

Mekong Integrated Water Resource Management Project  
(M-IWRMP)

**Cambodia: Indigenous Peoples  
Development Framework (IPDF)**

11 November 2010\_Final Version

## **PREFACE**

This document is called the Indigenous Peoples Development Framework (IPDF) for Cambodia. It is developed on a basis of outcomes from the Initial Environmental and Social Examination (IESE) as a standalone document. The EGDF is connected to the overall mitigation instrument namely the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Mekong Integrated Water Resource Management (M-IWRM) project for Cambodia. This framework will be applied to all investments to be financed by the World Bank (WB) for technical and/or financial support from the M-IWRM project for Cambodia that involve Indigenous Peoples (OP 4.10).

The Project Management Unit (PMU) and the respective Project Implementation Units (PIUs) of the Fisheries Administration (FiA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) are responsible for ensuring compliance with the IPDF, including keeping proper documentation in the project file for possible review by the World Bank.

This document is considered a living document and could be modified and changed in line with the changing situation or scope of the activities. Close consultation with the World Bank and clearance of the revised IPDF will be necessary.

## **Cambodia: Indigenous Peoples Development Framework (IPDF)**

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## Section I. Introduction

1. The objective of the Cambodian Fishery Management Subcomponent (Subcomponent 3-3) is aligned with the overall project development objective of the Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management (M-IWRM) i.e. to establish key examples of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) at the regional, national, and sub-national level and more detailed description are given in *Annex I*.
2. Cambodia activities will be limited only to the Subcomponent 3-3 and they will involve indigenous peoples. The Cambodia subcomponent will be implemented through the following activities:
  - Supporting to the fishing communities, including: (a) establishment, registration and organizational strengthening of Community Fisheries (CFi), (b) mainstreaming fisheries management into respective community development planning processes (Commune Development Plans) and (c) providing the fishing communities with complementary livelihood opportunities; and
  - Supporting to the public sector, particularly for district and provincial FiA, to ensure adequate public sector capacity in surveillance on the implementation of the fisheries management plan, fish catch monitoring, promotion of aquaculture, and restocking of the key indigenous species.
3. In addition, it is also planned that under the Component 1 (Regional water resources management), which would be entrusted to the MRC, some support would be provided to nurture trans-boundary dialogues and actions regarding fisheries management in the Lao-Cambodia border area.
4. Scope of the Cambodia activities would cover the Mekong mainstream from the Lao-Cambodia border to Stung Treng and Kratie Provinces. This area is known as one of the most critical habitats (mainly for refugees during the dry season and spawning season) for many long migratory species, including endangered fish species such as *Pangasius krempfi*, and *Pangasianodon gigas* and mammals like the critically endangered Irrawady dolphin (freshwater dolphin). It is also known that this area is inhabited by various indigenous peoples and they may be affected (positively and negatively) by the project.
5. To avoid potential negative impacts on these indigenous peoples and to comply with the World Bank (WB)'s safeguard policy on Indigenous peoples (OP 4.10), an Indigenous Peoples Development Framework (IPDF) has been developed to ensure that these indigenous peoples has equal opportunity to share the project benefits and that any potential negative impacts are properly mitigated. The IPDF will form a basis for project implementation and for monitoring and evaluation of how the project deals with indigenous peoples issues. The IPDF follows Royal Government of Cambodia regulations, and WB's indigenous people's policy (O.P. 4.10).
6. Section II below outlines background condition regarding indigenous peoples and related regulations in Cambodia while Section III describes the objective and basic principles

of OP 4.10 and how it is applied to the M-IWRM (the Project), including actions that have been and will be undertaken by M-IWRM. Section IV provides a technical guideline for consultation framework with indigenous peoples which has been applied during the preparation of M-IWRM. Scope for preparation of an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan (IPDP) is also provided under the consultation framework if adverse negative impacts on indigenous peoples are anticipated.

## **Section II. Background**

### ***2.1. Overview of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia***

7. The population of Cambodia is 13.7 million of which 90-95% are Khmer. The remaining 5-10% is composed of ethnic minorities such as the Muslim Cham, Chinese and Vietnamese, and seventeen indigenous ethnic minority groups also called “Khmer Loeu” or “hill tribes” who are ethnically non-Khmer. These groups are estimated to comprise around 120,000 persons and constitute about 1% of the Cambodian population. There are seventeen indigenous minority groups which range from 300 to 19,000 members and include Tampuan, Kui, Jarai, Phnong, Kreung, Kavaet, Brou, Stieng, Lun and others.<sup>1</sup> Indigenous groups constitute the majority in the provinces of Rattanakiri (67.9%) and Monduliri (59.3%). Under LASED and for the purpose of the World Bank’s OP 4.10 on Indigenous People, only the ethnic minority groups belonging to the “Khmer Loeu” or “hill tribes” are considered indigenous people.

