

CPWF PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

MK13: Balancing the Scales – Gender Justice in
Hydropower



1. Generic Project Information

Name of Project Lead Institution

Oxfam Australia (OAU)

Project Number and Title

MK13: Balancing the Scales – Gender Justice in Hydropower

Project Duration

21st November 2012 – 31st December 2013

Project Leader and Project Scientists

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2. Project Description

In the Mekong, hydropower planning, implementation and assessment either fails to consider gender, or does so only marginally. In this project's view, this is a serious deficit that means that the negative impacts of hydropower disproportionately affect women, while the positive benefits disproportionately affect men.

A comprehensive consideration of hydropower potential, impact and risk should be informed through the use of gender impact assessment. Oxfam drew on its existing expertise in gender analysis and impact assessment² for this project in an effort to incorporate gender considerations into the hydropower development planning process.

¹The project also has non-funded partners who have provided in-kind expertise and inputs, and who play an important role in achieving the outcomes of the project. Oxfam Australia in Lao PDR is implementing project activities directly through the OAU country program.

² Kent and Simon, 2007; OCAA, 2002; Oxfam Australia, 2009)

This project explored and gained an overview of three sets of standards, guidelines and safeguard measures to evaluate their attention to gender. These are: (a) national standards, policy and legislation; (b) regional standards, policy and guidelines (e.g. the Mekong River Commission's (MRC) Rapid Basin-wide Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Tool - RSAT); and (c) international standards, policies and guidelines (e.g. the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocols, World Bank and ADB social safeguard policies). In addition, the project will also analyse (e) how gender concerns have influenced social impact assessment for individual projects, where these are available.

This project conducted research on the likely impact of hydropower development on gender in the Mekong, drawing on existing data sets and experiences from elsewhere wherever possible, to identify the key dangers in implementing projects without sufficient attention to differential impacts on men and women. MK13 focuses on identifying ways in which gender is not merely a question of rights and gender justice, but makes sound social and economic sense in terms of the ways the costs and benefits of hydropower are distributed, and its impact on rural livelihoods.

This project established platforms that serve to develop a common meaning for what gender means in the hydropower planning, implementation and assessment processes of the Mekong. The functions of these platforms were two-fold: a 'core' platform comprising project partners that spearheaded the above two activities; and a wider platform that will debate gender in hydropower planning within a broader group of hydropower coordinators, administrators and developers. The project aimed to deliver a wide array of supporting outputs that will, in collaboration with the processes it implemented, yield a variety of gender-supporting outcomes.

3. Key Research findings

Research Question 1: To what extent is gender built into national legislation, policy and planning? To what extent is gender built into internationally sanctioned hydropower guidelines and protocols?

The project reviewed the policy and legislative framework which surrounds target countries' hydropower sector – national and international - and assessed the degree to which it supports or hinders gender justice in hydropower development. The method of research has been a wide-ranging desktop review of current national policy and legislation documents of two main types. The first were those specifically designed to guide hydropower development in the country, and these have been examined for clauses that support gender justice in projects. The second were other policies and legislation that include relevant commitments to gender equity or women's rights which could be assumed to remain applicable in the context of hydropower development. The findings coming out of the review were reviewed by national experts from Oxfam country programs and local partners to ensure it covered and got the meaning of the main pieces of the legislations and policies. A similar analysis of internationally sanctioned guidelines and protocols was carried out by the project and the research findings are highlighted below.

Cambodian Legislation and Policy Review: Cambodia has relatively little legislation that is likely to protect or promote the rights women impacted by hydropower. Several of the main laws either stipulate or assume gender equity, but there is no law that specifically promotes women's rights and development as a national priority. In addition, specific laws on natural resource management, investment guidelines and social impact assessment are silent on women's specific concerns. As such, Cambodia has some way to go to translate the commitments it has made in international human rights treaties into national policy. Although multilateral bank social safeguards may provide binding measures if they are stakeholders in

the project, in instances of independent financing, the degree of gender justice achieved in hydropower will presently be left to be determined on a project-by-project basis.

Lao Legislation and Policy Review: Whilst gender clauses appear to be missing in some of Lao PDR's main laws, some of the decrees with which these laws are linked have significant gender content. In terms of social and gender impact assessment of hydropower, much hinges on the correct utilisation of the Technical Guidelines on Compensation and Resettlement in Development Projects (2005). Lao PDR's national planning documents also contain good provisions for gender mainstreaming across government. The achievement of gender justice in hydropower, and the realisation of the human rights commitments Lao PDR has made in international treaties, will thus be reliant on the implementation and enforcement of the provisions made in these national plans and the more detailed policy instruments surrounding planning and development. Ultimately, monitoring project level implementation will be required to assess the efficacy and application of the national plans and related policies.

Vietnamese Legislation and Policy Review: Vietnam has some strong legislation and policy relating to gender equity. The strongest clauses reside in legislation relating to women's rights in the home and within the family, and to education, economic opportunities and land rights, and many address Vietnam's obligations under the international treaties to which Vietnam is a party. What appears to be missing is the connection between these broader rights statements, and the more specific policies that guide the planning and development of hydropower projects. Adherence to the ADB safeguard policies in the Song Bung 4 project has demonstrated both that the development and conscientious application of gender specific policies in hydropower can mean that hydropower projects have the capacity to contribute to positive outcomes in improving women's lives – and that Vietnam is capable of delivering gender justice in hydropower. The filling in of existing policy gaps and then the rigorous implementation of gender-supportive policy will be Vietnam's next challenges.

The World Commission on Dams: Dams and Development Report: In 2000, the World Commission on Dams (WCD) released its final report which identified a new approach to decision-making in water infrastructure. The WCD framework identifies five core values of (i) equity; (ii) efficiency; (iii) participatory decision-making; (iv) Sustainability and (v) accountability. It further elaborated seven strategic priorities, each of which is supported by a set of policy principles. The seven strategic priorities are: gaining public acceptance; comprehensive options assessment; addressing existing dams; sustaining rivers and livelihoods; recognizing entitlements and sharing benefits; ensuring compliance; and sharing rivers for peace, development and security.

To implement the commitments, the WCD recommended an approach that aligned them with key decision points and processes in hydropower development. Two of these targeted the strategic governance and planning stage for water and energy planning; another called for a needs assessment for water and energy, and considering options. The other three relate to the selected preferred option and focus on key moments for project preparation, implementation and operation. Across these, the WCD introduces the importance of adopting an approach that recognises rights, and assesses risks to lay the foundation for negotiating outcomes in water infrastructure. Across this, the WCD identifies the importance of considering gender within broader social, cultural and economic risks, and the experience of costs and benefits associated with dam development³.

While the hydropower sector accepted the central importance of the principles and core values recommended in the WCD Report⁴ [HSAF 2011], some leading companies and the

³ WCD (World Commission on Dams), 2000. Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-Making. The Report of the World Commission on Dams. London, Earthscan, pp.99-116.

⁴ HSAF 2011

industry association rejected elements of the rights and risk framework, as not being practical. Partially in response to this challenge of practicality, the hydropower industry has initiated processes itself, or joined in with other initiatives to develop its own tools to assess sustainability. How these tools have recognised gender was examined in the project and elaborated in more depth in the Appendix Section of the Gender Impact Assessment Manual and a summary is provided below.

The Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol: The International Hydropower Association's Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) of 2011⁵ recognises gender as a cross cutting issue of importance in measuring sustainability. The HSAP is a tool to measure sustainability in individual projects or a suite of projects – that is, it is not structured for basin wide assessments – and it identifies a number of sustainability topic areas where gender should be considered. Despite this, it falls short of elevating gender as a stand-alone priority topic area for sustainability. Rather it provides guidance notes to users of the Protocol about which social topic areas should consider gender. The protocol uses a scoring system to measure sustainability performance, but performance on gender is not considered when assigning scores – rather, assessors are encouraged to look for it, alongside numerous other indicators as part of basic good practice. The review conducted by the project makes the following recommendations for how it could be strengthened.

The HSAP should be independently reviewed and rewritten to include gender and women's rights more centrally and comprehensively, including assessing the efficacy of the cross cutting approach to gender (and other core sustainability areas). Within the current structure of the protocol, this could best be achieved by elevating gender to a topic area and in doing so ensuring that gender performance is measured and reported against as a key sustainability area; including gender considerations more consistently across the assessment guidance; and incorporating gender and women's empowerment into scoring statements for basic good practice, and thereby have gender performance better reflected in scoring decisions.

