

The Impacts of Dams on Social and Economic Development



Department of Environment

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Impacts of Dams on Social and Economic Development

Hydroelectric Power in Lao PDR

- Hydropower generators account for **98.8%** of the total annual electricity production in Lao PDR
- Currently has **46** operational hydropower plants
- Lao is aiming to have **100** hydropower plants by 2020
- **12,500MW** of hydroelectric potential in the Mekong sub-basins

Mekong River

Lao

Thailand

LAT SUA

Vietna

Cambodia



Source: Ministry of Energy and Mines, Mekong Eye (2017)

Hydroelectric projects have been continuously planned, under construction and ongoing operation in Lao PDR to date

The exploitation of hydroelectric development is likely considered by Lao government as a key to reducing poverty and to provide benefits in addition to clean electricity

Impacts of Dams on Social and Economic Development (Con't)

Even though the nature of hydropower development results in generating opportunities for infrastructure development and economic growth, it has potential to cause negative impacts on people's lives and well-being as well

❖ **Benefits:**

- a. Economic growth and improved flood control
- b. Guaranteed energy and price stability
- c. Others

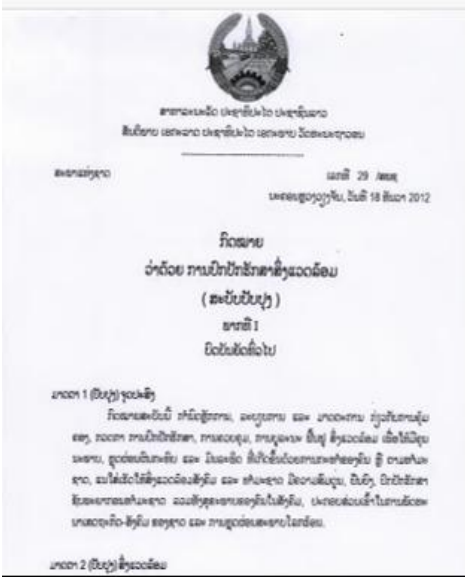
❖ **Challenges:**

- a. Displacement
- b. Adverse effects to human health, land use and livelihood changes
- c. Others

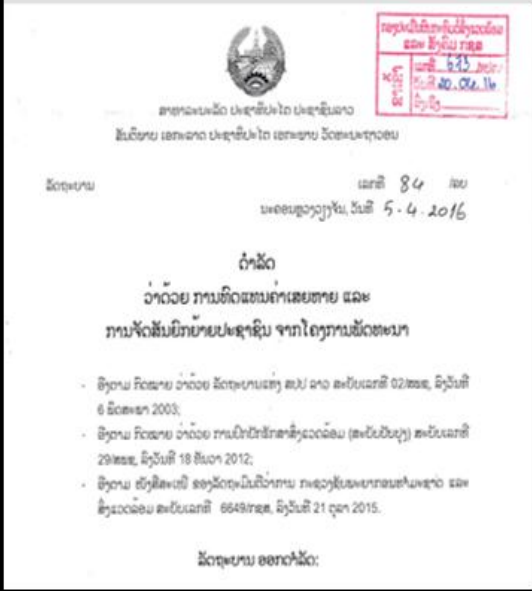
Impacts of Dams on Social and Economic Development (Con't)

Lessons learned from ongoing practice caused a legal disruption to the legal regime so as to accommodate socio-economic development with effective rule of law.

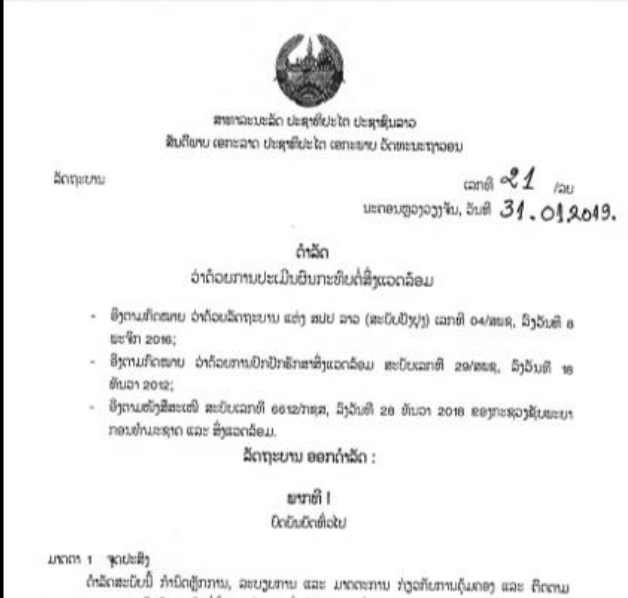
Many relevant laws and regulations have been continuously developed and evolved, including, but not limited to the following:



Environmental Protection Law 1999 - 2003 (under revision in 2021)



Compensation and Resettlement Decree 192: 2005 - Decree 84: 2016 - Law 45: 2018



Environmental Impact Assessment Decree 112: 2010 - Ministerial Decision 8031: 2013 - Decree 21: 2019 (under revision in 2021)

ມາດຕາ 1 ຈຸດປະສົງ
ດຳລັດສະບັບນີ້ ກຳນົດຖືກການ, ລະບຽບການ ແລະ ມາດຕະການ ກ່ຽວກັບການປຸງແຕ່ງ ແລະ ກິດຈະກຳ

Impacts of Dams on Social and Economic Development (Con't)

With such a legal disruption, the impacted social and economic development stemmed from the hydroelectric development has been committedly engaged in the pursue to an equilibrium relationship between economic growth and environmental sustainability

While the challenges have been addressed through

- Comprehensive assessment of socio-economic loss and effective mitigation measures under the environmental assessment system
- Projects' commitment on ensuring sustainable development via continual revisions/updates of mitigation measures throughout the project life

The gained benefits contribute to poverty reduction:

- Project affected people's livelihood are restored and their communities are upgraded to achieving a higher state of social development

**Thank you for your
attention**