

# Indigenous Peoples Plan

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January 2018  
Project 49387-002

## Lao People's Democratic Republic: Second Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth Project

Vientiane Provinces, Lao PDR  
Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvements  
Western Loop Rural Access Roads and bridge Improvements  
Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements  
Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements

Prepared by Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism with Vientiane province for the Asian Development Bank. This is an updated version of the draft originally posted in March 2018 available on available on <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/lao-49387-002-ipp>.

## CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 30 December 2017)

1 USD = 8,325.77 LAK

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

km	kilometer
kg	kilogram
ha	hectare
m <sup>2</sup>	square meter

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AHs	Affected Households
APs	Affected Persons
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CLV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam
CPP	Consultation and Participation Plan
CTG	Community Tourism Group
DICT	Department of Information, Culture and Tourism
DLSW	Department of Labor and Social Welfare
DMF	Design Monitoring Framework
DMOs	Destination Management Organizations
DOH	Department of Health
DPC	District Peoples Committee
DPWT	Department of Public Works and Transport
DRC	District Resettlement Committee
EA	Executing Agency
EG	Ethnic Group
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FHHs	Female-Headed Households
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
HHs	Households
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acute Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
IPP	Indigenous Peoples Plan
LAK	Lao Kip
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LFNC	Lao Front for National Construction
LWU	Lao Women's Union
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MICT	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
NSEDP	National Socioeconomic Development Plan
NGO	Non-government Organization
NPSC	National Project Steering Committee

OICT	Office of Information, Culture and Tourism
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OPWT	Office of Public Works and Transport
PAM	Project Administration Manual
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PIB	Project Information Booklet
PIC	Project Implementation Consultant
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PPMS	Project Performance Monitoring System
PPTA	Project Preparation Technical Assistance
PRC	Provincial Resettlement Committee
RP	Resettlement Plan
RRP	Report and Recommendations to the President
RCs	Resettlement Committees
SERD	Southeast Asia Department
SPS	Safeguards Policy Statement
STI	Sexually-transmitted Infections
TDD	Tourism Development Department
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TOR	Terms of Reference
UDAA	Urban Development Administration Authority
VRC	Village Resettlement Committee

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
I. BACKGROUND	8
A. Objectives of the Indigenous Peoples Plan	8
B. Policy Context, Ethnic Group Development in Lao PDR	8
1. Lao PDR Government Laws and Regulations on Ethnic Groups	8
2. ADB Safeguards Policy	9
II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	10
A. Project Summary	10
B. Subprojects with Impact on Ethnic Groups	10
1. Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvements	10
2. Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements	11
3. Western Loop Rural Access Road and Bridge Improvements	11
4. Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements	11
5. Vang Vieng Urban Renewal	12
III. SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	12
A. Socioeconomic Situation in Subproject Areas	12
B. Ethnic Groups in Lao PDR	13
C. Ethnic Profile in Project Locations	15
1. Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Road Improvements	17
2. Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements	18
3. Western Loop Rural Access Road and Bridge Improvements	18
4. Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements	19
IV. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE, CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION	20
A. Consultation During Project Preparation	20
1. Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Road Improvements	21
2. Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements	21
3. Western Loop Rural Access Road and Bridge Improvements	22
4. Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements	23
B. Consultation During Implementation	23
V. BENEFICIAL AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES	25
A. Potential Impacts Identified	25
B. Beneficial Measures	28
1. Action 1: Support to Organize Community Tourism Groups	28
2. Action 2: Inclusion of Khmu Women in Management of Kaeng Yui Waterfall	29
3. Action 3: Support to Khmu Waste Pickers at Vang Vieng Landfill	30
4. Action 4: Supplementary Support for Job Planning and Microenterprise Development in Nam Ngum, Western Loop, and Kaeng Yui Waterfall	30
5. Action 5: Involvement of Ethnic Groups in Capacity Building	31
6. Action 6: Include non-Tai-Kadai Ethnic Group Concerns in Project Management	32
C. Mitigative Measures	32
1. Action 6: Promotion of Responsible Tourism and Regular Consultation to avoid Adverse Impacts	33

VI.	CAPACITY BUILDING	34
VII.	GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM	35
VIII.	MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION	36
IX.	INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	38
X.	BUDGETING AND FINANCING	39
XI.	IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	41
	ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, CONSULTATIONS WITH ETHNIC GROUPS ACROSS SUBPROJECT SITES	xlii
	ANNEX 2: MINUTES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS (3 SUBPROJECTS)	51
	ANNEX 3: DESCRIPTION OF CULTURAL FEATURES OF SELECTED NON-TAI-KADAI ETHNIC GROUPS	63

### List of Tables

Table 1:	Select Socioeconomic Characteristics of Ethnic Groups in Lao PDR	14
Table 2:	Ethnic Groups in Subproject Areas	16
Table 3:	Overview of Public Consultations	20
Table 4:	Benefits, Potential Negative Impacts and Mitigating Measures	26
Table 5:	Monitoring Framework	36
Table 6:	Indicative IPP Budget	40
Table 7:	Indicative Implementation Schedule	41

### List of Figures

Figure 1:	Implementation Framework	39
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. Background

1. This document is prepared in accordance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 (updated 2012) and follows guidelines set out in the Draft Working Document: *Indigenous Peoples Safeguards: A Planning and Implementation Good Practice Source Book* (2013).

2. This Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) aims to: (i) address the aspirations, needs, and preferred options of ethnic groups affected by the project in Vientiane Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR); (ii) ensure that project benefits for ethnic groups are culturally appropriate; (iii) avoid potentially adverse impacts on ethnic groups; (iv) minimize, mitigate or compensate for such effects when they cannot be avoided; and, (v) implement measures to strengthen social, legal and technical capabilities of government institutions to address ethnic group issues. The IPP will be implemented in synergy with the project's Gender Action Plan (GAP), which addresses women's participation in the project and ensures that gender equality measures will benefit women and ethnic women in project areas.

### 2. Subproject Descriptions

#### 2.1 Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Road Improvements

3. Nam Ngum Reservoir recreation area (7.5ha) is in Keo Udom District, Vientiane Province, 90 km north of Vientiane Capital. An existing road connects the site to national road 10. Visitor arrivals reached 51,701 in 2016, but this is far below capacity. The site is significantly underused and lacking safe, attractive public facilities, quality tourism services, parking, and proper waste management and sanitation.

4. The subproject will improve the situation by (i) improving the existing public marina to safely accommodate 50-60 local tour boats and launch small recreational vessels, e.g. kayaks and sailboats; (ii) construct a 5.9 km, 6m wide loop road linked to National Road 10 to DBST paving, and 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> parking area; (iii) redevelop unsanitary and poorly constructed market stalls into a new 3,200 m<sup>2</sup> public market that incorporates traditional Lao architectural design; (iv) install septic tanks in all public buildings and a wastewater pump-out station/holding tank at the marina; (v) replace abandoned, unsafe public buildings and piers with new public green space; and (vi) renovate the tourist information center. The subproject will supply 2-3 electric passenger vehicles for transfers from the parking area to the marina, to be operated under a private management contract. The subproject will benefit 1,600 people living in nearby Ban Sengsavang and is expected to catalyze significant tourism related investment at the site.

#### 2.2 Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements

5. The Tad Kaeng Yui Waterfall is 6 km east of Vang Vieng. It is accessed via a dirt road linked to National Highway 13 and managed by Ban Nadouang, which also operates homestay facilities. Visitor numbers rose from 23,940 in 2015 to 32,050 in 2016 and could reach 53,994 in 2026.

6. Key risks to growth are poor access and the lack of facilities at the waterfall. To overcome the constraints the subproject will (i) upgrade the 6-km waterfall access road to concrete pavement, with a 6m carriageway and drainage; (ii) level and pave the 875 m<sup>2</sup> parking area with gravel; (iii) improve surfacing and drainage in the waterfall market area; and (v)

improve 300m footpaths, including rehabilitation of steps, small suspension bridges, and signage. The subproject will directly benefit 873 persons in Ban Naduang and additional 2,580 persons living along the improved access road.

### **2.3 Western Loop Rural Access Road and Bridge Improvements**

7. The subproject area is west of Vang Vieng Town and includes a 26-km scenic loop road with karst mountains, caves, rivers and natural springs, many of which are community managed. Tourist arrivals are rising, but only at two sites closest to town. In 2016 arrivals totaled about 80,000 and this could reach 130,000 in 2026. Growth is constrained by unsurfaced roads and insufficient bridge access.

8. The subproject will therefore (i) upgrade the 26 km “Western Loop Road” to DBST paving, with 6m carriageway and drainage in village areas; (ii) construct a new 2-lane 80m road bridge across the Nam Xong River on the south end of town, with a 2-km concrete feeder road connecting it to the Western Loop Road and national road 13N; and (iii) provide bio-engineered river bank protection and improve the 1,100m footpath/cycle track between the new bridge and Huay Yae village. The subproject will benefit about 9,500 people living in 11 villages alongside the road and relieve urban congestion for 59,661 Vang Vieng residents.

### **2.4 Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements**

9. Forecasts suggest Vang Vieng visitor arrivals could increase to more than 230,000 in 2020, while the urban population is increasing by 4.5 % per year and could reach 31,000 the same year. The existing arrangements for solid waste management are unable to meet rising demand created by rapid urban growth and tourism. This leads to public health hazards for residents and visitors. The existing Vang Vieng open dumpsite covers 4ha out of 9ha of available flat/undulating land. The site is screened by mature vegetation and is 800m from National Road 13.

10. The subproject will improve solid waste management by developing a managed landfill on public land already being used as an open dumpsite and expanding coverage of waste collection services to 80% of the district (3,840 households). Subproject components include: (i) preparatory earthworks and installation of a perimeter runoff interceptor drainage system; (ii) construction of an impermeable liner, leachate collection/treatment system, and a landfill gas recovery system; (iii) construction of a small materials recovery facility for waste separation and recycling; (iv) construction of a medical waste treatment area; (v) construction of a septage treatment facility (0.5ha); and (vi) construction of site office, toilets, and fencing. The landfill access road (0.8 km) will be paved with concrete (6m carriageway and verges) to accommodate collection trucks and other vehicles. Equipment supply includes 3 new 10 cubic meter collection trucks, bulldozer, and two vacuum trucks to support septage collection. Sanitation and waste management awareness programs will be supported under output 3 capacity building programs. The subproject will benefit about 60,000 residents in Vang Vieng District and 143 hotels and guesthouses.

### **2.5 Urban Renewal**

11. The subproject area includes most streets and lanes in Vang Vieng’s central and southern precincts. The area has the largest concentration of commercial space and tourists, which are expected to rise from 183,000 in 2016 to 312,565 in 2026. Currently, the area is congested, not pedestrian friendly, and lacks parking and adequate drainage. The subproject

will address this situation by (i) rehabilitating 4.0 km of footpaths with suitable surfaces, street lighting, seating and soft landscaping; (ii) installing traffic calming measures in streets with high concentrations of tourists; (iii) improving traffic management, including one-way traffic flows and shared surface concepts (1.5 km); and (iv) resurfacing roads and improving drains in residential areas (0.98 km). The subproject will benefit 4,051 residents (Ban Savang, Ban Vieng Keo and Ban Mueang Xong), tourists, and 143 hotels/guest houses and 126 shops/restaurants. As the people in town are mostly from the Lao ethnic group, this subproject is not further discussed in this report.

### 3. Social Impact Assessment

12. Vientiane Province, where the 4 subprojects are located, is north of Vientiane Capital. Its total area is 15,927 square kilometers and its total population in 2015 was 419,090 people<sup>1</sup>.

13. Keo Oudom, the District where Nam Ngum Reservoir is located, had a population of 17,786 people in 2015, with district authorities estimating the population at 20,069 (49.95% women) with 3,815 households (HH) in 2017. Vang Vieng where the Western Loop and Kaeng Yui Waterfall subprojects are located, had 36,764 people in 2015 but district authorities estimate the population has risen to 59,661 (49.45% women) with 12,411 households in 2017.<sup>2</sup>

14. Sensavang village, located near the Nam Ngum reservoir improvements subproject, has 303 HH with 1,592 people (women 52%). The 11 villages of the Western Loop have a combined 1,757 HH with 7,912 people (48.5% women). Ban Nadouang village, which is managing the Kaeng Yui waterfall has 183 HH with 879 people (women 51%). Vang Vieng's urban core, where urban renewal will be carried out, consists of 6 villages with 1,571 HH and 8,158 people (51% women). Phon Vieng village where Vang Vieng landfill waste pickers reside, has 240 HH with 1,113 people (49% women).<sup>3</sup>

15. The latest poverty rate (2013) for Lao PDR is 24.8%<sup>4</sup> based on the Lao poverty threshold of 240,000 Lao kip per person, per month (LAK/pp/month) for urban areas and 180,000 LAK/pp/month for rural areas. The average is 192,000 LAK/pp/month<sup>5</sup>.

16. Vientiane Province's poverty rate is 16.5%, whereas the rate in Keo Oudom and Vang Vieng Districts was 9.5% and 16.8% respectively in 2015.<sup>6</sup> However, in November 2017, the District Authorities of Keo Oudom report an overall poverty rate of 2% which is much lower than the 9.5% reported in national data (LECS 2015). Vang Vieng District Authorities report an overall poverty rate of 0% for the district in 2017 which is a radical improvement over 16.8% reported in national data (LECS 2015). This either indicates a rapid increase in income which might be possible because of the increase in tourism and construction industries, or inaccurate data, which is more likely as such a rapid poverty decline in two years is unlikely.

17. Ethnic groups of non-Tai-Kadai language groups make up 1.94% of all households in Keo Oudom district according to the District Authorities (November 2017). They are mainly Khmu with Hmong as the second largest non-Tai-Kadai group. The Tai Dam are classified within the main Tai-Kadai language group to which the most populous Lao ethnic group

<sup>1</sup> *Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2012/13 (LECS 5)*. Vientiane.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 3.

<sup>3</sup> Village Authorities data November 2017

<sup>4</sup> Lao PDR 2015 Census-Based Poverty Map – June 2016, WB

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.thepovertyline.net/laos/> and Poverty Decree 309/PMO, 2013, Lao PDR

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 1



belongs. Vang Vieng District Authorities report non- Tai-Kadai ethnic groups make up 56.42% of all households (November 2017). They are mainly from Hmong background with the Khmu as the second largest non-Tai-Kadai group. There are also some Taliang who belong to the Austro-Asiatic ethnic language group, as do the Khmu. The Lao are the majority within the main Tai-Kadai ethnic language group.

18. Most people living in project areas are of the majority Lao ethnic group, but Khmu, Hmong, and lu Mien, all non-Tai-Kadai language groups, are also present. Table 2 summarizes the percentage of each ethnic group living in subproject areas

#### **4. Consultation and Participation**

19. During June and July 2017 socioeconomic surveys were done for the 5 subprojects in Keo Oudom and Vang Vieng Districts. The survey included respectively 45 and 542 household representatives, equal to 14.85% and 15.88% of the combined number of households in the subproject areas. In addition to the socioeconomic survey several consultation meetings and focus group discussions (FGD) were organized between 10 July and 13 July 2017. Additionally, another FGD was held with Nadouang village on 2 November 2017. This was followed by a participatory consultation and FGD at Nam Ngum Reservoir and at Kaeng Yui Waterfall on 13 and 14 Nov 2017 (see **Annex 1** for attendance lists and **Annex 2** for field reports of all these consultations). Provincial and district tourism and public works officials were present to co-facilitate these activities jointly with the project preparation consultants. A total of 268 participants attended the meetings, 80 (30%) represented non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, including 92 (34%) women. **Table 3** has an overview of all consultations conducted in the subprojects.

#### **5. Project Impacts**

##### **5.1 Beneficial Impacts**

20. The project's planned infrastructure and capacity development activities in targeted tourist sites will positively impact ethnic groups by increasing jobs and income associated with tourism, which is an economic sector that some communities are already involved in.

21. Upgrading rural access roads will bring economic benefits to all ethnic groups in the Western Loop and Kaeng Yui waterfall as a result of: (i) improved access to markets and social services; (ii) opportunities for development of roadside retail enterprises servicing an increase in traffic; (iii) further development of tourism-related skills (cooking, small business management, hospitality, housekeeping, and transport services, for example) and the creation of more jobs from handicrafts and homestay-related services and, (iv) reduction in vehicle maintenance costs. Likewise, the solid waste management and landfill improvements will benefit the population of Vang Vieng District overall, and particularly the Khmu waste pickers that will have safer working conditions.

22. Nadouang village will benefit directly from an increase in tourists visiting the waterfall and corresponding increase in revenue from (i) entrance and parking fees; (ii) earnings from selling food, beverages, and handicraft/souvenirs in the multi-purpose tourist service center (to be constructed by the project); (iii) operating transport services (electric cars), and (iv) increased demand for home-stay accommodation.

23. During project implementation men and especially women of the non-Tai-Kadai households will be hired as unskilled laborers for construction on a priority basis by the civil works contractors.

24. Jobs will be created in tourist-related services and for O&M of subprojects after they are completed. People from non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups living in subproject areas will be prioritized for employment, for example, Khmu people will be employed in the landfill materials recovery facility. Khmu living in Ban Naduang and Ban Sengsavang will work as ticket sellers, drivers, and operate market stalls.