8. According to the report produced by the rural committee of Stung Treng in 1997, there are 14 indigenous peoples currently living in the province. They include: Khmer (64,271), Laos (4,928), Kavet (2064), Kuoy (1588), Vietnamese (674), Chinese (458), Phnong (284), Lun (359), Brao (345), Kreung (210), Chams (85), Tum Puon (18), Kachock (14), and Jarai (5). In terms of ethnic relations, the Cambodian people in Stung Treng often refer to themselves as *Nek Srok Lue* (literally ‘uplanders’) which denotes people who inhabit the agricultural zone and who grow rice and cash crops for either their own consumption or for sale. Hill tribes or *Khmer Lue*, as they are collectively known, are concentrated in the mountainous regions of northeast Cambodia.

### ***2.2 Legal Framework and Regulations***

9. *The constitution* of Cambodia, Article 31.2 stipulates that “Khmer citizens shall be equal before the laws and shall enjoy the same rights, freedom and duties, regardless of their race, color, sex, language, beliefs, religions, political tendencies, birth of origin, social status, resources, and any position”. Article 44 guarantees the legal right to own land equally for all Khmer citizens: “All persons, individually or collectively, shall have the right to ownership. Only Khmer legal entities and citizens of Khmer nationality shall have the right to own land”.

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<sup>1</sup> *Pathways to Justice: Access to Justice with a Focus on Poor, Women and Indigenous People*, Ministry of Justice, UNDP, September 2005, p. 59.

10. *The Land Law 2001* recognizes the right of indigenous communities in Cambodia to own immovable property - their land - with collective title. Article 23 in the law defines an indigenous community as:

- A group of people who manifest ethnic, social, cultural and economic unity,
- Who practice a traditional lifestyle, and
- Who cultivate the lands in their possession according to customary rules of collective use

Article 25 in the law defines indigenous community lands: “The lands of indigenous communities are those lands where the said communities have established their residencies and where they carry out their traditional agriculture”, and these lands “include not only lands actually cultivated but also includes reserves necessary for the shifting cultivation which is required by the agricultural methods they currently practice”. Article 25 also states that “the measurement and demarcation of boundaries of immovable properties of indigenous communities shall be determined according to the factual situations as asserted by the communities, in agreement with their neighbors”. Article 26 states that “ownership of the immovable properties described in Article 25 is granted by the State to indigenous communities as collective property. This collective property includes all the rights and protections of ownership as are enjoyed by private owners”.

11. A Policy on Registration and Right to Use of Indigenous Communities in Cambodia was approved by the Council of Ministers on April 24, 2009, and a Sub-decree on procedures of registration of Land of Indigenous communities was signed on June 9, 2009 by the Prime Minister. This policy takes as its basis the recognition in the Land Law of 2001, of the right of indigenous communities to possess and use land as their collective ownership. The policy states that the registration of indigenous communities as collective ownership is different from the registration of individual privately owned land parcels because the land registration of the indigenous communities is the registration of all land parcels belonging to the communities as a whole, consisting of both State Public Land and State Private Land in accordance with the articles 25, 26, and 229 of the Land Law and related Sub-decrees. These land parcels are different in size and can be located within the same or different communes/sangkat. Therefore, the registration of land parcels of indigenous communities requires a separate Sub-decree supplementing existing procedure of sporadic and systematic land registration.

12. *The Forest Law 2002 (Article 11, 15, 16, 40)* guarantees and recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to continue the use and access to certain forest areas which these groups traditionally use and to practice their way of living in term of enjoyment of benefits from the forest.

### **Section III: Key Issues and Application of IPDF to M-IWRM**

#### ***3.1 World Bank’s Operational Policy: Indigenous People (OP 4.10)***

13. The WB’s Operational Policy 4.10 (Indigenous Peoples) requires that special planning measures be established to protect the interests of indigenous peoples with a social and cultural identity distinct from the dominant society that may make them vulnerable to being disadvantaged in the development process.