HSAP accredited assessors should have competency in gender analysis and gender impact assessment; and/or assessment teams should be required to have at least one member with this competency and expertise. The HSAP should look to include gender impact assessment explicitly within its expectations for 'assessment' and 'management' good practice in gradational scoring and should be a fully open source tool, including making the protocol assessor's guidance and the tools for assessment publicly available. Once these are publicly available, a gender review of the tools, training and selection criteria for assessors and assessment teams should be undertaken

The Rapid Sustainability Hydropower Assessment Tool (RSAT): The RSAT, which was developed specifically for basin-wide application in the Mekong region, also adopts a mainstream approach to including gender. The RSAT is designed to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue considering a set of topics and sustainability criteria which brings together developers with government stakeholders, banks, the MRC, river basin organisations and national river basin commissions. The RSAT topic areas align in many ways with those of the HSAP, but with more specificity to the Mekong context – for example focusing on assessing fisheries explicitly. Criteria used to inform assessment make specific reference to gender. RSAT differs from HSAP in that users of the RSAT are guided to consider gender differences and gender 'performance' in the scoring statement criteria.

The review conducted by the project came out with following recommendations for strengthening the tool. There is a need to address aspects of the RSAT where gender is not explicitly identified as it undermines gender inclusion in other areas of the RSAT. Gender considerations could be included more clearly in the key principles for IWRM and hydropower which frames the RSAT tool. Further, principles on Engaging stakeholders and protecting

⁵ Sourced 130813; <http://www.hydrosustainability.org/Document-Library.aspx>

rights and entitlements; Equitably sharing the benefits and costs of development; and on Addressing poverty and food security in hydropower basins should include explicit identification on gender issues.

More specific recommendation on the sections of RSAT is as follows:

- Consider strengthening Topic 5 Social issues and stakeholder consultations, by including a new sub-topic Gender and Women's needs and more clearly identifying gender in the intent and performance statement for Topic 5. Sub-topics 5.3 Food Security and poverty alleviation and 5.4 Indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities present strong approaches to considering gender impacts and consultation with men and women.
- Strengthen mainstream approach: Incorporate a more systematic and consistent approach by including gender explicitly within the Criteria descriptions for River basin planning and Hydropower projects. The approach adopted in sub topic 4.2 National to local benefit sharing, under Topic 4: Equitable sharing of hydropower costs and benefits, presents a good model. "Basin-wide planning includes provision for distribution of hydropower costs and benefits across sectors and communities in the host sub-basin. Specific plans exist for women, ethnic groups and other sub-groups to access benefits ..." (RSAT 2013, p. 21).

Gender and Indigenous People: One area of concern in the Mekong and many other developing country contexts is how hydropower is developed using the resources, land, territories and waters of indigenous peoples. Indigenous people are amongst the most impoverished and marginalised in the world. Within some communities who have experienced involuntary appropriation of their lands and resources, indigenous women experience further discrimination and are denied the opportunity to fully enjoy of their human rights⁶. Indigenous women often have lower rates of education, health care and employment. The relatively low status and power of indigenous women can ensure that they suffer multiple forms of oppression and marginalisation. It is often the men who negotiate the agreements and control the flow of revenues and other benefits to households and communities.

The research built on the assumption that understanding and engaging in gender impact assessment with indigenous peoples is an important opportunity for achieving community consent to a project, and ensuring the project is developed with the interests and rights of women and men considered equally. It is in this context that a company can avoid and mitigate the risk of exacerbating negative gender roles and relations as a result of the project.

The project engaged with the MRC/GIZ regional conference where this was a core theme and Oxfam's emerging work on this was shared into the debates; these were then further explored in the country workshops. The manual looks at this context specifically and recommends an approach to social impact assessment which explicitly looks at how GIA can help be a transformative tool to indigenous/ethnic minority women's rights, but also help avoid exacerbation of existing inequalities.

The project enabled us to build on the findings of other components of the Challenge. Of particular note was the National University of Laos research on resettled communities in Southern Laos. Work to jointly present our findings at the final conference identified significant overlap e.g. the reluctance of resettled women to use the health facilities provided in the resettlement plans. We have a shared commitment to continue this conversation and potentially work together in the follow up to this initial research e.g. is women's reluctance due to their distance from facilities or because the facilities are not women-friendly? This was not done during this activity as the time was needed to implement this research.

In this context, the project found that there is a lot a company can do to help avoid negative impacts. Respecting indigenous peoples' rights to give or withhold their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a clear statement of intent for hydropower projects. From other Oxfam work in the region we know that FPIC principles can be included e.g. Vietnam review

⁶ UN: Briefing Note series Gender and Indigenous Peoples Rights

of Land Law; Lao development of EIA public involvement guidelines. The project recommends that the hydropower companies and the respective governments should not condone, tolerate or perpetuate discrimination against women, and should work to avoid the gendered impacts of hydropower by ensuring the involvement of indigenous women in FPIC processes. Based on our work building awareness of FPIC alongside this project, this is best done by acknowledging and supporting the efforts of indigenous women to operationalise consent in a manner consistent with the rights of all members of their community. It should also be indigenous women (not the imposition of others) who decide how and when they should participate in decision-making as well as their involvement in FPIC processes, based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination and equity.

We have found through this project and other work that watching how IFC and others e.g. the ICMM look at implementation will be important for the hydropower sector, and government ministries responsible for regulation and infrastructure development. The manual developed by this project is informed by the review of standards and guidelines thereby identifying gaps in gender consideration. Hence it can help companies ensure that women and men are equally involved in decision-making, and that when a project is developed, it does so understanding the gender contexts within which it operates.

United Nations, Human Rights and business – the Context for hydropower: Women's rights are a central part of the international human rights framework and are recognised in specific Declarations and Conventions. The project found that in recent years, through the auspices of the United Nations, there has been a strong process with the private sector to determine how human rights instruments apply to business. The UN Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework on Business and Human Rights⁷ articulate the roles and responsibilities of both governments and businesses in relation to preventing and addressing business-related human rights abuse. This framework has the support of governments, business and civil society. It has three interlinked pillars:

- The state duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business, through appropriate policies, regulation and adjudication.
- The corporate responsibility to respect human rights, which means that businesses should act with due diligence to avoid infringing on the rights of others and to address adverse impacts with which they are involved.
- The need for greater access by victims of business-related human rights abuse to effective remedy, both judicial and non-judicial.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,⁸ developed to help support the Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework, explains that corporate responsibility to respect human rights means business should avoid contributing to the adverse human rights impacts, including through their business relationships. In other words, business should, as a minimum, do no harm. In practice, this requires that businesses to have a human rights policy that commits them to respect all human rights, implement a human rights due-diligence process to know and show that they are respecting human rights (requiring identification and assessment of impacts; integration of the findings of these assessments throughout corporate processes; and tracking and communicating human rights performance), and remedy any adverse impacts they may have caused or contributed to, through a formal grievance mechanism.

How the Ruggie framework is implemented by companies in the Mekong region is still to be determined. Companies which adopt this into their risk assessments and performance monitoring can play an important role in improving outcomes for local communities, and

⁷ *Protect, Respect and Remedy: A framework for business and human rights*, Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, A/HRC/8/5, 7 April 2008.

⁸ www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf

helping Mekong governments develop operational expectations and regulations which also look to advance this emerging international norm.

Research Question 2: What are the potential impacts of hydropower developments on Mekong women?

The construction of hydropower dams has negative impact on rivers and the environment. In affecting the environment, dams also impact on communities and people who use and live in and around rivers. Dams can change how people access and use natural resources – land and water; wetland, forest and aquatic resources. Hydropower dams will often require involuntary resettlement of households and communities, which brings great social and psychological upheaval. These impacts are experienced by men and women, girls and boys, the young and the elderly, those with disabilities, and by those of different ethnicities. The impacts often tear apart community structures and ways of life. Communities and households operate with defined gender roles and responsibilities – these are all affected. In many societies, it is women who bear the burden of responsibility for the home and for the family, as well as a variety of roles and tasks within communities. For communities with strong social, cultural and economic connections to land, rivers and place, the changes brought about by hydropower dams can be very traumatic. Resettlement, in particular, is considered impoverishing as it takes away economic, social and cultural resources simultaneously⁹. Across all this dam-induced change, it is in most cases women who are more adversely impacted. Dam construction and hydropower development has made significant contributions to progress across the globe. But the negative impacts cannot be understated, and it is still often the case that these impacts remain underreported and are all too frequently ignored or downplayed in assessing the value and sustainability of projects.

The project verified the expected findings realised through research during the national consultation workshops and the CPWF Mekong Forum session on gender and hydropower led by the Oxfam. The consultation process concluded that there are huge gender gaps in water planning. Even though different livelihood strategies are developed they are not thinking about women's needs separate from men. Participation by women could open up the livelihood issues more.

The resettlement process and the movement of the households to new sites create more pressure on women than men. Their reproductive health gets affected due to these shifts and changes and women become more vulnerable to the societal changes generated through the influx of more men in the construction sites. Social security in the resettlement area is not guaranteed which affects women more than men.

