy is subject to be shared with the central government and integrated into national policy. WRD is an administrative office. It is in-charged of the formulation and development of water resource development strategy. LNMC is a coordination unit that implements day to day work and coordinates with MRC member countries. River basin committee for each watershed will be established as to manage specific river basin.

### **4. Development of Sekong (7L) Sub-area profile**

- Dr. Khamla Phanvilay and SA consultant team made a presentation on initial findings of natural resources inventories, key development and analysis of the Sekong Basin. *(Please see presentation)*
- Feedback and comment on draft result of SA7L study
  - Mr. Somnuk Chanthaseth, Director of Planning and Cooperation, Department of Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry commented that purposes of the SA study report and how it is going to be used is still unclear for participants.
  - He considered that the existing data, to some extent, could provide clear trend of environmental, natural resource degradation, as well as the changes of land use zoning and changes in people livelihoods. However, data on some sectors should be collected in greater extent and details - such as the data of irrigation and agriculture production.

- He also commented that source of data and information needs to be academically cited. Measuring unit should be revised and rechecked in terms of its accuracies. E.g. figure on table 7, page 13 in the Executive Summary Report of the SA7L study that distributed during the meeting.
- Mr. Khamsay Phothideth, Director of Planning Division, Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry recommended that to maximum extent, the data should be officially verified by the related government agencies at provincial and district levels.
- In addition, the SA study seems to look only at negative impacts from development, while the positive impacts and opportunities are still very limited. E.g. positive impacts from land concession and hydropower development projects.
- If possible, the reference year of the baseline data should be the same for all indicators (e.g. National statistic survey of the year 2005 or 2008) as to ensure the accuracies and acceptable results of analysis that will be used for planning and management.
- The majority of participants considered that fishery is very important for livelihoods of people in the Sekong Basin. Therefore, it is important for MRC to tackle this issue and collect the fisheries data by working with key stakeholders in this area such as WWF and GAPE.
- Several participants such as representative of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Governor from Paksong District, WREA Champasak and Xekong, Earth System Lao Co., Ltd., etc. suggested that the following data should be further collected:
  - i. Data and information on agriculture sector especially irrigation sector – e.g. water demand and supply for irrigation
  - ii. Land use change (area of different land zoning, patent and area of industrial and domestic agriculture productions, forestry area, etc.)
  - iii. Data in health sector including number of people who has access to safe drinking water, infection from different type of waterborne diseases, death rate, etc. (to be further discussed)
  - iv. Water quality data in the tributaries of Sekong River. (to be further discussed)
  - v. Data and information related to accessibility to food and nutrition. (to be further discussed)
  - vi. Experience of impacted community from resettlement should be included in the SA study report. (to be further discussed)
- Data to be used for analysis should be up to date. Many can obtain from EIA reports such as data and information of land use changes, socio-economic data, and poverty. In addition, MRC could work with related stakeholders in order to obtain data about water quality from concerned government departments and/or Earth System Co. Ltd., recommended by Earth System Representative.

- Representative from WREA in Xekong Province suggested that MRC should prioritize the implementations of the SA study by looking at severity of risks from planned development projects and issues, not by studying everything at the same time. (to be discussed)
- It is important to collect information about water conflict among water sectors/users within and outside boundary. This information could help water planners and managers to appropriately formulate the development strategy, said by Mr. Chanthavong Saignasith, National Consultant for LNMC. (to be discussed)

## 5. Key Issues in the Sekong Basin

- Please see annex 3 - Summary of presentation from other presenters. (*Presentations are also available on the MRC website.*)
- Discussion and comments on key issues in Sekong Basin
  - Head of Cabinet of Attapeu Province, Water Resources and Environment Office observed that development in the Sekong Basin has happened very rapidly, while the national/provincial management/development master plan still has not been initiated. Technical assistance and financial support either from the national government itself and MRC has to be allocated as quickly as possible in order to formulate the plan that will deal with the key development challenges being faced in the basin.
  - Mr. Nanong Khotpathum from Earth System recommended that development plan must be participatory developed. However the plan should include clear milestones and periodic monitoring and evaluation activities as well as to keep following up on agreed process with stakeholders.
  - Every process of the major project planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation i.e. hydropower, mining, land concession to name but a few, must be central to stakeholder participation
  - At the side of non-state groups, representative from WWF and Village Focus International (VFI) believed that the organization of “river basin committee” or “river basin organization” is essential. There is a need to maintain a good stakeholder coordination, communication and information sharing. The coordination among water management agencies and stakeholders in upper and lower Sekong Basin is still considered very poor at the current stage.
  - Head of Cabinet of Xekong province emphasized that cumulative impact assessment (e.g. development in hydropower, mining sectors and land concession) should be conducted for the current proposed projects; and it is necessary to make the process more transparent by sharing report of CIA or

EIA to all stakeholders for comments and feedbacks before decision making will be made. In addition, planning in the Sekong basin/SA 7L should not focus only water issues/projects, but the planning process itself is also important.