## **5.2 Potential Negative Impacts**

25. During the consultations, respondents identified some potential negative impacts during construction and O&M of the completed infrastructure facilities. They shared their concern about possible increase in traffic accidents, respiratory illness due to dust during construction and possible higher incidence of undesirable behavior by construction workers, for example excessive drinking, commercial sex which in turn may lead to HIV/AIDS an STI transmission and/or human trafficking.

26. Acquisition of small plots of agriculture land are minor and addressed in the Resettlement Plan (RP). Relocation of small businesses will be appropriately addressed with a robust consultation and capacity building program as described in the section on consultation and capacity building. Women, especially female-headed ethnic households whose business income may be temporarily impacted will be consulted and compensated per the RP and GAP.

27. Other areas of possible adverse impacts were identified as follows:

- Traffic disruptions due to roadblocks as well as noise and dust; possible road accidents; longer time to travel to and from the villages;
- Temporary disruption in economic activities along the roadside resulting in less income from roadside sales of fruits, food and beverages;
- Higher incidence of traffic accidents;
- Higher incidence of HIV/AIDS, human trafficking and STIs;
- Core labor issues like child labor and exploitation;
- Lack of information about the project implementation preventing envisaged local participation;
- Foreign tourists are unaware of local culture and traditions and may dress and behave improperly;
- Some local people in Vang Vieng and Keo Oudom are not familiar with the culture of foreign tourists from western countries which may create some difficulties about how to treat them;
- Problems with solid waste management and environmental sanitation because of increased number of visitors.

## **5.3 Beneficial and Mitigative Measures**

28. To avoid adverse impacts, attention will be paid to: (i) community awareness and a participatory scheme to promote sound solid waste management and environmental sanitation practices, road safety and traffic safety practices among community members and tourists; (ii) tourism community awareness programs to promote responsible tourism where women,

particularly non-Tai-Kadai ethnic women, will play critical roles in the tourism industry; (iii) hiring non-Tai-Kadai household members as unskilled laborers for construction; and (iv) support for national efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, STIs, and human trafficking. Core labor issues will be addressed through contract clauses and information, education, and communication campaigns (IECs).

29. Environmental management plans (EMPs) have been prepared for all infrastructure subprojects, setting out mitigating measures to be enacted by civil works contractors. Contractors are required to prepare road safety and occupational safety plans as part of the contractor's environmental management plan, to be attached to their program of works (PoW). Monitoring will be done by project safeguards staff, consultants, and community tourism groups (CTGs) to be established in 19 villages across 4 subprojects in Vang Vieng, and in Ban Sengsavang in Keo Oudom.

30. CTGs comprise of two members from each village, one from the Women's Union and one representative of non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups if there are such groups. CTGs will (i) facilitate information dissemination, community awareness building; (ii) raise issues of concern of participating communities with other project stakeholders as well as with the project coordination unit (PCU) and project implementation units (PIUs) in Vang Vieng district and Keo Odom district; (iii) ensure that the views and needs of all project beneficiaries are adequately reflected in subproject the design and implementation; and, (iv) conduct simple civil works, safeguards and GAP implementation monitoring as part of the project's community-based monitoring and evaluation initiatives.

31. As explained in the section on mitigative measures, there will be specific actions to:

- Include Khmu women in the management of Kaeng Yui Waterfall
- Extend training support to Khmu waste pickers at Vang Vieng landfill
- Support business planning and micro-enterprise development in Nam Ngum, Western Loop and Kaeng Yui Waterfall subprojects
- Include non-Tai-Kadai ethnic group members (and concerns) in project management and implementation units

32. As part of the GAP, community awareness and information dissemination activities on HIV/AIDS, STIs, human trafficking and core labor issues will be conducted in project areas with active involvement of the LWU and CTG members, whom will receive project training. The cost of these activities will be shared among the PCU, PIUs and contractors as part of their contractual obligations.

33. Promotion of responsible tourism, information dissemination about the project, and regular community consultations to avoid adverse impacts is part of the consultation and participation plan (**Box 1**).

34. Offices of Information, Culture and Tourism (OICTs) and Offices of Public Works and Transport (OPWTs) will support information dissemination by:

- supporting village leaders and CTGs to communicate issues to tourists and to local people using IEC tools;
- raising community awareness on social issues through the trained CTGs;

- disseminate regulations on road safety and install traffic safety signs along the road in conjunction with conducting road safety awareness.

## 6. Monitoring and Institutional Arrangements

35. IPP implementation will be the responsibility of the PCU Director overall and the PIUs at district/subproject levels. Detailed implementation arrangements are in the project administration manual (PAM).

36. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism's (MICTs) Tourism Development Department will be the PCU, coordinating overall project implementation, including the IPP. A PIU will be embedded within Vientiane Province DICT and Vang Vieng UDAA to manage infrastructure and capacity building activities. The PCU and the PIUs will assign at least one member of their staff to be responsible for social safeguards implementation including the IPP, with preference for a non-Tai-Kadai staff or a staff who has had a long experience working with non-Tai-Kadai people. The safeguards officers from the PCU and PIU, with the support of the consultants and CTG members will implement IPP activities.

37. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the IPP will be built into the project performance monitoring system (PPMS), to be developed during the first six months of project implementation. IPP monitoring will (i) ensure that the ethnic groups have been engaged in the project activities; (ii) assess the quality and timeliness of ethnic group support programs; (iii) identify problems; and (iv) map out plans to redirect IPP implementation based on problem analysis and solutions formulated. The framework for monitoring the IPP is summarized in **Table 5**.

## 7. Budgeting and Financing

38. The proposed infrastructure improvements will be designed and implemented in close consultation with the communities, including the non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups involved. The costs of these consultations and monitoring are included in the overall IPP budget. A budget for capacity development and training specifically targeted to non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups and the publication of training and awareness raising materials for non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups is also included in the IPP implementation budget. The total budget is **\$56,700**. PIUs will administer the budget in consultation with CTGs and will be technically supported by the PCU. **Table 6** gives an indicative budget breakdown for IPP implementation.

## 8. Implementation Schedule

39. The IPP will be implemented over 6 years (2018–2024) and expected to begin during Q4 2018. The indicative implementation schedule is in **Table 7**.

## I. BACKGROUND

### A. Objectives of the Indigenous Peoples Plan

1. This document is prepared in accordance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 (updated and follows guidelines set out in the Draft Working Document: *Indigenous Peoples Safeguards: A Planning and Implementation Good Practice Source Book* (2013)).

2. This IPP aims to: (i) address the aspirations, needs, and preferred options of ethnic groups affected by the project in Vientiane Province, Lao PDR; (ii) ensure that project benefits for ethnic groups are culturally appropriate; (iii) avoid potentially adverse impacts on ethnic groups; (iv) minimize, mitigate or compensate for such effects when they cannot be avoided; and, (v) implement measures to strengthen social, legal and technical capabilities of government institutions to address ethnic group issues. The IPP will be implemented in synergy with the project's GAP, which addresses women's participation in the project and ensures that gender equality measures will benefit women and ethnic women in project areas.

3. The IPP focuses on how the project will result in positive benefits and avoid negative impacts on ethnic groups as an integral part of its core activities. Specific actions are identified to ensure that the MICT, as the project's executing agency (EA), the Tourism Development Department (TDD), as the PCU and PIUs in Vang Vieng and Keo Oudom districts carry out appropriate measures to achieve beneficial results for ethnic groups and avoid negative impacts.

### B. Policy Context, Ethnic Group Development in Lao PDR

#### 1. Lao PDR Government Laws and Regulations on Ethnic Groups

4. The cultural rights of different ethnic groups are recognized in the Lao PDR's Constitution (amended 2003), which highlights the right of ethnic groups to protect, preserve, and promote their customs and heritage. The Constitution also prohibits acts of division and discrimination (Article 8). Decree No. 192/PM and Regulations No. 2432/STEA on Compensation and Resettlement (2005) also recognize that ethnic groups are entitled to compensation for individual and communal lands regarding involuntary resettlement (Article 10).

5. In 1992 the Party Central Organization passed a Resolution Concerning Ethnic Minority Affairs in the New Era that mandated all government agencies to create a targeted plan for the development of rural, mountainous areas. Since that time, the improvement of ethnic groups' living conditions while also promoting their distinct identities and cultural heritages has been an official part of Lao PDR's development planning. The Department of Ethnic and Social Affairs of the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC) is responsible for coordinating ethnic issues, increasing ethnic groups' awareness of government programs and policies, and supporting the implementation of programs targeting ethnic groups. The government of Lao PDR officially recognizes 49 ethnic groups. The term ethnic group is used instead of ethnic minority to reiterate equality between all citizen of the Lao PDR. The term Indigenous Peoples has not been adopted in Lao PDR. In its Eight Five Year National Socioeconomic Development Plan (NSED 2016-2020), the government reaffirmed its commitment to poverty eradication among

all ethnic groups, with emphasis on carrying out comprehensive rural development where most ethnic groups reside.<sup>7</sup>

## **2. ADB Safeguards Policy**

6. The ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009, updated 2012) and Operations Manual (OM F1/BP and F1/OP) affirm that environmental and social sustainability is a cornerstone of economic growth and development. ADB commits to ensuring environmental and social sustainability in the projects it supports. The Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) sets out the policy objectives, scope and triggers, and principles for three inter-related key safeguard areas: environmental safeguards; involuntary resettlement safeguards; and indigenous peoples' safeguards. The objectives of ADB safeguards are to: (i) avoid adverse impacts of projects on the environment, affected people and indigenous people, where possible; (ii) minimize, mitigate, and/or compensate for adverse project impacts when avoidance is not possible; and, (iii) help borrowers/clients strengthen their safeguard systems and develop the capacity to manage environmental and social risks.

7. The term indigenous peoples is used in a generic sense to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following in varying degrees: (i) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others; (ii) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories; (iii) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and (iv) a distinct language, often different from the official language of the country or region. In the case of Lao PDR, there is a high degree of consistency between the Lao PDR recognition of the right of ethnic groups to conserve their culture, history and language and ADB definition of indigenous people.

8. The main point of divergence is that, in the case of ADB policy, a group that has lost collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area because of forced severance remains eligible for coverage. National legislation, customary law, and any international conventions to which Lao PDR is a party are considered in the application of the ADB policy.

9. ADB's approach is a systematic assessment of a wide range of impacts on ethnic groups. The indigenous people's safeguards are triggered if a project directly or indirectly affects the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous people or affects the territories or natural or cultural resources that indigenous people own, use, occupy, or claim as an ancestral domain or asset. The SPS requires ADB to screen all subprojects to determine if they have impacts on ethnic groups.

10. In this project, Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvements will support Keo Oudom district and benefit the lu Mien, Khmu and Tai Dam EGs that are operating shops and selling souvenirs, food and beverages; operating boats and practicing aquaculture. The Hmong EG living along the Western Loop in Vang Vieng district will have improved mobility to and from the town center, reduction in travel time and transport costs for their agricultural products as well as improved access to markets, health and educational facilities. With the increase in tourism activities around the Western Loop, more retail stores selling local products along the road will

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<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Planning and Investment. 2016. *Eight Five-Year National Socioeconomic Development Plan 2016-2020*. Vientiane, Lao PDR.

be opened. The Khmu waste pickers at Vang Vieng landfill support the project because they expect that as more tourists visit Vang Vieng, and solid waste collection services expand, there will be more solid waste delivered to the landfill, which increases their potential to earn higher income from waste picking. They anticipate their UDAA-authorized involvement in landfill O&M will help secure their access to resources and improve worker safety. Their participation in information dissemination and awareness about reduce, re-use, and recycle programs will facilitate better solid waste management practices. Planned improvements to Kaeng Yui Waterfall access road and market will likewise equally benefit Lao, Khmu and Hmong market vendors.

## **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Project Summary**

11. The proposed project will improve urban-rural transport infrastructure, urban environmental services, strengthen capacity to implement regional tourism standards, and strengthen tourism destination management. It will help transform secondary towns in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) economic corridors into green, inclusive and competitive international tourism nodes to boost trade in services and deepen market linkages between members of the GMS and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The project will build on the ongoing GMS Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth Project, implemented in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.

12. The expected impact is sustainable, inclusive, and more balanced tourism development, as envisaged in the *ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016–2025*. The expected outcome is to increase the tourism competitiveness of secondary towns in Cambodia and Lao PDR. The project has three outputs: (i) urban-rural access infrastructure and urban environmental services improved; (ii) capacity to implement ASEAN tourism standards strengthened; and (iii) institutional arrangements for tourism destination management and infrastructure O&M strengthened.

13. Project areas in Lao PDR include Champasak, Luang Prabang and Vientiane provinces, all located along the GMS Central Economic Corridor. A detailed description of the project outputs and subprojects is in the PAM.

14. This Indigenous Peoples Plan is prepared for four (4) subprojects in Vientiane Province where there are ethnic groups (EGs) benefitting from the project. The subprojects are: (i) Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvements, Keo Oudom District, (ii) Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements, Vang Vieng District, (iii) Western Loop Rural Access Road and Bridge Improvements, Vang Vieng District and, (iv) Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements.

### **B. Subprojects with Impact on Ethnic Groups**

#### **1. Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvements**

15. Nam Ngum Reservoir recreation area (7.5ha) is in Keo Oudom District, Vientiane Province, 90 km north of Vientiane Capital. An existing road connects the site to national road 10. Visitor arrivals reached 51,701 in 2016, but this is far below capacity. The site is significantly underused and lacking safe, attractive public facilities, quality tourism services, parking, and proper waste management and sanitation.

16. The subproject will improve the situation by (i) improving the existing public marina to safely accommodate 50-60 local tour boats and launch small recreational vessels; (ii) construct a 5.9km, 6m wide loop road linked to National Road 10 and 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> parking area; (iii) redevelop unsanitary and poorly constructed market stalls into a new 3,800 m<sup>2</sup> public market that incorporates traditional Lao architectural design; (iv) install septic tanks in all public buildings and a wastewater pump-out station/holding tank at the marina; (v) replace abandoned, unsafe public buildings and piers with new public green space; and (vi) renovate the tourist information center and provide 2-3 electric vehicles. The subproject will benefit 1,600 people living in nearby Ban Sengsavang and is expected to catalyze significant tourism related investment at the site.

## **2. Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements**

17. The Tad Kaeng Yui Waterfall is 6 km east of Vang Vieng. It is accessed via a dirt road linked to National Highway 13 and managed by Ban Nadouang, which also operates homestay facilities. Visitor numbers rose from 23,940 in 2015 to 32,050 in 2016 and could reach 53,994 in 2026.

18. Key risks to growth are poor access and the lack of facilities at the waterfall. To overcome these constraints the subproject will (i) upgrade the 6km waterfall access road to concrete pavement, with a 6m carriageway and drainage; (ii) level and pave the 875 m<sup>2</sup> parking area with gravel; (iii) improve surfacing and drainage in the waterfall market area; and (v) improve 300m footpaths, including rehabilitation of steps, small suspension bridges, and signage. The subproject will directly benefit 873 persons in Ban Naduang and an additional 2,580 persons living along the improved access road.

## **3. Western Loop Rural Access Road and Bridge Improvements**

19. The subproject area is west of Vang Vieng Town and includes a 26km scenic loop road with karst mountains, caves, rivers and natural springs, many of which are community managed. Tourist arrivals are rising, but only at two sites closest to town. In 2016 arrivals totaled about 80,000 and this could reach 130,000 in 2026. Growth is constrained by unsurfaced roads and insufficient bridge access.

20. The subproject will therefore (i) upgrade the 26km “Western Loop Road” to DBST paving, with 6m carriageway and drainage in village areas; (ii) construct a new 2-lane 80m road bridge across the Nam Xong River on the south end of town, with a 2-km concrete feeder road connecting it to the Western Loop Road and national road 13N; and (iii) provide bioengineered river bank protection and improve footpath/cycle tracks. The subproject will benefit about 9,500 people living in 11 villages alongside the road and relieve urban congestion for 59,661 Vang Vieng residents.

## **4. Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements**

21. Vang Vieng visitor arrivals could increase to more than 230,000 in 2020, while the urban population is increasing by 4.5 % per year and could reach 31,000 the same year. The existing arrangements for solid waste management are unable to meet rising demand created by rapid urban growth and tourism. This leads to public health hazards for residents and visitors. The existing Vang Vieng open dumpsite covers 4ha on 9ha of available flat/undulating land. The site is screened by mature vegetation and is 800m from National Road 13.



22. The subproject will address these problems by developing a managed landfill on the public land already being used as an open dumpsite and expand coverage of waste collection services to 80% of the district (3,840 households). Subproject components include: (i) preparatory earthworks and installation of a perimeter runoff interceptor drainage system; (ii) construction of an impermeable liner, leachate collection/treatment system, and a landfill gas recovery system; (iii) construction of a small materials recovery facility for waste separation and recycling; (iv) construction of a medical waste treatment area; (v) construction of a septage treatment facility (0.5ha); and (vi) construction of site office, toilets, and fencing. The landfill access road (0.8 km) will be paved with concrete (6m carriageway and verges) to accommodate collection trucks and other vehicles. Equipment supply includes 3 new 10 cubic meter collection trucks, bulldozer, and two vacuum trucks to support septage collection. Sanitation and waste management awareness programs will be supported under output 3. The subproject will benefit 59,661 residents in Vang Vieng District 143 hotels and guesthouses, and 126 shops and restaurants.