Some of the participants during the workshop and meetings made a point that women are not respected by men because they mostly depend on their income and women have relatively higher responsibilities in a daily life. They take care of children, are responsible for fetching water for households use. In addition, women are already involved in food production, agriculture production. Hence the workload of women can increase even more during the resettlement process if their views are not considered into the planning.

The participants came out with following recommendations:

- It is important to consider men and women's views separately as well as collectively
- Hydropower development projects should support vocational training especially involving women in the resettlement areas
- Support financial capital and production conditions to recover production soon and to make a stable life possible;
- Prevent social problems and provide for social protection;

⁹ Koenig 2002 cited in Scudder 2005

- Improve infrastructure conditions in the new areas;
- Monitor and implement the compensation in hydropower development and provide training on use of funds for people after receiving compensation.

The project found that when gender is considered in the impact assessment and design phase there are real opportunities for hydropower to contribute to a transformative context for gender relations and gender responsibilities. But likewise where gender assessment is not done well hydropower can exacerbate existing inequalities; adding to women's burdens and disempowerment. The project has just touched the surface of engaging women stakeholders in hydropower, but our experience has been that there is a real 'appetite' from women to work in this area. The MRC parallel initiative looking at how to move from a mainstreaming approach for women's participation will be important to coordinate with as Oxfam and its partners continue to provide opportunities which deepen women's involvement in hydropower development, debates and decision making.

Research Question 3: What are the benefits of incorporating gender into hydropower planning?

Corporate leadership: Having women represented throughout the corporate structure is one step towards women's empowerment. In addition to representation, having corporate policy in place that advances women's rights and guides strategic decisions based on assessing gender impacts and opportunities will mean that project staff have a clear policy context to operate within. It is also an imperative to ensure that staff are trained, resourced and able to operationalise policy at the local project level.

Corporate leadership and policy frameworks will inform how the project is developed and managed – as such the absence and under-representation of women makes it harder for a project to meaningfully consider and engage with women's rights and with gender needs and opportunities. The project confirmed, historically, hydropower projects have exacerbated existing gender biases and adversely impacted women's roles and positions within the home and community for project-affected peoples. Negative outcomes for women's livelihoods at a local level, and the impoverishment, health impacts and trauma that occurs as a result of displacement and land appropriation associated with dam construction is well-documented as being more severely felt by women¹⁰. But hydropower, like other infrastructure projects, has the potential to play a positive role in gender relations. The World Commission on Dams noted that "...as gender is a relational concept, access by women to the benefits generated by a dam is a necessary but not sufficient condition for positive gender impacts." The WCD indicated that if dams are developed respecting the rights and interests of women, alongside men, water infrastructure has the capacity to achieve benefits equally for women and men. If done well, projects have the potential to play a transformative role in gender relations.

The project concludes that hearing women's voice – practical and strategic interests is central to gender mainstreaming. Risk assessment needs to identify gender costs and potential benefits in order to be comprehensive. Better project planning, with design and economic and social management plans more likely to include men/women interests to reap tangible benefits and have a better chance of positive community relations. The core finding of the project which was discussed across all the consultations and workshops in the country is to use existing processes for Economic and Social impact assessment and management to improve gender outcomes.

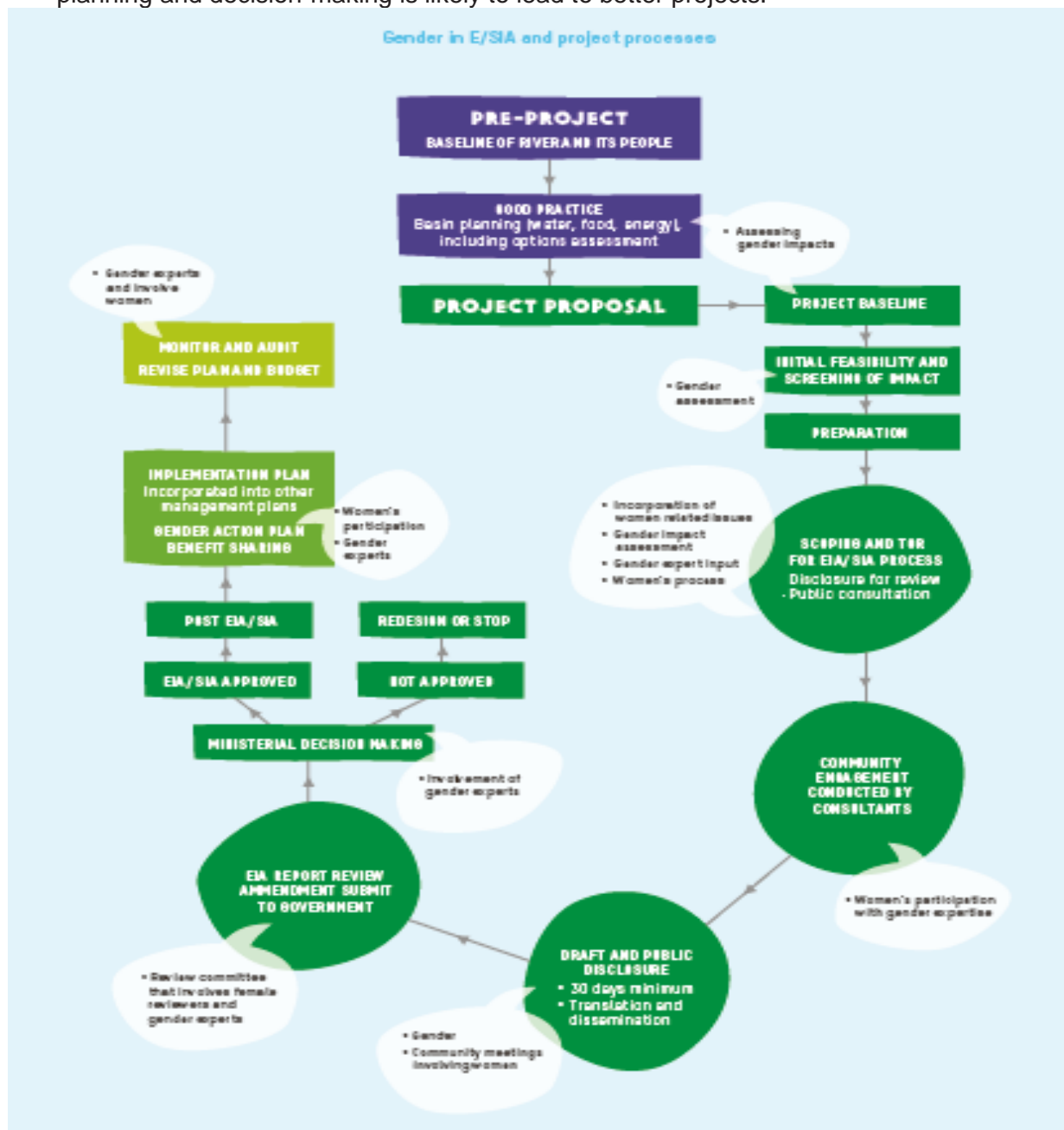
Research Question 4: How can gender be built in to the planning, development and impact assessment of hydropower development projects?

The project has developed a manual that is written to promote stronger consideration of gender in hydropower development. The aim is that this manual will assist hydropower

¹⁰ Scudder 2005; WCD 2000

company staff in their day-to-day work to assess the impacts and managing the risks of hydropower development. In doing so, it should inform decision-making and implementation of hydropower dam projects – so that impacts, rights and opportunities are considered equally for women and men. The guide introduces useful tools for project staff in hydropower companies, and for government staff responsible for project development and operation. It is designed to prompt, and expand on, existing social and environmental impact and management processes. The intention is that it can be used by many different stakeholders involved in hydropower – not just staff in community relations or environmental or social management divisions. This guide sets out a rationale for:

- Why including better consideration of gender impacts will achieve more sustainable projects and outcomes.
- How undertaking gender impact assessment will improve projects.
- Why including women more centrally and consistently in the processes of assessment, planning and decision-making is likely to lead to better projects.



Existing project cycle assessments and management responses present an opportunity for improved consideration of gender (see the diagram above) at each stage of the project development cycle. This generic example was explored with country participants, and while

useful, participants identified a need for more specific alignment with national government legal and normative processes. This is being developed as a follow up to the project and will be included in online resources and future training/ capacity building at national level.

The manual provides a step by step approach for where gender can be included in a typical project cycle for development of hydropower e.g. Environment Impact Assessment. This approach introduces and adapts existing gender tools to the hydro context, and offers these to developers for inclusion into their impact assessment methodology and management approaches. It also includes practical checklists for developers and project staff to consider how gender has been included, and where they might have gaps or missed opportunities.

