

## **Summary: How a China-Built Dam Destroyed an Ecosystem and Livelihoods**

Due to the Cambodian government intervention within the local area near the Mekong river by forcing citizens who live near there to leave, instead they built the dam with the support of China. An article showed that there are lots of direct and indirect negative impacts to both the environment and economic system within the country.

Firstly, of course, by asking local people to leave their home, it will affect their daily life which requires the government to pay some compensation for this huge change. But according to what they really provide, money and treatment, it's not enough for them as they must find a new job and so on. From this, it also impacts their income which may include the local market systems as well. According to their knowledge, this group of people mainly have jobs as a fisher and farmer, but when they have to move far away from the river, the new location doesn't really make their job easier. It creates more disadvantages for them such as requiring more cost and time for traveling if they prefer to fish, or more risk of farming as the soil is dry and rocky, or even the lack of water supply, so it forces them to pay for this part too.

In terms of the local economic system, the price market of some goods, especially fish will be higher as fish supply is lower than usual which will create the excess demand in the market. Or other stuff such as fishing equipment, household goods, or forest products will be affected as well.

Secondly, by building the dam, it's equivalent to a wall which blocks all native fish. This means that it will destroy local aquatic life; feeding and reproduction cycle. In the long term, there is a chance that some species will be extinct. Due to the information provided in an article, it states that some people who reject to leave and recently live in the forest near the river found that the population of fish is decreasing drastically and the size also smaller. In the long term, this may be the main problem as there might be a lack of productivity and create more scarcity which can be one significant factor that needs to be concerned for their country.

Moreover, according to Cambodia's geography, their location doesn't fit for hydroelectric dams as there is a lack of mountains to create power from falling water. So, this requires a large space of land to create this kind of energy. This means that most of the agricultural area will be used for dams. Along with this condition, it leads to creating more carbon dioxide and methane which is the cause of global warming. As all vegetation and some others will be covered by water so it all will die and continually decompose under water. Some expertise said that this amount of carbon footprint is equivalent to fossil fuels. As long as this problem continues to increase, it will not only impact the environment but also the economy too. For instance, the season will be changed; some years may have flooding or drought, which could affect the local production and market equilibrium locally and globally.

In summary, the Cambodia government may choose the wrong decision as they have to trade off with lots of negative impacts. When comparing its opportunity cost, it seems to be not really worth it for what they will lose.