## **5. Vang Vieng Urban Renewal**

23. The subproject area includes most streets and lanes in Vang Vieng's central and southern precincts. The area has the largest concentration of commercial space and tourists, which are expected to rise from 183,000 in 2016 to 312,565 in 2026. Currently, the area is congested, not pedestrian friendly, and lacks parking and adequate drainage. The subproject will address this situation by (i) rehabilitating 4.0 km of footpaths with suitable surfaces, street lighting, seating and soft landscaping; (ii) installing traffic calming measures in streets with high concentrations of tourists; (iii) improving traffic management, including one-way traffic flows and shared surface concepts (1.5 km); and (iv) resurfacing roads and improving drains in residential areas (0.98 km). The subproject will benefit 4,051 residents (Ban Savang, Ban Vieng Keo and Ban Mueang Xong), tourists, 143 hotels/guest houses, and 126 shops/restaurants.

### **III. SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

#### **A. Socioeconomic Situation in Subproject Areas**

24. Lao PDR covers a surface of 236,800 square km with a population estimated at 6.8 million in 2016.<sup>8</sup> Most people live in valleys of the Mekong River and its tributaries. Vientiane Province, where the 5 subprojects covered in the IPP are located, is situated northwest of Vientiane capital. Its total area is 15,927 square kilometers and its total population in 2015 was 419,090 people.<sup>9</sup>

25. Keo Oudom, the District where Nam Ngum Reservoir is located, had a population of 17,786 people in 2015, with district authorities estimating the population at 20,069 (49.95% women) with 3,815 households (HH) in 2017. Vang Vieng where the Western Loop and Kaeng Yui Waterfall subprojects are located, had 36,764 people in 2015 but district authorities estimate the population has risen to 59,661 (49.45% women) with 12,411 households in 2017.<sup>10</sup>

26. Sensavang village, located near the Nam Ngum reservoir improvements subproject, has 303 HH with 1,592 people (women 52%). The 11 villages of the Western Loop have a combined 1,757 HH with 7,912 people (48.5% women). Ban Nadouang village, which is managing the

<sup>8</sup> United Nations. 2017. *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*. New York.

<sup>9</sup> *Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2012/13 (LECS 5)*. Vientiane.

<sup>10</sup> See footnote 11.

Kaeng Yui waterfall has 183 HH with 879 people (women 51%). Vang Vieng's urban core, where urban renewal will be carried out, consists of 6 villages with 1,571 HH and 8,158 people (51% women). Phon Vieng village where Vang Vieng landfill waste pickers reside, has 240 HH with 1,113 people (49% women).<sup>11</sup>

27. The latest poverty rate (2013) for Lao PDR is 24.8% based on the Lao poverty threshold of 240,000 LAK/pp/per month for urban areas and 180,000 LAK/pp/month for rural areas. The average is 192,000 LAK/pp/month.<sup>12</sup> ADB's summary poverty profile for Lao PDR and Country Partnership Strategy for Lao PDR, 2017-2020 state that the poverty incidence fell from 33.5% in 2003 to 23.2% in 2013, but half of the poor in 2013 were not poor in 2008 and many families remain near the poverty threshold.<sup>13</sup>

28. Vientiane Province's poverty rate is 16.5%, whereas the rate in Keo Oudom and Vang Vieng Districts was 9.5% and 16.8% respectively in 2015.<sup>14</sup> However, in November 2017, the District Authorities of Keo Oudom report an overall poverty rate of 2% which is much lower than the 9.5% reported in national data (LECS 2015). Vang Vieng District Authorities report an overall poverty rate of 0% for the district in 2017 which is a vast improvement over 16.8% reported in national data (LECS 2015). This either indicates a rapid increase in income which might be possible because of the increase in tourism and construction industries, or inaccurate data, which is more likely as such a rapid poverty decline in such a short period is unlikely.

29. Most Lao households depend on agriculture, rivers and forests as their sources of income and for food. Land is the main resource for agricultural livelihoods and food security. Although tourism has grown rapidly in Vientiane province, most people, particularly non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups still depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and have only recently adopted more commercial forms of production. The Vientiane plain which covers Vientiane Province and Vientiane Capital is one of the country's six major rice producing areas.

30. The employment rate for Vientiane Province is 79.3%. For Keo Oudom it is 74.7% and Vang Vieng 67.7%. Most of the active population above 10 years of old is working in agriculture and fisheries (71.97%). Another group (6.34%) is employed in public service and the military. Only 5.28% of the population works in retail and small repair businesses, 3.54% in manufacturing, 2.97% in construction, and 1.78% report employment in accommodation, food and other service sectors.<sup>15</sup>

31. Lao PDR's overall literacy rate among people 15 years old and is 84.6%. The rate is 90.4% in Vientiane Province, 96.4% in Keo Oudom District, and 88.6% in Vang Vieng District.<sup>16</sup>

## **B. Ethnic Groups in Lao PDR**

Lao PDR is an ethnically diverse country with 49 officially recognized ethnic groups. Ethnic groups are generally classified according to the following four ethno-linguistic groupings: Tai-Kadai (or Lao-Thai, 8 ethnic groups); Austro-Asiatic (32 ethnic groups,); Sino-Tibetan (7 ethnic groups); and Hmong-Mien (2 ethnic groups).

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<sup>11</sup> Village Authorities data November 2017

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.thepovertyline.net/laos/> and Poverty Decree 309/PMO, 2013, Lao PDR

<sup>13</sup> ADB. 2017. *Country Partnership Strategy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2017-2020 – More Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth*. Manila.

<sup>14</sup> See footnote 9

<sup>15</sup> Lao Population and Housing Census 2015.

<sup>16</sup> See footnote 9.

32. Table 1: Select Socioeconomic Characteristics of Ethnic Groups in Lao PDR

Ethnic Categorization	Main Ethnic Groups	Ethnic Pop. (%)	Poverty Headcount (%)	Literacy Rate (%)	
				Male	Female
Tai-Kadai	Lao, Tai, Lue, Tai Dam and Phou Tai	62.40%	15.40%	95.00%	92.00%
Austro-Asiatic	Khmu, Lamet, Katang, Taliang, Makong, Brao, Ta Oy and Katu	23.70%	42.30%	81.00%	71.00%
Hmong Mien	Hmong, Yao, lu Mien and Lanten	9.70%	39.80%	81.00%	70.00%
Sino-Tibetan	Akha, Lahu	2.90%	16.40%	57.00%	47.00%
Other	Chinese, Vietnamese	2.30%	n/a	82.00%	80.00%

Source: Country Analysis Report Lao PDR, United Nations, November 2015 and Lao Population and Housing Census 2015.

33. The Tai-Kadai comprise the largest share of the population at 67% in 2008 and 62.4% in 2015. The most populous ethnic group in this family is the Lao. Lao and other Tai-Kadai groups predominate lowland areas and the Mekong River valley. In the past other groups mainly lived in upland and mountainous areas but nowadays they have intermingled and are widely spread out in the lowlands as well. The provincial ethnic make-up varies considerably, with Austro-Asiatic groups such as Khmu representing the largest proportion of the population in Northern provinces, including Luang Prabang. Many Austro-Asiatic groups such as the Ta-Oy and Brao can be found in the Southern provinces. In total the Austro-Asiatic group comprised 20.6% of the total population in 2008 and 23.7% in 2015. The Hmong mainly live in Xieng Khouang, Vientiane Province and other north-central provinces. They comprised 8.4% of the population in 2008 and 9.7% in 2015. Sino-Tibetan groups are mainly found the northwest provinces of Luang Namtha and Bokeo and comprised 3.3% of the population in 2008 and 2.9% in 2015.

34. The overall poverty incidence in Lao PDR fell from 33.5% in 2003 to 23.2% in 2013.<sup>17</sup> Poverty and access to social services varies among ethnic groups. In areas where ethnic groups other than the Lao predominate the poverty rate is over 40%, compared with less than 20% in ethnic Lao-majority areas.<sup>18</sup> The poverty rate among the Sino-Tibetan group has declined dramatically (from 42.2 percent in 2007/8 to 16.4 percent in 2012/13), and is catching up with the Tai-Kadai (15.4 percent). Poverty remains high among the Austro-Asiatic and Hmong -Mien, at 42.3 percent and 39.8 percent respectively. The Mon-Khmer group has the highest poverty rate, but poverty is declining faster in this group than among the Hmong-Lu Mien<sup>19</sup>.

35. Education levels and Lao-language proficiency vary across ethnic groups and create barriers to livelihood improvement beyond subsistence levels. Ethnic women are less likely to be proficient in Lao language than men. Lack of language skills often prevents ethnic women

<sup>17</sup> LECS 2012/2013.

<sup>18</sup> ADB, Aug 2017, *Country Partnership Strategy for Lao PDR, 2016-2020*, Manila.

<sup>19</sup> Country Analysis Report Lao PDR, United Nations, November 2015 and Lao Population and Housing Census 2015.

from accessing higher levels of education. Literacy rates for the four main ethnolinguistic groups are averaged based on the figures in **Table 1** above: Tai-Kadai 93.5 %; Austro Asiatic, 76%; Hmong-Mien 75.5%; and Sino-Tibetan 52%.

### **C. Ethnic Profile in Project Locations**

36. Ethnic groups of non-Tai-Kadai language groups make up 1.94% of all households in Keo Oudom district according to the District Authorities (November 2017). They are mainly Khmu, with Hmong as the second largest non-Tai-Kadai group. The Tai Dam are classified within the main Tai-Kadai language group to which the most populous Lao ethnic group belongs. Vang Vieng District Authorities report non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups make up 56.42% of all households (November 2017). They are mainly from Hmong background with the Khmu as the second largest non-Tai-Kadai group. There are also some Taliang who belong to the Austro-Asiatic ethnic language group, as do the Khmu.

37. Most people living in project areas are of the majority Lao ethnic group, but Khmu, Hmong, and Lu Mien, all non-Tai-Kadai language groups, are also present. **Table 2** summarizes the percentage of each ethnic group living in subproject areas.

**Table 2: Ethnic Groups in Subproject Areas**

Subprojects	District	Village	Women	Men	Total	HH	Av. ps per HH	Khmu	Hor (Chin)	Hmong/Lo Mien	Other non Tai-Kadai	Total non Tai-Kadai		Poverty
								HH	HH	HH	HH	HH	%	%
Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvement	Keo Oudom	Sengsavang	828	764	1592	303	5.25	1		3		4	1.32	0.00
		<b>Total Keo Oudom</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>1592</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Kaeng Yui Waterfall (KYW)	Vang Vieng	Nadouang	446	433	879	183	4.8	104				104	56.66	4.92
		Vang Vieng	596	518	1,114	238	4.68			1		1	0.54	0.00
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>4.73</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>24.93</b>	<b>2.14</b>
Western Loop Road and Bridge	Vang Vieng	Nathong	386	397	783	135	5.8			25		25	18.26	0.00
		Namouang	249	220	469	431	1.09					0	0.00	0.00
		Naxom	535	554	1089	143	7.62			143		143	100.0	1.40
		Phonxay	396	375	771	165	4.67	85				85	51.49	4.85
		Nalongkouang	334	323	657	121	5.43					0	0.00	2.48
		Nakhoun	332	308	640	85	7.53					0	0.0	1.18
		Nampea	435	480	915	178	5.14	1				1	0.44	1.12
		Phounkham	498	540	1038	135	7.69	60			30	91	67.05	1.48
		Naxay	101	292	393	137	2.87	25				25	18.07	3.65
		Phathong	328	311	639	69	9.26					0	0.00	0.00
		Phoungoun	242	276	518	158	3.28			158		158	100.00	1.27
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>7,912</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>29.98</b>	<b>1.42</b>
Urban Renewal	Vang Vieng	Savang	631	586	1217	275	4.43	1		2		3	1.02	
		Vieng Keo	624	630	1,254	217	5.78					0	0.00	
		Meuang Xong	815	765	1,580	278	5.68	1		2		3	1.18	
		Vang Vieng	596	518	1,114	238	4.68			1		1	0.54	
		Houay Sangao	1,188	1,130	2,318	428	5.42	42		5		47	10.91	
		Houay Ngir	350	325	675	135	5					0	0.00	
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>4,204</b>	<b>3,954</b>	<b>8,158</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Solid Waste Land Fill	Vang Vieng	Phon Vieng	550	563	1,113	240	4.64	8		2		9	3.77	3.00
		<b>Total Vang Vieng</b>	<b>9,632</b>	<b>9,544</b>	<b>19,176</b>	<b>3,989</b>	<b>4.81</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>17.42</b>	<b>2.03</b>

Source: District and Village Authorities, November 2017

38. Profiles of the non-Tai-Kadai groups in subproject areas are given below. The information is based on FGDs conducted with representatives of these groups during project preparation.

## **1. Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Road Improvements**

### **a. Socioeconomic Profile of the lu Mien, Khmu and Tai Dam**

39. In Ban Sengsavang, there are 6 Tai Dam households, 1 Mien household, and 1 Khmu household. Other families are ethnic Lao. Main sources of household income are as follows:

- Tai Dam engage in small trading business, are restaurant workers, boat drivers, and raise fish. They earn about 1.3 million LAK per month.
- Khmu households are mainly engaged in manual labor. 1 household raises fish. The monthly income of laborers is 1 million LAK while the family raising fish earns 2 million LAK per month.
- The lu Mien family has multiple sources of income. The wife sells food, shirts and snacks in a waterfront shop, while the husband is a government worker (warden of the district prison). The wife earns 1.4 million LAK per month while the husband has a monthly salary of 1.2 million LAK per month.

40. Educational levels among the three ethnic groups varies. Tai Dam men and women have completed university (bachelor's degrees). The lu Mien husband graduated from college and his wife finished primary school. The Khmu men and women have completed lower secondary school. Educational facilities such as primary and lower secondary schools are in Ban Sengsavang but upper secondary school is 6 km away. Students pay 3,000 LAK school bus fare daily. Tertiary education facilities are 20 km away in Vieng Kam District, the provincial capital.

41. There are no health centers, hospitals, nor medical workers in ban Sengsavang, only a small pharmacy. Villagers practice self-medication first. If conditions do not improve they visit the hospital in the provincial capital. Adults and children frequently contract dengue fever, while adults and the elderly suffer from hypertension, diabetes and other cardio-vascular diseases.

42. Water for drinking and cooking are bought from water vendors, whereas water for laundry and house cleaning is collected from the reservoir using pumps.

43. Access to power and communication facilities is good. All villagers are connected to the national power grid and all have mobile phones, cable television and internet connections.

44. The most common type of transport in the area is bicycle and motorbikes. A large market is 7 km away at Ban Thalot, where villagers buy their food and other household goods. Food is stored in refrigerators. Cooking is done with LPG, charcoal, and firewood.

### **b. Gender Situation among Tai Dam, lu Mien and Khmu in Nam Ngum Reservoir**

45. Tai Dam, although under the main Tai-Kadai ethno-linguistic group, Khmu and lu Mien kinship systems are patrilineal. This implies men make the final decision on matters concerning

household and community affairs. Women are only consulted but their views may or may not be considered in the men's final decision-making.

46. Division of labor seems to be equal between men and women among the Tai Dam because both husband and wife are involved in tourism-related business, whereby women are engaged in selling tourism products in shops while men work as boatmen ferrying tourists across islets in the reservoir. For the Lu Mien household, both husband and wife are bringing in monthly income. But housework is solely performed by women, usually waking up at 4:00 am to prepare breakfast and send their children to school. Women spend most time during the day managing their shops, which keeps them from participating in community affairs or indulging in some leisure and self-redeeming activities. The incidence of gender-based violence in the households seems to be almost nil and when these do occur they are usually petty quarrels over domestic issues like finance and men's excessive drinking, among others.

## **2. Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements**

47. Ban Nadouang manages Kaeng Yui Waterfall. The majority are Khmu households and most of the current vendors at the waterfall are Khmu (i.e. 14 Khmu and 1 Lao ethnic woman) living in Nadouang village.

48. Nadouang village has 183 households, half involved in waterfall management. The other half have one or more household members working for the government. The village chief seems very keen in involving both Khmu and Lao ethnic groups on an equal basis. The vendors manage the waterfall site in groups of 15 households for a year and then another group comes in. In this way, every household gets a turn once in 6 years to sell goods and food and drink.

49. There are also 9 homestays run by Lao ethnic families.

## **3. Western Loop Rural Access Road and Bridge Improvements**

### **a. Socioeconomic and demographic profile of the Hmong in the Western Loop**

50. In the Western Loop Hmong are the most populous ethnic group. They live in 3 of 11 villages in the subproject area, with 2 villages, including Ban Naxom, predominantly Hmong.

51. The socioeconomic and demographic profile of Ban Naxom indicates the total Hmong population is 143 households with 1,089 people (535 female and 554 men). There are more children and youth in the village than adults and elderly.

52. Rice farming and livestock raising are the main sources of household income. Other income is generated from sugarcane, banana and vegetables. Of the 143 households, 100 are middle income households, 2 are poor, and 41 households are neither poor nor rich.

53. Most household members above 15 years old completed upper secondary education, while some have earned bachelor's degrees and are teachers. More men than women finished upper secondary education. There is a pre-school and primary school in the village. The nearest secondary school is 7.5 km away.

