

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Green Innovation and Development Centre (GreenID)
Project Title:	Strengthening good governance for hydropower dams development on the Mekong mainstream, with a particular focus on Mekong Delta, Vietnam
Date of Report:	21/10/2013
Report Author and Contact Information	Hoang Thanh Binh – Policy advocacy coordinator Email: binh@greenidvietnam.org.vn Tel: (+84) 908600287

CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: The project is strongly seeking to address the hydropower development in the lower Mekong basin. In this light, the project is the best fit with CEPF’s Investment Priority 3.1 (Support civil society efforts to analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and propose alternative development scenarios and appropriate mitigating measures.)

Grant Amount: US\$ 19,996

Project Dates: 01/11/2012-31/10/2013

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

1. Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA): Being the GreenID’s umbrella for all registrations of project. Moreover, co-chair of the workshop “Legal aspects in the cooperation of managing the Mekong River basin”;
2. Can Tho University: Helping to identify the stakeholders for the workshop and organize the student seminar
3. Southeast Steering Committee: Being the co-chair of the workshop.
4. VRN and Mekong experts based in the Mekong delta: The Mekong experts played a crucial role in reviewing PNPCA and other legal documents.
5. Ca Mau Women’s Union: Being the main partner to organize the training on ““Hydropower impacts on the Mekong Delta people’s livelihood under climate change” in Ca Mau for grass-root women.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

N/A

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

<i>Products</i>	<i>Planned</i>	<i>Actual implementing</i>	<i>Impacts</i>
-----------------	----------------	----------------------------	----------------

	<i>implementing process</i>	<i>process</i>	
Formulation of Mekong Delta's think tank group	Mekong Delta's think tank group formed and lasted as a foundation for further meaningful CSOs' engagement in development issues related to the Delta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One Mekong Delta's think tank group (which are going to play a proactive role in implementing activities under this project) under the coordination of GreenID was formed. GreenID plays active coordination role to support for this group. GreenID staffs held separated meetings to meet and exchange with think-tank members. Particularly, we knew that Delta Conference 2013 in HCM city with a focus on sustainable development in Mekong Delta, was held in May. We thought it was a good chance for us to discuss about Mekong issues. That's why we took this chance to meet and talk over with some experts (such as Dr Ni, Mr Vinh) in HCM city. Moreover, we held the 2 meetings with the participation of experts in Can Tho City to give the draft of action plan in the upcoming time. - In addition, GreenID, VRN and Save the Mekong Coalition co-organized the public forum: "The future of the Mekong river: People's concerns on hydropower development" in An Giang from 31 July, 2013. In this forum, GreenID took the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch dog next PNPCA process related to other hydropower dams in the Mekong River, particularly Don Sahong which Lao is likely to construct in November. - GreenID, think-tank members and Saving Mekong Coalition keep the track on Don Sahong dam' situation like reviewing the Don Sahong's Environmental Impact Assessment. This facilitates on-time intervention of international and domestic organizations who are devoted to protect the sustainable Mekong river.

		<p>responsibility to invite the think-tank members to be the panelists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Actually, this group was formally formed in December 2012 and had regularly exchanged via emails and telephone. The direct meeting was held on 28 May 2013 in Can Tho City. ➤ The think tank group comprises 7 delta-based people plus two Mekong experts from the North. This group has 3 members less than original plan. The reason is that this group operates in a voluntary manner and some people were disappointed when the Xayabury project started its construction. ➤ 7 Mekong delta-based experts in the group was gathered including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Nguyen Huu Thien-Independent expert; 2. Dr Le Anh Tuan-Vice Director of DRAGON institute, Can Tho University (CTU); 3. Nguyen Minh Thong-Mekong Net Coordinator 4. Huynh Thi Kim Duyen-Women Union in Ca Mau; 5. Ky Quang Vinh- Cantho Climate change Coordination Office; 6. Duong Van Ni-CTU, 7. Le Phat Quoi- Head of Natural Resources Division Institute for Environment and Natural Resources (EIR), National University at HCM City 	
--	--	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of this group in this project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reviewing the PNPCA applied to Xayaburi case to identify the current gaps; o Drafting the action plan for this group to engage in development issues related to the Delta such as watch dog next PNPCA process related to other hydropower dams in the Mekong River, particularly Don Sahong which Lao is planning to construct. 	
<p>An English report and factsheet of the result of reviewing PNPCA</p>	<p>Reviewed by the think tank group; the output from this research will be used in the multi-stakeholder dialogue to deliver our findings and recommendations for relevant government agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The think tank group has reviewed the PNPCA. The primary findings were used in the multi-stakeholder workshop. - In addition, PNPCA applied to Xayaburi case was reviewed by think tank members, experts and PNPCA's recommendation making by the think-tank reached to decision-makers, related agencies including Vietnam National Mekong River Committee, Ministry of Security, and South West Steering Committee. - The draft of reviewing PNPCA was commented by some hydropower expert such as Mr Dao Trong Tu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find out the shortcoming in PNPCA implementation for the case of Xayabouri - The result of reviewing PNPCA is the basis for applying Don Sahong's PNPCA in the upcoming time. - Spread the PNPCA related information to a variety of stakeholders