In addition the manual encourages stronger 'up-front' consideration of gender in the planning and governance of water resources and river basin management. The basic premise underpinning this is that by ensuring that women and men are equally heard, and their interests and rights are considered, there will be an avoidance or minimisation of negative impacts on women. Meaningful participation in processes and decision-making is key to this. Pre-project inclusion of a gender assessment can help avoid negative impacts.

4. Key Messages

As the rivers of the world come under increasing pressure to provide for growing populations and economic development, and river management becomes ever more politicised, it is important that decision-makers are aware of the impact of hydropower development on different parts of the community. Gender is a variable often overlooked. Whilst Cambodia and Vietnam and particularly Lao PDR, all have provisions in their national policy framework which promote gender justice, on-going development of more specific policy provisions, and their diligent application in projects will be the next challenge – both in their efforts to meet their international human rights obligations, and to develop sustainable national hydropower sectors.

Significant opportunities exist for hydropower companies to use gender impact assessment within their business cycles. The manual developed by the project provides some simple tools to help companies make gender impact assessment standard practice in their operations. It is suggested that this can be most logically done as part of social and human rights impact assessment and due diligence processes. In doing so, companies can help give an increased voice to women's perspectives, their needs and interests. By using gender impact assessment to inform management approaches and resource decisions, companies can position their projects to be more responsive to women's needs and interests. As a consequence, they can significantly reduce project risk and also identify more sustainable outcomes for project-affected peoples. Companies can use gender impact assessment to demonstrate their commitment to women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, thereby establishing sustainable business practice and corporate responsibility.

For hydropower companies to avoid and mitigate gender impacts from their projects, it is recommended that the gender impact assessment:

- is based on a strong baseline understanding of the river system and its people before the project, including sex disaggregated data and gender analysis;
- has a detailed understanding of the gender impacts that the project will introduce to affected communities and how these can be avoided and mitigated;
- understands the gender needs and interests of women within project affected communities;
- identifies opportunities to advance women's practical needs alongside those of men, but also promotes strategic interests of women; and
- in dialogue with women, identifies project opportunities for contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment.

The gender impact assessment should inform the development of gender action plans and strategies, which are created in close consultation with and the participation of affected women and men. This would inform other critical processes such as the scoping and negotiation of benefit sharing agreements, compensation packages, and community resource funds and projects. As such, ensuring the gender plan is mainstreamed within other management plans and monitoring processes will mean it is more likely to deliver sustainable outcomes for projects, and for the women and men impacted by the project.

5. Outputs

The project has outputs under different focal areas. The first area of research has the following outputs.

- *An overview of women's rights and gender in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.*
- *The place of gender in national hydropower policies and legislation including ESIA's in national hydropower projects.*

The above two outputs are within the national and policy assessment that have been carried out by the project for three target countries. This assessment reviews the policy and legislative framework which surrounds target countries' hydropower sector – national and international - and assesses the degree to which it supports or hinders gender justice in hydropower development. The method of research has been a wide-ranging desktop review of current national policy and legislation documents of two main types. The first are those specifically designed to manual hydropower development in the country, and these have been examined for clauses that support gender justice in projects. The second are other policy and legislation that include relevant commitments to gender equity or women's rights which could be assumed to remain applicable in the context of hydropower development. The report begins with international agreements or tools that address these same issues.

It has also been an area of focus in the design of the workshop methodology. The GIA manual discussion draft included a generic approach to including gender into E/SIA processes. The national workshops used this as a discussion area with national participants – specifically seeking out stakeholders involved in project development and E/SIA. The Vietnam workshop participants for example requested we develop a version of the E/SIA gender decision tree which mirrors their legal framework. As mentioned above, we have accepted this as a good suggestion and aim to have this as an additional output for all three countries.

The following outputs are included as different sections of the gender manual produced by the project.

c) The likely impact of hydropower on men and women in the Mekong, including the risks that such investments pose to women, their households and their livelihoods. This looks at specific contexts for vulnerabilities in Mekong riparian livelihoods, and identifies the most common areas of impact (fisheries, agriculture, watershed area and reservoir and downstream environments (see pp48-50).

d) Gender in international hydropower protocols, guidelines, policies and safeguards. (E.g. see Appendix- HSAP and RSAT: how do these hydropower industry tools incorporate gender?)

e) How gender can be better incorporated into hydropower planning, investment and assessment. (See Section 6 the Gender Impact Assessment Process)

f) Gender and hydropower: benefits (economic and social) and potentials. (See Section 6 the Gender Impact Assessment Process)

g) A manual on gender impact assessment relevant to Mekong hydropower projects

This manual developed by the project will help companies identify, understand, predict and respond to gender differences, opportunities and needs. The project has made a number of specific recommendations to RSAT v 4 and the 2011 HSAP as to how they could be improved to better advance gender considerations. In its entirety, the manual could also help companies consider their corporate practices beyond the project level; especially their operational policies and their project management frameworks through a lens of advancing gender equality and women's rights. It is designed to be a flexible resource – to be dipped in and out of – not a detailed policy or process guide to be completed from beginning to end. The manual provides six steps to analyse gender impacts in a project. This step-by-step approach will help ensure negative gender impacts are avoided and mitigated, and any opportunities for gender positive outcomes can be realised.

In keeping with CPWF-Mekong's focus on creating 'dialogue spaces', the project implemented workshops in Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia. The workshops focused on the following objectives:

1. Understanding the general context of gender and women's rights in each country.
2. Documenting how gender is relevant to hydropower development.
3. Creating a space for key stakeholders to share their perspective on hydropower and discuss the draft gender impact assessment tool for hydropower.
4. Discussing how to take forward women's discussion on gender and hydropower and look for opportunities for linking with other initiatives.

Following these workshops blog posts on the CPWF-Mekong website were published, multimedia material was shared and communiqués were circulated.

6. Outcomes

(a) Project outcomes

The overall theory of change of the project is that building gender into hydropower planning processes can yield significant dividends – both in terms of minimising negative impacts, and increasing the societal benefits to be derived from hydropower investments. This will result in hydropower planners and developers responding effectively and alter the ways in which they plan and implement hydropower, as well as the ways in which they manage the distribution of benefits. Based on the above theory of change, the project's logic model rests on two pathways through which the project seeks to transfer this knowledge and this appreciation into the Mekong hydro sector.

The first outcome pathway of the project aimed to enhance the knowledge of project target groups (hydropower developers, financiers and administrators) on (a) why addressing gender makes sense; (b) how gender can be addressed in hydropower development; and (c) the ways in which gender aspects of hydropower development can be built into planning processes, policy and legislation. Through this pathway, the project seeks to develop an attitude among the target groups that they will be willing to engage, explore and to define commonly acceptable ways to build gender facets and factors into hydropower planning and impact assessments. The project target groups will have the skill to introduce these changes into their planning processes, and to follow them through.

In a short duration, the project initiated and convened the discussions on gender and hydropower issues in the three target countries. These discussions have sparked debate and interest across stakeholders (attitudes and beliefs), but to date the project's assumption is that the majority of participants were already those with an interest. The project aims to build on this. Oxfam has identified opportunities for next steps to achieve change in practice; and change in less supportive stakeholders by building capacity and piloting/trialling in the next phase as a part of much larger regional strategy which is being implemented by Oxfam in the Mekong region with other funding sources.

The change in attitude and beliefs among the stakeholders in terms of sparking debate and creating interest in the gender and hydropower issue was evident. Through the strategy of using participatory methods with the target group to develop and review the manual and guidelines (tools) it generated buy in and ownership. The workshops in the three countries facilitated active participation from the key stakeholders who provided valuable feedback to the outputs through participating in peer group discussions.

It should also be noted that some outreach has been realised by project staff participating in non CPWF funded and organised activities and dialogues. In particular the engagement Oxfam has had with the GIZ and the MRC's Initiative on Sustainability Hydropower (ISH) process has been useful to test early draft and concepts and to gather energy for the MK13 project. This informed our invitation list and helped to identify and expand the pool of peer reviewers for the national assessments. Particularly in Vietnam, it enabled us to scope national government and academic co-hosts.

The project developed a common understanding among the target groups on the importance of considering gender in the processes and policies required for hydropower development. Existing tools being used in the Mekong region do not have a comprehensive approach to gender issues in hydropower planning and management. A comprehensive consideration of hydropower potential, impact and risk should be informed through the use of gender impact assessment. To ensure that project outcomes have direct relevance to other processes and tools being used in the region, the project specifically cross referenced sustainability assessment tools, guidance and standards, to look at current practice, and, in doing so, engaged with key stakeholders who use or promote those tools in refining and reviewing Oxfam's work (and their own).

