

SUSTAINABILITY
MEANS THINKING
BASIN-WIDE



ESG Advisory – Asia Pacific

Integrated Planning through Landscape-level approaches

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



Ministry of Economy
and Finance



Hydropower
Developers'
Working Group



POWERED
BY WOMEN
Nepal





Upstream: Landscape Advisory

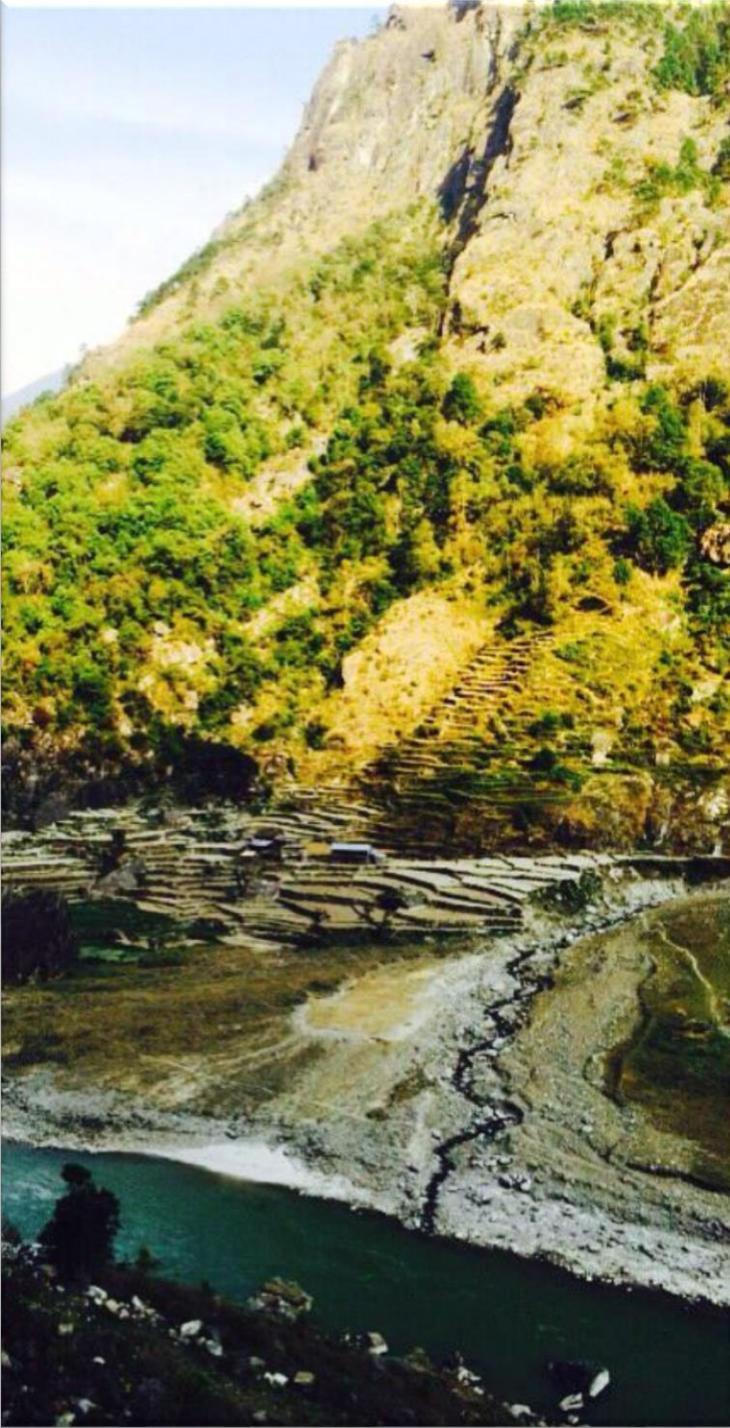
- A Landscape Advisory initiative is any on-the-ground E&S intervention that addresses risks that are beyond the ability of any one company to address on its own.
- Such an initiative creates an enabling environment as early as possible in the project cycle to increase private sector investment in the real sector by unlocking complex E&S challenges.



