WHAT IS RELEVANT FOR DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS?

- The current financial structure of power utilities is a “race to the bottom”. Companies are ambush for energy efficiency, because low-running is more profit.

- Private power plants are in export energy, which shows the adequate need to meet domestic consumption.

- A power plant with high voltage lines and ready outlets to provide energy can sell the available energy from different sources and ensures a stable energy supply. The transportation of the electric energy, and constant supply of energy efficient which could also be environmentally-friendly. However, dams built black market energy, leading to a reduction in fished stocks, which is in turn utilized to feed fisheries. Dams also block the water systems, which is a threat to the natural habitats of the fish.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

- About 70% of the Mekong population is rural. The rural inhabitants are the most affected in the maintenance, function and quality of the river.

- The latest technology is already being used in the energy sector. The ADB has helped set up a market authority and regulations for national trade.

- The ADB has at least three policies that relate to dams building, specifically: Energy Policy, Power Policy, and Water Policy.

- The new energy policy emphasizes the importance of renewable energy, such as hydropower. The Bank considers hydropower projects as clean and renewable.

- The Water Policy puts emphasis on the importance of adequate distribution of water for different uses in the region, as in an integrated holistic approach for river basins. It promotes "informed participation of government, civil society, and other stakeholders in the river basin so as to ensure its proper use and management".

- Safeguards Policy enforces policy concerning Dam Impact Assessment (DIA), Environmental People and the Environment. The Bank claims that it is questionable whether such a development will be beneficial and welfare acceptable to the local people, who are often poorly educated and have limited options for alternative livelihoods. The ADB can be liable to civil and ecological damage if the project impacts on the environment.

- The ADB needs to implement its safeguards policies in order to avoid, minimize and mitigate any adverse impact on Indigenous People and the Environment. The ADB Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy ensures that the Bank has no direct involvement in the construction of dams, but it is interested in the avoidance, mitigation and monitoring of the impacts of the projects.

- The ADB has helped set up a market authority and regulations for national trade.

- The ADB will assess in its member countries with a continued support for renewable energy such as hydropower. The Bank considers hydropower projects as clean and renewable.

- The ADB, in the interest of climate change, has found renewable energy a viable option for power generation. The ADB considers hydropower as a clean energy source.

CHALLENGES

- If the ADB does not build the high-voltage transmission lines, then certainly none of the dams will be built at all. As the projects are in frontier, valuable investments must be considered. The ADB claims that development must be considered. Investment in power generation and transmission must be considered.

- The ADB’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy ensures that the Bank is interested in the avoidance, mitigation and monitoring of the impacts of the projects.
The ADB Safeguards and Accountability Mechanisms Policies

The ADB Safeguards Policies are supposed to guide ADB operations so that they meet the Bank’s minimum social and environmental standards. The ADB requires its clients to comply with these standards, otherwise the Bank may withhold financing for the project or activity that are not in compliance.

You can find Safeguards on the ADB’s website: http://www.adb.org/Safeguards/

The ADB has also created an Accountability Mechanism that holds the bank accountable to its own safeguards policies. It responds to grievances from citizens about the Bank’s projects and their impact on environmental and social impacts of ADB-funded projects.

You can find the Accountability Mechanism on the ADB’s website: http://www.adb.org/ADBReview/

CONTACT INFORMATION OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON THE ISSUE OF HYDROPOWER

Both ENDs

Musir Kaneangany 45
1013 EV, Australian
Phone: +6135208180
Email: info@bothends.org

www.bothends.org

International Rivers

2019 Market Street, Suite 600
Berkeley, CA 94710-1304
USA
Phone: +1 510 848 1155
Email: info@internationalrivers.org

http://www.internationalrivers.org

TERRA

355 Washington St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
USA
Phone: +1 415 286 8860
Email: info@terra.org

www.terra.org

NGO Forum on ADB

48-A Masikap Ext., Central District
Metro Manila, Philippines
Phone: +63 2 845 2322
Email: secretariat@forum-adb.org

www.forum-adb.org

Overseas Development Institute

132 Longacre Street, Carter Vertin
London N1 9RF
UK
Phone: +44 207 367 9550
Email: info@odi.org.uk

www.odi.org.uk

FURTHER READINGS


Dear Mr. Minister,

ADB recognizes the importance of private sector involvement in the energy sector. ADB is committed to supporting the development of sustainable energy infrastructure and policies. Therefore, we are sending you the following recommendations:

1. Promote private sector participation in electricity generation, transmission, and distribution.
2. Provide financing for renewable energy projects.
3. Strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks to support private sector investments.
4. Encourage partnerships between the public and private sectors.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]