54. Health centers and the local market are 8 km from the village. The health centers have trained village health workers. Children and the elderly often contract respiratory illnesses like

influenza and water borne illnesses like diarrhea. Adults and the elderly report few cases of cardio-vascular diseases, diabetes or hypertension.

55. Access to water and sanitation facilities is good with 50% of households accessing domestic water from public standpipes, while another 50% had household connections to a gravity fed system. All households have sanitary toilets and are connected to the national power grid. All also own mobile phones. In terms of other household assets, the most common are satellite television (80%), motorbikes (90%), and radios (60%). The well-off households own farm machinery. Credit facilities are used by 10 households as capital for business/trading, school fees, and to buy farm inputs for rubber trees and rice cultivation. The usual loan amount is 20-25 million LAK, payable in 2 years at 0-2% interest.

#### **b. Gender Situation in Hmong Households**

56. Final decision-making is done by husbands, but wives are consulted. As to division of labor, women spend more time for household work like taking care of children, food preparation, and house cleaning. Both men and women gather firewood in the forest and take animals to forage. More time is spent by men for income generation activities. Participation in community activities is equal for both men and women. Incidence of gender-based violence is rare. Whenever quarrels between husband and wives occur the most common reason is related to financial issues.

### **4. Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements**

#### **a. Socioeconomic Profile of the Khmu Ethnic Group**

57. There are 16 Khmu households in Phon Vieng Village, located 2 km from the landfill. All work as waste pickers and recyclers. The number of household members varies from 3 and 9. A hired truck takes them to the landfill each day, where they work from 7:00 am to 12:00 noon, and then return to the village. If there is a lot trash, they will stay the whole day. They earn about 3,000 to 10,000 LAK/pp/per day, earning on average 300,000-400,000 LAK per month for a small family and as much as 600,000-700,000 LAK per month for a larger family. Lately it is more and more difficult to find recyclables because many hotels and households segregate waste. To supplement family income, the men work as laborers in the nearby cement factory.

58. Adult men and women completed lower secondary level, but older adults have only completed primary school. Primary and secondary schools are located 3 kilometers away from their houses. Children travel to school on their bicycles.

59. The closest market is at Ban Namouang, about 3 kilometers away from their residences. Households typically shop there and Vang Vieng District center twice a year to buy larger household items.

60. Household members report they do not get sick often and recently there have been only a few cases of fever, skin disease, and intestinal parasites. The common cause of death reported is old age. Most households consume mushrooms, vegetables, and fish. They rarely eat meat. All households have either a sanitary toilets or pit latrine.

61. All households are connected to the national power grid. Some own mobile phones. Most homes have a television.



62. The typical housing materials of the non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, particularly the Khmu, are walls made of bamboo and galvanized iron for roofing.

#### b. Gender Situation in Khmu Households

63. Men are the heads of the households and make the final decisions concerning household issues and purchasing. Men do house repair while women do most of the tedious and heavy house chores. Women wake up early (4 am) to prepare breakfast for their children and husband. In the evening women attend to household work and prepare for the next day's waste picking. Gender-based violence seldom takes place in the households and if it does, it is usually shouting between husbands and wives over finances.

### IV. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE, CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

#### A. Consultation During Project Preparation

64. During June and July 2017 socioeconomic surveys were done for the 5 subprojects in Keo Oudom and Vang Vieng Districts. The survey included respectively 45 and 542 household representatives, equal to 14.85% and 15.88% of the combined number of households in the subproject areas. In addition to the socioeconomic survey several consultation meetings and focus group discussions (FGD) were organized between 10 July and 13 July 2017. Additionally, another FGD was held with Nadouang village on 2 November 2017. This was followed by a participatory consultation and FGD at Nam Ngum Reservoir and at Kaeng Yui Waterfall on 13 and 14 Nov 2017 (see **Annex 1** for attendance lists and **Annex 2** for field reports of the consultations). Provincial and district tourism and public works officials were present to co-facilitate these activities jointly with the project preparation consultants. A total of 268 participants attended the meetings, 80 (30%) represented non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, including 92 (34%) women. **Table 3** shows an overview of all consultations conducted.

**Table 3: Overview of Public Consultations**

Subproject	Date 2017	Men	Women	Total	Non-Tai-Kadai	Comment
Nam Ngum Reservoir	11 July	4	1	5	1 Khmu, 1 lo Mien	Focus Group
	12 July	11	1	12	3 Khmu, 1 lo Mien	Focus Group
	13 July	33	30	63	4 Khmu	Focus Group
	13 Nov	13	11	24	Lao; 1 lo Mien woman	Focus Group
<b>Subtotal Nam Ngum</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>104</b>		
Western Loop	10 July	16	7	23	all Lao	morning
	10 July	13	7	20	all Lao	Focus Group
	10 July	17	3	20	all Hmong	afternoon
	2 Nov	11	1	12	2 Hmong	Focus Group
<b>Subtotal Western Loop</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>75</b>		
Tad Kaeng Yui	10 July	8	4	12	4 Khmu	afternoon
	2 Nov	23	5	28	11 Khmu	Focus Group
	14 Nov	13	8	21	4 Khmu	Consultation/ Focus Group
<b>Subtotal Tad Kaeng Yui</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>61</b>		
Solid Waste Land Fill	10 July	3	12	15	all Khmu	Focus Group
	13 Nov	11	2	13	All Khmu	Focus Group

Subproject	Date 2017	Men	Women	Total	Non-Tai-Kadai	Comment
<b>Subtotal Land Fill</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>		
<b>Total in subprojects</b>		<b>176</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>80</b>	

Source: PPTA consultant's estimates.

65. The consultations included information about the subproject's preliminary design and purpose and planned capacity development and training activities. Participants were asked to share their views on potential beneficial impacts and risks. The needs and preferences of participants are summarized below by subproject.

### **1. Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Road Improvements**

66. Public consultations were held on 13 July 2017 in Ban Sengsavang. This was attended by shop and restaurant owners, boat operators, and pier owners. Two separate FG discussions with non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups on 11 and 12 July also took place. A consultation meeting with most vendors at Nam Ngum Reservoir was later held on 13 November 2017. In total 104 persons including 43 women and 5 persons from non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups attended.

67. **Needs and Preferences of Lu Mien and Lao at Nam Ngum Reservoir.** Stakeholder groups consulted expect the following benefits from the project for their families:

- The improved access road and a beautiful marina will lead to better organization of scheduled boat services, better cooperation among boat operators, more visitors and higher incomes. Improved access roads will ease access to the local market, schools and health centers in Ban Thalath and Keo Oudum district center. It will also lessen vehicle operating and maintenance costs.
- More tourist arrivals will boost restaurant, souvenir, and handicraft sales, benefitting business operators. The increase in tourism activities will result in higher tourist spending, which will bring in higher household incomes.
- Improved environmental conditions and sanitation.
- More local jobs to benefit women, e.g., as ticket sellers, tour guides, and food and beverage sellers. Men will have more employment opportunities to operate transport services, including the electric cars to be provided by the project.

### **2. Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements**

68. Public consultations were held on 10 July 2017 in Ban Nadouang, which manages the waterfall. This was attended by village leaders and vendors at the waterfall site. There were 2 other open consultations on 2 and 14 November, and a FGD on 14 November with Khmu ethnic female vendors. A total of 61 persons, including 17 women and 19 persons from Khmu background, attended.

69. **Needs and Concerns of Khmu and Lao at Kaeng Yui Waterfall.** Participants mentioned the following preferences and needs.

- The project should offer training about road maintenance, focused on the road from the village to the waterfall.
- Garbage collection services to bring rubbish from Ban Nadouang and waterfall area to the landfill.

70. For the recreation area near the waterfall the vendors suggested the following:

- Improve the drainage system for cooking areas.
- Build sturdy permanent structures to replace the wooden structures that must be rebuilt each year.
- Improve the kitchen structures to make them more attractive.
- Provide electricity (either solar connection to the main power grid).
- Improve the parking lot near the recreation area.
- Improve the stairs to the waterfall.
- Investigate how to divert more water to the waterfall so it has water year-round
- Beautify landscaping at waterfall, e.g. flower and tree planting.
- Create swimming areas.

71. The following concerns were raised:

- Road construction and recreation area improvements should be implemented during the low tourist season, i.e. May-September to avoid business loss;
- Construction works must not cause environmental degradation of the waterfall site or pollute the stream.
- Contractors should install safety signs so that tourists and other people visiting the area will not be injured because of construction activities.
- There should be continuous consultations with all stakeholders (the current vendors and the vendors in the Nadouang village who had their turn or will get a new turn in 5 or 6 years) about improvements to be made to the cooking and selling site near the waterfall.
- Attention should be paid to safety and hygiene in the recreation area, including the small shelters used by visitors for eating and relaxing.
- The project's capacity building and small business development component should help vendors formulate a plan to beautify the area and construct more appealing structures.

### **3. Western Loop Rural Access Road and Bridge Improvements**

72. Two public consultations were held on 10 July 2017 in Ban Houay Sangoa and Naxom village, which are along the Western Loop. These were attended by village leaders and villagers. Two 2 FGDs were also held on 10 July and 2 November. A total of 75 persons, including 18 women and 22 Hmong persons, attended.

73. **Needs and preferences of the Hmong at Western Loop Road.** The following needs and preferences were discussed in Ban Naxom, one of 2 villages along the Western Loop where 100% of the households belong to the Hmong ethnic group.

- Capacity building and training on handicraft-making, embroidery, and basketry.
- Support for small and medium enterprise development following a value chain assessment for local products sought by tourists.
- Inclusion as unskilled laborers during the construction of the 26km loop road and bridge across the Nam Xong River.
- Consultation meetings and information dissemination where the medium of communication is the Lao national language should be during the half or full moon or on weekends, preferably in the morning from 8:00 am to 10 am.

74. Participants also confirmed their full support and cooperation with the project because it will be beneficial to them in terms of reduced travel time, lower transportation costs, better access to markets, schools, health centers and hospitals. They will also be able to sell products to tourists along the completed rural access road or at the foot of the new bridge.

#### **4. Vang Vieng Solid Waste Management Improvements**

75. Two FGDs were held with waste pickers working at the landfill, on 10 July and on 13 November 2017. These included 28 persons, with 14 women. All participants were Khmu.

76. **Needs and Preferences of Khmu at Vang Vieng Landfill.** Participants mentioned the following preferences and needs:

- Involvement in construction as unskilled laborers and as UDAA security personnel through a formal agreement so they can guard the landfill and prevent the intrusions of unauthorized persons.
- Employment as equipment operators at the landfill, with technical training on how to use and operate these.
- Men asked to be trained in metal craft production, which is a distinct competence of the Khmu ethnic group, and to receive support in marketing items like knives and farm implements.
- The project should pay attention to safety and health measures, especially for children. This includes safety equipment and protective clothing for everyone working at the landfill, formally or informally.
- With dwindling income from the waste site, the project should involve the waste pickers and their families in other project training and income generating activities.
- The project should oblige UDAA and contractor operating at the waste site to include the waste pickers as laborers.
- UDAA should give priority to the current waste pickers to help in the new recycling facility. Although it is not envisaged that UDAA could formally employ more than a few, at least those few could have secure employment in the new facility.

#### **B. Consultation During Implementation**

77. Throughout all project phases, ethnic non-Tai-Kadai groups will be meaningfully consulted regularly along with the main Tai-Kadai ethnic group on all project activities that can potentially affect them. Every attempt will be made to obtain their participation in (i) planning, designing, implementing, and monitoring measures to avoid adverse impacts or, when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such effects; and, (ii) tailor project benefits to affected ethnic communities. The consultation process will faithfully adhere to ADB's safeguards policies on meaningful consultation as its underlying principle in the implementation of the participatory consultation process (Box 1: ADB meaningful consultation guidelines). Appropriate visual materials and language shall be used at all times to ensure information shared is fully understood and for meaningful dialogue to occur.

78. The PCU will oversee the participatory consultation process to ensure that consultations are held as planned. The PIU will be responsible for ensuring community participation through the CTGs that will have representation from every concerned ethnic group. Each village will have at least two designated CTG representatives, one man and one woman. The PIU will set up regular meetings with district leaders, village leaders, the Lao Women's Union, and Lao National Front for Reconstruction (LNFR) to ensure that all the involved people have full

awareness and understanding about the project content. In keeping with their role as community mobilizers, the District Lao Women's Union and LNFR will support consultations and ensure information and disclosure of project activities to all ethnic groups.

79. During detailed design and when planning training activities, consultations will be held in every concerned village. It is crucial to invite all villagers to the meetings and to conduct separate meetings with vulnerable households and women to get their perspective on project activities. The objective of the consultations is to inform all ethnic groups that may be affected by the project about its scope, implementation schedule and activities, and expected impacts at an early stage. These consultations will be scheduled to coincide with set milestones throughout the project.

80. The consultation process will also be guided by the project's Consultation and Participation Plan and the Stakeholders Communication Strategy which indicate the specific stakeholders to be consulted, like non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups and women. The communication strategies will be supported by IEC materials which are culturally appropriate and made simple and understandable to all project beneficiaries, particularly women of non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, who have low education. The information to be disclosed during consultations will be disseminated using posters, flyers and possibly airtime of local radio stations in the local languages understood and spoken by project beneficiaries especially women non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups. Posters and flyers will be displayed in strategic locations in communities, OICT and village offices, markets, communal houses of non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, and places within the villages where most people converge.

81. Stakeholders' opinions, including those of non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, will be fully documented in meeting minutes, sex and ethnic-disaggregated attendance sheets, and photos taken during the meetings. All recorded views, opinions, issues and concerns of project stakeholders including the non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups will be shared to project management and implementers, as the basis of project planning, designing and implementation. Notes also will be taken during all regular meetings between the PIU and local leaders and CTG representatives. Any stakeholders' issues, complaints or grievances expressed in consultation meetings or brought to village leaders or PIU will also be fully documented and kept in project files and will be the basis for subsequent adjustments in project planning and design.

82. At the start of project implementation, the stakeholder communication plan will be reviewed and updated to supplement to the IPP. The IPP, RP, EMP and GAP are the basic reference for CTG's safeguards monitoring. These will be disclosed at district level public meetings including all relevant stakeholders. Women representing affected households must be present at the disclosure meetings. Copies of a summary of the IPP together with the consultation plan will be translated into the Lao language and ethnic language(s) where necessary and will be available at the District offices and village leaders' homes. The IPP and updated stakeholder communication plan will be posted on ADB's website at the beginning of implementation. IPP monitoring will form part of the project's semi-annual safeguards, monitoring reports, also posted on the ADB website.

### **Box 1: What is Meaningful Consultation?**

According to the ADB SPS (2009, updated 2012), meaningful consultation is a process that:

- begins early in the project preparation stage and is carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project cycle;
- provides timely disclosure of relevant and adequate information that is understandable and readily available to affected people
- is undertaken in an atmosphere free of intimidation or coercion;
- is gender inclusive and responsive, tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;
- enables the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision making, such as project design, mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues.

Source: ADB. 2009. *Safeguard Policy Statement*, p iii.

## **V. BENEFICIAL AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES**

### **A. Potential Impacts Identified**

83. The project's planned infrastructure and capacity development activities in targeted tourist sites will positively impact local ethnic groups by increasing jobs and income associated with tourism, which is an economic sector that some communities are already involved in.

84. Upgrading rural access roads will bring economic benefits to all ethnic groups in the Western Loop and Kaeng Yui waterfall as a result of: (i) improved village to market access; (ii) opportunities for development of roadside retail enterprises servicing an increase in traffic; (iii) further development of tourism-related skills (cooking western and Asian food, small business management, hospitality, housekeeping, driving electric cars) and the creation of more jobs in handicrafts and homestay related services and, (iv) reduction in the maintenance of vehicles due to improved access roads. Likewise, improvement of the road to the landfill area becomes convenient for all, including the Khmu waste pickers, as well as for the garbage trucks transporting trash to the site and will improve hygiene, environmental sanitation and solid waste management practices.

85. The village of Nadouang will benefit directly from the increase in the numbers of tourists visiting the waterfall and corresponding increase in revenue from (i) entrance and parking fees; (ii) earnings from selling food, beverages, and handicraft/souvenirs in the multi-purpose tourist center (to be constructed by the project) and in the village; (iii) driving electric cars from and to the parking lot and, (iv) increased demand for home-stay accommodation.

86. During Project implementation men and especially women of the non-Tai-Kadai households will be hired as unskilled laborers for construction on a priority basis by the civil works contractors. This included the Khmu ethnic households in the Kaeng Yui Waterfall subproject and at the Solid Waste Land Fill, the Io Mien in the Nam Ngum Reservoir and the Hmong in the Western Loop.

87. Jobs will be created in tourist-related services and O&M in all subprojects after the Project's completion. People from the non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups will receive priority for employment in these services and O&M. E.g., for monitoring solid waste disposal and sorting, the Khmu waste pickers in Solid Waste Land Till will be employed. In Nam Ngum and Kaeng Yui Waterfall ticket booth staff and electric cars drivers will be needed.

88. During the consultations, respondents also identified some possible negative impacts during the construction and O&M of the completed infrastructural facilities. They shared their concern of possible increase in traffic accidents, respiratory illness due to dust during construction and possible incidences of undesirable behavior of construction workers, like excessive drinking and luring local women into illicit relationships which in turn may lead to the incidence of negative ills such as HIV/AIDS, STIs and human trafficking, amongst others.

