



Annex 1: Summary of Concerns in Villages Visited

On 14-18 June 2012, International Rivers visited fifteen villages that are affected by the Xayaburi project and interviewed 77 households. All of these villages are located near or upstream of the dam site. If the dam becomes operational, land in each of the villages will be flooded. This will include loss of riverbank gardens, cash crops, and houses. In some cases, enough of the village will be flooded to require resettlement of the entire village to a new location. Some villages are also being resettled to make room for construction activities. The company has visited each village, usually around two to four times, and has promised compensation for losses and new jobs such as aquaculture, livestock, and mushroom farming. Nevertheless, villagers expressed a number of concerns related to food security.

Villages visited	Main concerns of villagers
<p>Ban Houay Souy (now called Ban Na Tor Mai)</p> <p><i>Located near Xayaboury town about 17 km from the river. Population: 65 households. We visited on June 18 and interviewed 7 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First village to be resettled: This village was already resettled in January 2012. See the main text for more details.
<p>Ban Pak Neun</p> <p><i>Located immediately at the dam site. Population: 89 households. We visited on June 16 and spoke to a number of villagers. We asked about the status of dam construction and resettlement plans, but did not conduct comprehensive interviews on their livelihoods due to security concerns.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next village to be resettled: The entire village will be resettled to Houay Hip and will lose all of its riverbank gardens. The village is very active in gold panning, which is a significant source of income. Gold panning will be lost. The village will be resettled in late 2012 or early 2013. The company has a large presence in the village, as it is located immediately at the dam site.

<p>Ban Khok Yai</p> <p><i>Located slightly north of the dam site. Population: 34 households. We visited on June 16 and interviewed 8 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: The entire village will be flooded and resettled. In late 2012 or early 2013, the village will be merged into Houay Hip. Villagers do not know how much land will be available in their new village. They do not think they will be given riverbank gardens or fruit trees, because there is already limited space in the village. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The company promised to provide new houses, one job per person, and free food and electricity for one to three years. The company also promised to provide land and to compensate for lost fruit and teak trees. However, the villagers are unsure whether they will receive adequate land to grow food. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: The company told villagers that there will be no impacts on fish.
<p>Ban Houay Hip</p> <p><i>Located slightly north of the dam site. Population: 76 households. We visited on June 16 and interviewed 4 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan to move other villages here, creating competition for land and food: None of the houses in Houay Hip will be flooded, but three more villages will be resettled here. The company said that Houay Hip villagers would not be impacted, and offered no compensation. Yet villagers believe that the merging of several villages will increase competition for land, food, and jobs. About 240 households will come to the village, bringing the total population to around 2,000 people. The company is already clearing about 50 hectares of land for the resettled households and is evicting Houay Hip villagers from this land without compensation. The resettled villagers could arrive in late 2012 or early 2013. - No compensation for houses evicted from the resettlement land: Around five households in the village are being evicted from their land to make way for the resettlement land. These are among the village’s poorest and most vulnerable families. The families were ordered to leave the area and break down their houses. They have been offered no compensation or new place to live, because the company says that the land belongs to the government. The land near the village is steep, so it is unclear where these families can move. - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: The company said there would be no impacts on the village, and thus has conducted minimal consultations. The company has not discussed with the villagers potential

	<p>losses to their income such as gold panning, teak trees, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vague promises to provide compensation: The company told the villagers it would not provide any compensation. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: The company told villagers that there would be no impacts on fisheries, although villagers expect that there will be more competition as other villages are moved here.
<p>Ban Houay Xong</p> <p><i>Located slightly north of the dam site. Population: 48 households. We visited on June 16 and interviewed 6 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam's impacts: The entire village will be relocated in 2013 or 2014 and will be joined with the Pak Mon village. Villagers are concerned that it will be more difficult to find farmland in the new location, because Pak Mon village is already crowded with little land available. The company told the villagers that they can return to their current agricultural lands, which will not be flooded. However, the land will be 20 km away from the resettlement site, making it difficult to access. Villagers think that the company should pay for their boat travel between the village and their agricultural lands, which costs about 42,000 kip per day for three liters of gas to make the roundtrip. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The villagers are still unclear on what compensation they will receive. The company has not told the villagers if they will get land in their new village. The company has not promised to compensate for the costs of traveling between the village and their current agricultural lands, which will not be flooded. The company also promised to provide free food, electricity, and water in the new village, but it is unclear for how long. Villagers are concerned about the quality of the houses that the company will build after hearing stories from Houay Souy's resettlement. - Villagers hired as labor but concerned about unfair treatment: Over 40 villagers work for the company. Most work long hours and chose to work for the company this year rather than plant rice. Villagers are concerned about the pay they receive. For example, several villagers reported only earning 7,000 baht per month while Thai workers doing comparable work earn 13,000 baht per month. - Villagers were told not to invest in land or houses until they are moved: The company told the villagers that they would not compensate for any improvements they make on their houses and land between now and the time of

