



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **SAFEGUARDS DISCLOSURE AND CONSULTATION PROCESS LAUNCHED**

**VIENTIANE, May 19, 2004** -- As part of the Government of the Lao PDR and the Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited (NTPC)'s information and consultation process on the Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric Project, NTPC is pleased to announce that the Project's environmental and social safeguards documents are currently being made available in their advanced draft versions on the Project's website [www.namtheun2.com](http://www.namtheun2.com) for public review and comments.

Altogether, three main safeguard documents have been produced for consultations with both the local people in the area of the Project site, and the national, regional, and international communities. These documents are the Environment Assessment and Management Plan (EAMP), the Social Development Plan (SDP) and the Social and Environment Management Framework and Operational Plan (SEMFOP):

#### **Safeguards disclosure:**

- The EAMP identifies and assesses the environmental impacts of the Project, and proposes a management plan to minimize, avoid or mitigate these impacts. The purpose of the EAMP is to ensure that the Project options under consideration are sound and sustainable. This is the first document released for consultation.
- The SDP is the overall management plan for resettlement and social development in the Project areas. It has been prepared with careful consideration of the ethnic minority component and gender issues. Its key economic objective is to assist the 1,000 families on the Nakai Plateau in their efforts to improve their incomes and standards of living after displacement. In addition, the SDP includes a policy framework to identify and address potential Project impacts in the downstream Xe Bang Fai areas, and to develop livelihood programs based on technical analysis and thorough anticipation of impacts. Finally, the SDP draws the plan to identify household level impacts related to the acquisition of project lands and agrees on mitigation measures.
- The SEMFOP is the management plan for the conservation of the Project watershed, which comprises most of the "Nakai-Nam Theun National Biodiversity Conservation Area" (NNT NBCA). The NNT NBCA is the largest protected area in Laos and is considered one of the most important areas for biodiversity in Southeast Asia. It is nine times the size of the area on the Nakai Plateau to be converted into a reservoir, and will be conserved, together with its adjoining corridors linking it to two other national protected areas, as a trade off to the reservoir creation. The SEMFOP lays out the plan on how to manage this protected area, and identifies related social development and biodiversity conservation measures. NTPC has committed to finance the implementation of the SEMFOP at an average of US\$ 1 million per year during the entire term of the Project concession between NTPC and the Government.

#### **Public Consultations:**

Further to a first stage of local consultations that had been conducted in 1997 during the early years of the Project development, a second and more comprehensive consultation programme at the local level has started on May 10, 2004 on the Nakai Plateau. This process, which will be



continuing during May and June, will then cover the downstream area along the Xe Bang Fai River, and the villages situated within the Project protected watershed.

Further to the consultations at the local level, the Government and NTPC will continue the conduction of a series of consultations at the national, regional and international levels through seminars and workshops to be conducted between August and September 2004. Exact dates and locations will be notified soon. In the meantime, NTPC invites the Public to download and review the Advanced Draft Safeguards documents. Comments and feedbacks can be made online thanks to the “React on the Documents” feature that has been created for that purpose.

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*For more information about the Nam Theun 2 Project, please visit our website  
<http://www.namtheun2.com>*