- Priority issues to be included in the development planning should include land use change e.g. change in private and individual agriculture production areas/pattern, land concession, change in forestry zone and deforestation. The other issues should be risk assessment on climate change and natural disasters, and occurrences of severe flood and drought.
- Representative from Health Unlimited and Xekong Governor had similar suggestions. They suggested that an issue of ecological and biological protection such as capture fisheries declining, deforestation, slash and burn and wildlife poaching should also be emphasized.
- Impact from water and related resource development could be transboundary, therefore transboundary impact assessment should also be addressed in the planning process, recommended by Director of Planning Division, MRCS.
- Representative from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Mr. Nanong Khotphathum advised that all development projects have both positive and negative impacts. In order to facilitate better decision making, it is required to conduct cost and benefit, and trade off analysis for different stakeholders and development sectors.
- MRC needs to work with related agencies as to develop better understanding of the Sekong Basin – especially in the areas of socio-economic, cultural structure, poverty, and people livelihoods.
- Participants also considered that capture fishery is one of the key issues and it is important for subsistence livelihood of the local people in the area. It therefore is necessary to have clear understanding on food security versus food production issues in the Sekong that have a strong link with fisheries, agriculture and NTFP.

## **6. Panel discussion**

- The importance of creating River Basin/Watershed Management Committee to provide proper coordination was recognized. However, stakeholders are not confident that effective integrated river basin development planning could be done through the establishment of the river basin committee because the committee does not play a role of decision making and does not represent all stakeholder groups. They mostly play the roles of the coordination and passing information.
- Experience from Champasak in the development of the master plan/activities shown that district and provincial socio-economic

development strategy has not yet integrated environmental protection activities. As a result, very few national budgets were allocated to such activities. Therefore, it is necessary to build capacity and environmental awareness for local government in the related sectors. Based on the development proposals from the district and provincial agencies, there needs an urgent action to allocate national budget to implement environmental protection activities that related to water, forestry and wetland resource management.

- Representative from GAPE, Mr. Dot Launmuang share his opinion that capacity and awareness building for local community promotes livelihood improvement. At the same time, development plan should respect and recognize voice of communities before making any decision. All stakeholders should be consulted while formulating the plan
- Representative from GAPE, Mr. Cherry Duckitt observed that there is a strong competition among the investors/private companies to invest in the areas. Thus, the development and investment plan should be periodically revised and updated as to ensure that it fits with rapid development/current situation and the needs of basin population.
- WWF believes that any development project could not avoid negative impacts, especially impact from hydropower and mining developments. However, loss from such impact may be mitigated, if government agencies find ways to work with the affected communities that will identify the best suitable mitigation and compensating plan and actions.
- In the Sekong and Champasak provinces, impacts experienced from the land concession for sand exploration, mining and industrial trees plantation have resulted in water pollution, shallow river and declining of forest area. These could lead to serious social and environmental problems in the future.
- More than 80% of population in the study areas of WWF consumes capture fishes. Fish is the main source of protein diet that people in the Sekong consume every day. This would mean that the declining of fish productivity can affect the food security situation of those communities. Therefore, the protection of fish conservation zones in the Sekong basin is very important for ensuring longterm food security of local people.
- From experience of Attapeu province, the estimation of irrigation demand and agriculture land has always been overestimated. As a result of that, the forest area is encroached for agriculture. Therefore, irrigation department should study more about demand and land potential for irrigation.
- Clear role and responsibility of the concerned agencies could reduce the over lapping works, confusion and conflict among stakeholders.
- Land use change from a result of deforestation leads to serious damage to the ecological health including change of water level, flood, drought, and livelihoods.