14. The Policy defines that indigenous peoples can be identified in particular geographical areas by the presence in varying degrees of the following characteristics:

- (a) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- (b) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories;
- (c) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and
- (d) an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

15. As a prerequisite for Project approval, OP 4.10 requires the borrower to conduct free, prior and informed consultations with potentially affected indigenous peoples and to establish a pattern of broad community support for the Project and its objectives. It is important to note that the OP 4.10 refers to social groups and communities, and not to individuals. The primary objectives of OP 4.10 are:

- to ensure that such groups are afforded meaningful opportunities to participate in planning project activities that affects them;
- to ensure that opportunities to provide such groups with culturally appropriate benefits are considered; and
- to ensure that any project impacts that adversely affect them are avoided or otherwise minimized and mitigated.

16. In the context of M-IWRM, the indigenous peoples in Stung Treng and Kratie provinces are likely to receive a long term benefits through the support on community fisheries and small scale livelihood demonstration activities, but they may be negatively affected by the temporary loss of livelihood and natural restrictions due to the sustainable fishery arrangements. For the M-IWRMP, therefore, the IPDF has focused on ***consultation to make sure that the indigenous peoples have an opportunity voice their concerns and to participate and benefit from the Project. Therefore, the screening process, consultations with ethnic communities carried out to date constitute 'free, prior and informed consultation leading to 'broad community support'***. Subsections 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 below describe the activities that have been undertaken during preparation of M-IWRM project and those to be carried out during implementation.

### ***3.2 Screening for Indigenous Peoples and Impact Assessment of M-IWRM***

17. The Project was designed to incorporate the need to promote a 'meaningful' participation by the poor and disadvantaged sections of society in the development of the community-based fisheries management. Preliminary consultation was also conducted as part of the Initial Environmental and Social Examination (IESE) and preparation of safeguard instruments (including this IPDF) of the Project. The preliminary consultations and IESE aimed to support the indigenous peoples screening process by providing additional data to

identify ethnic minority communities in the project areas and also to inform project designs so the sustainable water resource mechanisms to be developed under the Project will have broad support from local communities and is thus sustainable. The preliminary consultations were carried out by the agencies assisted by a team of an international social specialist and national consultants and active participation of the WB's social specialists.

18. The IESE suggested that the indigenous peoples in the Project areas (Stung Treng and Kratie) would receive the overall positive impacts but may be affected by the resource uses restriction and after consultation, the following approach was accepted, in principle, by the local communities and the local government as well as the local and international non-governmental organizations active in the Project area:

- First, better fisheries management would benefit the local communities in the long run by establish sustainable fisheries management;
- Second, the fisheries management plan would be developed through full participation and ownership of the respective communities, including the indigenous people; and
- Third, the Project also envisages provision of small scale livelihood demonstration activities (which will be selected through participatory planning with affected populations) including but not limited to aquaculture, to agriculture and livestock demonstration activities, extension services, handicrafts to eco-tourism, etc in order to mitigate potential negative impacts on livelihoods.

19. A social assessment will be conducted during project implementation which will define the nature and scope of impacts on the indigenous peoples among the affected populations. By gathering both qualitative and quantitative data in the project areas through a range of Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) techniques, the basic social and economic profile of beneficiary population or project affected people will be developed. The priority investments to be financed under the Project will be in line with the principles and procedures described in Subsection 3.3 below. Beneficiary communities will be supported to develop conflict resolution mechanisms, a key element of community based fisheries management, and the grievances, if any, from ethnic groups will be addressed as part of the conflict resolution mechanisms, under the close supervision of the Project. This will ensure cultural appropriateness, community involvement particularly the ethnic groups are involved in decision making with efficient and effective use of existing community resources.

### ***3.3 Principles and Procedures Applied to M-IWRM***

20. The Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Project Implementing Units (PIUs), i.e. the Fisheries Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) of Cambodia, will ensure that free, prior and informed consultations are undertaken, in a language spoken by, and location convenient for, potentially affected indigenous peoples. The views of indigenous peoples are to be taken into account during preparation and implementation of investments, while respecting their current practices, beliefs and cultural preferences. The outcome of the consultations will be documented into the project documents.



21. During the first 3 months of the Project implementation, PMU/PIU will carry out a more detailed assessment of the nature and extent of positive and negative impacts on indigenous peoples and identify priority investments as mentioned in paragraph 19 above. If the social assessment indicates that the potential impact of the proposed investments will adversely affect the indigenous peoples, an IPDP will be carried out following the guidelines provided in Section IV. The IPDP will be submitted to the World Bank for clearance before investments implementation begins. If the ethnic groups reject the IPDP, the investments will not be approved.

