

Report trip to conduct baseline survey in Vientiane, Lao PDR
27 February – 3 March 2017

By Socio-economic Section

I. Introduction

Co-management/Community based fishery management approach is being considered with inclusion of local fishing communities in managing the fishery as part of a participatory management body involving all stakeholders which should be applied to ensure participation by and empowerment of local fishing communities and other primary stakeholders in implementing management measures. The Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) of Lao PDR promotes fisheries official, fisheries communities, and institutions as the leaders or core persons to encourage fishers and farmers through transferring knowledge and activities on sustainable fisheries development and co-management in inland fisheries

In 2012-2016, SEAFDEC conducted TOT (Training on Trainer) on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Community-based Fisheries Management for Provincial officers in the Northern, Central and Southern part of Lao PDR to expand Co-management and Community-based Fisheries Management to wider area of Lao PDR. Regarding to strengthen the sustainable fisheries management by Co-management and Community based fisheries management, SEAFDEC will support to implement two pilot project in Lao PDR. As the first pilot site has conducted in Khammouane Province, DLF propose two target site in Vientiane, Lao PDR: Nam Houm Reservoir and Nam Xouang Reservoir to be selected as the second pilot site. It is necessary to conduct the baseline survey in two target area to gather the information of community and the main problems faced to understand the community situation. However, the information gained will be useful to decide the appropriate a pilot site as well as to develop the project activities and work plan.

II. Objectives

1. To conduct the baseline survey in Nam Houm and Nam Xouang Reservoir
2. To decide the second pilot site for co-management/CBRM project in Lao PDR
3. To identify the main problems and develop project activities of pilot site

III. Participants

SEAFDEC

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|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Isao | Koya | Secretariat |
| 2. Dr. Yuttana | Theparoonrat | Training Department |
| 3. Ms. Sumitra | Ruangsvakul | Training Department |
| 4. Ms. Thanyalak | Suasi | Training Department |
| 5. Ms. Yuri | Kataoka | Student of Tokyo University |

DLF, Lao PDR

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| 1. Mr. Akhane | Phomsouvanh | DLF Headquarter |
| 2. Ms. Dongdavanh | Sibounthong | DLF Headquarter |

3. Mr. Khamhou Thongsamouth DLF Headquarter

IV. Tentative schedule

- 27 Feb 2017** - Leave Bangkok to Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Discussion on background of the project and survey plan with DLF officers
- 28 Feb 2017** - Interview fishers at Nam Houm Reservoir
- Discussion on the issues of Nam Houm Reservoir by PDM method
- 1 Mar 2017** - Local meeting with Nam Xouang Reservoir Fisheries Management Committee of Naxaythong District
- Interviewing fishers at Banphosi, Nam Xouang Reservoir
- Interview fishers at Ban Nathep, Nam Xouang Reservoir
- 2 Mar 2017** - Interview fishers at Ban Nathep, Nam Xouang Reservoir (con't)
- Summary the main issues of pilot site and create the appropriate activities
- 3 Mar 2017** - Discussion with DLF officers on the future work plan
- Leave Vientiane, Lao PDR to Bangkok

V. Results

1. Discussion with DLF officers on the pilot project and survey plan

SEAFDEC team have meeting with DLF Headquarter officer on 27 February 2017 to discuss on the propose pilot project site in Vientiane, Lao PDR. *Dr. Yuttana Theparoonrat*, Coastal and Small-scale Fisheries Management Division Head of SEAFDEC/TD explained on the background of the project on Facilitating Fisheries Information Gathering through Introduction of Co-management/Community-based fisheries management (CBFM) that SEAFDEC have supported Lao PDR with the training course on introduction of Co-management and CBFM to fisheries officers in several parts of the country. In 2017, SEAFDEC plan to implement 2 pilot project, the first pilot project will be conducted in Khammouane Province and the second pilot project will request DLF to consider the appropriate pilot site in Vientiane. Then, Nam Houm and Nam Xouang Reservoir are proposed as the target site which will be selected after conducting baseline survey to know the community situation. The meeting discussion on the baseline survey plan, the data collection would be conducted at Nam Houm Reservoir on 28 February 2017 by interviewing 20 fishers and summarize the main issues as well as the survey at Nam Xouang Reservoir would interviewing fishers on 1-2 March 2017. The meeting will hold again on 3 March 2017 to decide the pilot site and develop the appropriate activities following the information gained from the communities.



