Laws, Policy, Rules and Guidelines for Environmental Conservation in Myanmar

Constitution 2008

- Sec. 45
  The Union shall protect and conserve natural environment

- Sec. 390 (b)
  Every citizen has the duty to assist the Union carrying out the environmental conservation

- To achieve harmony and balance between socio-economic, natural resources and environment through the integration of environmental considerations into the development process enhancing the quality of the life of all its citizens.

- Environmental protection should always be the primary objective in seeking development.
Laws, Policy, Rules and Guidelines for Environmental Conservation in Myanmar

- Environmental Conservation Law, March 30, 2012
- Environmental Conservation Rules, June 5, 2014
- In connection with Investment Law and Rules which is main entrance of proposal for large-scale project or business or activity
Preparation of Guidelines (In Progress)

- EIA Procedures (ADB)(completed)
- Technical Guidelines for EIA (ADB)
- Consultant Registration Scheme (JICA)
- Guidelines for Oil and Gas Sector
  (Norwegian Environment Agency)
### Hydropower Development Project Categorization in EIA procedure (Draft)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IEE</th>
<th>EIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>❖ Power Generation 1 MW ≥ IEE &lt; 15 MW</td>
<td>❖ Power Generation 15 MW ≥ EIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❖ Water Storage &lt; 20,000,000 cubic meter</td>
<td>❖ Water Storage 20,000,000 cubic meter ≥ EIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❖ Water Storage Area &lt; 400 hectare</td>
<td>❖ Water Storage Area 400 hectare ≥ EIA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social Concerns in EIA procedures

(Draft)

Section (7)
Projects that involve Involuntary Resettlement or which may potentially have an adverse Impact on Indigenous People shall comply with specific procedures separately issued by the responsible ministries. Prior to the issuance of such specific procedures, all such Projects shall adhere to international good practice (as accepted by international financial institutions including the World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank) on Involuntary Resettlement and Indigenous Peoples.

Section (59)
The Project Proponent is obliged to use, comply with and refer to applicable national and international standards adopted by the Union Government and/or the Ministry, or, in the absence of relevant national or adopted international standards, such standards as may be agreed with the Ministry.
Major Environmental and Social Impacts by Hydropower Development Projects

- **Divert natural waterway** (Dams and rivers collect water for the production of electricity which alters the natural system of water flow thus depriving houses of the water they need.)

- **Forest Degradation** (Large amounts of plant life are submerged and decay anaerobically (in the absence of oxygen) generating greenhouse gases like methane)

- **Habitat Loss** (The migratory pattern of river animals are affected.)
Major Environmental and Social Impacts by Hydropower Development Projects

- Large dams are breeding grounds for mosquitoes and cause the spread of disease.

- Dams serve as a heat sink, and the water is hotter than the normal river water. This warm water when released into the river downstream can affect animal life.

- Dams restrict sediments that are responsible for the fertile lands downstream. Farmers use chemical fertilizers and pesticides to compensate for the loss in productivity.
Major Environmental and Social Impacts by Hydropower Development Projects

- **Resettlement** (change in life style and customs, even causing emotional scarring)
- Farmers downstream who used to wait for the flooding of the fields to plant their seeds are affected.
Thank you for your attention!

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