The second outcome pathways targeted the women stakeholders, NGOs and civil society networks in three target countries to enable them use the dialogue space to deliberate together on how to achieve better outcomes for women. The dialogue space - in the form of country consultation workshops, communications materials and blog posts developed by the project – contributed to an enhanced knowledge of the target groups about the potential impacts of hydro power developments on women and men in the Mekong region. Early indications suggest that this will eventually contribute to improve the capacity of the target groups to realize women's rights in hydropower development. However, overall impact and change is longer term and beyond the scope of this project reporting/monitoring.

The outcome was achieved through the participatory development and review of the manual and guidelines (tools) that helped to build ownership among the target actors. The project was successful in creating a variety of dialogue spaces ranging from those comprising only gender experts, and which led to particular research outputs; to those that discuss and debate the relevance of gender to hydropower amongst a wide range of stakeholders – including planners, developers and assessors. The consultation processes carried out in three target countries facilitated the key actors to recognise value and make effective application/implementation of gender analysis and impact assessment in the development, construction and operation of hydropower. This is expected to result in greater consideration of women's and men's rights and a greater gendered understanding to inform hydropower developments in the region.

It is also important to mention the case of Lao PDR, where holding the workshop indicated a considerable opportunity to contribute to a change in attitude on behalf of the government. This was possible due to extensive confidence building and reassurance in our engagement with the Lao Women Union who led the workshop. Oxfam highlighted the negative impacts of hydropower development on rivers and the environment and its variable impact on men and women who use and live in and around rivers. Having a Lao governmental body convening an open 'legitimate' space where opinions on hydropower and water management were

expressed seemed impossible at the beginning of the project. In the event the quality of the dialogue was unexpectedly robust and we are optimistic that we will continue this engagement to jointly pilot some parts of the manual.

The project adopted a comprehensive project strategy using research, creation of dialogue spaces and developing and strengthening networks to achieve the outcomes. The research outputs listed above played a central role to the achievement of change because they respond to the question, 'why should hydro-power planning take gender into account?' This provides the *grounds* for changing the way in which hydropower is currently planned and managed.

Dialogue spaces convened during the project, had three functions: (a) to inform and influence the content of the manual, ensuring that potential users of the manual can contribute to its content; (b) as the arenas for debate, so that gender as an idea can become *socialised* and a *common meaning* can be developed. In other words, that gender should not be perceived as a threat to established order and power structures; (c) as a means to introducing the manual, debating its content, and building the skills of target groups to use it. Network building and strengthening and project communication helped with building knowledge and created a platform that has helped provide opportunities to consider integrating gender into wider hydropower dialogues and debates. Parallel dialogue opportunities presented by GIZ/MRC processes and IFC led processes also provided useful opportunities to engage with government and private sector stakeholders, sharing the CPWF funded emerging positions into these forums. This was useful in expanding our network and participants list, and has also stimulated potential follow up opportunities in Lao and Vietnam in particular. Follow up with the RSAT and HSAP governance and implementation will also be pursued separately.

Overall the project successfully contributed to developers and Governments in the target countries by providing guidance and increasing technical capacity and understanding to better incorporate gender into high level feasibility and assessment processes; as well as informing more obvious gendered processes such as community engagement, social baseline studies, social impact assessments and risk analysis, community mapping exercises, and monitoring and evaluation plans in the future. Due to the short duration of the project, it is difficult to assess if the target groups will change the way they do things. Evidence that there has been a step change in the target group's knowledge, attitude and skills with regard to gender justice in hydropower development is demonstrated by the participants' evaluations at the end of the national workshops. A number of recommendations were shared and there was agreement that impacted communities should be more involved to avoid a "top down" approach. Oxfam will continue working in the area of water governance regionally and include the project outputs and outcomes into our wider communications strategy targeted at stakeholders at multiple levels.

(b) Mekong governance

Gender lies at the heart of any notion of equality. The reduction of the under-representation of gender – both as a goal, as well as a means of achieving equalities and making development go further – in hydropower decision-making and planning was started to be addressed by the project. There are potentially many benefits to hydropower. Implicit in discussions about the negative impacts of hydropower in the Mekong is that whatever losses are incurred, hydropower benefits will outweigh these. But experience globally reveals that benefits are shared differentially¹¹, while experience also reveals that a focus on women exclusively can yield very significant developmental outcomes as opposed to a generic approach that does not consider gender¹². At its most fundamental levels, governance concerns the relationships between women and men. But governance discussions tend to ignore this relation, and echo the perspectives and interests of dominant political groups (male), and yield developmental imbalances that serve to have long-term impacts (particularly through child-rearing and

¹¹ cf. Quisumbing, 2003; Cleaver and Hamada, 2010

¹² cf. Meinzen-Dick et al., 1997; Alderman *et al.*, 2003

children). This project specifically addresses issues of governance through its focus on decision-making in the hydropower sector.

This project regards the sidelining of women in development processes as a fundamental problem. It has addressed this in the ways described above. The project outputs - in the form of the national policy review, and the review of the international guidelines - constitutes a comparison of the laws and policies which do, or could, come into force in hydropower development in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam – and the degree to which they support gender justice in hydropower projects. In this, MK13 has also looked at 'soft law' mechanisms or good practice tools that are emerging as a means to consider gender impacts and gender needs in hydropower. These voluntary mechanisms – the HSAP and RSAT – are being included as tools for considering issues of relevance to good governance, and have potential to facilitate broader multi-stakeholder viewpoints into governance deliberations. How effective these will be in advancing women's participation and women's influence though is questionable. This project has made a number of specific recommendations to RSAT v 4 and the 2011 HSAP as to how they could be improved to better advance gender considerations.

The gender manual provides guidance to developers, their financial backers and government partners to improve projects by undertaking gender impact assessments. Considering gender and the impacts of the project on gender, and then adapting the project to address gender equality are critical aspects to considering the sustainability of a hydropower project. The manual emphasizes that the hydropower development project should consider the above in developing complaints mechanisms or grievance processes; negotiating resource, land and water rights for resettled communities; replacing lost assets and structures such as schools, health clinics, and markets; and assigning use rights for communities whose livelihoods have been impacted by the project. This will eventually contribute to the better governance of the hydropower development in the region. Potential areas we have identified to follow up are:

-During the national consultation workshop in Laos, MoWA noted that they have experience in mainstreaming gender at the sub-national level and it would be helpful if gender mainstreaming could be developed at national level with large national projects. Participants also suggested that the manual and the workshop should include an example of a successful Gender Impact Assessment plan. Nam Theun 2 project was cited as a successful example that could inform the design of future assessments.

- In Cambodia it was noted that the Council of Ministers had recently identified the significance of environmental issues in RGC plans on sustainable development and the tools proposed in the manual were seen as useful to limit corruption and increase accountability of government officials in the context of infrastructure development.

- We are beginning discussions with the NUOL and LWU on potential piloting of some aspects.

- There is interest in translating the manual into Chinese language which would help inform Chinese developers active in Mekong.

- Oxfam will explore work with consultants alongside IFC processes to expand their use of GIA.

- In Vietnam Oxfam is considering the options of trialling on a specific project – possibly in conjunction with MONRE. This will be discussed and developed with Vietnam CSO partners who would undertake the project monitoring.

7. Research for Development Engagement

(a) What did we learn about R4D?

The project has included desk-based review, expert analysis, research dialogues, workshop learning and peer review. It has facilitated dialogue opportunities to bring together cross-sectoral stakeholders with interests or concerns in gender and water resource development. In

the Vietnamese and Cambodian workshops, affected men and women shared their experience and impact of projects on their communities and livelihoods.

Considering the complexity of discussing hydropower and gender in the region, the research has found that it is better to move slowly and cover small steps in terms of engaging with the key stakeholders. There is a need to look for appropriate opportunities and openings through a shared interest and a robust contextual understanding and analysis. Translation of the manual into local languages was difficult for our partners, but, ultimately useful to enrich the learning and debates. More time is needed to ensure high quality translations given that the manual includes complex technical terms.

The different levels of understanding and attitudes amongst stakeholders needs to be considered when organising the consultation processes. It is difficult to gather the feedback unless the consultation process makes sure that the participants reach as close as possible to a common understanding.

The GIA manual reviews gives step by step guidance of how to put different components into practice and makes recommendations for where gender assessment and expertise should be included into existing processes of Economic and Social Impact Assessments.

We have heard clearly in our engagement with stakeholders a strong interest and relevance for the project focus. In engaging the private sector it was noted that those companies (and key individuals) with an interest in gender and especially the context of indigenous/ ethnic minority communities have experienced challenges, but also opportunities to engage on gender. It was identified in workshops that where companies have attempted to respect indigenous people's values and decision-making systems and processes, in doing so they are at risk of further marginalising women. What the companies and the MRC Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH) representatives indicated is that most often in practice it is men who will dominate formal community consultations and decision making processes. The company representatives (e.g. Nam Theun Hinboun social experts) indicated that when they try and work with women, there needs to be specific women's activities identified (in context where women are normally engaged – such as household level productive activities, child focused activities, education and so on). Oxfam acknowledges this as a logical entry point but has indicated that good gender practice involving women and empowering women needs to move beyond the activity level and occur more systematically throughout the project cycle – especially *before* impact mitigation activities are initiated. The GIA Manual makes explicit recommendations for how gender outcomes can be achieved while also advancing respect for indigenous peoples' rights. This will be a key area for follow up with Mekong stakeholders, and will be an important intersection with any redrafting of the HSAP or RSAT.