Fig. 1-2 Discuss with DLF Lao PDR on the Pilot project site in Vientiane, Lao PDR

2. Interviewing fishers at Nam Houm Reservoir, Vientiane

The data collection was conducted in Nam Houm Reservoir on 28 February 2017. There are about 18 fishers who were interviewed on the general information, fishing operation and the main fisheries/non-fisheries issues of the community. The result of interview show that most fisher engage in fishing combine with agriculture and livestock. The main type of fishing gear is gill net and hook and line, they can catch fish 4-5 kilograms per day. Most fisher sell their catch to a middleman who has the right to buy fish from fishers in Nam Houm reservoir. The fishers faced the problems on illegal fishing from outsider using electric, some fishers do fishing in conservation area, and less water in dry season. However, we summarized the issues of Nam Houm Reservoir that are limited knowledge on Fisheries management and Fisheries law and regulation, the illegal fishing, lack of budget for patrolling activity, and the water of Nam Houm Reservoir was utilized for many sector: agriculture and irrigation. The conservation area should be clearly defined and the fishers suggest increasing fish releasing in the reservoir.



Fig.3.4 Interviewing fishers at Nam Houm Reservoir, Vientiane, Lao PDR

3. Meeting with Nam Xouang Reservoir Fisheries Management Committee of Naxaythong District

SEAFDEC team and DLF Headquarter have meeting with the Fisheries Management Committee (FMC) of Naxaythong District at Ban Sriwilai Village on 1 March 2017. The head of FMC explained on the background of the fishing community and the FMC establishment, he introduced on the Nam Xoung Reservoir located in the central part of northern Lao PDR. This FMC located in the lower of Nam Xouang Reservoir under administrative of Vientiane metropolitan. There are 5 village of Naxaythong District, Vientiane Metropolitan namely: Sriwilai, Phothai, Phosri, Thum and Phothong situated around Nam Xouang reservoir. The main occupation of the communities are rice field and fisheries. There are 5 middlemen in this FMC consist of 2 from Phosri village and 3 from Sriwilai village. There are 5 conservation zone in Nam Xouang Reservoir, as four area serve for close season. The main activities of FMC are following:

- Monthly meeting on date 25 of month
- Rule and regulation on Fisheries
- Define the Fisheries Conservation zone
- Patrolling in conservation area
- Fish releasing
- Training and transfer knowledge and information to the community
- Revolving Fund

In addition, Mekong River Commission (MRC) support this FMC by providing money about 16 million LAK for revolving fund.



Fig.5 Meeting with FMC at Naxaythong District



Fig.6 Location of Nam Xouang Reservoir

4. Interviewing fishers at Nam Xouang Reservoir

The fishing community around Nam Xouang Reservoir is situated covering two area, Vientiane Metropolis and Vientiane Province. The baseline survey was conducted on 1-2 March 2017 by face to face interview the fishers, 15 fishers in Phosri village, Naxaythong District, Vientiane Metropolis, locating the lower of Nam Xouang Reservoir and 10 Fishers from Nathep village of Vientiane Province which is located upper of Nam Xouang Reservoir. The result of this survey found that Most fishers engage in fisheries and agriculture especially, rice paddy field and livestock. The main fishing gear is gill net and hook and line, they can catch fish 10-15 kg/trip and the price of fish is 10,000-15,000 LAK per kg. They sell their catch to the middlemen and sell direct to consumer at the market. The main problems are illegal fishing, fishing gear stolen, lack of knowledge on fisheries law and regulation and unclear the conservation area.



Fig.7-8 Interviewing fishers at Nam Xouang Reservoir

5. Meeting on the site selection and discuss on the appropriate activities and work plan

SEAFDEC team have meeting with DLF officer to discuss on the selection of project site and project work plan. The baseline data collection of Nam Houm and Nam Xouang Reservoir were summarized to consider on site selection of the second pilot site. The meeting selected **Nam Xouang Reservoir** to be the pilot site focusing on the upper of Nam Xouang Reservoir because this area has no project implementation and the fishers lack of knowledge on fisheries law and regulation as well as the Co-management/CBFM, no fisher group in this area. While (Mekong River Commission) MRC have implemented the project in the lower of Nam Xouang Reservoir (Naxaythong District) and the FMC already establishment in this area. For Nam Houm Reservoir, SEAFDEC has implemented the project

on Fisheries Resources Enhancement since 2011, the fishing community have learnt on Co-management/CBFM through involving the project activities.

However, the meeting summarized the main issues found in Nam Xouang Reservoir and develop the project activities and work plan by using Project Design Metrix Method (PDM).

The project objective: The framework for resources management in Nam Xouang reservoir will be consolidated.

The output of the project:

- 1) Fisheries Management Committee (FMC) in 2 provinces will be established
- 2) Rule and regulation of fishing operation will be strengthening
- 3) Management of conservation zone

The activities of the project:

- 1) Establishment of Fisheries Management Committee
- 2) Strengthen rule and regulation
- 3) Management of conservation zone
 - Demarcation and Mapping Fish conservation zone
 - Fish Restocking program (e.g. releasing juvenile)
 - Training on fish shelter construction and installation

More detail of project show as ***Annex 1***



Fig.9-10 Summarized the main issues and develop work plan of Nam Xouang Reservoir