89. Under Output 3 many activities, including support for cultural industries, women's enterprise development, labor reducing technology, and campaigns to promote responsible tourism will ensure that potential negative impacts of tourism are avoided. Also, regular coordination and information sharing and feedback among project implementers, contractors and project beneficiaries on the status of project implementation will be adhered to as per the consultation and participation plan and stakeholder communication strategy. This will enable timely and appropriate early responses to any perceived negative impacts.

90. **Table 4** summarizes the main benefits and potential negative impacts that were identified during the consultations with non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups.

**Table 4: Benefits, Potential Negative Impacts and Mitigating Measures**

Subproject Benefits	Potential Negative Impacts	Mitigating Measures to Address Negative Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved road conditions will result in better access by the communities to basic services like markets, schools and health facilities; improved and convenient handling and hauling of agricultural products to markets at a reduced time of transport as well as less transport costs;</li> <li>- Well paved roads will reduce the maintenance cost of vehicles;</li> <li>- Enhanced connectivity with other tourism sites in adjacent districts and provinces;</li> </ul>	<p>During Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traffic disruptions due to roadblocks as well as noise and dust; possible road accidents; longer time to travel to and from the communes;</li> <li>- Possible higher incidence of HIV/AIDS, Human Trafficking and STIs; also, core labor issues like child labor and exploitation because of the presence of construction workers coming from other areas who maybe carriers of the virus and diseases and contractors may hire child laborers to reduce labor cost;</li> <li>- There may be temporary disruption in economic activities along the roadside resulting in less income from roadside sales of fruits, food and beverages;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An environmental management plan (EMP) is prepared and mitigating measures will be observed by the civil works contractors in their road safety and occupational safety plans (contractor's environmental management plans) to be attached to the program of works (POW) and monitored by the CTGs in tandem with the PIU's safeguards staff;</li> <li>- As part of the GAP, a community awareness and information dissemination activity on HIV/AIDS, STIs, human trafficking prevention and core labor issues will be conducted in the communes with the active involvement of the LWU members in CTGs. The cost of these activities will be borne by the project and contractors and included in civil works contracts;</li> <li>- Women, especially female-headed</li> </ul>

Subproject Benefits	Potential Negative Impacts	Mitigating Measures to Address Negative Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With more income, women will have less problems in household financial management;</li> <li>- Households will have funds for leisure and other household expenses; and</li> <li>- Improved quality of tourism product and service delivery to tourists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subproject beneficiaries may have limited awareness or are unaware about progress of project implementation resulting in lackluster or inactive participation in project activities.</li> <li>- No adverse impacts are foreseen with the capacity building activities for project beneficiaries, however, there may be some issues regarding women's availability during the training activities due to their time spent in both housework and income generation.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">During Operation and Maintenance (O&amp;M)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foreign tourists who are unaware of local culture and traditions may be dressed and behave improperly which could be aversive to the local people;</li> <li>- Likewise, the local people in Vang Vieng and Keo Oudom are not familiar with the culture of foreign tourists from western countries which may create some difficulties on how to treat them;</li> <li>- There could be transmission of HIV/AIDS, Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Child Exploitation and mendicancy;</li> <li>- With improved roads, there may be higher incidence of traffic accidents because drivers will drive faster in their vehicles; and</li> <li>- Problems with solid waste management and environmental sanitation.</li> </ul>	<p>ethnic households whose business maybe temporarily impacted will be compensated as part of the RP provisions or as per the GAP, they may be hired by contractors as unskilled workers during construction phase. The latter measure will be included as a civil works contract requirement and monitored as one of the gender performance indicators;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project beneficiaries will be regularly consulted and informed through meaningful consultation during project implementation to keep them up to date with project implementation progress and give them the opportunity to express their views and opinions on project implementation. The consultations will be culturally appropriate and using the Lao language and/or the local language spoken by non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups;</li> <li>- Training and capacity building will consider scheduling when women have adequate free time to attend;</li> <li>- Training will be mostly experiential and hands-on, supported by learning tools and aids which are sensitive to the local context and culture, using Lao language as medium of instruction;</li> <li>- OICT and village leaders will support the CTGs and the PIUs to conduct information dissemination campaigns and use IEC tools to communicate information to tourists and local people to promote mutual understanding among local people and tourists;</li> <li>- Signs/posters promoting appropriate behavior while in the tourism site will be developed and posted in strategic tourists' sites where most tourists converge;</li> <li>- OICTs will publish rules advising proper behavior of tourists and monitor tourist activities for compliance;</li> <li>- OICT through the trained CTGs will</li> </ul>



Subproject Benefits	Potential Negative Impacts	Mitigating Measures to Address Negative Impacts
		<p>facilitate community awareness on how to prevent/manage social issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OPWTs will promulgate road safety regulations and install traffic safety signs along the road; and conduct road safety awareness seminars in communities, targeting youth, school children, women and the elderly, using the language spoken by non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups and the Lao;</li> <li>- Information dissemination promoting appropriate solid waste management practices (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle);</li> <li>- Organize Women's O&amp;M group for the market and marina at Nam Ngum and select subprojects in Vang Vieng district;</li> <li>- Organize the waste pickers at Vang Vieng landfill to gain access to formal O&amp;M jobs with UDAA.</li> </ul>

Source: Stakeholder consultations during project preparation.

## B. Beneficial Measures

91. Measures to ensure beneficial results for all stakeholders are further grouped in the actions below.

### Action 1: Support to Organize Community Tourism Groups

92. The project will establish CTGs in 19 villages near Vang Vieng and Keo Oudom subprojects. They will comprise at least two members from each village, one from Women's Union and one representative of non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups if there are such groups, and others as appointed by village leadership committees. CTGs will (i) facilitate information dissemination, community awareness building; (ii) raise issues concerning participating communities with other project stakeholders and PCU and PIU staff; (iii) ensure that the views and needs of project beneficiaries across stakeholder groups are adequately reflected in project design and implementation; and (iv) conduct community-level safeguards and GAP monitoring.

93. CTGs will be provided with capacity building to boost their skills and knowledge on data gathering and analysis, field monitoring, and simple report preparation; and to facilitate community consultations and information dissemination activities.

94. CTGs will participate in project coordination meetings with PIUs, construction supervisors, contractors and PIU staff to report results of field monitoring activities and elevate project beneficiaries' issues and concerns.

95. To ensure concerns of non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups are reflected in community tourism planning the following actions will be taken:

- Designate members from non-Tai-Kadai ethnic households as members of CTGs in accordance with their proportion of the local population.
- Within destination management plans in subproject areas, identify tourist attractions that will draw visitors to non-Tai-Kadai ethnic villages such as road stops/look-outs, walking trails and local markets.
- Provide funding, and strengthen village funds, to develop community-based tourism activities in non-Tai-Kadai ethnic villages.

96. **Responsible Project Staff/Unit.** PCU's safeguards staff members and social safeguards consultants will prepare a simple TOR for the CTGs together with the CTGs. They will guide the PIUs to assist CTGs organize and implement project activities such as community consultations, information dissemination, data gathering and analysis and reporting; and help develop knowledge and skills to monitor civil works, safeguards plans, and GAP implementation.

### **Action 2: Inclusion of Khmu Women in Management of Kaeng Yui Waterfall**

97. Specific actions are set out for the site development and management of Kaeng Yui Waterfall as it is part of a communal managed area of Nadouang village. The expansion of tourist activities must benefit the whole community including the Khmu ethnic group in a way that is compatible with the local cultural context. Participatory consultations with all involved villagers will be held regularly during project implementation. The following actions are intended to ensure that village management of the site will be strengthened and include the Khmu ethnic group, particularly Khmu women.

98. At the start of project implementation, PIU staff, with support from the Gender and Social Development Specialists and Tourism Planning Specialist, will hold consultations with Nadouang Village to determine how to strengthen management of the upgraded Kaeng Yui Waterfall site.

99. Based on this consultation, village representatives and the DICT will prepare an O&M plan that:

- Confirms Nadouang will manage waterfall access and clarify its role in site O&M.
- Defines the CTG structure, with a minimum of 30% women.
- Khmu women will be included in CTG consultations and will occupy key leadership positions along with the Lao.
- Public revenue to be generated at the site (e.g. parking, ticket entrance, transportation fees) and the system for managing these funds for site maintenance, community social services, and re-investment in village-based tourism micro-enterprises.
- Involves women vendors.
- Defines roles and responsibilities of the CTG, DICT and OICT.

100. The DICT, with support from the Gender and Social Development Specialist and Tourism Planning Specialist will prepare a capacity development plan for the CTG that includes training in:

- Management skills for tourism site operation and maintenance.
- Hospitality services and dealing with tourist operators and tourists.
- Accounting and public fund management.
- Organizational development skills for committee leaders.

101. At project start, the PIU will provide transitional support/monitoring in revenue collection and management until the skills are sufficient within the CTG to independently operate the waterfall site and manage the associated funds for maintenance and other activities.

102. **Responsible Project Staff/Unit:** The PIU director and social safeguards focal point staff with the consultant's design engineers and social safeguards consultants, supported by village/district LWU and LFNC coordinators, will hold consultations with project beneficiaries across all stakeholder groups including non-Tai-Kadai and Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, men and women, and other vulnerable groups. The consultations will be conducted after an initial orientation meetings with the OICT and village leaders.

### **Action 3: Support to Khmu Waste Pickers at Vang Vieng Landfill**

103. The Khmu waste pickers will receive training to assume certain O&M responsibilities at the landfill after rehabilitation. These responsibilities will be formally agreed with Vang Vieng UDAA.

104. Consultation meetings will be conducted by the PIU director and UDAA safeguards focal point, supported by the PIU's social safeguards specialists, the village leaders of Ban Phon Vieng where the waste pickers reside and the district LWU and LFNC coordinators. The following steps will be taken by the responsible units:

- UDAA will prepare its O&M plan and budget and specifically identify O&M activities where waste pickers can assume some O&M responsibilities. The plan and budget approved will be approved by Vang Vieng UDAA.
- Organize the waste pickers into an O&M group and agree group rules.
- Khmu women will be included and occupy leadership positions.
- Prepare TOR and sign agreement between the UDAA and the organized waste pickers for O&M, by consulting all parties involved.
- Prepare and conduct capacity building and O&M training for the waste pickers group according to their O&M plan and UDAA budget.
- PIU (UDAA) with support of the CTG will monitor and assess O&M performance of the waste pickers O&M group.

105. **Responsible Project Staff / Unit.** The PIU (UDAA) particularly its Director and safeguards focal will prepare the O&M plan and budget and TOR in consultation with waste pickers, PIU safeguards staff, and social development specialists.

### **Action 4: Supplementary Support for Job Planning and Microenterprise Development in Nam Ngum, Western Loop, and Kaeng Yui Waterfall**

106. The Khmu and Hmong population, along with the Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, stand to benefit from increased tourist visits along the access roads to the extent that they are able to develop micro-enterprises and small businesses that generate revenues from tourists

107. Detailed infrastructure designs will provide maximum retail space for non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups to develop tourism-related small retail businesses. This includes the new market place and shops and the car park in Nam Ngum, the roadside in the Western Loop, the Nam Xong bridge crossing, and the recreation area and car park at Kaeng Yui Waterfall. For the designs of rural access roads, car parks, and other infrastructure works, participatory consultations will be held with men and women from non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups along with Tai-Kadai ethnic groups. The design of shops in Nam Ngum consider views and opinions of both permanent and mobile vendors. The design of the rural access roads will consider where appropriate and safe roadside retail stalls can be built by interested non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups after completion.

108. For these consultations to have the desired result, the CTGs will play an important role. CTGs will disseminate timely information to the community so that stakeholders are aware of the plans, to help provide equal opportunities for all potential stall renters and mobile vendors.

109. For Nam Ngum subproject, there will be additional consultations on the following issues to enable development of viable small businesses and job opportunities for vendors who have to relocate their businesses:

- Establish eligibility criteria for all vendors, including non-Tai-Kadai vendors, for the right to apply for a stall in the newly built market building and shops near the car park.
- The most affordable rental or occupancy fee for the shops and car park stalls.
- O&M plans that involve women and women vendors.

110. **Responsible Project Staff / Unit.** The PIU Director will assign PIU safeguards staff and M&E staff to perform overall coordination and monitoring of the above action steps to meet Action 4 requirements, with the assistance of project implementation consultants.

#### **Action 5: Involvement of Ethnic Groups in Capacity Building**

111. During project design the Khmu and Hmong villagers requested support to improve handicraft production, home-processed and cooked food, English language skills, housekeeping and hospitality and marketing. The end results envisaged are quality services and local tourist products. Actions to support their interests, include:

- Confirm, validate and assess with the non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups the needs and preferences of the types of training and capacity building they proposed during the FGDs during project preparation.
- Prepare a comprehensive training and capacity building plan for the confirmed training and capacity building activities proposed.
- Implement the training and capacity building activities as per the comprehensive plan. There should be separate training opportunities for women with targeted participation of Khmu and Hmong. This could include training in hospitality, how to sell to tourists, and basic English language.
- Prepare culturally appropriate training materials, and use local languages understood by non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups as medium of instruction if necessary.
- Monitor capacity building progress as part of IPP implementation, to be included in the PPMS.

112. **Responsible Project Staff/Unit.** PCU/PIU staff will develop and implement training programs in these areas in cooperation with the Lao Women's Union. The consultants will assist the PCU and PIUs prepare, implement, monitor and report on the comprehensive training and capacity building plan. The PCU safeguards officer will ensure: (i) training materials and handouts are culturally appropriate and use local languages when necessary; (ii) community facilitators from non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups are trained to coach women in microenterprise development after training; and, (iii) strengthen small revolving village funds to provide start-up capital for ethnic households that are ready to open a tourism-related business. A budget is allocated in the IPP for this purpose.

**Action 6: Include non-Tai-Kadai Ethnic Group Concerns in Project Management**

113. Ethnic group concerns will be represented in project management and project implementation committees. Safeguards officers will be appointed in the PCU and PIUs, supported by the social safeguards consultants. The actions to be implemented include:

- A social/gender focal person and an M&E focal person will be appointed as members of the PCU and each PIU.
- Ethnic group representation in the PIU will be proportional to the local district population whenever possible.
- An international and a national social and gender development specialist with prior experience in dealing with ethnic group issues will support the government in project implementation, including implementation of the IPP. Their functions will involve the following tasks:
  - Conduct staff orientation on the project features focusing on the project organizational structure, the roles, functions and responsibilities of the PMU and PIU staff indicated in the PAM.
  - Conduct a training needs assessment (TNA) of selected non-Tai-Kadai staff in the PCU and PIUs.
  - Plan and implement training and capacity building of PCU and PIU staff including non-Tai-Kadai staff based on TNA results and included in the project's staff capacity building and training plan.

114. Preparation of progress reports, internal or external, shall include a section on IPP implementation progress, and the impact that the project is having on ethnic group either positive and/or negative. Monitoring data will be disaggregated by sex and ethnicity and form part of the project's semi-annual safeguards monitoring reports.

115. **Responsible Project Staff/ Units.** The PCU and PIUs' safeguards and gender focal point staff as well as the M&E focal point with technical support from the social safeguards and gender consultants, the M&E consultant and the capacity development and training consultants will implement all steps under Action 5.

**C. Mitigative Measures**

116. Problems associated with increased tourist presence such as human trafficking and child exploitation are to be monitored and appropriate prevention programs will be implemented in cooperation with mass organizations, nongovernment organizations and law enforcement

agencies. Impacts such as the acquisition of small amounts of agriculture land for the site development are minor and addressed in the Resettlement Plan. Relocation of businesses will be met with a robust consultation and capacity building program as described above.

117. To avoid adverse impacts, attention will be paid to: (i) community awareness and a participatory scheme to promote sound solid waste management and environmental sanitation practices, road safety and traffic safety practices among community members and tourists; (ii) tourism community awareness programs to promote responsible tourism where women, particularly non Tai-Kadai ethnic women, will play critical roles in the tourism industry since majority of women are engaged in most of these activities; and, (iii) support to national efforts to combat the incidence of social issues such as the spread of socially-transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDs and STI as well as human trafficking and the core labor issues child labor and exploitation.

**Action 7: Promotion of Responsible Tourism and Regular Consultation to avoid Adverse Impacts and ensure ethnic groups are given employment opportunities in project financed works construction**

118. Actions to promote responsible tourism will address concerns related to the loss of culture and traditions that could arise from increased dependence on tourism. To ensure that ethnic groups are not negatively impacted by the project, and to monitor risks associated with growth in tourism, a process of regular consultation will be integrated into project activities throughout implementation. The PIU will ensure ongoing consultation and participation with ethnic groups, their leaders, and mass organizations working in concerned villages. The following activities will be implemented:

- Designated CTG members will regularly coordinate with the PIUs to share their views regarding the status of training and community awareness activities in their villages.
- PIU will organize regular coordination meetings with the CTGs to review and assess civil works status, including compliance of the contractors with the EMP mitigating measures and GAP performance targets; HIV/AIDS, human trafficking and child labor prevention; hiring men and women as unskilled construction workers; and on the road safety awareness activities with school children, youth, women, elderly and the public.
- The PIU and CTG will organize meetings between village Leaders and LWU, LFNC, DPWT and OPWT, among others. The meetings will commence during project inception and will be held on a semi-annual basis to review project progress and ensure that all local officials, village leaders and implementing agencies are fully aware and understand the project and its objectives; and ensure that they are updated on project's progress and help resolve issues affecting implementation.
- Meetings will review IPP, RP, GAP and EMP implementation and decide how to resolve issues.