It should be noted that those companies engaged are probably the most progressive and some have considered gender, at least in part, because of funder's policy requirements. As such, in working with those companies to document and share their experience, looking at the drivers for gender practice is important, and follow up applied research by Oxfam will consider how to help companies review their current practice using the gender impact assessment manual. It is likely that we will also use the industry tools and lead actors to help facilitate this connecting with IFC capacity building and advisory processes to companies and consultants is one area we will explore. While supporting uptake in interested companies to use the tool or adapt into their existing tools will be another.

Engaging with the parallel Mekong River Commission Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower initiative presented important linkages and real time learning with stakeholders of that process both at the implementers/expert level, as well as with participants. The MRC/ GIZ process initiated a process of scoping gender and hydropower issues for Mekong hydropower and river-basin management. Initiated with GIZ support, this scoping process brought together government stakeholders from different departments and sectors with concerns about gender

and water resource management, and thereby concerns about the gender impacts of hydropower. Oxfam was invited to participate in this process and was able to share an early draft of the GIA Manual's suggested methodology and approach. This was useful because Oxfam was able to follow up with interested women stakeholders from government departments who subsequently joined our workshops. From this there has been interest expressed in trialling the manual in Vietnam (MONRE) and Cambodia (IFReDI), and also interest expressed from gender experts at the MRC to ensure that this manual aligns with their review of their gender checklist and toolkit for hydropower, which is currently being updated.

In terms of communications – discussion drafts of the national policy assessments and the GIA Manual were shared with networks and expert individuals/groups for peer review. These have included input from government counterparts, from academics, from gender experts and country policy experts. The development of the GIA Manual included excellent advice from Oxfam's experts in the “gender justice hub” as well as from colleagues working on GIA in mining and extractive industries. We have also gained invaluable insights from industry experts and from financial institutions- which has helped ensure that the tone of the Manual as well as the content is not too alienating to industry – who are the primary target audience.

We have established blog posts on the Oxfam website and have been sharing these with CPWF for posting as well. These link to broader discussions about hydropower and Mekong development, and the Manual and National Assessments were also integrated. These were presented at the final CPWF forum in Hanoi in November 2013.

Overall the project revealed that women's participation in decision making remains a key area of concern for many (if not all) stakeholder groups consulted. The processes of governing water resources and developing hydropower, do present opportunities for hearing women, and responding to women's interests equally alongside those of men. The research process meant that we had a platform for discussion of gender in hydropower; and the fact that companies, financiers, developers are struggling with expectations and commitments presents opportunity for application of the gender impact assessment tools. Developing this with women as equal participants will be key.

(b) Challenges when Working towards Developmental Goals

One of the main challenges faced by the project was its short duration which was identified at an early stage of the implementation. Usually, development of attitude and change in practice takes more time and follow up. It is very difficult to see the real impact of the project in terms of changes to the ways the target groups work in just 12 months of implementation. The project was, however, able to reach its intended outcome by starting this process through its active consultation processes in the three countries. The project also utilised the peer review processes to help contextualise the outputs, which contributed to developing a level of ownership amongst the target groups.

The second main challenge faced by the project was to develop partnerships with CSOs due to the political sensitivity of hydropower development in the region. MK13 had difficulties developing contractual partnerships in Lao PDR. In Cambodia, the project tried to organise the consultation workshop jointly with relevant line ministries, which was a challenge. Oxfam used its existing contacts and the networks to ensure that there was participation from a wide group of participants in the national consultation workshops. Hydropower was not a subject that the Lao government neither liked to question nor discuss. Its position was based on the idea that constructing hydropower is the only way for the country to develop and “graduate” from the category of least developed nations on the planet.

Although the starting point of this project was certainly not a favourable one, there were certain factors we were counting on. We believed that a conversation over a better water management was indeed possible, and that our good relationship with the Lao Women Union

and Ministry of Women Affairs in Cambodia was the right way forward. We also thought that after all, there were several things that also the government wanted to understand. And conversations started slowly, but steadily. We knocked on doors for months, and initiated relationships with several officials, trying to break the impasse and create an open dialogue over water management. It was not easy, and at a certain point it even seemed that our consultation workshop, planned to collect critical feedback for our manual, was not going to happen. After several attempts, the Lao Women Union and Ministry of Women Affairs, Royal Government of Cambodia contacted us, saying that they were going to lead the workshop. Over 50 participants attended the event, with people coming from the Ministry of National resources and Environment, from media and from civil society.

(c) Lessons Learned

1. The strategic selection of partners is important to implement a project focused on policy discussions, knowledge, attitude and skill-building amongst a wide range of stakeholders. The project was able to engage with partners on the basis that they have played key roles in hydropower issues over many years, and have gender expertise or strong interest. Through their active engagement in hydropower, they have developed good networks with the key players and decision-makers. This is the reason these partners are well placed to get those key decision-makers and players in one room to consult on the gender manual for hydropower.

The lesson here is that the convening role of partners is important in the national context. The partners were selected because they have strong profile or connections in river networks on hydropower and have connections within the respective government departments and as a result they drew together a useful starting list of participants (as for the case of Green ID, NGO Forum). This has been expanded based on other inputs from a variety of stakeholders and discussions with parallel processes. It is clear though that engaging the private sector actors is the hardest part of the project. Working with national government agencies as co-hosts has been part of the strategy to help bring a broader stakeholder group together, but this in itself has led to delays and complexities in scoping the workshops with significant sensitivity experienced in i) working on anything hydropower related; ii). The language of gender justice; iii) The parallel processes of the GIZ/MRC initiative with the MK13 project. The latter has in the main been very positive, but we did initiate a request to MRC to use their meeting room in Vientiane as a way to show benign support for the topic area, but this was deemed as too complicated with the dual projects.

2. Communications are central to the success of this project, to ensure adoption of the project outputs. The key difficulty here is that the one-year time frame was unrealistic for this project and its scope. We were able to initiate the communication and outreach processes meaningfully only after we finalised the working drafts.

3. Reducing the volume of outputs may have enabled more space and opportunity for dialogue on targeted tools and analysis. It is in working with stakeholders that we have gained useful insights for application and potential use. The relevance of generic tools – versus nationally tailored tools - is still being explored in workshops and follow up discussions. It is likely that some adaptation to national contexts will be part of our Phase 2, both in terms of our translation of materials and also in making them more tailored to national contexts. The feedback from the Vietnam workshop was indicative in this context. Participants saw the value of a generic E/SIA decision tree and examining where and how to better include gender, but immediately they wanted to move from the generic to the specific in terms of Vietnamese process and law. This was fantastic real time feedback on the value in the tool, but also the need to make it more contextually relevant for end users. This goes beyond scope of MK13, but Oxfam will attempt to support this through our own budget commitments as it is exactly the type of follow up that we aspire to. We will include this in discussions with AusAID/DFAT and other interested development partners like GIZ.

4. In undertaking this project we underestimated the difficulty of engaging partners in work on gender and hydropower. The challenges of entering relationships on hydropower requires trust and understanding that we perhaps underestimated in identifying potential partners, and helping them understand the project scope and intent. In hindsight, we should have brought in longer lead times and engaged potential partners in an early workshop following the kick-off workshop in Hanoi in November 2012. This could have helped build trans-boundary energy. In lieu of this, we have been working through the national context, which again has presented challenges, but it also has generated useful discussions with potential ministries. In all cases, there has been an interest and a positive response to be involved in the project, but it has been harder initially for these ministries (the Lao Women's Union, Lao PDT; the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam; and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Royal Government of Cambodia, etc) to start taking a championing role. But eventually ministries in Laos and Cambodia took on the leadership role for the national events.

8. Emerging opportunities

(a) Emerging research opportunities

- Piloting the manual amongst communities who will potentially be affected by large-scale hydropower development. Piloting in this case will be about helping communities to understand our recommendations for good practice by hydropower companies. The Manual will need to be refined for this purpose, which is beyond the scope of this project.