		<p>and Tran Dinh Sinh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The factsheet t about PNPCA is made and delivered to relevant stakeholders through GreenID's and international workshops/meetings. 	
<p>A reviewing report on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Don Sahong dam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not planned in the first place. However, during project implementation from last June to now, Lao notified Mekong River Commission and members of the Commission of the plan to build the second dam on Mekong mainstream- Don Sahong dam with the capacity of 260 MW in the south of Lao. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This review is done by environmental experts who have many experienced in hydropower projects. Relevant information about Don Sahong has been provided by Vietnam National Mekong Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The result of reviewing is shared and used amongst international and domestic organizations. This is of great help in careful study before construction of the Don Sahong dam.
<p>An action plan for think-tank group</p>	<p>1 action plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building the action plan to watch dog all relevant issues in Vietnamese Mekong Delta such 3 crop rice; PNPCA and other relevant issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An action plan for think tank group in the activities of protect the future sustainable development of the Mekong Delta given more participatory and critical decision-making processes - In fact, this group has cooperated with GreenID to

			<p>provide inputs for our joint effort with Save the Mekong Coalition in preparing a number of press releases and letters submitted to MRCs and Mekong countries Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two concept notes to support the implementation of action plan have been sent out to secure funding but not success
<p>A report on the student seminar's results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GreenID staff and think-tank group will support active Mekong Delta lawyers to organize a first small seminar on Mekong dam issues for interested law school's students in Can Tho and help them to secure more funding to spread this work for others law school's students in the Mekong Delta on the hydropower impacts to the Mekong delta and call for action of future lawyers as a responsible citizen. - Organize the student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The student seminar "Effects of hydropower development on Mekong river on socio-economy, environment and livelihoods of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta's people" was held on 29 May 2013 with the aim of strengthening students' understanding about hydropower issues on Mekong River and giving the chance to 30 CTU's student in order to discuss the hydropower issues which they have not yet updated or still ambiguous before that 	<p>Provide a better understanding of hydropower impacts in terms of social-economic and environment to future lawyers in Can Tho University. In addition, through the talk-show with Mekong think tank members, those students had a chance to discuss further about impacts of hydropower on Mekong mainstream; country's rights and obligations in regard to Mekong River basin cooperation.</p>

	seminar with participation of 30 students in Can Tho University		
A resulting report of the workshop	- Organize one day workshop with participation of 40 participants	- The workshop “Legal aspects in the cooperation of managing the Mekong River basin” was held on 30 May 2013 with the participation of 60 participants representing different stakeholders such as government officials from MONRE, MOFA, Vietnam National Mekong Committee, VUSTA, South-West Steering Committee, Department of Irrigation and Flood prevention; Mekong experts; lawyers; lecturers from Mekong Delta based universities; WWF Vietnam; and journalists etc. - The workshop content was shortened to fit to the available time of facilitators from VUSTA and South-West Steering Committee. They could not participate for the whole day, so we have to start earlier in the morning and finished late after lunch time. - Moreover, the workshop was co-organized by Center for sustainable water resources development and adaptation to climate change (CEWAREC). This organization partly funded for the workshop organization.	
A report on the training of “Hydropower impacts on the Mekong Delta	- No planned in the proposal.	Holding the training on “Hydropower impacts on the Mekong Delta people’s livelihood under climate change” in 2 communes:	The reason for this change is that we would like to strengthen the accessibility of

<p><i>people's livelihood under climate change"</i></p>		<p>Rach Cheo and Tan Hai in Ca Mau from November 4-5, 2013 with the cooperation of Ca Mau Women Union. The participants in this training mainly were women and communes' government staffs, specifically 23 persons in Tan Hai and 40 in Rach Cheo</p>	<p>Mekong hydropower issues to stakeholders at the grass-root level. It is said that people at the grass-root level are limited to access to updated information regarding to hydropower issues on Mekong mainstream. The training was really a good chance for them to find out the possible effects of hydropower development on Mekong mainstream on their livelihood.</p>
---	--	--	---