119. PIUs will review and assess with village leaders, mass organization representatives, CTGs and organized beneficiary groups which perform some O&M responsibilities tourism growth in project areas, whether the intended subprojects benefits are equally enjoyed by local people especially poor households, women, non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups and other vulnerable groups. The review and assessment will also identify if there are emerging negative impacts from tourism in terms of health, safety and culture-based issues which need to be responded to with measures that will eliminate or alleviate negative impacts. Law enforcement officials from

the police, Department of Labor and Social Welfare (DLSW) and the Department of Health (DOH) will be invited to the consultation meetings if negative impacts such as incidence of HIV/AIDS, STIs, human trafficking, child exploitation, or other illegal and criminal activities arise. Positive impacts will also be identified to serve as good practice models which can be sustained and replicated in future tourism projects.

120. The PCU will organize semi-annual reviews with stakeholder group representatives, including non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, following the PPMS. The emphasis will be on project effectiveness implementing the IPP, number and sex and ethnicity of ethnic people hired for works construction and infrastructure O&M, other safeguards measures, and the outcome and output targets in the DMF. The meeting will be supported by the PIUs, project implementation consultants, and CTG representatives.

## **VI. CAPACITY BUILDING**

121. Capacity building for PIUs, Women's Union, members of the Lao National Front in the project areas and CTGs is crucial for successful IPP implementation, monitoring and reporting. The PCU, with support from social safeguards specialists will be responsible for undertaking necessary measures to strengthen PIU staff and concerned local officials capacity to implement the IPP, RP, and EMPs. Capacity building will focus on implementation strategies, data collection, analysis, and progress reporting.

122. Capacity building for local officials will also focus increasing their understanding of the legal framework for ethnic participation and strengthening their technical capabilities to implement the IPP. Information and awareness campaigns aim to positively influence knowledge, attitudes and practice to promote social inclusion and cultural diversity, and heritage protection as key assets for sustainable tourism development.

123. Capacity development activities will be planned for village leaders from all ethnic groups, the ethnic group representatives of CTGs, and CTG members. Capacity building for project beneficiaries, e.g. local officials, beneficiary O&M organizations and CTGs will enhance their competencies as they are the target recipients of the identified beneficial measures indicated in the IPP. Capacity building for CTG members and village leaders will focus on building their skills in project management, facilitating community meetings, and preparing brief verbal and written reports to document issues and other concerns of the communities. Local authorities in the district and villages will be familiarized with the project, its objectives and components, and the various safeguards requirements especially the IPP to ensure that the concerns of the non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups are not neglected and given due attention in their decision-making.

124. A detailed comprehensive capacity building program for project management and staff involved in IPP and safeguards plans implementation as well as training of project stakeholders will be prepared early. It will be based on TNA results as well as project beneficiaries expressed needs and aspirations, particularly non-Tai-Kadai living in subproject areas. Capacity building programs will begin at project inception and continue throughout the project cycle.

125. Similarly, capacity building for project beneficiaries especially non Tai-Kadai ethnic women will develop and/or enhance their business management and functional numeracy skills, foreign language ability, and tourism-related skills through cooking, hospitality and housekeeping training, handicraft production, O&M technical training, marketing tourism

services and products in partnership with DMOs. These are the subjects that ethnic women prefer to help them improve tourism service delivery and quality.

## VII. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

126. A grievance redress mechanism will be put in place to ensure that ethnic group members can (i) communicate their information needs concerning project activities and anticipated impacts; (ii) report any negative impacts; and, (iii) inform project implementers about any gaps in their inclusion in project benefits. The grievance process must be culturally-sensitive and designed to work with existing practices of the ethnic community. Ethnic minorities will be informed that they can always communicate with the project management and staff to air their complaints or report any negative project impacts which are not acted upon, per agreed mitigating measures. Ethnic minorities will also be informed that access to the GRM is free of charge..

127. Acting on and resolving complaints and issues raised by project beneficiaries is a collective responsibility of the PIU head and the village and district authorities in Vang Vieng and Keo Oudum, as well as Vientiane Province authorities. They are to act on and facilitate any resolution of complaints and grievances, confusion and any misunderstanding about project policies and implementation plans. To ensure that any grievances of those affected by resettlement or any project related actions are resolved timely and in a manner satisfactory to the aggrieved affected household or person, detailed procedures for receiving and redressing grievances, including appeal processes, are as follows.

- **Level 1: Village Grievance Committee.** The complainant will initially formally lodge his/her complaint to the village officials. The complaint is registered in the record book of the village. The Village Grievance Committee will deliberate and resolve the complaint within 15 days and consultations with the complainant are done within this time frame in a transparent and non-coercive manner. If, and when the complaint is not acted upon within the set time frame or if complainant is dissatisfied with the decision of the village grievance committee, he or she elevates the complaints to the District grievance committee. The decision reached on the complaint is documented and kept in the village files.
- **Level 2: District Grievance Committee.** Complainants formally elevate their complaints to the District Grievance Committee in writing. If complainant cannot write, then any family member or concerned parties may prepare the written complaint on behalf of the APs. The District office formally receives and acknowledges receipt of the complaint and registers this in their record book. The District Grievance Committee has 15 days to deliberate and resolve this in consultation with aggrieved parties. If within 15 days, this is not responded to and no decision reached or when the APs are dissatisfied with the decision, they can elevate the complaint to the province level through the provincial grievance committee. The District will maintain a record of the proceedings in addressing the complaint.
- **Level 3: Provincial Grievance Committee.** The complaint is formally lodged with the Provincial Grievance Committee which has 15 days to deliberate and act on it to resolve the complaint. But if within 15 days, these remain not acted upon or if the complainants are dissatisfied with the decisions, then the complaints will be forwarded to the DICT for formal transmittal to the MICT for action and resolution.
- **Level 4: MICT.** Again, the MICT must act within 15 days in response to the complaint aimed at its immediate resolution.



- **Court of Law:** As a last resort, the complaint will be lodged with the appropriate Court of Law for litigation and its decision will be final. The project will comply with the verdict of the Court. All legal and administrative costs incurred by complainants and their representatives are to be paid by MICT.
- **ADB Accountability Mechanism.** If all efforts to resolve complaints or disputes remain futile following the project's grievance redress mechanism, the APs have the right to directly send their concerns or problems to ADB's Southeast Asia Department (SERD) through ADB's Lao PDR Resident Mission. If SERD's response to their complaints is still not accepted or are dissatisfied with it, then they can directly contact the ADB's Office of the Special Project Facilitator as outlined in the Information Guide to the Consultation Phase of the ADB Accountability Mechanism.

128. Each CTG in ethnic villages will include representatives from these communities. These representatives will act as community liaison officers for the ethnic communities and will record grievances and discuss these with the CTG. Records of meetings to air grievances will be sent to the PIU Director, the Lao National Front, and the PCU for follow-up action. The CTGs will have the contact information of the PIU Director responsible for IPP implementation and PCU Director responsible for IPP oversight. Grievances related to project implementation activities will be handled through negotiation aimed at achieving consensus. MICT shall provide aggrieved household with assistance to lodge and resolve complaints free of charge.

129. It is expected that at any levels of the grievance redress mechanism, the project staff particularly the focal point staff on resettlement will regularly monitor updates on grievances issues. The Grievance Committees at district and province levels will gather data from the respective grievance committees at all levels and record these in the quarterly internal monitoring reports on grievances received, which are provided to the DICT (PIA/PIU) and the MICT (PCU), including names and pertinent information about the aggrieved individual, nature of complaint, dates the complaints are lodged, and resolutions. Grievances not resolved will also be recorded, detailing deliberations and proposals which could not be agreed upon, and the date in which these were acted and/or deliberated by the committees.

## VIII. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

130. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the IPP will be built into the PPMS, to be developed during the first six months of project implementation. IPP monitoring will (i) ensure that the ethnic groups have been engaged in the project activities; (ii) assess the quality and timeliness of ethnic group support programs; (iii) identify problems; and (iv) map out plans to redirect IPP implementation based on problem analysis and solutions formulated. The framework for monitoring the IPP is summarized in **Table 5**.

**Table 5: Monitoring Framework**

<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible Project Units</b>
Project inception workshops	Disseminate the IPP to all project stakeholders. Generate views, comments of project	All target villages in Vang Vieng and Keo Oudom districts	Q4 Year 1 following loan effectiveness.	PIUs

<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsible Project Units</b>
	beneficiaries for IPP updating.			
Village level public consultations	Disclose and disseminate the updated IPP. Generate community feedbacks on updated IPP implementation.	At least 20 villages in Vang Vieng and Keo Oudom districts	As required.	CTGs & PIU safeguards staff.
Quarterly reports on IPP implementation	Assess compliance with the IPP's mitigating measures and interventions in terms of its responsiveness to stakeholders' needs and preferences, timeliness and efficiency in its implementation; and recommendations to address emerging issues and concerns of ethnic minorities.	Field data gathered analyzed and indicated in progress reports prepared in PIU offices and submitted to PCU for project-wide consolidation and submission to Lao government and ADB	Prepared, reported and submitted every quarter to Lao Government and ADB.	PIUs at District level and PCU at national/project-wide level.
ADB semi-annual monitoring missions and safeguards reports	Assess compliance with IPP. Provide guidance to resolve any implementation or compliance issues.	Field visits to project sites with non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups. Meetings, PCU, PIUs and CTGs.	Two missions and safeguards monitoring reports per year.	ADB, PCU and PIUs supported by PIC
Annual NPSC meetings	Assess progress and compliance with the IPP. Provide policy guidance and advice on IPP implementation issues.	At MICT (national level) with NSPC members acting as policy-making body for the project	Annually or ad-hoc basis if project is not complying with IPP provisions.	PCU and PIUS with PIC

ADB= Asian Development Bank, CPP = consultation and participation plan; CTG = community tourism group; EA=executing agency, IPP = Indigenous Peoples Plan; MICT= Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism NPSC = National Project Steering Committee, PCU = project coordination unit; PIC= Project Implementation Consultant; PIU = project implementation unit; Q4= Quarter 4.

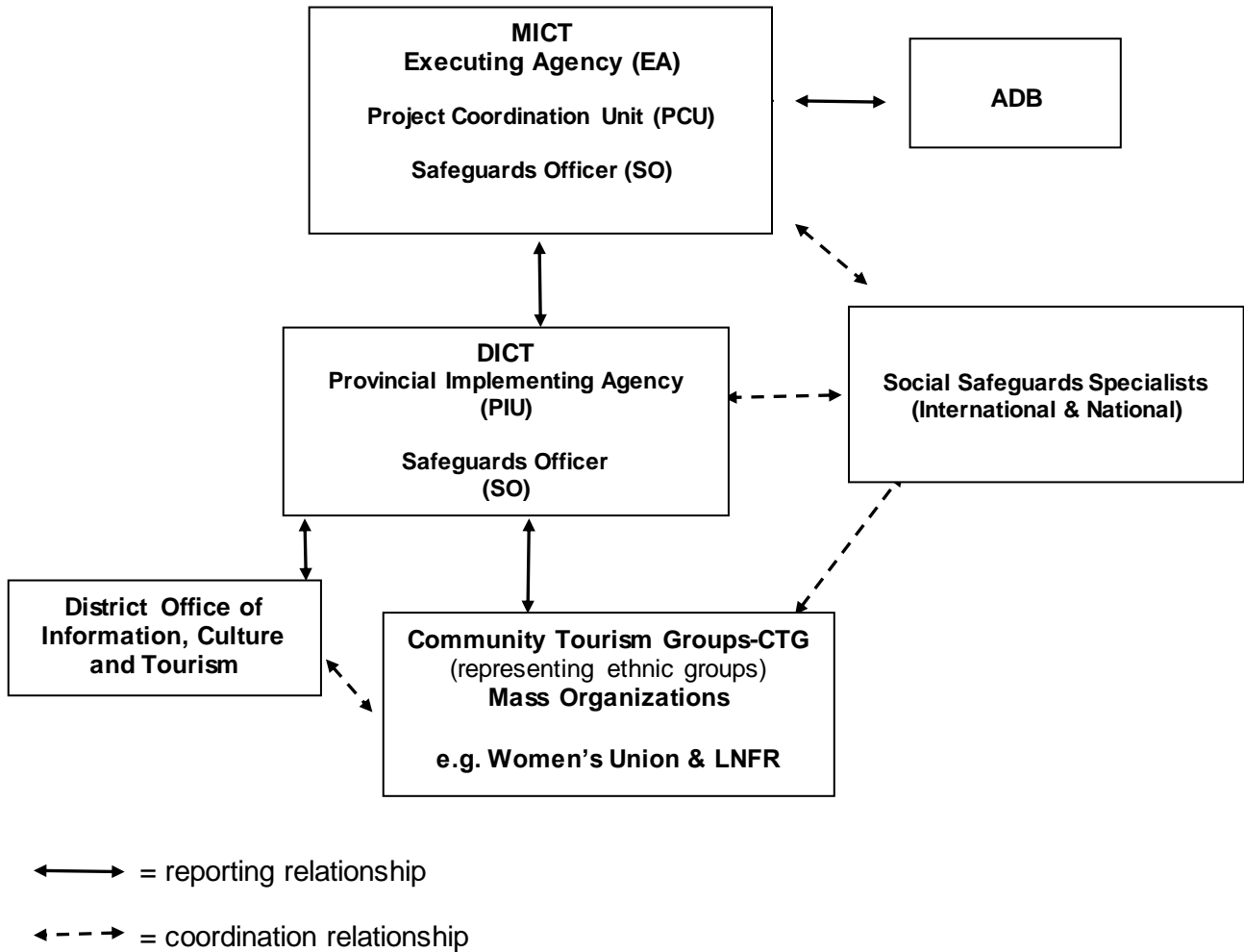
131. Quarterly progress reports will provide periodic updates on IPP implementation and the impact of the project on non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups. A midterm review of the project which includes a review of IPP implementation will be conducted by ADB with the PCU, PIUs, project beneficiaries, and consultants. The midterm evaluation will consider past updates and make adjustments to the PPMS, as required. All monitoring data and reports will be disaggregated by sex and ethnicity.

## **IX. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

132. IPP implementation will be the responsibility of the PCU Director overall and the PIUs at district/subproject levels. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism's Tourism Development Department will be the PCU, coordinating overall project implementation, including the IPP. A PIU will be embedded within Vientiane Province DICT and Vang Vieng UDAA to manage infrastructure and capacity building activities. The PCU and the PIUs will assign at least one member of their staff to be responsible for social safeguards implementation including the IPP, with preference for a non-Tai-Kadai staff or a staff who has had a long experience working with non-Tai-Kadai people. The safeguards officers from the PCU and PIU, with the support of the consultants and CTG members will implement IPP activities. Detailed implementation arrangements are in the project administration manual (PAM).

133. Consultants to be engaged to support the PCU and PIUs implement the IPP and other safeguards plans comprise of an International Social Safeguards Specialist (6 months), International Gender Specialist (2 months), National Social Safeguards Specialist (12 months) and a National Gender Specialist (12 months). The consultant safeguards and social development specialists will work closely with other consultants like the Capacity Development and Training Specialist as well as the M&E Specialist to integrate measures to address ethnic group participation into the project's annual work plans. An overview of the IPP implementation framework is in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Implementation Framework**



**X. BUDGETING AND FINANCING**

134. The proposed infrastructure improvements will be designed and implemented in close consultation with the communities, including the non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups, involved. The costs of these consultations and monitoring are included in the overall IPP budget. A budget for capacity development and training specifically targeted to non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups and the publication of training and awareness raising materials for non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups is also under the IPP budget. The total budget is **\$56,700** PIUs will administer the budget in consultation with the PCU and CTGs, technically supported by the consultants. **Table 6** gives an overview of the indicative IPP budget.