22. If the indigenous peoples conclude that the investments will be beneficial to them, and that any adverse impacts can be mitigated, a plan to assist them will be developed based on consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure that rights and culture of the indigenous peoples are respected. The assistance may also include institutional strengthening and capacity building of indigenous people villages and communities working with the investments.

23. A series of training to all implementers and local agencies preparing and implementing EGDs will be provided. The Government agencies responsible for overseeing the indigenous issues and/or local civil society who are active in the areas will be invited as a resource person to provide training and/or the Government perspectives.

### ***3.4 Monitoring, Documenting, and Reporting for M-IWRM***

24. The Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Project Implementing Units (PIUs) are responsible for supervision and monitoring of indigenous peoples related issues, including documentation and reporting. Results will be included in the Project progress report. The Bank supervision missions will periodically review the progress to ensure that the investments affecting indigenous peoples afford benefits to, and mitigate any adverse impacts on, them.

25. Given the small nature of civil works and the fact that selection of priority investment would follow the participatory planning and consultation process described in this policy, adverse negative impacts to indigenous peoples are not expected therefore independent monitoring will not be necessary. However, upon WB's request, an independent monitoring would be conducted. The community-based fishery management at the project-level that would establish grievance mechanism should be take into account during the monitoring activities and would mention issues and conflict resolved that involved ethnic groups during the implementation

## **Section IV. Technical Guidelines for Consultation Framework with Indigenous Peoples Affected by Investment**

26. The consultation framework is designed to help to ensure that indigenous peoples are well informed, consulted and mobilized to participate in the investments to be supported under an investment project. Their participation will not only make the community-based fisheries management more sustainable but also provide benefits with more certainty, or protect them from any potential adverse impacts of investments to be financed by the project.

The main features/process of the consultation framework includes an environmental and social impact assessment to determine the degree and nature of impact supported by the project. The Indigenous Peoples Development Plan (IPDP) will be developed to address impact if warranted. Consultations with and participation of indigenous peoples, their leaders and local government officials will be an integral part of the overall IPDP, which should be prepared along with the project feasibility report. Key elements of the guidelines are discussed in more details in Subsections 4.1-4.8 below.

27. A series of training to all implementers and local agencies preparing and implementing IPDPs will be included.

#### ***4.1 Preliminary Selection***

28. The preliminary selection process during project implementation is developed as a collective fishery management represented by their respective indigenous group. A consultation process involving indigenous groups would provide a comprehensive baseline data on social, economic and technical aspects of each investment particularly for those areas that have been identified with ethnic groups during the project preparation. This includes also participatory mapping of community access to road and other key services. The social assessment will indicate specific potential social issues on indigenous populations because of the investments, the responsible project sponsor will undertake specific measures to consult with, and give opportunity for indigenous populations in participating decision making related to the investments, should they so desire. The social assessment process itself is often the method by which such consultations are undertaken however they can be undertaken as a separate exercise.

29. All investments areas which have indigenous people communities and are candidates for project support will be visited (at the time of first consultation with communities) by the project sponsor and relevant local authorities, including personnel with appropriate social science training or experience. Prior to the visit, respective project sponsor will send notice to the communities informing their leaders that they will be visited by the respective project sponsor and local authorities and consultation will be conducted on the investments. The notice will request that the communities invite to the meeting representatives of farmers, fishermen, women association and village leaders for discussion on the investments. During the visit, the community leaders and other participants will present their views with regards to the investments.

30. The project will utilize the existing community grievance mechanism to take into account specific cultural attributes as well as traditional-cultural mechanisms for raising and resolving issues— to ensure that the concerns of different ethnic groups are received and addressed during project preparation, implementation and which would continue even beyond project. To achieve this, projects would: 1) identify and determine culturally acceptable ways to address grievances from significantly different ethnic groups within affected communities, including different ethnic or cultural groups within the project-affected area; 2) understand cultural attributes, customs, and traditions that may influence or impede their ability to express their grievances, including differences in the roles and responsibilities of subgroups (especially women) and cultural sensitivities and taboos; and 3) agree on the best way to

access grievance mechanisms, taking into consideration the ways communities express and deal with grievances.