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: N/A

Species Conserved: N/A

Corridors Created: N/A

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

<p><i>Overall success of the project</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing the project activities on-time and achieved some expected results - High flexibility about project activities and main events relating to Mekong mainstream's hydropower 		
<p><i>Activities</i></p>	<p><i>Success</i></p>	<p><i>Challenges</i></p>
<p>Formulating the think-tank group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called for the participation of 7 Mekong delta based think tank members - Maintain regular exchange and - discussion among the group via email, phone - Strong commitment of 5 core members in the group with the Mekong issues 	<p>Due to the construction of sensitive Xayabouri hydropower dam, some think-tank members were not eager to participate in the group work so we sometime faced difficulty in persuade think-tank members to move forwards in implementing action plan.</p>
<p>Organized the student</p>	<p>In this seminar, students had a</p>	

<p>seminar in Can Tho University on 28 May 2013</p>	<p>chance to exchange the problems relating to effects of hydropower dams on Mekong River, specifically Vietnamese Mekong Delta. The student seminar “Effects of hydropower development on Mekong river on socio-economy, environment and livelihoods of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta’s people” was held on 29 May 2013 with the aim of strengthening students’ understanding about hydropower issues on Mekong River and giving the chance to 30 CTU’s student in order to discuss the hydropower issues which they have not yet updated or still ambiguous before that.</p>	
<p>One workshop was held on 29 May 2013 with participation of different stakeholders to discuss about the legal aspects regarding to hydropower development on Mekong river, specifically the process of Notification, prior consultation and Agreement</p>	<p>The workshop “Legal aspects in the cooperation of managing the Mekong River basin” was held on 30 May 2013 with the participation of 60 participants representing different stakeholders such as government officials from MONRE, MOFA, Vietnam National Mekong Committee, VUSTA, South-West Steering Committee, Department of Irrigation and Flood prevention; Mekong experts; lawyers; lecturers from Mekong Delta based universities; WWF Vietnam; and journalists etc. Moreover, the workshop was co-organized by Center for sustainable water resources development and adaptation to climate change (CEWAREC) which partly funded for the workshop organization.</p>	<p>For organization of workshop, there were a lot of sudden changes. In particular, the main partner in organizing this workshop which is DRAGON institute could not take the responsibility to organize this workshop regarding to the sensitive problem (Hydropower dam in Mekong area) when there was a foreign participant. The reason was that they required a document sent to Foreign Affairs to register for organization. However, the procedure would take 20 days, so we didn’t have enough time to do that. To solve that, we invited Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA) and South-West Steering Committee to be co-organisers of this workshop to avoid the complicated registration procedure and also have them involved in the project. The lesson we learnt was that we always made a careful preparation when working on this sensitive problem like hydropower issue in Mekong Delta.</p>

<p>Holding the training on “Hydropower impacts on the Mekong Delta people’s livelihood under climate change” with the cooperation of Ca Mau Women Union</p>	<p>The training provided a general picture about the hydropower effects on the locals’ livelihood under climate change impacts. In this training, we also show the hydropower impacts on the locals’ life and introduced Process of Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement to the local people.</p> <p>Thanks to good cooperation with the partner ‘Women Union’, we invited quite a number of local people and hold it in a successful way.</p>	
<p>Reviewing PNPCA applied to Xayabouri case</p>	<p>The findings of reviewing are seen as lessons learnt for considering the effects of PNPCA application to the next dam on Mekong mainstream</p>	
<p>Watching dog next PNPCA process related to Don Sahong dam</p>	<p>According to Government of Lao (GoL), Don Sahong dam is located on the Mekong tributary, not on Mekong mainstream. That is why GoL asserted that implementing PNPCA process before Don Sahong dam’s construction is not necessary. However, international organizations as well as domestic HP experts are against with GoL’s perspectives. International organizations as well as Vietnam government want GoL to show this dam’s EIA and request GoL to implement PNPCA process for Don Sahong dam.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited public disclosure about Don information about Don Sahong ‘s dam - Poor facilitation of MRCs

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

- We brought interested students together in the student seminar and find more opportunities

for them to engage in different activities of GreenID such as “Green Empowering 2013” or the opportunity to participate in the “Mekong Peach Journey 2013”.