**Table 6: Indicative Budget**

No	Budget Item	Unit	Quantity	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
1	<u>Follow up IPP consultation meetings</u>				
1.1	District	meeting	2	50	100
1.2	Village	meeting	19	40	640
1.3	Facilitator transport costs	person	38	10	380
2	<u>Community Tourism Group</u>				
2.1.	CTG quarterly meetings on EG group issues (IPP status)	meeting	4/year x 4 years	40 x 4x 4yrs	640
2.2.	Transport cost to meetings	persons/ months	38 x 4/year x 4 years	5/person x 4 QT x 4 years	3,040
2.3.	Field transport cost	persons	38 x 48 months	5/person/month x 48 months	9,120
2.4.	CTGs bi-monthly coordination meeting with PIA and civil works contractors	meeting	6 meetings/ year x 2 years	40 x 6 x 2	480
2.5.	Actual transport cost of members to meetings	person	38 x 6 x 2 years	5 person/ meeting x 6 meetings x 2 years	2,280
2.6	Field monitoring transport cost	person/ months	10/ person x 38x 24 months	10/person/month x 24	9,120
3	<u>Semi-annual meeting re: IPP progress</u>	meeting	8	50 x8	400
4	<u>Capacity Building and Training</u>				
4.1	Non-Tai-Kadai Ethnic Group Training	courses	5	3,000	
4.2	Awareness materials in ethnic languages / visuals	IEC materials	Lump sum for media	2,500 x3	
4.3	CTG capacity building	courses	2	2,000 x 2	
4.4	Capacity development on IPP - local officials	course	1	2,000	
4.5	Capacity development - village leaders	course	1	2,000	
			<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 56,700</b>	

## XI. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

135. The IPP will be implemented over 6 years beginning in Q4 2018 until Q3 2024. The schedule is in **Table 7**.

**Table 7: Indicative Implementation Schedule**

No	Activity	Time Frame																											
		Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6							
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				
1	Update IPP and disclosure to project stakeholders; upload to ADB websites				x																								
2	Inclusion of non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups in project management				x																								
3	Organize and train CTGs					x	x																						
4	Consultation meetings with CTGs, other project stakeholders on concerns with subproject planning and design						x	x																					
5	Capacity building for CTGs, project management and implementers, local authorities						x	x																					
6	Regular consultation with non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups and other project stakeholders									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
7	Participation of CTGs, other beneficiaries in civil works									x	x	x	x	x	x	x													
8	IPPP monitoring at village/commune levels				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							x	x	x	
9	Semi-annual review and planning		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x					x			
10	NPSC annual project review				x				x				x				x												x

## ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, CONSULTATIONS WITH ETHNIC GROUPS ACROSS SUBPROJECT SITES

The IPP focuses on measures to be taken in Keo Oudom and Vang Vieng District for the 5 subprojects as some of the population in the areas are non-Tai-Kadai ethnic groups who will be directly affected by the project.

### Name of Subproject: Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvements

Village: Sengsavang

District: Keo Oudom

Province: Vientiane Province

Date and Time: 12 July 15:30 - 5:00 pm

Name	Gender		Ethnicity	
	Male	Female	Ethnic Group	Non-Tai-Kadai Group
Mr. Somphou	M		Taidam	
Mrs. Took		F	Taidam	
Mr. Khamxay	M		Khmu	Khmu
Mr. Sompeng	M		li Mien	lo Mien
Mr. Xieng	M		Khmu	Khmu
Mr. Xou	M		Khmu	Khmu
Mr. Yod	M		Taidam	
Mr. Peng	M		Taidam	
Mr. Pang	M		Taidam	
Mr. Tong	M		Taidam	
Mr. Larkhoun	M		Taidam	
Mr. Anoukon	M		Lao	
Mr. Keoln Sysiengmai	M		Lao	

Khmu: 3 HH (5, 3 and 4 ps); lo Mien have 1 HH. (4 Ps) Tai Dam have 7 HH:

1. Mr. Sompou: 9 Ps; 2. Mr. Peng: 5 Ps; 3. Mrs. Took: 2 Ps; 4. Mr. Yod: 4 Ps;

5. Mr. Larkoun = 6 Ps; 6. Mr. Tong: 5 Ps 7. Mr. Pang: 5 Ps

**Name of Subproject: Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvements**

Village: Sengsavang District: Keo Oudom

Province: Vientiane Province

Date and Time of Meeting: 13 July 8:30 - 12:00 am

Place of Meeting: Tourism Information Center Hall

Name of Participant	Gender		Ethnicity	
	M	F	Ethnic Group	Other than Tai-Kadai Group
Mr. Bounyong	M		Lao	
Mr. Souvanna Pagoxay	M		Lao	
Mr. Bounma	M		Lao	
Mr. Souvannavong	M		Lao	
Mr. Vilack	M		Lao	
Mr. Noytick	M		Lao	
Mr. Khoean	M		Lao	
Mrs. Touk( Lao seafood )		F	Lao	
Mr. On	M		Lao	
Mr. Ouymanivong	M		Lao	
Mr. Yod Vannasith	M		Lao	
Mrs. Viengnai (Noymai)		F	Lao	
Mrs. Nangde		F	Lao	
Mrs. Ketmany (Moui)		F	Lao	
Mr. Houmpeng	M		Lao	
Mr. Touxieng	M		Lao	
Mr. Houmpan Pommajack	M		Lao	
Mr. Hongtong Singhakam	M		Lao	
Mr. Keongai	M		Lao	
Mr. Tadtong	M		Lao	
Mr. Thong (Daunedao)	M		Lao	
Mr. Xieng	M		Lao	
Mr. Keo Insixiengmai	M		Lao	
Mr. Keo Pomlamchit	M		Lao	
Mrs. Simmaly		F	Lao	



Name of Participant	Gender		Ethnicity	
	M	F	Ethnic Group	Other than Tai-Kadai Group
Mrs. Thang		F	Lao	
Mrs. Lamnguen		F	Lao	
Mrs. Lare		F	Lao	
Mrs. Pinkham		F	Lao	
Mr. Linthong	M		Lao	
Mrs. Mo		F	Lao	
Mr. Souli	M		Lao	
Mr. Phouvieng	M		Lao	
Mrs. Tongchanh		F	Lao	
Mr. Larkhoun	M		Tai Dam	
Mr. Anoukon	M			
Mrs. Thane		F	Lao	
Mrs. Pape		F	Lao	
Mrs. Boun		F	Lao	
Mrs. Tang		F	Lao	
Mrs. Mo (B)		F	Lao	
Mr. Vanh		F	Lao	
Mr. Taeng	M		Lao	
Mr. Kamxay	M		Lao	
Mrs. Manivanh		F	Lao	
Mrs. Tounoy		F	Lao	
Mrs. Nalin		F	Lao	
Mrs. Song		F	Lao	
Mrs. Thongmon		F	Lao	
Mrs. Noy		F	Khmu	Khmu
Mrs. Soy		F	Khmu	Khmu
Mrs. Seng		F	Khmu	Khmu
Mrs. Kham		F	Khmu	Khmu
Mrs. Pang		F	Lao	
Mr. Bounpon	M		Lao	
Mr. Khammon	M		Lao	
Mrs. Doangmany		F	Lao	

Name of Participant	Gender		Ethnicity	
	M	F	Ethnic Group	Other than Tai-Kadai Group
Mr. Sompeth	M		Lao	
Mr. Thongkam	M		Lao	
Mrs. Nad		F	Lao	
Mr. Somchanh	M		Lao	
Mrs. Lai		F	Lao	

**Name of Subproject: Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements**

Village: Nadouang District: Vang Vieng

Province: Vientiane Province

Date and Time of Meeting: 10 July 9:30 - 12 pm

Place of Meeting: Nadouang Village hall

Name of Participant	Gender		Ethnicity	
	Male	Female	Ethnic Group	Other than Tai-Kadai Group
Mr. Seng Dao Vongphachan	M		Lao	
Mrs. Singthong Pommabath		F	Lao	
Mrs. Noydavanh Kounpasith		F	Lao	
Mrs. Thongmy		F	Lao	
Mrs. Viengkam Manivong		F	Lao	
Mr. Bounmy Pommavongsa	M		Lao	
Mr. Boualy Lattapeng	M		Lao	
Mr. Khammy Puttavong			Lao	
Mr. Xaypiasong	M		Khmu	Khmu
Mr. Paolor	M		Khmu	Khmu
Mr. Suely	M		Khmu	Khmu
Mr. Tenglor	M		Khmu	Khmu

**Name of Subproject: Western Loop Rural Access and bridge Improvements**

Village Houay Sangoa District: Vang Vieng

Province: Vientiane Province

Date and Time of Meeting: 10 July 9: 30 - 12 pm

Place of Meeting: Houay Sangoa Village hall

Name of Participant	Gender		Ethnicity	
	Male	Female	Ethnic Group	Other than Tai-Kadai Group
Mr. Khamnam Phimmason	M		Lao	
Mr. Linthong Bolom	M		Lao	
Mr. Syphan Phommajack	M		Lao	
Mr. Chantavixay Louanxay	M		Lao	
Mrs. Khamphaiy		F		
Mrs. Chanpeng Udom		F	Lao	
Mrs. Khambang		F	Lao	
Mr. Phouvong	M		Lao	
Mr. Thongmy	M		Lao	
Mr. Ki	M		Lao	
Mrs. Ngern		F	Lao	
Mr. Somboun	M		Lao	
Mr. Khamkieng Onvongsa	M		Lao	
Mr. Kensouk Kounpakdy	M		Lao	
Mrs. Kambang		F	Lao	
Mrs. Kamkieng		F	Lao	
Mr. Syphan	M		Lao	
Mr. Xaypon	M		Lao	
Mr. Puthason			Lao	
Mr. Hadsady Khounsy		F	La0	
Mr. Sisompou Pimmoung	M		Lao	
Mr. Bounmy Pommavongsa	M		Lao	
Mr. Boualy Milattanapeng	M		Lao	

**Name of Subproject: Western Loop Rural Access and bridge Improvements**

Village: Houay Sangoa District: Vang Vieng

Province: Vientiane Province

Date and Time of Meeting: 10 July 9: 30 - 12 pm

Place of Meeting: Nadouang Village hall

Name of AP	Type of Land	Gender		Ethnic Group	Village
		Male	Female		
Mrs. Peng	Garden		F	Lao	Phonpeng
Mrs. Mon	Agricultural		F	Lao	Vang Vieng
Mr. Intong	Agricultural	M		Lao	VangVieng
Mr. Kensouk	Agricultural	M		Lao	Savang
Mr. Xiengbouasy	Agricultural	M		Lao	VangVieng
Mr. Kamnam	Agricultural	M		Lao	Savang
Mr. Peng Oudom	Agricultural	M		Lao	Savang
Mr. Intong	Agricultural	M		Lao	Vang Vieng
Mr. Ki	Agricultural	M		Lao	Viengkeo Houay Sangoa
Mrs.Kambang (Xiengpo)	Agricultural		F	Lao	
Mrs. Kammong	Agricultural		F	Lao	Savang
Mrs. Nguen	Agricultural		F	Lao	Savang
Mr. Xiengthongmy	Agricultural	M		Lao	Savang
Mr. Bouathong	Agricultural	M		Lao	Savang
Mr. Somphanh	Agricultural	M		Lao	Savang
Mr. Pouvong	Agricultural	M		Lao	Vang Vieng
Mr. Onoudom	Agricultural	M		Lao	Moung Xong
Mrs. Tuptim			F	Lao	Vientiane Capital
Mrs. Vanchith			F	Lao	Vientiane Capital
Mr. Tone		M		Lao	Vientiane Capital

**Name of Subproject: Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements**

Village: Nadouang

District: Vang Vieng

Province: Vientiane Province

Date and Time of Meeting: 2 November Afternoon

Place of Meeting: Nadouang Village hall

No	Name of participants	Village	Position	Gender	Ethnicity
1	Mr. Sengdao Vongphachan	B. Nadouang	Head	M	Lao
1	Mr. Sengdao Vongphachan	B. Nadouang	Head	M	Lao
2	Mr. phaiy Philavong	B. Nadouang	Elder	M	Lao
3	Mr. Noukeo Vongsakham	B. Nadouang	Villager	M	Khmu
4	Mr. Thavon Vilaykham		Deputy	M	Khmu
5	Mr. Noukai		Villager	M	Lao
6	Mr. Khamchan		Villager	M	Taidam
7	Mrs. Kongpang Phatabouth		Villager	F	Lao
8	Mr. Aloun		Villager	M	Lao
9	Mrs. Singthong		Deputy	F	Lao
10	Mr. Bounlum Khamvilay		Pension	M	Khmu
11	Mr. Bounnam Keothonglay		Elder	M	Khmu
12	Mr. Sithon Oulounthong		Elder	M	Khmu
13	Mr. Boun Khanbouakeo		Villager	M	Khmu
14	Mr. Phom		Villager	M	Khmu
15	Mr. Pai Chanthanam		Villager	M	Khmu
16	Mr. Phoueng		Villager	M	Taidam
17	Mr. Khamlar		Villager	M	Taidam
18	Mr. Touydeng		Villager	M	Taidam
19	Mr. Noutiar		Villager	M	Taidam
20	Mr. Mr. PangTou		Villager	M	Taidam
21	Mrs. Sien		Villager	F	Khmu
22	Mrs. Deng		Villager	F	Khmu
23	Mr. Phao		Villager	M	Khmu
24	Mrs. Chanh		Villager	F	Taidam
25	Mr. Pangkou		Villager	M	Taidam

**Name of Subproject: Western Loop Rural Access and bridge Improvements**

Village: Nathong District: Vang Vieng

Province: Vientiane Province

Date and Time of Meeting: 2 November Morning

Place of Meeting: Nathong Village hall

No	Name of participants	Village	Position	Gender	Ethnicity
1	Mr. Thongdam Phimmason	B. Nathong	Deputy	M	Lao
2	Mr. Sith Bounkham	B. Namouang	Head	M	Lao
3	Mr. Vangly Souycher	B. Nasom	Head	M	Hmong
4	Mr. Vanphon Vilaphan	B. Phonxay	Head	M	Lao
5	Mr. Khan Taiyavong	B. Nalongkouang	Head	M	Lao
6	Mr. Bounseng	B. Nakhoun	Deputy	M	Lao
7	Mr. Phon Outhai	B. Nampair	Deputy	M	Lao
8	Mr. Khotamy Syborliban	ICT	Technical	M	Lao
9	Mrs. Sengthong Keobounmy	B. Phonkham	Deputy	F	Lao
10	Mr. Somsanith	B. Naxai	Head	M	Lao
11	Mr. Chanti	B. Phathong	Deputy	M	Lao
12	Mr. Yonglyli	B. Phonnguen	Head	M	Hmong

**Consultations Field Trip 13-14 November 2017**

Sub-Project	Women	Men	Total	Ethnic
Nam Ngum	13	11	24	Lao; 1 lo Mien woman
Kaeng Yui Waterfall vendors	4	0	4	Khmu
Nadouang (Waterfall management)	9	8	17	Lao
Solid Waste Land Fill	11	2	13	Khmu

## **ANNEX 2: MINUTES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS (3 SUBPROJECTS)**

Public Consultations were conducted in Nam Ngum Reservoir Access Improvements, Tad Kaeng Yui Waterfall Access Improvements and Western Loop Rural Access Roads and Bridge Improvements Subprojects on 10, 11 and 13 July 2017. The activities gathered together and total number of 94 participants whose assets will be affected due to the foreseen infrastructure improvements. In terms of gender, 52 were men and 42 women and as to ethnicity, 89 were Lao and 5 were Ethnic Minority comprised of 4 Khmu and 1 Tai Dam. The public consultations aimed to inform affected households and persons on the following:

- Project Descriptions and detailed discussions on the subprojects' features;
- Legal and Policy Framework on Land Acquisition and Resettlement of the Lao Government and ADB's Safeguards Policies;
- Eligibility and Entitlements including Compensation;
- Discussion on the IOL process and Socioeconomic surveys of AHs/APs
- Grievance Redress Mechanism;
- Cut-off Date for eligibility and entitlement;
- Institutional Arrangements

### **Highlights of Public Consultation**

The PPTA team facilitated the public consultation meetings in 3 subprojects where initially, they presented the objectives and outputs of the public consultation and discussed all the topics mentioned above. After the presentation and discussions of all the topics, an open forum took place where AHs expressed some of their issues and concerns to be clarified. The following are those issues they raised and proposals to address issues as follows:

#### **Nam Ngum Reservoir:**

- The AHs whose houses along the proposed walkway to the marina will be permanently dismantled expressed their concern over the features of the relocation site which they suggest that these should have basic features like access roads to district center and to Ban Thalot, power and water supply; also, solid waste and sanitation facilities. In response, the issue on relocation is not a concern of the project but the DPC of Keo Oudom since only shops along the proposed walkway will be temporarily relocated to a nearby site during construction and shop owners who participated in the SES will be prioritized to occupy the shops to be built at the site of old fisheries building that will be demolished to give way for the new tourist shops.
- Furthermore, they suggest that compensation for structures to be dismantled and temporary income losses will be paid earlier so that they will have cash when during the actual dismantling and temporary relocation. Also, inform the AHs early so that they can have enough time to prepare for the demolition and temporary relocation.
- Affected shop owners proposed that the project will move them to a temporary relocation site near the former site so that they can continue their tourism business.
- For boat owners and drivers, they suggest that the project will put up a temporary mooring place and pier so that they can continue their boating and transport services to tourists.
- AHs proposed that there should be regular meetings so that they are constantly aware of the status of resettlement activities during project implementation.



- They signified their willingness to do unskilled work during construction so that they can earn extra income.
- All participants unanimously agree to actively participate in all project-related activities during implementation phase.

### **Kaeng Yui Waterfall**

The concerns raised are the following:

- 21 women sellers request that the location of any temporary relocation of their stalls must be near the old site where construction will be implemented so that they can continue doing food selling to tourists;
- They also request that they will be prioritized for occupancy of the new stalls built;
- They request the project give them enough time to prepare for the temporary relocation;
- They request that construction will be implemented during low season when few tourists visit the waterfall (May-September);
- Construction works must not contribute to environmental degradation of the waterfall site, such as dirty water flowing from the falls to the downstream areas where the subproject site is located;
- Contractors to put safety signages so that tourists and other people visiting the area will not be injured due to the construction activities.

When asked about their participation during project implementation, they agreed to attend all consultation meetings during design and construction stage. Also, some are willing to work as unskilled workers and to be members of the Community Tourism Group. They hoped that the project will soon start. They were informed about the project implementation cycle phases and the likely start of the project in last quarter of 2018.

