

3SPN Organizational Development and CBO Strengthening Project

Social Assessment

1. Indigenous Peoples in the project area:

3SPN works along the Sesan and Srepok rivers. Many of the people living on these rivers are indigenous or ethnic minorities. The groups found include Lao, Brao, Krung, Kachek, Jarai, Tampuen, Kavet, Pnong, Lun, and Chinese people. These people are semi-subsistence farmers and fishers who are heavily dependent on river-based livelihood activities.

2. Expected project impacts:

3SPN operates as a network of village representatives from each of the villages on the Sesan, Srepok and Sekong rivers, supporting them to voice their concerns regarding the negative impacts of hydropower and other development, and the need to protect the rivers and the ecosystem that supports their livelihood. The construction of dams threaten their way of life, with impacts on water quality, fisheries, changes in the river flow, riverbank erosion, and more, which impacts their livelihoods, food security, culture and way of living.

By working with these different ethnic groups, 3SPN will support the development and sustainability of grass-roots Community-Based Organizations, which will in turn allow the communities to more effectively represent themselves in the face of outside development pressures.

3. Free, Prior and Informed Consent during project design:

In designing this project, 3SPN consulted and shared information with its network of elected village representatives, who in-turn shared information with their villages. This project represents part of 3SPN's strategic plan, which was developed with our network of 5 CBOs along the Sesan and Srepok rivers, in close consultation with these communities. We have regular monthly meetings and further informal meetings with these communities. In addition to our network of elected representatives, we also work with elders groups and womens groups. The structure of this project has been directly informed by consultations with these groups.

4. Measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits:

3SPN's staff work to be very respectful in the villages they work in, paying particular attention to local cultures. All staff must follow 3SPN's "Employee Policy and Procedures", which include provisions for staff working with local communities. We hire many local people who are from ethnic minorities. We want to promote the indigenous people, so we regularly consult our network and community based organizations when planning our work. If anyone complains about our work, we listen to them, and make changes.

The introduction of 3SPN staff into these villages could disrupt them in a small way. However, many of 3SPN's staff are indigenous people themselves, and receive guidance from 3SPN in culturally-appropriate methods of working. All staff are made aware of the parts of 3SPN's Human Resources policy that relate to working with indigenous groups, and have relevant language included in their ToRs. We have found in all cases the overall impact of their work on the communities to be positive.

5. How these measures will be monitored:

3SPN holds monthly meetings with its network representatives, who evaluate the work and develop strategic plans together. If any problems arise, they can bring it up at the meeting or with staff.

6. Grievance mechanism:

If anyone is upset with 3SPN, they can inform their village representative or 3SPN staff, who will then report it to the Coordinator. We also hold monthly meetings with the network, so that people can raise concerns at those meetings and then the network will think of a way to address the issue. In addition, we will share with our network (through announcements during our monthly network meetings, and the posting of information in public places) the phone number and full contact details of the CEPF Regional Implementation Team National Coordinator in Phnom Penh, Mr. Lou Vanny.