De-risk E&S issues when investment project(s) are already in pipeline

Engage to create a bankable pipeline of projects in a particular sector, country-wide





Landscape: Focusing on our watersheds to balance development & conservation

- When operating in such complex environments ESG challenges are **often beyond the ability of one company to solve alone....**
- Sectors that depend on the presence of natural resources tend to be **geographically concentrated** (e.g., hydropower, wind and solar power, agribusiness, OGM), **collectively affecting the same E&S receptors** (e.g., communities, biodiversity, human rights, water, security)
- **The standard approach of assessing risks and impacts through a project-only lens is inherently limited** when companies are operating in close proximity – companies will not readily share data or collaborate on assessments, leading to a duplication of efforts and an inability to monitor as data collection methods are often variable
- **Addressing key E&S issues at the ESIA stage, is often too late** for effective management, especially when operating in sensitive environments
- There is **a barrier to investment when no single entity has the ability, leverage and technical know-how to convene multiple stakeholders** to collectively address risks and impacts and define solutions
- Upstream engagement is required to **avoid impacts** and the need for high-risk, costly mitigations (e.g. offsets) and reduce the chances of unexpected delays arising from stakeholder concerns

Cumulative Impact Assessment: Hydropower Development in the Trishuli River Basin, Nepal

Challenges

- 216 MW UT-1 HPP in Nepal; complicated E&S landscape, limited capacity of government, stakeholder engagement, IPs; project on mainstem of Trishuli R.
- Lack of knowledge of basin wide impacts; lack of data; consistent survey methods
- Lack of understanding of Local shares requirements & IPs
- Lack of attention to gender
- Project-by-project approach.

Integrated Solutions

- Brought together all developers in TRB through Forum & exchanges at technical level between Nepal and Pakistan - **convener**.
- Partnered with GoN & ICIMOD to improve EIA guidance; conducted Local Shares study; comprehensive basin-wide CIA; Environmental flows assessment, river connectivity transects, pioneered eDNA to monitor aquatic species, 1st FPIC, stakeholder, gender, etc. - **technical lead**.
- **End-result:** Improved understanding through basin-wide studies/knowledge development; a multi-stakeholder platform to manage cumulative impacts, Locals shares policy guidance note to GoN and practitioners on Nepal's experience with offering shares in hydropower companies to PAPs. Business case for gender diversity in Nepal's Hydropower Sector launched.

Opportunity



Cumulative Impact Assessment and Management (CIA): Hydropower Development in the Trishuli River Basin

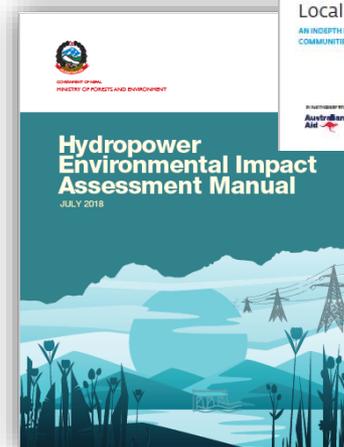
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Local Shares

