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Population Displacement

Song Hinh, Vietnam

Resettlement of people displaced by the Song Hinh project, Vietnam, featured extensive consultation, the resettled people being provided with information and opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.

Overview

The Song Hinh Multipurpose Project is a part of Vietnam's strategic plan for power development in the nation and for the socio-economic development of the central part of the country. The Government of Vietnam officially approved the Song Hinh Project in November 1993, construction started in November 1995 and in January 1996 the Hinh River was diverted for the construction of the main dam. The Song Hinh Power Plan commenced generation in April 2000 and contributes around 370 GWh per year.

The Song Hinh project consists of:

- A 43 metre high, 800 metre-long earthfill dam on the Hinh River and five 15 metre-high auxiliary dams with a total length of 4,600 metres to contain the reservoir.
- A 45 square kilometre reservoir.
- A 70 megawatt capacity power plant.
- A 1.5 kilometre tunnel and 540 metre penstock to divert a maximum of 57 cubic metres per second from the Hinh River to the powerhouse and via a tailrace to the Con River.
- A weir on the con River and a new irrigation system for 8,700 hectares of agricultural land.

Dam Name

Scheme operator
Electricity of Vietnam

Size of scheme (MW)
70

Country Vietnam	Catchment area
River Hinh River	Effective reservoir capacity 357 x 10 ⁶ m ³
Construction years 1995-2000	Reservoir size 4100 ha
External recognition Nil	

Details

A number of ethnic groups existed within the inundation zone of this project, including Cham, Hroi, Bana, and Ede, with the latter group comprising 46% of the total population. The families within this poverty stricken subsistence farming region were scattered and principally produced annual crops rather than orchards or forests.

Inundation of the reservoir area resulted in the following losses:

- 10 km of earthen roads
- 412 households across 10 villages
- 446.7 ha of cultured farmland
- 440.9 ha of residential land

The policy of the Song Hinh Project Management Board (PMB) was to not only replace or compensate for loss of assets, but to ensure that people displaced by the dam benefit from a higher standard of living than previously. The key mitigation measures that were applied in the resettlement program are:

- *Stakeholder engagement and communication*

Displaced people were invited to participate in decision making meetings relating to the resettlement program, including choice of resettlement area, location within the resettlement area, timing of relocation and compensation.

- *Choice of resettlement lifestyle*

A number of alternative relocation sites were made available, and villagers were given the opportunity to choose their preferred resettlement location. Villagers were also given the opportunity to individually choose the type of housing constructed for them (traditional wooden or brick), contributing to satisfaction and stability in the new communities.

- *Compensation*

Financial compensation was provided to displaced people.

- *Safe Water*

The construction of 72 wells ensures that drinking water within the resettled communities is of an acceptable standard.

- *Infrastructure projects*

Roads, schools and health stations were constructed and contributed to improved lifestyle within the resettled population.

Other aspects

Nil

Further information

Source: Hydropower Good Practices Workshop, Annex VIII - Examples for Good Practice Report, Villach, Austria, October 2005. International Energy Agency.

<http://www.evn.com.vn/>