### **Western Loop Rural Access Roads and Bridge Improvements**

The AHs who participated in the public consultation raised the following concerns and recommendations on subproject design and resettlement.

- Project design must ensure that small portions of lands will be acquired so that they are still able to continue farming;
- Compensation amounts for lands acquired must be based on actual current market values of residential and agricultural lands so that it will be good for us and government as well;
- Land tenants must also be involved during consultations so that they can give correct and adequate information to their land owners who are not residing in subproject areas;
- AHs must be notified early when construction starts so that they will not plant rice and other crops;
- AHs must join the PIUs during the detailed measurement survey so that they will know and accept the correct measurements on affected portions of their land;

- Compensation payment must be paid in a timely manner and all transactions between AHs and Project staff must be documented;
- If there are complaints, project authorities must act and resolve these immediately so that there will be no delays in compensation.

At the end of the public consultation, all AHs expressed their willingness to participate and cooperate with the project because they believe that when rural roads are built and the bridge will be constructed, the travel time to Vang Vieng town center will be shorter, their local products will not be sold to middlemen anymore, but directly to the market where they can command a good price; women and children will have good access to the market, schools and other leisure facilities at Vang Vieng town center but more importantly, they can put up tourist shops along the newly-built road and the 26 km road to be rehabilitated. Tourism will increase and result in increased household income.

All consultation meetings lasted about 2 hours. After the public consultations the socioeconomic survey was administered by the National Social Development Specialist and IOL was conducted by the National Resettlement Specialist, assisted by the DICT staffs and the village LFNC coordinator.

Prepared by:

**Phongsith Davading**

National Tourism Planner/Institutional Development Specialist

**Kanda Keosopha**

National Resettlement Specialist

## Focus Group Discussion with Ethnic Groups at Kaeng Yui Waterfall, 2 November 2017

### Perception of Participants:

**Q1.** How will the project benefit you?

#### Answers

- Mr. Sangdao/ Villager. After road finish construction it is mean good road, and will have more tourist coming, and would be selling things more and people get more income.
- Mr. Noukeo, Villagers from Nadouang very happy and for the advantage from road it is can go very comfortable for people and student go to school.
- Mr. Bounnam, villager. After road finish construction very get advantage for people, they are can go easy to other village or easy to go between village to village and to the rice field. students and governments staffs easy to go to school and to work. and after project finish in Tad Kaeng Yui area have more shop selling food and widen parking lot, comfortable for tourist to come visit water fall.

**Q2.** What kind of disadvantages do you expect?

**Answer:** None.

**Q3.** What would you need from the project?

#### Answer:

- Need project help training about road maintenance along the road from village to Water fall.
- Need garbage truck to carry out rubbish from Ban. Nadouang and Water fall area to landfill

**Q4.** How would you like to be involved in the project activities?

#### Answer:

- Village Authorities and villagers will facilitate implementation construction and will advise people to understand about temporally impact on income or some assets will be lost.

-will be involved to solve any problem during implementation construction project.

**Q5.** For the land of the newly proposed parking lot:

a. do they know where it is

**Answer:** Yes, in front of the water fall area, the total area of the land about 1 ha

b. who does that land belong to?

**Answer:** Village land or Public village land

c. what is it being used for currently,

**Answer:** Parking lot, Public toilet and selling ticket.

d. are crops/trees being grown on it?

**Answer:** No, trees are natural.

**Field Trip Findings  
13-14 Nov 2017**

**Purpose:** Resettlement Due Diligence

**Mission participants:**

Melody Ovenden  
Rik Ponne  
Kanda Keosopha  
Hermien Rodenburg

**Dates:**

13-14 Nov '17

**Meetings (Brief and De-brief):**

Head of Provincial Tourism  
Head of OPW Vang Vieng  
Head of OPW Vang Vieng  
Head of UDAA  
Dep Head of UDAA  
Head of Vendor Group Nam Ngum

**Consultations:**

Sub-Project	Women	Men	Total	Ethnic
Nam Ngum	13	11	24	Lao; 1 lo Mien woman
Kaeng Yui Waterfall vendors	4	0	4	Khmu
Nadouang (Waterfall management)	9	8	17	Lao
Solid Waste Land Fill	11	2	13	Khmu

**Findings:**

Nam Ngum subproject

- The new access road did not present any issues in terms of resettlement.
- The parking lot can be in an area that can be expanded as needed under the new electricity power line.
- The access road to Keo Oudom landfill will not be part of the project as it is in a protected area.
- The FG discussion about plans for the river front had 7 non-vendors participating, the rest of the 24 persons (17) were vendors. When asked who also lived in their shop, 20 ps raised their hand but when observing and interviewing some of the shop keepers, it seems more like there are 8 to 12 HH living on site from whom most of them have no other house. Most of them come from other areas and the islands and found a good place to stay here some more than 10 years ago. Although it is all government land, they were permitted to rent the space on the riverfront for very low fees reflecting the dilapidated state of the buildings and facilities. Therefore, the monthly fees for house rent are only between 320,000 Lao kip/per year to 800,000 Lao kip/year (for the larger places such as restaurants). If moved to the resettlement site in Ban Sompakeo, a village in Zone 1, a zone of 34,790m<sup>2</sup> that currently has 30

HH. There would be enough place for 8 to 15 houses and a new market for sellers to local people. These vendors cater to the local population from the islands, not to the tourists. They said that if there were no big restaurants, there would not be so many tourists.

The participants mentioned:

- That they want to know how much a market stall at the new market will cost and how much they will have to pay for a new house at the resettlement site
- They would like to ask the District to not allow others to come into the new market place (referring to the market place at the place of the fishery storage hall and to the location where their shops are now).
- In principle, they did not mind separate living and selling space, but they expressed their concern that it might become very expensive, prohibitively to living and working in that area. To have the new market for the local people in Zone 1, would be good for them as the boats of the people from the islands land nearby.

The District explained that:

- After the whole riverfront has been upgraded, the District must re-classify the zones and the rents will depend on that. Obviously, it will not be the same as currently because the whole area will be upgraded, and it will become more expensive. Currently, the Office of Tourism is waiting for the Provincial Government to give the right to the Office of Tourism to set the rents in the Zones. After the permission they can identify who needs what and who can stay where.
- Zone 3 and 4 might be good for Homestay. Currently, there are no houses there.

#### Solid Waste Management Improvements, Vang Vieng

- No resettlement issues as the waste pickers all live in the nearby village and not on site. The participants in the FDG mentioned that they could earn an average of about 10,000 Lao kip/day. They would work 6 days/week and take Sunday off. Their children would come to help on Saturday. Their husbands work in the nearby cement factory.
- It seems to be more and more difficult to make money in recycling as a lot of it is done by the personnel of the big hotels and businesses already so that recycling items don't make it to the waste site.
- Currently, the waste pickers wear gloves, masks and rubber boots but their children do not.

#### Kaeng Yui Waterfall subproject, Vang Vieng

The 15 vendors who run the eateries and sale of small tourist goods work on rotation. Every group of vendors gets to manage the site and sell their goods for one year. Around half out of the 183 families in Nadouang participate in this, so every 6 years they get their turn.

The waterfall has water for around 5 months a year, from July through December. The vendors can make around 1 million kip/month up to 6.5 million kip/month, depending on the type of food they sell and the goods they bring. The current group consists of 15 Khmu women and 1 Lao. They have a very simple selection of food and are just starting to realize the opportunities. The village chief said it was their first time and that the years before there was a more varied offering of food and goods resulting in higher incomes.

The women mentioned their preferences for the following improvements:

- drainage system of the kitchen area
- permanent structures to replace the wooden structures that are erected newly every year
- the kitchen structure could be improved and made more beautiful
- electricity (this could be either solar or a short extension from the main power grid)
- the parking lot near the recreation area should be improved
- the stairs to the waterfall are too high and need amendment
- if possible, they would like to see that the waterfall has water year around
- they would like to make it more beautiful, for example by planting flowers
- they also would like to have a swimming area

As there is no relocation of houses or businesses and there will not be any disruption of business (because cooking and food preparation is mobile and can be set up anywhere outside the area where improvements are being made), there are no resettlement impacts in the waterfall area.

The planned parking lot is on community land. It is already designated as parking lot and a previous project already built a ticket booth and a toilet. There is no additional land required.

The 6m wide access road will follow the existing alignment from the village Nadouang to the Waterfall. From Nadouang to the main route, the road will pass some businesses in Ban Phonpheng (4 soup shops, 1 mini-market, 1 guesthouse, 1 small shop, 1 tourist office) and at the junction with the main road, with Ban Phonpheng on one side and Ban Vang Vieng on the other side, there are some other businesses (2 soup shops, 3 small shops, 1 larger shop) and 15 houses. The road will be concrete, and the right and left lane will be laid separately so the traffic can continue in one lane. As the shops and houses are quite well distanced from the road, no loss of business is foreseen.

#### Western Loop and Bridge subproject

Option 1: North of VV town, resettlement impacts:

- Access road to bridge has 2 affected HH:

One from the newly built massage hall on the corner of the road that will have to remove 3.50 m of the front part of the building to allow for safe travel at the corner. The hall was built by a Korean man on the name of a Lao person (Suthida). It is clearly built onto the RoW (20 m from center of road). The owner of the land is Mr. Mai. There will be no compensation costs as the hall is in RoW and built after the cut-off date.

One household who owns large plot of land near the river that is already cleared and ready for construction of a building (probably a hotel). It will be expensive with a price of \$400/m<sup>2</sup>. However, the OPWT staff said that the owner would be willing to donate the land (although this is not allowed under ADB policy and the DMS must determine how much land is at stake).

- There are 12 land owners on the other side of the river whose land would be needed. 4 of them own rice land, the others garden land. There might be a few others who rent the land for rice production. Some of the rice growers might be Hmong as there are many Hmong living on the road to the Western Loop.

- With land costs for rice and garden land at around \$25/m<sup>2</sup>, and a road of 2.3 km x 6 m wide, the costs would be around \$375,000 for land (not including loss of income, transition and vulnerability allowances). If only the land of the rice producers would be at stake, it would be around \$85,000.

Option 2: South of VV town, resettlement impacts:

Land on town side of the new bridge is land designated for OPWT following the Master Plan for Vang Vieng that proposes the road and bridge to the Western Loop here.

Lengths of road: 2 km (including 340 on town side of river with 100m going through an existing road and 240 m going through shrub land handed over to OPWT). Land on the other side of the river includes 200m is going through rice fields. With a price of \$25/m<sup>2</sup>, the costs for the land on this side would be only \$110,250 if all land is privately owned and if not crossing construction land. If it would cross the cleared land on the other side of the river, that land would have to be bought for around \$100/m<sup>2</sup>. It belongs to Mr. Sant from Vientiane. Before it was a rice field. It would be at most 75 m with a cost of \$120,000 (total would then be \$230,250). This is still a lot less than the total costs for Option 1.

The road through the Western Loop that will be upgraded will remain within the existing 6 m alignment. Along the full length of the 26km road, there were only 10 to 15 teak trees that were planted in the RoW that would be at risk and might have to be harvested before road construction.

#### Urban renewal subproject

The widening of footpaths will create better conditions for walking around the town. The expansion will be done towards the road side, so it will not acquire land. There might be minor disturbances to business during construction. It is apparent that there should be better management of the use of the footpaths as it is blocked by garbage, construction materials, cars and mobile vendors. The project could support the UDAA to find solutions in consultation with the owners of restaurants, hotels, shops and vendors on how to keep the footpaths open and clean. It would also help if the project could support the UDAA in finding solutions for the cars in which tourists are picked up in the morning to go on a tour as they are currently parking on the curve of the roads throughout town. Spaces where these cars could park and where tourists could gather and wait before leaving, could be found and designed.

#### **To be addressed in RP and IPP:**

##### Nam Ngum Subproject

###### 1. Parking lot:

There should be proof of an agreement with EDL Lao that the land under the power transmission line can be used as parking lot by the Tourist Office and this should include a statement of the height that buildings can be at that site (normally a building under a power line should not be higher than 15 meter)

###### 2. Waterfront:

- There is concern that the vendors who now pay very cheap rents will have to pay higher rents for both living and renting their market stalls.
- DMS must determine the exact loss of space (shop and living quarters) of all affected households (20) so that the replacement shops and houses will be equivalent.

- The project will make suggestions for replacement houses based on the current situation considering the possibility to develop homestays and in close consultation with all affected households.
- DMS will also investigate the average income and profit for each affected household so that the project would be able to determine possible income generating activities so that the economic situation of the affected households will not deteriorate because they will have to pay higher rents for both replacement house and rent.
- During the detailed design phase, the project will be in close consultation with the affected household about their preferences and needs for their replacement house and market shop.
- There should be mitigative and income generating actions at implementation of the subproject. This includes agreement with the District Authorities to waive rent for house and market stall for the first year; include all the vendors in the capacity building activities of the project; and, support the vendors to involve in handicraft production and selling to serve the tourist market.
- To provide all households that must relocate their house with certificates of the District Authorities that they can use the house at the resettlement site if they live there, and pass it to their children, but without the right to sell it
- Vendors could be involved in homestay and support for small businesses. In fact, some of the replacement housing might be constructed there with space for homestays in mind.

#### Solid Waste Land Fill subproject

No issues for RP. But in IPP:

- Within the capacity building component, the project should pay attention to safety and health measures, especially for children. Protective gear should be included.
- The site should be developed with appropriate safety measures.
- With dwindling income from the waste site, the project should involve the waste pickers and their families in the training and income generating activities of the project.
- The project should oblige the contractor of the waste site to include the waste pickers as laborers.
- UDAA should give priority to the current waste pickers to help in the new recycling facility. Although it is not envisaged that UDAA could employ more than a few of them, at least a few could have permanent employment in the new facility.

#### Kaeng Yui Waterfall subproject

As there is no relocation of houses or businesses and there will not be any disruption of business (because cooking and food preparation is mobile and can be set up anywhere outside the area where improvements are being made), there are no resettlement impacts. The planned parking lot is on land of the community. It is already designated as parking lot and a previous project already built a ticket booth and a toilet. There is no additional land required.

IPP:

- There should be continuous consultations with all stakeholders (the current vendors and the vendors in the Nadouang village who had their turn or will get a new turn in 5 or 6 years) about improvements to be made to the cooking and selling site near the waterfall. The project could help with drain and ground improvements in that area.



- Attention should be paid to safety of the recreation area including the small shelters for the visitors who come to eat.
- Under the capacity building and small business development component, the vendors could be helped in formulating their needs and preferences for the beautifying of the area and the construction of more appealing structures.

#### Western Loop and Bridge subproject

- DMS must determine losses of 3 owners on around 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> of rice land (which would cost around 30,000 LAK m<sup>2</sup>) plus the costs of rice production of around 372 kg (\$112) and possible loss of garden land (\$25 /m<sup>2</sup>).
- DMS will have to determine if some teak trees will have to be harvested before road construction as they are planted in the RoW.

#### Urban renewal subproject

- DMS must determine if there are minor losses of business income due to disturbances when constructing road drainages in the center of town although this is not foreseen.

## Photo Documentation of the Public Consultations and IOL



Existing road connect to Western Loop 12/07/17



Public consultation with Hmong minorities ethnic group at Ban Naxom 10/07/17



Public consultation for Western Loop at Ban Vang Vieng 11/07/17



Public consultation with lu Mien Minorities ethnic group at Nam Ngum Reservoir 12/07/17



Public consultation with APs in Nam Ngum Reservoir 13/07/17



Survey and data collection in Nam Ngum Reservoir 13/07/17



Consultation with Ethnic Minorities in Nam Ngum Reservoir



Consultation with Hmong in Ban Naxom, Western Loop

### **ANNEX 3: DESCRIPTION OF CULTURAL FEATURES OF SELECTED NON-TAI-KADAI ETHNIC GROUPS**

#### **Culture and Traditions of the Hmong (from interviews in Ban Naxom)**

Hmong kinship system is basically patrilineal with male household heads. Marriages come relatively early in life, predominately at 18 years of age with a few even below 18. Marriage practices are observed when couples are in love and want to get married. They usually inform their parents, after which the woman stays with the man in the man's parents' home for three days. Afterwards, the parents talk to arrange and set the marriage dates.

Divorce is also practiced. Common reasons for divorce include extreme domestic quarrels and alcoholic husbands who do not give money to their wife for household expenses.

Parents usually counsel their children to pay attention to education and allow them to go out with friends but with some restrictions.

Old parents live with their son's family.

Some festivals that are celebrated by the Hmong are Pimai or Lao New Year, after harvest festival where they celebrate and call the souls of their ancestors. Burying the dead is based on a good date for the funeral and the bodies are usually embalmed and buried in cemeteries.

#### **Culture and Traditions of the Khmu (from interviews with the waste pickers)**

Khmu are animists, worship their ancestors and call them during the Krer festivals celebrated in January-February each year. Another festival that they celebrate is Lao Pimai or New Year where they slaughter pig, chicken, drink wine and participate in merry making activities in the village.

Marriage among the Khmu involves the bride asking a dowry from the groom in the form of pigs, cows or rice and the couple are betrothed with the parents of both sides arranging the marriage

Funerals among the Khmu are simple where the remains are embalmed then buried in a cemetery.