AN INDEPTH EXAMINATION OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO INVEST IN HYDROPOWER PROJECTS IN NEPAL

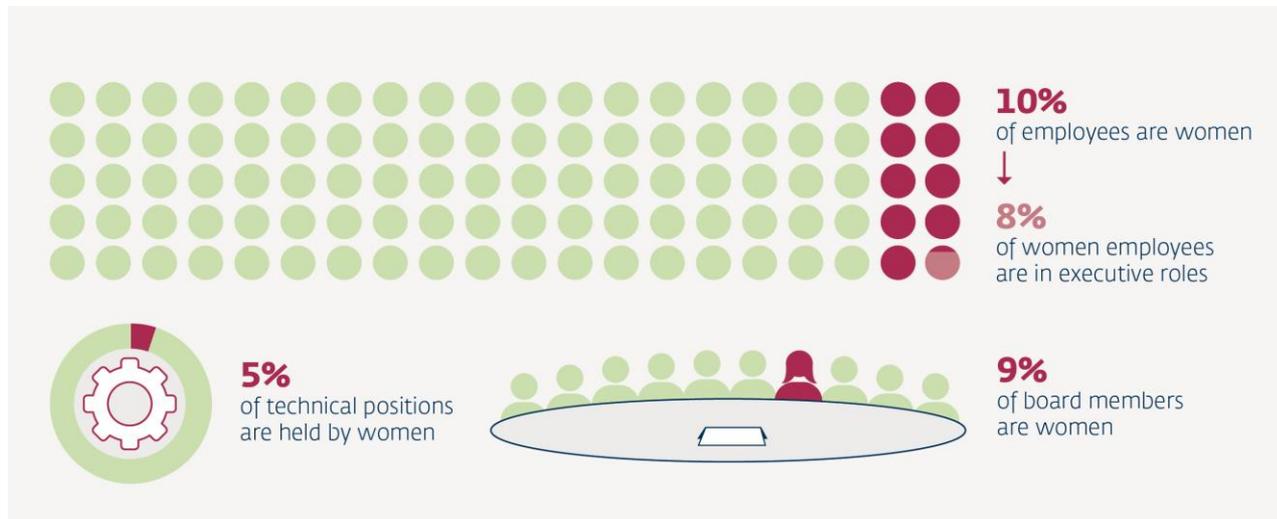
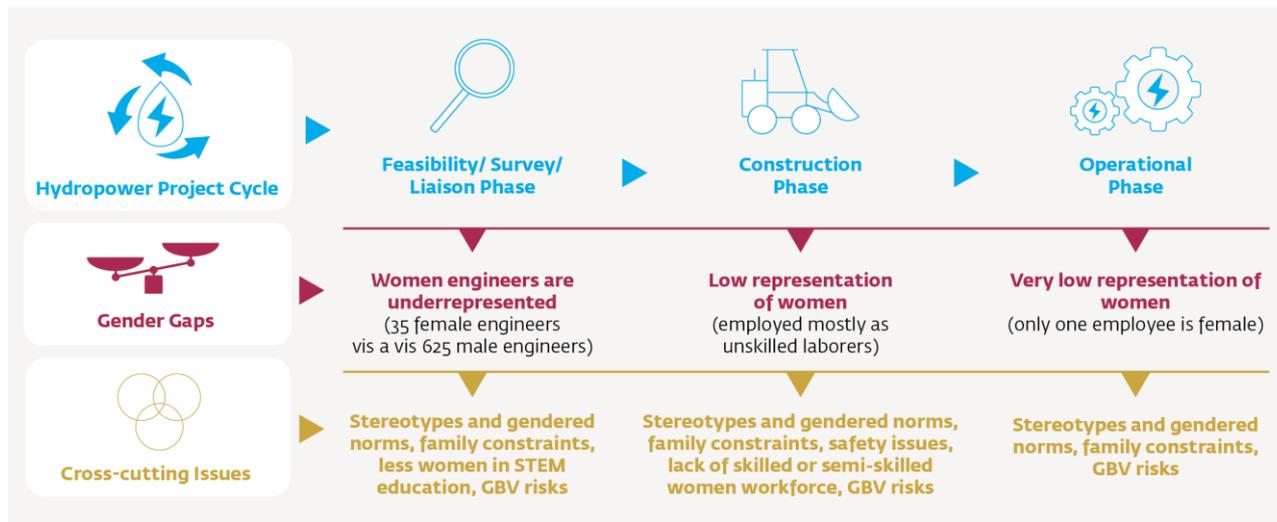
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MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENT

Hydropower Environmental Impact Assessment Manual
JULY 2018

Gender gaps and cross-cutting issues in the hydropower project cycle



Recommendations to implement management actions

| Aspect/ Intervention Area | High Management |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Fish Protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of sufficient river or wildlife guards in the entire river stretch and all the tributaries • Preparation and implementation of sustainable fishing plans • Development of indigenous fish hatcheries for fish stocking |
| Sand, Sediment, Gravel Mining | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of mining supervisors and guards in the entire river stretch and tributaries • Preparation of and implementation of sustainable sediment mining plan • High protection in the tributaries |
| Ecological Flow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the E-Flow in framework of adaptive management |
| Fish Passages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up fish ladders at all the dams • Reviewing and implementing contemporary and innovative designs for fish passages to reduce barrier levels |
| Fish Hatcheries and Farming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of hatcheries for commercially valuable fish • Breeding and stocking of indigenous fish in sections of rivers and tributaries where isolation of the population cannot be avoided. |
| Watershed Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of water quality through control and treatment of household and industrial effluents to benefit the communities as well as the river ecosystem • Reduction of erosion through afforestation to stabilize slopes |
| Government policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving spawning grounds; • Limiting hydropower development, especially in pristine stretches and certain tributaries |

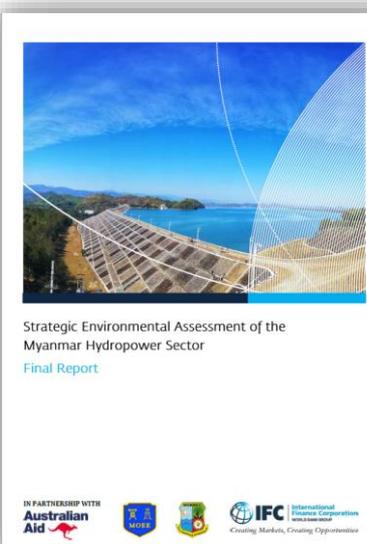
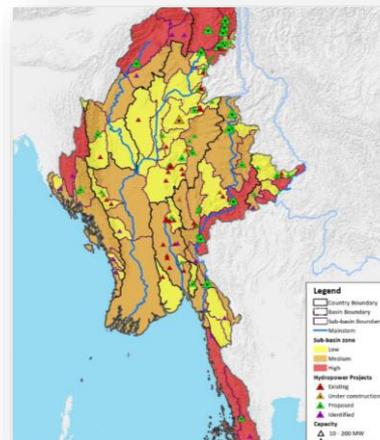
Hydropower Sector: Myanmar Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

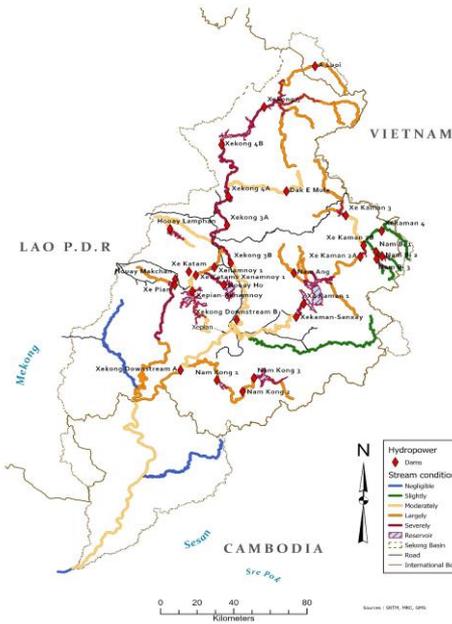
Opportunity

- Opening power sector key part of WBG strategy in Myanmar
- The objectives:
 - SEA provides an informed pathway for each major basin that takes a balanced approach, aiming to replace piecemeal project-by-project planning;
 - Designed to strike the balance between maintaining basin health and power development and facilitated market development;
 - Provides input to optimization studies, informs E&S requirements in tender documents.

Upstream Solution

- We brought together the developers through creation the Myanmar Hydropower Developers' Association, NGOs/CSOs and government authorities; created Advisory Group (58 engagements) – *convener*
- Developed a replicable methodology for hydropower: conducted 7 baseline E&S thematic studies, evaluated E&S+ conflict conditions & trends,; hydropower BAU sustainability analysis and prepared a sustainable development framework - *technical lead*
- Achieved government agreement on the basin zoning/risk register - *negotiator*
- **End-result:** The first comprehensive study to assess & plan complex system-level natural resource and development issues; tool for decision-making by government & private sector; conducted first CIA; guidance for IFC to select projects in lower risk basins and provide vital upfront information –*paving the way for de-risking investments*