31. At this visit, personnel with social science training or experience will undertake a screening for indigenous people population with the help of indigenous people leaders and local authorities. The screening will check for the following:

- (a) names of ethnic groups in the affected village
- (b) total number of ethnic groups in the affected villages
- (c) percentage of ethnic people in affected villages
- (d) number and percentage of ethnic households within a described zone of influence of the proposed investments. (The zone of influence should include all areas in which investments-related benefits and adverse impacts are likely to be relevant.)

32. If the results show that there are indigenous people communities in the zone of influence of the proposed investments, a social assessment will be planned for those areas.

#### ***4.2 Social Assessment***

33. The social assessment will be undertaken by qualified social scientists (or consultants) knowledgeable about the culture of the concerned ethnic minorities. The social assessment will gather relevant information on the following: demographic data; social, cultural and economic situation; and social, cultural and economic impacts - positive and negative.

34. Free, prior and informed consultations will be conducted through a series of meetings, including separate group meetings: ethnic village chiefs; ethnic men; and ethnic women, especially those who live in the zone of influence of the proposed work under subproject. All consultation will be documented in easily accessible locations. All will be carried out in relevant local languages. Discussions will focus on investments impacts, positive and negative; and recommendations for design of investments. If during the series of consultation meetings that the communities determine that the potential impact of the proposed investments will be significantly adverse or that the ethnic community rejects the proposal, the investments will not be approved (and therefore no further action is needed).

If the indigenous peoples support the investment implementation an IPDP will be developed to ensure that the ethnic groups receive culturally appropriate opportunities to benefit from the investments activities, and to address any concerns or negative impacts associated with the investments. This IPDP also includes the following:

- A summary of results of the free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities that was carried out during subproject preparation and that led to broad community support for the subproject;
- A framework for ensuring free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities during subproject implementation;

### ***4.3 Indigenous Peoples Development Plan (IPDP)***

35. The IPDP will describe consultation processes and results, and subsequent design considerations to ensure that ethnic groups benefit from investments activities, and that measures are provided to mitigate any adverse impacts on them. An IPDP will include:

- (1) legal framework
- (2) baseline data;
- (3) land tenure information;
- (4) information on consultations and local participation;
- (5) technical identification of development or mitigation activities;
- (6) institutional arrangement;
- (7) implementation schedule;
- (8) monitoring and evaluation; and
- (9) cost and financing plan.

### ***4.4. Implementation arrangement***

36. The project management unit (PMU)<sup>2</sup> will be responsible for provide training to project staff and local authorities to undertake the work of consultation, screening, social impact assessment, analyses and preparing IPDPs.

37. The project implementation units of individual investments and local authorities are responsible for implementing IPDF and IPDP (arrange adequate staff and budget).

### ***4.5 Monitoring***

38. Implementation of the IPDFs/IPDP will be regularly supervised and monitored by the project management units of the investment project. The findings and recommendations will be recorded in quarterly reports and to be furnished to the World Bank.

39. Investments with an IPDP will be subjected to external monitoring by appropriate agency and/or an independent qualified consultant. The external monitoring agency or consultant should be hired under terms of reference that specify frequency of monitoring, sampling and interviewing methods, and reporting requirements. Monitoring reports should be maintained by project management unit and made available to the World Bank supervision team.

### ***4.6 Schedule***

40. The IPDP should have an implementation schedule that is coordinated with the investments implementation. Logically, social assessments and group meetings should be

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<sup>2</sup> This term project management unit (PMU) is used here to represent the agency responsible for monitoring and supervision of safeguard activities, including IPDF.

undertaken before investments designs are finalized. Monitoring should take place at the recommended times during and after civil work.

#### **4.7 Budget**

41. The IPDP will include information on detailed cost of mitigation measures and other rehabilitation entitlements for Indigenous in the affected areas. Sources of funding for the various activities and financing plans will be clearly specified in the cost tables.

#### **4.8. Reporting/Documentation**

42. If preparation of an IPDP is required, the project management unit (PMU) will prepare and submit the IPDPs to the World Bank for clearance before investments implementation begins. As stated above, the monitoring reports and quarterly reports will be prepared by the monitoring agencies and the PMU respectively and will be maintained in the PMU and made available for the Bank's review.

