

Social Science Methodology in SIA

- The Attapeu Project, which was funded by AusAID and sponsored by CGIAR CPWF in 2011, sought to develop and test a research methodology to strengthen the identification and disaggregation of existing livelihoods of ethnic minority villages impacted by hydropower and similar development.

- Researchers of the National University of Laos conducted a study of eleven villages impacted by the planned transmission line and by two of the dams : Xekhong 3 Upper and Xekhaman 1/Xekhaman Xanxai.
- Socio-economic questionnaire design and survey and related qualitative research was directed to detailed enumeration of household livelihoods by individuals and by seasonal activities.

- A second purpose of the research was to provide a database in a form which could be delivered for use directly by local – Provincial or District DESIA in the case of Laos – safeguard staff working with affected households.
- The format and content should permit them to work with the affected households to retain and restore existing livelihoods and to provide them with additional livelihoods and related development.

- Triangulation with village agro-ecological profiling was directed to identifying the basis of differing production systems, levels of production and exchange systems in differing environments and differing access to markets.

- The results of the research are provided in the summary paper in two main formats:
- That of Livelihoods Portfolio Analysis (LPA) in the form of household livelihoods dossiers setting out the livelihoods sources of all members of the household, which would be used by local safeguard agents working directly with affected communities and households; and
- Tabulated data on diversified livelihoods systems related to differing agro-ecological situations and differing access to external markets and services.

- The data in the LPA dossiers is the raw data taken directly from the completed socio-economic survey. Omitting computerisation at that stage makes the data management and its provision to managers economic in time and cost.
- The database provided in computerised tables and graphs is useable in project, framework and sectoral planning.
- Both sets of data – LPA of households and villages and computerised tables - are useable in monitoring and evaluation and future planning and resettlement management.