(b) Emerging R4D opportunities

- Engage with private sector led initiatives to build trust and uptake of the GIA Manual and its tools. In particular
- Engage with IFC consultant oriented advisory services.
- Engage with HSAP Governance Committee to consider Oxfam recommendations in revision on HSAP
- Continue to engage with RSAT to look for opportunities to implement GIA into RSAT training and processes (both for engaging PS actors as well as government stakeholders.
- Engage with government to explore how they might make use of the manual. Discussions are at early stage, but for example: we will consider engaging with government agencies (such as MONRE in Vietnam) who are reviewing or auditing company implementation of environmental and social management plans; Work with Lao Women's Union to expand women's platform for deliberation of gender impact assessment and how it can be applied in Lao hydropower development; Work with national Mekong committee members and government agencies through MRC processes to consider how the Manual tools could be incorporated into other toolkits and guidance.
- Connect participatory research efforts in local communities in the region in order to ensure that the civil society is better informed and can document evidence through their own research on the impact of these developments on men and women.
- Collaboration with research institutes and university students to support local communities to monitor the impacts of development on men and women.

9. Any other Comments you would like to Add and Share

None

Annexes

Annex 1: Financial Management

If your project ends after 30th September 2013, A - Annex 1 is to be filled and B – Annex 1 after your project has finished. If your project ends before 30th September 2013 only B - Annex 1 needs to be filled.

A – For projects that end after 30th September 2013

Annex 1: Financial Management

Please note that the summary report below requires sign off by the Lead Institution's chief financial officer. Financial reporting requirements are described in detail in [Standard Clause 8.06](#). This summary report is required **in addition** to a three-monthly statement of project receipts and expenditures.

1. Summary financial report

Please fill in the table below to report on your project cash flow to date and adjust the timeline according to your project dates, e.g. delete 2010 if your project started.

	Time ¹³	2012	2012	2013	2013	Completion Report and Final Audit for project closure
		Progress Report 1	Progress Report 2	Progress Report 1	Progress Report 2	
(thousands of \$US)		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
1	Value of tranche payment received this report period		48,785	85,566		134,351
2	Value of tranche payments received to date		48,785	85,566		134,351
3	Value of expenditures for report period			53,853	90,005	143,858
4	Cumulative value of expenditures to date			53,853	143,858	143,858
5	Balance held against cumulative tranche payments			80,498	(9,507)	(9,507)
6	Value of committed funds					

Instructions to fill the table by row:

- Insert the value of funds CPWF provided against your charge code/ project code during the period of your report.
- Insert the value of funds received to date by summing all amounts in line 1.
- Insert the value of all funds that have been transferred out of your charge code/project code during the report period. Your financial management system, or accountant, should be able to provide you with this figure. (See separate note on commitments)
- Insert the value of funds spent to date by adding this reporting period to the previous accumulative total.
- Insert the value of unspent funds that you are holding in your charge code/project code
- Of the balance you are holding in your charge code/project code, state what how much has been committed and provide an explanation below. This is also important, because we may hold back funds from your next tranche payment if it looks as though you are holding substantial unallocated funds.

I certify that the summary financial report is correct

Chief financial officer: Josh Vansittart, Mekong Regional Finance Manager.

Date: 5th February 2014

¹³ Adjust the dates to fit with our contract period

2. Project leader's commentary on the summary financial report

Please explain any significant commitments currently being held:

Commitment is held against payment to which partners or providers?	Amount, USD	Expected date of expenditure
No further commitments. All funds have been spent		

If you are over-spent / under-spent please explain why or any aspect of the financial progress of your project that has or will affect progress:

Travel – Overspend: There was a requirement from CPWF that Oxfam fund the travel for partners to attend the CPWF Mekong Forum organised at Hanoi during November 2013 which caused a travel overspend

Personnel costs – Under-spend: Due to an over-spend on travel and printing we recovered less on personnel costs and utilised support staff where possible.

Communication products – Overspend: This cost includes designing, printing, translating and sending of manuals. Freight and the need for consultants to design the manual resulted in an overspend against budget.

Team Meetings – Under-spend: Team meetings were necessary but it did not involve any costs as it was organised at the office and through Skype

Stakeholder workshops – Under-spend: Partners we granted to conduct the workshops under spent according to the anticipated workshop costs. All workshops went ahead as planned.

If you had moved budgets across line items please explain why:

We have not changed the original budget.

Any other comments about financial aspects of your project, and any advice you would like to receive:

Please see the attached signed off financial report for details on the expenditure.

Project Closure Report

Annex 2: Milestone plan

Please paste below your milestone plan as it was submitted to the CPWF as part of the contracting documents. We are aware that these may have changed over time as reported to CPWF. For compliance reasons we need to present the changes and up-dates that were made to the milestone plan over the whole project duration. The changes and rationale for them will need to be clearly indicated and included in the matrix below. Changes to original milestones should be highlighted. Please add rows if necessary.

Milestone	Dead-line	Resp. Institution	Responsible staff project member	Means of verification	Indicate where to find the output/deliverable (e.g. link to Mekong Sauce) and explain any changes to the milestone plan.
Review of the Oxfam's previous work on gender impact assessment manual for mining sector	2012/10/01	OXFAM	Michael/ Christina	The draft manual is developed for country consultation.	Completed
Key partner staff responsible for providing input to the guidelines are identified in three target countries	2012/10/15	OXFAM	Priyajit/ Michael	Contractual arrangements with partners	Completed
First Draft of Gender impact assessment manual/guidelines developed for wider discussion	2013/01/31	OXFAM	Michael	Completed first draft of the manual	Completed
Commission peer reviewers and develop expert advisory groups of gender experts	2012/11/30	OXFAM/ Partner	Priyajit/ Michael	List of peer reviewers	Completed
Peer review of the manual completed and comments incorporated to produce the second draft of the manual	2013/03/31	OXFAM	Priyajit/ Michael	Consultation workshop report	Completed
Peer review of the second draft of the manual is conducted by the technical staff of project partner in the target countries	2013/03/31	OXFAM	Michael	Completion report.	Completed
Use CPWF annual workshop as first face to face partner discussion	2012/11/15	OXFAM/ Partners	Michael	Workshop report	Completed
Key staff from different levels of Govt. departments and ministries identified by the project partners	2013/04/30	Partner	Partner staff	Workshop report	Completed.
Dissemination workshops organized at different levels with a range of key decision makers and developers in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam	2013/06/30	Partner	Partner staff	Workshop report	Completed
Comments from all sectors incorporated	2013/08/30	OXFAM	Michael	Final Gender Manual	Completed

Project Closure Report

Milestone	Dead-line	Resp. Institution	Responsible staff project member	Means of verification	Indicate where to find the output/deliverable (e.g. link to Mekong Sauce) and explain any changes to the milestone plan.
into the manual					
Translation of the manual in local languages	2013/10/30	OXFAM/ Partners	Priyajit/Michael/ Partners	Translated gender manual	To be available by end of March 2014.
Finalized manual printed and distributed to a wide range of stakeholders in the region	2013/11/30	OXFAM	Priyajit/ Michael	Final Gender Manual	Completed (English Language)
Project closure	2013/12/31	OXFAM	Priyajit/Michael	Signed off Project completion report	Completed.

Annex 3: Research Publications and Communication Outputs

List (in the table below) all your outputs produced during the project lifetime for the target groups defined in the project OLMs (or if for others please indicate and explain). Please also include planned outputs in the pipeline. Provide a web link for easy access, including links to pre-prints of journal articles. Output types are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Journal articles (include articles that have been submitted ¹⁴ | h. Reference materials (booklets and training manuals for extension agents, etc.) |
| b. Books and Book Chapters ¹⁵ | i. Articles for media or news (radio, newspapers, newsletters, etc.) |
| c. Research Reports (working paper, consultant's report, discussion paper, project reports, etc) | j. Social media outputs, including web sites, blogs, wikis |
| d. Student theses | k. Videos |
| e. Conference and Seminar Papers | l. Data and information outputs, including datasets and databases |
| f. Posters | m. PowerPoint presentations (except the internal project presentations) |
| g. Policy briefs, briefing papers | n. Other (specify) |

Output Type (see above)	Reference (Author, year, title/ output name, etc.)	Target audience (as in OLM)	How disseminated / promoted / used	Any feedback on its use, or how monitored/evaluated
G	Gender and Hydropower – National Policy Assessment Vietnam	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in Vietnam	Workshop/Peer Review, Printing and sharing documents	Oxfam is committed on the cross cutting issues around water governance through its much larger regional program. The work initiated through the CPWF

¹⁴ Please indicate if these are peer-reviewed or not.

¹⁵ Please indicate if these are peer-reviewed or not.