- It is difficult to find the exact causes of natural disasters. It is necessary to understand links of the ecological system and likely impacts from development activities.
- There several tools that could be applied in water planning and management. One of the most important tools in integrated water resource management is stakeholder participation, and support by technical tools such as GIS, etc.
- Protecting fish conservation zone and fish production is very important and directly link to food security of the poor community in Sekong.

## **6. Next steps**

- Prepared minutes of meeting and share with participants through the MRC website, mailing list and hand distribution by the line agencies.
- Comments and feedbacks from this meeting will be used for improvement of the results of SA study.
- The SA consultant team, LNMC and MRCS will need to discuss on the possibility and timeframe in adopting the comments from the meeting into action plan.
- Prepare for the next series of Sub-area meeting in Sekong

## Annex 1: Agenda

**Day 1, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Presenter</i></b>
<b>08.00 – 08.30</b>	Registration	Administration
<b>08:30 - 08:40</b>	Welcome remarks	Chair (Vice governor of the Champasak province TBD)
<b>08:40 - 08:50</b>	Opening remarks	Mr. Chanthanet Boualapha, Deputy Director of WRD
<b>08:50- 09:00</b>	Brief Speech	Mr. Sourasay Phoumavong, Director of Planning Division, MRCS
<b>09:00 - 09:10</b>	Break	Facilitator
<b>09:10 – 09:30</b>	Ice braking activities	Facilitator /Participants
<b>09:30 – 10:00</b>	Brief introduction of MRC, BDP and 7L sub-area activities and meeting	Mr. Aloune Sayavong, Lao National BDP Coordinator
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	Questions and Answers	Facilitators/Participants
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	Coffee break	Administration
<b>11:00 -11:30</b>	Presentation of initial findings of natural resources inventories, key development, and analysis of the sub-area team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use change overtime in development Sekong River Basin</li> <li>• Social and livelihoods</li> <li>• Current status and key development</li> <li>• Provincial plans</li> </ul>	Dr. Khamla Phanvilay and Sub-area consultant team
<b>11:30-12:15</b>	Questions and Answers	Facilitator/Participants
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	Lunch	Administration
<b>13:30-14:00</b>	Continues discussion	All participants
<b>14:00-14:15</b>	Presentation on land use management and utilization of natural resource	Dr. Palikone Thalongsengchanh, Land Use Authority
<b>14:15 – 14:30</b>	Presentation on Land use change in development in Sekong River basin	Mr. Dot Lao-ounmuang, Global Associations for People and the Environment (GAPE)
<b>14:30 – 14:45</b>	Presentation on fisheries and rural livelihood in the Sekong River basin	Mr. Chanthaphone Thammavong, Project Officer, World Wide Life Fund (WWF)
<b>14:45 – 15:30</b>	Questions and Answers	Facilitator/Participants
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	Coffee break	Administration

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
<b>16:00 – 16:45</b>	Discussion	All participants
<b>16:45-17:00</b>	Conclusion and first day feedback from participants	Mr. Aloune Sayavong, National BDP Coordinator and Facilitator
<b>18:30</b>	Reception Dinner	Administration

**Day 2, February 26<sup>h</sup>, 2010**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
<b>08:30-09:00</b>	Presentation on case study of watershed management in Cambodia	Dr. Ulrich Hoesle, MRC – GTZ Watershed Management Programme
<b>09:00-10:30</b>	Panel discussion on issues challenges, opportunities for sustainable development in the 7L that need to be prioritized and inform decision making. Perspectives in <b>“Poverty”, “Food Security” and “Land Use”</b> issues in 7L (about 6 people- 2 from government, 2 from non-state and 2 from community representatives)	Panel Remark: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 person from government: each from Sekong, Attapeu</li> <li>• 2 persons from non-state : CAPE, WWF, or any local organizations</li> <li>• 2 persons from communities: 1 from upper part and 1 from lower part of the Sekong River basin</li> </ul>
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	Coffee break	Administration
<b>11:00-11:45</b>	Discussion	All participants
<b>11:45-12:00</b>	Conclusion and ways forward - and feedback from participants	Mr. Aloune, LNMC Coordinator and BDP MRCS
<b>12:00-12:15</b>	Closing remarks	Mr. Sisavath Vithaxay, Deputy Head of Water Resources and Environment Administration
<b>12:15</b>	Lunch	Administration