- Concerning to the content of the workshop, PNPCA is the new process which was just applied to the first case – Xayaburi. Not many people really have known this process. This was the first workshop talking over the legal aspects in the cooperation between Lower Mekong countries. That’s why some participants in the workshop “Legal aspects in the cooperation of managing the Mekong River basin” still have a lot of unambiguous points and questions. Nevertheless, the workshop brought different stakeholders together to discuss the topical issue. The participation of headers of Vietnam National Mekong Committee (VNMC) and Southeast Steering Committee created one great chance for further cooperation in keeping the track on hydropower issues on Mekong mainstream.
- It is said that the hydropower issues on Mekong mainstream, especially its effects on the social-economic and livelihood seems to be quite strange and ambiguous for the local people at grass-root level due to limited accessibility. Therefore, one more positive impact worth mentioning is that stakeholders at grass-root level (i.e Ca Mau women) can approach hydropower issues.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

The most important lesson is that the possible risks in project design and implementation process. The risk was that we could not hold that workshop as planned in March, 2011. This project implemented in the sensitive and quite complex context because it focused on the case of Xayaburi case. The Xayaburi case still went ahead regardless of international organizations’ protest (e.g. International River) after this project was approved and started implementing for 1 month. That changed our project design because during December to March, discussing about Xayaburi dam was very sensitive when the Government of Vietnam kept strict control of media in reporting on this issue. The Mekong mainstream hydropower issue has become more sensitive and topicality than before as it is now related to politic issue and diplomatic relationships of Vietnam with its neighbors. This caused some difficulties in connecting Mekong Delta people; discourage the energy of the think-tank and some delay in workshop organization.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- Identify the most active experts who really interested in the hydropower issues in Mekong Delta and then thanks to him, we can connect more and call for participation of the other Mekong experts in a voluntary way;
- Selecting and identifying stakeholders who are interested in hydropower issue and have the important role in Mekong hydropower related issues such as VNMC, competent agencies, universities and research institutes etc. For the important stakeholders such as VNMC or Southeast Steering Committee, we had to make the workshop organization fit with their schedule. What is more, there needed to be one prior discussion about the workshop content with them.

- Connecting with the local partners such as Can Tho University's Youth Union for the student seminar 's preparation;
- Keeping regularly updated information and exchange with the core-group, key stakeholders on the Mekong dams issues.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- For organization of workshop, there were a lot of sudden changes. In particular, the main partner in organizing this workshop which is DRAGON institute could not take the responsibility to organize this workshop regarding to the sensitive problem (Hydropower dam in Mekong area) when there was a foreign participant. The reason was that they required a document sent to Foreign Affair to register for organization. However, the procedure would take 20 days, so we didn't have enough time to do that. To solve that, we invited Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA) and South-West Steering Committee to be co-organisers of this workshop to avoid the complicated registration procedure and also have them involved in the project. The lesson we learnt was that we always made a careful preparation when working on this sensitive problem like hydropower issue in Mekong Delta. In general, the activities in the project were done as planned. However, during project implementation, although think tank group members were active to participate in halting its construction, it still went ahead. In addition, due to the construction of sensitive Xayaburi hydropower dam, information on media was blocked. Some think-tank members were not eager to participate in the group work so we sometime faced difficulty in persuade think-tank members to move forwards in implementing action plan.
- For the student seminar, we found that the students in Can Tho University were very active in raising the questions to experts. There were still a lot of questions which were not yet answered during student seminar. From that, we hope that we will organize such seminars more and more for students later on.
- Regarding the communication with the local people (particularly in Ca Mau), the language barrier is one of the difficulties we should consider when implementing the project at the communities. Thus, it is better if we have the local representatives or partners to facilitate the workshop/trainings. For the preparatory works, we should cooperate with the local partner because they have a good understanding about the locality as well as locals' habit, and thereby the training organization would be better.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community: N/A

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Mekong Legal Network	Project co-financing	US\$ 1,730	- Hold the short training course on Mekong related legal issues for

			young lawyers from the Delta joining
CEWAREC	Project co-financing	US\$1,220.9	- Co-organizing the workshop on 'Legal aspects in the cooperation of managing the Mekong River basin';

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

- Results of reviewing PNPCA have been disseminated through the workshop and media, promoting the legal aspects of the issue. In the workshop, Mekong Agreement 1995, United Nations Convention on the Law of the water use in 1997(*UNWC 1997*) or International Laws were introduced with the hope of promoting the people's greater awareness on the hydropower issues.
- Project results have been shared with international NGOs and networks (VRN, WWF); local agencies (Southeast Steering Committee); VNMC to extend collaborative efforts.
- Key findings such as the results of workshop have been released on GREENID's website.
- Our engagement into the process of PNPCA and review impact studies at national and regional level contributes to protect the Mekong River when Lao is planning to build the second dam. The think-tank group will act as core player to expand this body into an alliance or community network by engaging more and more people in their work. By sending capable Delta future lawyers to the Mekong legal network's training, the project can contribute to the development of public interest related to the Mekong dam issues among Mekong Delta future lawyer community.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved. *N/A*

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

N/A

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

N/A

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Hoang Thanh Binh

Organization name: Green Innovation and Development Centre

Mailing address: Suite 1504, Tower B, 173 Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay, Ha Noi

Tel: (+84) 908600287

Fax:

E-mail: binh@greenidvietnam.org.vn