#### **4.9. Transparency and Grievance Mechanism**

43. The grievance mechanisms under the Project will be two-tiered: one internal to the communities concerned and the other, involving third-party/external mediation. At the beginning of the project implementation, Grievance Redress Committees will be established from villages to provincial levels built on the existing structures consisting of concerned departments, mass organizations, women and ethnic representatives. At the village level, community based fishery management will incorporate in the existing grievance mechanisms that will be chaired by elder and/or spiritual/tribal leaders, which are largely acceptable to local communities, particularly the indigenous minority groups. The grievance mechanism and procedures will resolve complaints, and the availability of local resources to resolve conflicts not only on safeguard issues but also during project implementation. Based upon this structure, the community-based governance would assist during the project preparation, design, implementation and future developments for improvement. The grievance mechanism will be applied to persons or groups that are directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those that may have interests in a project and/or have the ability to influence its outcome either positively or negatively. The project will provide training and support to strengthen these existing structures for effectively and collectively dealing with possible grievances that may be raised by PAPs during the course of the RAP implementation.

44. PAPs, if not satisfied or unclear about the RAP implementation and compensation may raise their complaints to the village committees. The claim may be made orally or in writing with assistance from the village committees who shall provide response to the claimant within 5 days after receipt of the grievance. If the claimant is not satisfied with the decision made at the village level, s/he may submit the claim to the district level committee with support from the PIUs. Within 15 days after receipt of the claim, the district committees shall make decision and provide response to the claimant. The claim may be lodged with Provincial Court of Law whose judgment would be final.

45. All complaints and grievances will be properly documented and filed by the district and village committee as well PIUs addressed through consultations in a transparent and proactive manner. These grievance documents and report will be made publicly accessible. All costs associated with grievance handling process incurred by the claimant and /her/his representatives are to be covered by the project developer. The grievance handling process is described below:

Procedures	Venue	Response Time	Responsible Unit/Institution	Means of Verification/Documentation
Step 1 – Village Level	Public place accessible to complainant/beneficiaries or PAPs	Within 5 days	Community Fishery Association  Village Committee Leaders	Written record of grievance, through the assistance of PIUs.  Quarterly submission of names and pertinent information about the complainants, nature of complaint, dates the complaints are lodged, and resolution of the same to PIUs.
Step 2 - District Level	District authority's office	Within 15 days	District Authority/PIUs	Written record of grievance from the village committee, through the assistance of PIUs.  Quarterly submission of names and pertinent information about the complainants, nature of complaint, dates the complaints are lodged, and resolution of the same to PIUs.
Step 3 – Provincial Level	Provincial government's office	Within 10 days	Provincial government/PIUs	Written record of grievance from the village committee and District authority, through the assistance of PIUs.  Quarterly submission of names and pertinent information about the complainants, nature of complaint, dates the complaints are lodged, and resolution of the same to PIUs.

**Annex 1. Brief Project Description of M-IWRM Project** (updated per PAD October 2010)

1. M-IWRM project aims to establish key examples of integrated water resource management (IWRM) practices in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB), at the regional, national and sub-national level. The activities will be implemented through the following three components:

- **Component 1: Regional Water Resources Management (US\$7.1 million).** The objective of this component is to promote IWRM at regional level through: (i) facilitating trans-boundary dialogue on critical water resources management issues among LMB countries to promote regionally-harmonized solutions (Subcomponent 1-1); (ii) establishing a regional approach on environmental and disaster risk assessment (Subcomponent 1-2); (iii) promoting understanding of regional IWRM principles to a broad range of stakeholders (Subcomponent 1-3); and (iv) facilitating implementation of the project activities at the national level, and supporting integration of the entire set of project activities under the Phase 1 APL Project. The Component would benefit all the LMB countries, including Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand, and the IDA Regional Program would be used to finance the Component.
- **Component 2: National Water Resources Management (US\$5.2 million).** This component aims to support legal, institutional, and human resources strengthening to implement IWRM and better water resources planning in Lao PDR through: (i) development of a new Water Resources Law considering the regional enabling implementation of the IWRM in the Mekong River (Subcomponent 2-2); and (ii) installing essential institutional capacity regarding water quality monitoring (Subcomponent 2-2), hydro-metrological modelling (Subcomponent 2-3), collection and analysis of the hydro-metrological networks (Subcomponent 2-4); and support management of this component (Subcomponent 2-5). Lao PDR accounts for more than one third of the flow of the Mekong River; hence, strong and accountable systems at the national level are key to sound water management at regional level, specifically to: (i) regional harmonization of the underpinning legal framework for the IWRM; (ii) implementation of the procedures for water quality (PWQ), which were agreed among the LMB countries; (iii) better water resources infrastructure planning, considering upstream and downstream impacts; and (iv) sharing hydro-meteorological data with neighboring countries and the MRC for integrated regional flood and drought forecasting.
- **Component 3: Improved Floodplain and Aquatic Resources Management in Regionally Significant Wetlands and Water-bodies (US\$19.4 million).** The component aims to contribute to establishment of a pilot common approach among the LMB countries for: (i) sustainable floodplain management, balancing livelihood support for local communities with enhancing regional ecological and biodiversity values in wetlands which are of basin-wise significance; and (ii) sustainable community fisheries co-management in key spawning and feeding habitats of regional significance. Two wetlands in the southern Lao PDR and important fishing grounds in the Lao PDR and the northern part of Cambodia have been selected as the project sites. The project activities will be implemented under the following subcomponents:

- (3-1) *Management of River Basins and Floodplains in Xe Bang Fai and Xe Bang Hian Rivers* (US\$ 5.9 million to Lao PDR) through the following actions:
  - (3-1-1) support to development of river basin organizations and development of a floodplain management plan for the lower Xe Bang Fai (XBF) and Xe Bang Hian (XBH) rivers;
  - (3-1-2) rehabilitation of existing water resources infrastructure, mainly floodgates and village based small irrigation schemes covering 14,000 hectares in total to enhance environmental benefits (e.g., allowing fish passage, and increased water efficiency); and
  - (3-1-3) support for component management and administration including logistic support, office equipment, and incremental operating cost.
- (3-2) *Fisheries Management for Lao PDR (US\$4.7 million)*: This subcomponent would provide support for improved management of critical habitats for aquatic resources along the 200 km stretch of the mainstream Mekong between Champasak province (Lao PDR) and Kratie (Cambodia) as well as in the Sekong River, areas which have the richest fish spawning grounds. This subcomponent would support the following actions:
  - (3-2-1) fostering development of community-managed fisheries management organizations in Champasak, Attapeu, and Sekong Provinces in Lao PDR, including: (a) establishment of community-based fisheries management organizations; (b) development of participatory management plans; (c) demonstration of supplementary livelihood activities; and (d) providing support for local government capacity building and rural infrastructure;
  - (3-2-2) strengthening public sector fishery management, including: (a) fish catch data collection, monitoring and regulation; (b) supporting indigenous species aquaculture and stocking through rehabilitation/construction of small hatcheries at the provincial and district level; and (c) capacity building for assessing water resources infrastructure impacts on the fisheries; and
  - (3-2-3) facilitating component management and administration, including support for logistics, office equipment, and incremental operating costs.
- (3-3) *Fisheries Management for Cambodia (US\$8.8 million)*. This subcomponent would provide support for improved management of critical habitats for aquatic resources along the 200 km stretch of the mainstream Mekong between Champasak province (Lao PDR) and Kratie (Cambodia) as well as in the Sekong River, areas which have the richest fish spawning grounds. This subcomponent would support the following actions:
  - (3-3-1) fostering development of community-managed fisheries management organizations in Stung Treng and Kratie Provinces in Cambodia, including: (a) establishment of community-based fisheries management organizations; (b) development of participatory



management plans; (c) demonstration of supplementary livelihood activities; and (d) providing support for local government capacity building and rural infrastructure;

- (3-3-2) strengthening public sector fishery management, including: (a) fish catch data collection, monitoring and regulation; (b) supporting indigenous species aquaculture and stocking through rehabilitation/construction of small hatcheries at the provincial and district level; and (c) capacity building for assessing water resources infrastructure impacts on the fisheries; and
- (3-2-3) facilitating component management and administration, including support for logistics, office equipment, and incremental operating costs.

2. The M-IWRM is a regional project which will be implemented over a period of six years (2011-2016). The Mekong River Commission (MRC) through its secretariat will be the implementing agency for Component 1 while the Loa PDR agencies under the leadership of the Water Resources and Environment Administration (WREA) will be the implementing agency for Component 2 and coordinate the activities of Subcomponents 3-1 and 3-2. The Department of Irrigation (DOI) and the Department of Livestock (DLF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and its provincial offices in Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champasak, Sekong, and Attapeu are the implementing agencies for the Subcomponents 3-1 and 3-2 while the Fisheries Administration (FiA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) of Cambodia is the implementing agency for the Subcomponent 3-3.