## **Annex 2: List of participants**

1. Mr. Chanthanet Boualapha, Deputy Director General, WRD
2. Mr. Chanthavong SAIGNASITH, National Advisory
3. Mr. Aloune SAYAVONG, National BDP Coordinator, WRD
4. Mr. Vipaka HALSACDA, National Specialist, WRD
5. Mr. Somnuk CHANTHASETH, Director of Planning and Cooperation Division, MAF
6. Mr. Bounthong SAPHAKDY, Director of Fisheries Division, Department of Livestock and Fishery, MAF
7. Mrs. Phengchan Phengmuang, Deputy Director General, LNTA
8. Mrs. Sisavanh Didaravong, Deputy chief of Economic Planning Division, MOP
9. Mr. Kaisorn Thanthathep, Cabinet Office, WREA
10. Mr. Khamsay PHOTHIDETH, Director of Planning Division, Department of Planning, MAF
11. Mr. Bounsany Fongnaly, Technical Officer, WRD
12. Dr. Palikone Thanrongsengchan, National Land Management Administration
13. Dr. Tayphasavanh FENGTHONG, Director of Environmental Health, MOH
14. Mr. Chansaveng BOUNGNONG, Chief of power sector planning division, Department of Electricity, MEM
15. Mr. Souphanh GNABANDITH, Technical Officer, MPWT
16. Mr. Akane Phomsouvanh, Hear of Unit, MAF
17. Ms. Keodokmay Puipaseuth, Technical Officer, WRD
18. Dr. Khamla Phanvilay, Consultant team
19. Dr. Anoulam Vilayphone, Consultant Team
20. Dr. Sithong Thammavongsa, Consultant Team
21. Dr. Bounhieng, Consultant Team
22. Ms. Channaly Chandalasane, Secretary of LNMC-BDP Unit
23. Mr. Phattakoune Sihavong, Director of Planning Division, DOP, Champasak province
24. Mr. Sengsoulivanh Inthachack, Deputy Director of WREO, Champasak Province
25. Mr. Som Baikeo, Head of Cabinet Paksong Distict, Champasak Province
26. Mr. Sonethone Phoulalerd, Techincal Officer, Paksong Distict, Champasak Province
27. Mr. Thatsaphone Outhanthama, Head of Cabinet Pathomphone Distict, Champasak Provinc
28. Mr. Soukanh Thanong, Hear of Cabinet Phonethong District, Champasak Province
29. Mr. Sivilay Keolar, Hear of Cabinet Soukouma District, Champasak Province
30. Mr. Dong Luangsamard, Hear of Cabinet Sanasomboune District, Champasak Province
31. Mr. Oudong Anoulam, Hear of Cabine Mounlapamok District, Champasak Province
32. Mr. Bounmy Pheuphonemanevong, Lao Trade Union, Champasak Province
33. Ms. Sengthala Phongvilay, Lao Women Union, Champasak Province

