



Charles Sturt
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Session 6: **GEDSI - Ensuring equitable solutions in development projects**

Presentation: **Challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming GEDSI in river development planning and implementation**

2ND LOWER MEKONG RIVER FISH PASSAGE CONFERENCE 2025

FEBRUARY, 5 – 7 2025
SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Dr. Eang Chorney
Royal University of Phnom
Penh (RUPP)

INTRODUCTION

Mekong river:

- The twelfth-longest river in the world
- The third-longest in Asia
- Length of 4,909 km and Surface water coverage of 795,000 km²

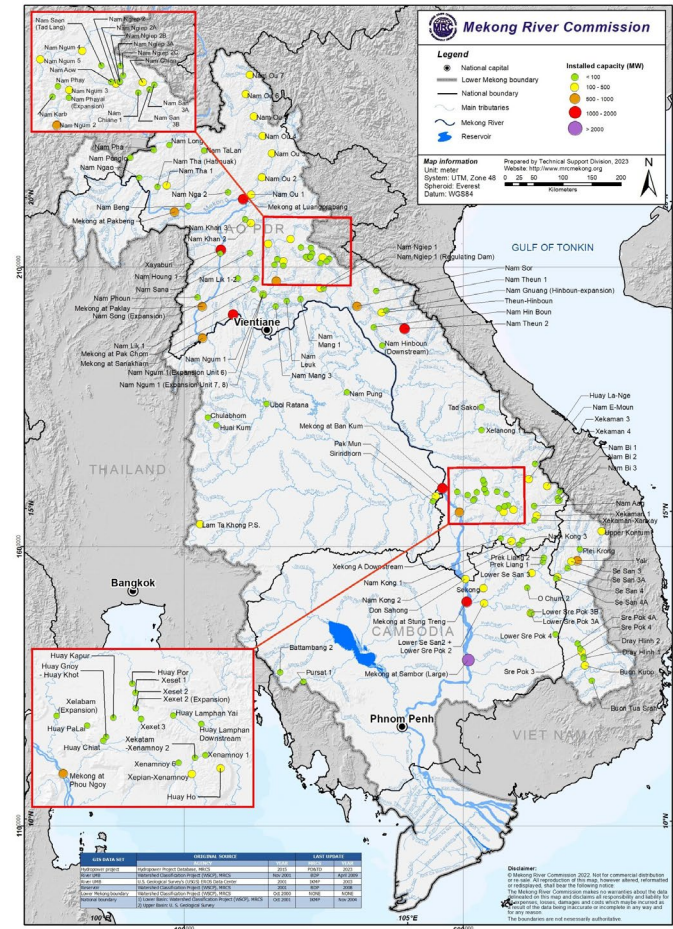
Regional Issues are water and food because of widespread poverty and high population growth with weak of governance structure (by mekongwetlands.org).



RIVER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Present population in the Mekong basin 63 million to 72 million during the 1995–2005 period, and a further increase of 60% is projected by 2050 (Pech and Sunada, [2008](#)).

Consideration on climate change and renewable sources of energy, investment and trade on hydropower are increased. Dams construction could have widespread environmental changes, ecological and social impacts (MRC2024).



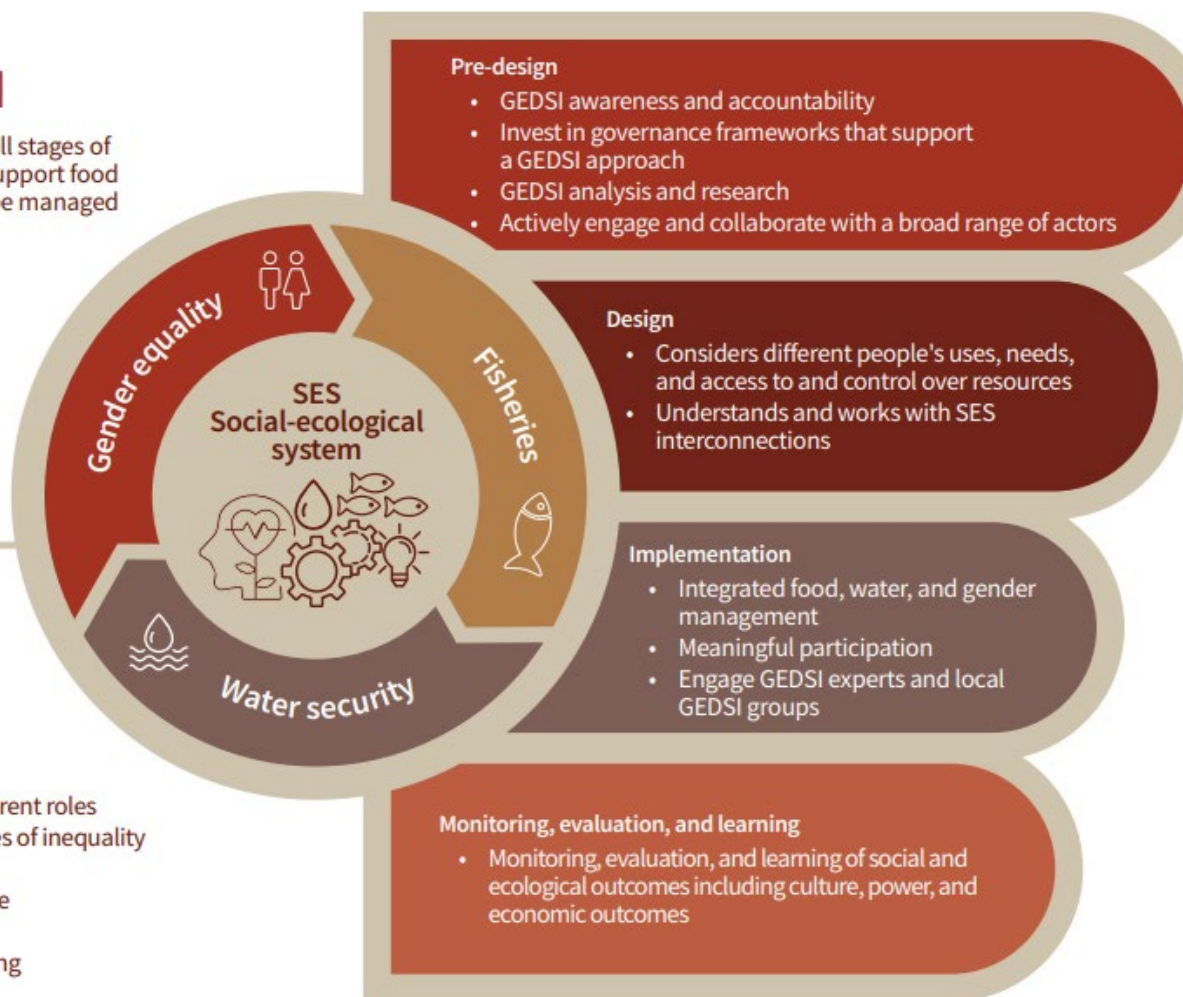
GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GEDSI)