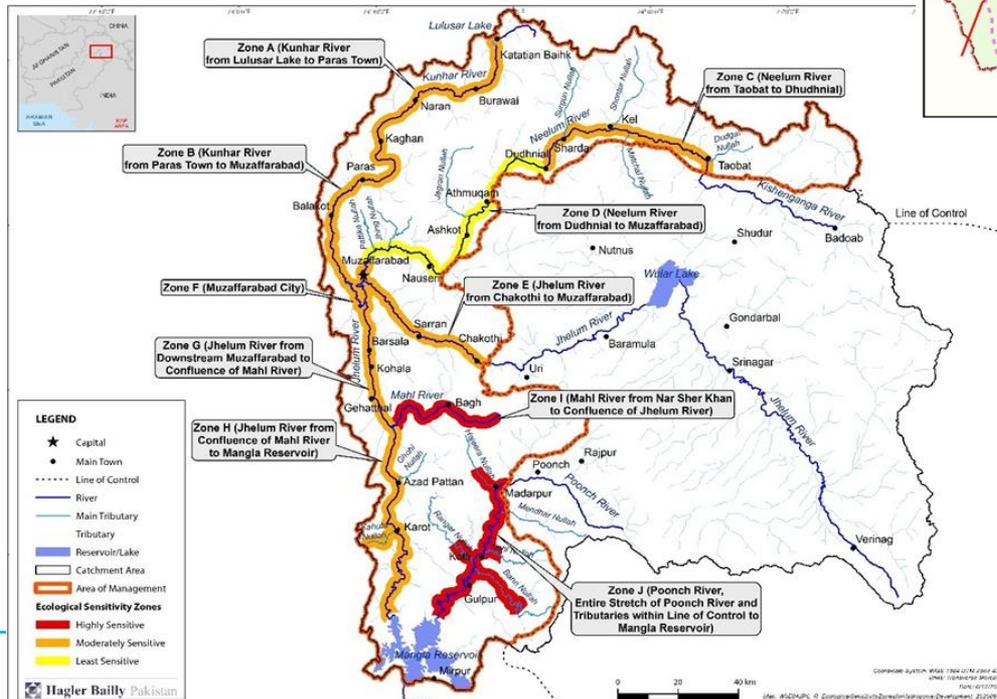
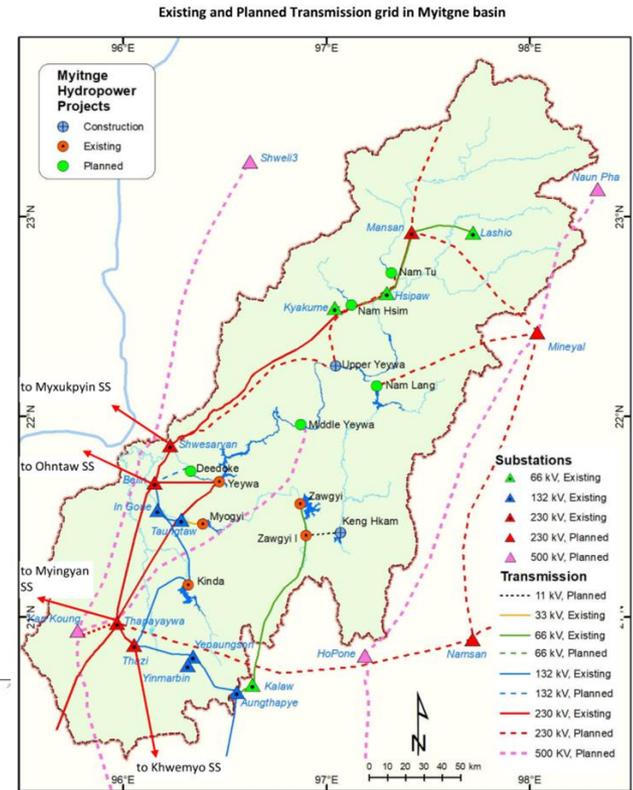


Building a solid methodology to assess E&S risks at earliest stages of development.

Replicating.

Exchanging knowledge upstream & downstream

Sekong.
Myitgne.
Jhelum-Poonch.



THANK YOU

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