Project Closure Report

				project will be carried on and evaluated through the regional program post its completion.
G	Gender and Hydropower – National Policy Assessment Cambodia	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in Cambodia.	Workshop/Peer Review, Printing and sharing documents	Same as above.
G	Gender and Hydropower – National Policy Assessment Laos	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in Laos	Workshop/Peer Review, Printing and sharing documents	Same as above.
G	Gender Justice in Hydropower – Policy and Legislation review Synthesis Report	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.	Workshop/Peer Review, Printing and sharing documents	Same as above.
H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing the Scales – Using Gender Impact Assessment in Hydropower Development (English Language) Balancing the Scales – Using Gender Impact Assessment in Hydropower Development (Vietnamese Language) Balancing the Scales – Using Gender Impact Assessment in Hydropower Development (Lao Language) Balancing the Scales – Using Gender Impact Assessment in Hydropower Development (Khmer Language) 	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. Women stakeholders, NGOs and civil society networks in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam	Workshop/Peer Review, Printing and sharing documents	Same as above.
m	Oxfam's presentation (attached) and the official report (attached) for MRC/GIZ Regional Scoping Workshop on Gender and Sustainable Hydropower organized during June 2013 at Bangkok, Thailand	Workshop participants, CSO members, Regional agency MRC, Government officials from the target countries.	Workshop/Peer Review, Printing and sharing documents	Same as above.
m	Oxfam's display slide during the Mekong Forum in Hanoi 2013	Workshop participants, CSO members, Regional agency MRC, Government officials from the target countries.	Workshop/Peer Review, Printing and sharing documents	Same as above.
J	Women and Dams	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes	Internet	This is an internet blog article.

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		stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.		
J	Gender and hydropower at the Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) forum	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.	Internet	This is an internet blog article
J	Opposing perspectives on hydropower	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.	Internet	This is an internet blog article
J	Hydropower Decision Making in the Mekong	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.	Internet	This is an internet blog article
J	An Explosive Mix: Gender and Hydropower	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.	Internet	This is an internet blog article.
J	Workshop on gender justice and hydropower: building momentum over water governance in Lao PDR	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.	Internet	This is an internet blog article.
J	The Impact of Mekong Dams on Women	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.	Internet	This is an internet blog article.
N (Communiqués')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communiqué - Vietnam National Workshop • Communiqué - Laos National Workshop • Communiqué - Cambodia National Workshop 	<p>Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.</p> <p>Women stakeholders, NGOs and CSO networks in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam</p>	Workshops, Printing and sharing Documents, CPWF Forum	Not applicable.

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Annex 4: Capacity building of people engaged in the project

Please list any people engaged in the project whose capacity has been strengthened (students, trainees, fellows, project staff, key beneficiaries, etc.) over the project period. **While we are aware that in some cases it is difficult to list individuals (e.g. when 300 farmers were trained in Rain water harvesting techniques, in which case please summarize)**

FAMILY NAME, Given Name OR, in case of large groups, give total and disaggregated by gender and nationality	Gender f/m	Nationality	Type of capacity building event or activity (Level, e.g., MSc, PhD, affiliated University, type of training, seminar)	For students please put here their research and thesis subject
Country Consultation workshop	Male and Female	Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos	The workshop aimed at understanding the general context of gender and women's rights within Vietnam as well as documenting how gender is relevant to hydropower development. Workshop also aimed at creating a space for key stakeholders to share their perspective on hydropower and discuss the draft gender impact assessment tool for hydropower. Lastly, it discussed how to take forward women's discussion on gender and hydropower and looked for opportunities for linking with other initiatives.	N/A
Partner Organisation staff	Male and Female	Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia	Lao Women Union, Ministry of Women Affairs in Cambodia, GreenID and NGO Forum staff have been able to develop the capacity and understanding on mainstreaming gender into hydropower and other large scale developments' in the region.	N/A

Annex 5: Outreach to actors or actor groups identified in the OLMs or others

Who did you try to influence as a result of your project, and in what ways did you try to do this?

Type of outreach activities (e.g. formal meetings, stakeholder consultation, forum)	Actors/ Actor groups (taken from OLM or any other newly identified target group). How many participants (distribution by gender and developed/developing country of origin)?	Dates, venue (location, country)	Any feedback or how monitored/evaluated? Any evidence that your outreach activities led to some positive change?
Workshop, consultation, peer review of the project output.	Government, community leaders and private hydropower developers; includes stakeholders active in target countries - Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. Women stakeholders, NGOs and civil	Vietnam – 11 th Sept 2013, Hanoi. Lao PDR- 28 th October 2013, Vientiane Cambodia- 8 th November 2013, Phnom Penh	Lao Government Led workshop and divulgated its content on national paper (Vientiane Time)

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	society networks in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam		
Online (Web and Social Media) dissemination of articles, multimedia material and GIA manual	Government officials, Private hydropower developers, Civil Society, Youth, Women and Men interested in Gender and Hydropower- on a regional and international scale (open online access)	<p>November 2013 - https://www.oxfam.org.au/2013/11/opposing-perspectives-on-hydropower/</p> <p>November 2013 https://www.oxfam.org.au/2013/11/gender-and-hydropower-at-the-challenge-program-on-water-and-food-cpwf-forum/</p> <p>November 2013 https://www.oxfam.org.au/2013/11/hydropower-decision-making-in-the-mekong/</p> <p>November 2013 https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/infrastructure-people-and-environment/save-the-mekong/gia-manual/</p> <p>August 2013 http://mekong.waterandfood.org/archives/3430</p> <p>August 2013 https://www.oxfam.org.au/2013/08/the-impact-of-mekong-dams-on-women/#!</p> <p>January 2014 http://mekong.waterandfood.org/archives/4735</p> <p>December 4th 2013 http://mekong.waterandfood.org/archives/4377#!</p>	

Annex 6: Project sites

Please list all the project sites your project worked in below.

Names of the sites	Province	Country	Coordinates	
			Lat.	Long.
The project targeted stakeholders spread across the country	Stakeholders across the country	Vietnam	N/A	N/A
The project targeted stakeholders spread across the country	Stakeholders across the country	Cambodia	N/A	N/A
The project targeted stakeholders spread across the country	Stakeholders across the country	Laos PDR	N/A	N/A

Annex 7: Consortium Office Indicators

These indicators have been shared from the consortium office that CGIAR Centers and their Research Programs need to report against. We are aware of the problem with introducing these indicators at the end. We would like to ask you to report against them as good as you can in retrospect and give the source and any necessary background information that makes your input better understood.

- Number of publications in ISI (Institute for Scientific Information, now Thomson Scientific) journals

- Number of flagship¹⁶ “products”/ “technologies”/ “tools”/ “policies” produced (disaggregated to show the number that have an explicit target of women farmers);

- Percent of flagship “products”/ “technologies”/ “tools”/ “policies” assessed for likely gender-disaggregated impact or the rationale why a given product does not qualify for this assessment

- Number of open access databases maintained, number of users

- Number of hits/views/requests coming in through electronic media such as knowledge banks, CRP and institutional home portals, websites, other ICT media

- Number of trainees in short and long term programs, sex-disaggregated, developed/developing country of origin

- Number of M.Sc. and PhD students supervised, broken down by gender, developed/developing country of origin

- Number of meetings/workshops/seminars with a significant science-policy interface (e.g. multiple high-level policy makers present)

- Number of countries which are using the results to define or modify national policies and strategies

- Number of national or international agencies, private sector actors using the tools and results in their on-the-ground implementation efforts,

- Number of times that the outputs are being used to enhance gender equality

¹⁶ These must be significant enough and complete enough to have been highlighted on web pages, publicised through blog stories, press releases and/or policy briefs, and be available to those seeking information on them.

Annex 8: Project Team members and People you would like to Acknowledge

Project Team members

Name	Role in the Project	Designation	Organisation Name	Email address	Base
Pauline Taylor McKeown	Team Leader	Regional Manager	Oxfam Australia	paulinetm@oxfam.org.au	Cambodia
Michael Simon	Technical Advisor	People Infrastructure and Environment Advocacy Lead	Oxfam Australia	michaels@oxfam.org.au	Australia
Christina Hill	Technical Advisor	Mining Advocacy Coordinator	Oxfam Australia	christinah@oxfam.org.au	
Priyajit Samaiyar	Contract Manager	Regional Program Coordinator	Oxfam Australia	priyajiits@oxfam.org.au	Cambodia
Chhuon La	Program Advisor	Senior Program Advisor	Oxfam Australia	lac@oxfam.org.au	Cambodia
Robin Narciso	Communications Expert	Regional Communications Officer	Oxfam Australia	robinn@oxfam.org.au	Cambodia
Vong Sowattana	Admin and Finance Officer	Admin and Finance Officer	Oxfam Australia	sowattanav@oxfam.org.au	Cambodia
Khanh Nguy Thuy	Project Partner	Executive Director	Green Innovation and Development	khanh@greenidvietnam.org.vn	Vietnam
Chhith Sam Ath	Project Partner	Executive Director	NGO Forum on Cambodia	samath@ngoforum.org.kh	Cambodia

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