Why GEDSI

Considering GEDSI at all stages of the project cycle can support food and water systems to be managed fairly and sustainably.

GEDSI key principles

- Inclusivity
- Values all and different roles
- Address root causes of inequality
- Context specific
- Holistic governance
- Do no harm
- Adequate resourcing



FISHTECH PROJECT

Implemented partners of FishTech Project (led by CSU):



Existing activities integrated with GEDSI (FAO 2023):

1. Fish passage Masterclasses
2. Divers team and roles
3. Fish monitoring
4. Baseline assessments
5. Capacity building
6. Scholarship support with gender balance
7. Evaluation and learning plan



Cambodian Projects Partners



Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries



Ministry of Water Resources
and Meteorology

FISHTECH PROJECT (CON'T)

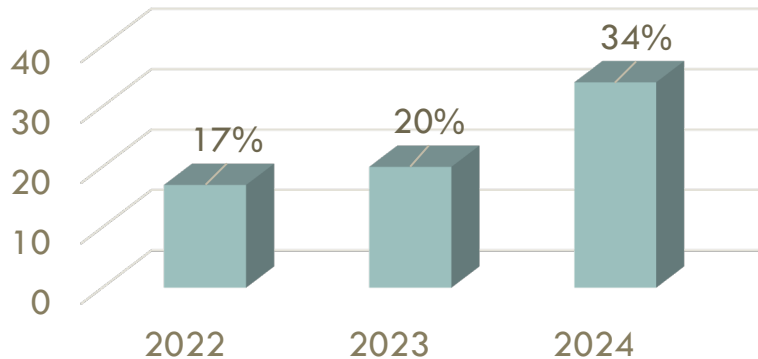
Outcomes:

1. Diverse Participants and filling knowledge gaps
2. Improve compliance and traceability via Fish Monitoring
3. GEDSI survey and awareness
4. Food security and sharing for upper and lower stream around dams



Sranat Kralanh | 2023.09.15 09:14

Fish Passage Masterclasses
, Participation of Female



FISHTECH PROJECT (CON'T)

What are the activities for GEDSI?

- ❑ Location: Sleng Weir, Kralanh District, Siem Reap Province
- ❑ Scoping: river interaction, fish passage, demographics, women, disabilities, and social inclusion.
- ❑ Responds to the Findings of people: Fish pass compartments are a risk factor for children. Women and disabilities have less access to information, fishing, employment, and fish monitoring.

(Sleng Dam Fish Pass, 2023)



FISHTECH PROJECT (CON'T)

Challenges and Opportunities

- ❑ Require a broader cross-section of communities, information, and involvement
- ❑ Need engineering-type designs to display as a poster for safety

“Diversifying of needs from diverse groups lead to sustainable development”

(Sleng Dam Fish Pass, 2023)



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Mekong River development and challenges in Cambodia:

- ☐ Climate-adaptive water resources management
- ☐ Improvement Water Security
- ☐ Rehabilitate Irrigation Schemes Damaged by 2020 Severe Floods
- ☐ Water Management



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

What have we done?



“Impairment alone does not create disability. Disability arises when barriers in the environment, attitudes, or systems prevent individuals with impairments from a fully participating.”

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

**Implement rivers
developments Project
opportunities:**

1. Protecting biodiversity
2. Water and river
Management
3. Scientific Research and
Policy

**Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs):**

Goal 6 (Clean Water and
Sanitation),

Goal 13 (Climate Action), and

Goal 15 (Life on Land).





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Gulbali Institute

Agriculture Water Environment

2nd Lower Mekong Fish Passage Conference February 2025 Program

THANKS

Any Questions?