34. Mr. Salika Bounla, Lao Youth Union, Champasak Province
35. Mr. Bonephet Kounming, Technical Officer, DoI, Champasak Province
36. Ms. Chanthasone Phonemany, Technical Officer, DoM, Champasak Province
37. Mr. Niphone Viengphaseuth, Head of Provincial Office, Champasak Province
38. Mr. Signakhone Konebounlom, Department of Tourist, Champasak Province
39. Mr. Phimpha Viengphasueth, Department of Forest, Champasak Province
40. Mr. Bounta Luangvisa, Deputy of Planning Division, Sekong Province.
41. Mr. Phetdavong Bounmisavath, Director of WREO, Sekong Province
42. Mr. Sengsoulinga Keody, Head of Unit, WREO Sekong Province
43. Mr. Somephone Cherdchand, Head of Cabinet Lamam District, Sekong Province
44. Mr. Phaysone , Technical Officer, Lamam District, Sekong Province
45. Mr. Sengphet , Technical Officer, Lamam District, Sekong Pro.
46. Mr. Sengdavone, Technical Officer, Lamam District, Sekong Pro.
47. Mr. Vansern Vannavongsane, Head of Cabinet Kaluem District, Sekong Province
48. Mr. Kingeun, Technical Officer, Kaleum District, Sekong Pro.
49. Mr. Bounphet Chanthamad, Head of Dukcheung, Sekong Pro.
50. Mr. Keth, Technical Officer, Dukcheung, Sekong Pro.
51. Mr. Bounlom Insoutha, Director of Planning Division, DoP, Saravanh Province
52. Mr. Phouphet Vannilom, Technical Officer, DoP, Saravanh Province
53. Mr. Ounhieng Leusisamud, Deputy Director of WREO, Saravanh Province
54. Mr. Bouakeud, Technical Officer, WREO, Saravanh Province
55. Mr. Thanoxay Bansalith, Deputy Director of Planning Division, Attapeu Province
56. Mr. Navalath Nounthong, Director of WREO, Attapeu Province
57. Mr. Amata, Technical Officer, DOP, Attapeu Province
58. Mr. Vongamay Sayngaseng, Head of Cabinet Samakisay District, Attapeu Province
59. Mr. Souhack Keophengsy, Head of Cabinet Xaysettha District, Attapeu Province
60. Mr. Manopphet Senaphanh, Head of Cabinet Sanamxay District, Attapeu Province
61. Mr. Tounekham, Technical Officer, Sanamxay District , Attapeu Province
62. Mr. Boundap, Technical Officer, Sanamxay District , Attapeu Province
63. Mr. Souvansy keoviseur, Head of Cabinet Sanxay District, Attapeu Province
64. Mr. Bandone, Technical Office, Sanxay District, Attapeu Province
65. Mr. Khamsieng Phimmachan, Head of Cabinet Phouvong District, Attapeu Province
66. Mr. Bouasieng , Technical Officer, Attapeu Province
67. Mr. Khamphanh, Head of Village, Samakisay District, Attapeu Province
68. Mr. Boune, Villager, Saysetha District, Attapeu Province
69. Dir. Sourasay Phoumavong, Director of Natural Resources Division, MRCS
70. Mr. Phetsamone Southaluck, Environment Specialist, MRCS
71. Mr. Souparak Chanpraseuth, Social-Economist Specialist, MRCS
72. Ms. Chitlatda Keomuongchanh Junior Social Expert, MRCS
73. Dr. Victor Cowling, Independent Consultant, N/A
74. Dr. Ulrich Hoesle, MRC-GTZ
75. Mr. Nanong Khotpathoum, Executive Director, Earth System Lao
76. Mr. Gerry Duckitt, Global Association for the People and the Environment (GAPE)

77. Mr. Loung Dot, Global Association for the People and the Environment (GAPE)
78. Mr. Sinsamoud, Health Unlimited
79. Mr. Chanthaphone Thammavongsa, WWF
80. Mr. Phlippe, World Bank
81. Mr. Sengsoulixay, Village Focus International
82. Mr. Apinan Thammavongsa, Radio Free Asia

### Annex 3: Summary of presentations

<p>“Experience of land use management and utilization of natural resource in Xekong” Presented by Dr. Palikone Thamlongsengchang, Land Use Authority kindly gave a presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It mainly talked about problem of land use change and inappropriate land use management in Lao PDR. Deforestation for development projects such as dam construction project and land concession for industrial plantation, illegal logging and slash &amp; burn agriculture.</li> <li>• GIS has become an important tool that Land Use Authority of Lao PDR is using for effective land use management, and defining land use zoning.</li> </ul>
<p>“Land use change in development in Sekong river basin” Presented by Mr. Dot Lao-Ounmuang, Global Associations for People and the Environment (GAPE) on and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use change and dam construction project that impact to people livelihood in Parksong district, Champasak province. It mainly talked about impact from resettlement activities that case negative impact to local livelihood and increases their poverty.</li> </ul>
<p>“Fisheries and rural livelihood in the Sekong river basin”. Presented by Mr. Chanthaphone Thammavong, Project Officer, World Wide Life Fund (WWF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2005, WWF had run two projects in two provinces (Sekong and Attapue) in Sekong river basin. Those projects give a primary focus on the development of fish conservation zone and food security. Currently, there are 48 Fish Conservation Zones in Sekong River under the WWF projects.</li> <li>• The project conducted survey about fish market, capture fisheries monitoring and fish consumption in five districts of two provinces. The results shown that capture fisheries in Sekong contributes about 7% to total fisheries in Lao PDR. People in Sekong river basin catch fish for household consumption, and main source of fish is from Sekong River (78%).</li> <li>• The results also shown that people consumes fish about 165g/day/person. If come part to international standard this could mean that fish is the main source of protein diet that people in Sekong river basin intake everyday (61%- fish, 16%-other livestock)</li> </ul>