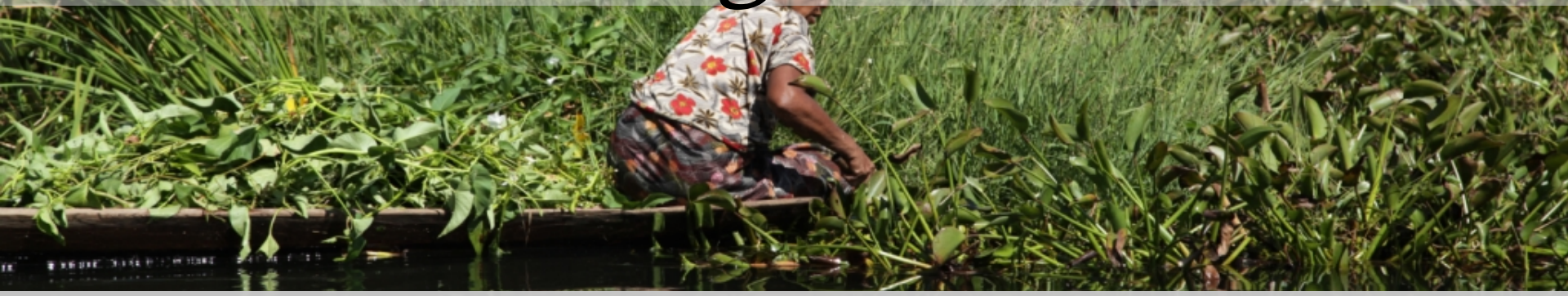
GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION
CORE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Emerging Policy & Strategic Directions:

Safeguards



21st Annual Meeting of the
GMS Working Group on Environment
23 June 2015

Context

- Government strongly committed to improving natural resources management and environmental governance
- MOECAF's revised mandate and role emphasizes sustainable natural resources and environmental quality management, with the latter theme having been addressed through the addition of a new Environmental Conservation Department
- The shift in mandate and additional roles of MOECAF has important implications for institutional capacity in the short- and long-term
- ECD in particular is contending with functional and technical capability gaps, both of which must be addressed if the department is to effectively contribute to overall ministerial performance
- An additional need exists for safeguards capacity building across key development sectors

Capacity and Capability Needs

- Ensuring that ECD possesses sufficiently trained staff to fulfill their mandated functions, including
  - IEE and EIA report review and approval
  - Monitoring project EMP compliance at national, regional and state levels
  - Environmental quality (emission) guideline application, monitoring and interpretation
  - Pilot application of SEA to special economic zones
- Development of ambient environmental quality standards
- Expand environmental quality management capacity and capability across relevant sectors (e.g. agriculture and irrigation, construction, energy, transport, industry, mines)

CEP Technical Assistance

- During 2013-2014 CEP supported development of:
  - EIA Procedure
  - EIA technical guidelines
  - Environmental quality (emission) guidelines
- Planned follow up support under CEP in 2015-2016 will include development of:
  - IEE and summary EIA technical guidelines
  - Ambient environmental quality standards
- CEP has additionally been requested to build capacity through undertaking a special economic zone SEA
- CEP safeguard activities will link with a new ADB capacity development technical assistance that scales up CEP support for establishment of EIA system and capacity building in EIA review, and compliance and monitoring

Sustainability Strategy

- CEP safeguard strengthening support has established a solid foundation for future technical assistance
- Follow up CEP safeguard activities combined with ADB's capacity development technical assistance will further enhance ECD's procedural and technical capacity and provide comprehensive support for safeguard application
- Expanding contributions of other development partners (e.g. Australia, Canada, Japan, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, World Bank) are combining to ensure broad long-term safeguard strengthening support, including across key development sectors:
  - Sector-specific (e.g. oil and gas, mining) capacity building and technical guidelines
  - Supporting ECD on pollution prevention and abatement, and hazardous waste management
  - Establishment of environmental management fund

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Thank you