	<p>resettlement. As a result, the villagers are hesitant to make any repairs or improvements to houses and land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No warnings about fisheries impacts: The company told the villagers that there would be no impacts to fisheries.
<p>Ban Pak Lan</p> <p><i>Located slightly north of the dam site. Population: 49 households. We visited on June 17 and interviewed 7 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vague promises to provide compensation: The entire village will be resettled to Pak Mon village. They are not sure when they will be moved or how much compensation they will receive, but it is likely to be in 2013 or 2014. The villagers do not think they will have riverbank gardens in their new village because of shortages of land. The company said it would provide compensation for loss of gardens, teak trees, and fruit trees, but did not tell the villagers how much they would receive. The company has sent mixed messages about how long it will provide food, water, and electricity for free. Villagers have visited the Houay Souy resettlement area and are aware that people there have trouble with food, jobs, and housing. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: Villagers were told there would be no impacts on fisheries. The company said it would provide them with fish ponds or new jobs if they are unable to fish. One villager noted that “in Pak Mon, it will be very hard to find food, sometimes Pak Mon people come here to fish.” - Loss of low-cost microhydro electricity: Villagers already have electricity from a micro-hydro project, which will be lost. Each household invested over one million kip to build the microhydro generator, but will not be compensated and is expected to have to pay for electricity in the new resettlement site. The company told villagers it would provide free electricity for one year.
<p>Ban Pak Mon</p> <p><i>Located slightly north of the dam site. Population: 65 households. We visited on June 17 and interviewed 7 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan to move other villages here, creating stiff competition for land and food: All of the houses except two will be flooded, and the village will be moved uphill from its current location. Additionally, the company plans to resettle two other villages into this village. The resettled villages will be placed on land that is currently used by Pak Mon villagers for gardens, agriculture, and collection of forest products. There are no plans to compensate Pak Mon villagers for these losses. Villagers are concerned about shortages of land when the other villages are moved here, because the land is steep and mountainous. They are also concerned there will not be enough jobs for everyone during the dry season.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: The company has changed its view on how much will be flooded in the village and how many households will be resettled. The company has not told the villagers when the other villages will be moved here. The company has also not explained the impacts that could happen from merging villages together, such as loss of access to forest products on land that is cleared for new homes. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The company told the villagers they would receive compensation “for everything.” The villagers have visited the Houay Souy resettlement village and are concerned about the quality of houses and other broken promises that villagers there have experienced. At least ten households rely on the land that will soon become the new resettlement villages, but they will not be compensated for these losses. The company said it would not compensate for lost gold panning or fisheries. Villagers currently have three hectares of land per family, but will only be given one hectare per family after resettlement. As a result, villagers are concerned about whether they will be able to grow enough food. - Villagers were told not to invest in land or houses until they are moved: The company told the villagers that they would not be compensated for any additional improvements they make to their houses or land right now, because they will be moved “soon.” As a result, the villagers believe that “everything is stuck” for the next several years. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: Villagers were told there would be no impacts on fisheries, so they would receive no compensation for lost fisheries.
<p>Ban Pak Khon</p> <p><i>Located north of the dam site in the middle of the impoundment area. Population: 66 households. The village currently hosts a ferry service for vehicles traveling across the Mekong River, but this will soon be replaced with a bridge that is being constructed nearby. We visited on June 17 and interviewed 2 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vague promises to provide compensation: About 20 houses in the village will be flooded, so the entire village will be moved. Villagers are unclear how much compensation they will receive or when they will be moved. The company promised to provide compensation for everything, new jobs, free electricity for one year, and free rice for three years. The land where the village will be moved is currently owned by someone already, so it is unclear what location they will ultimately be sent to. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: Villagers were told there would be no impacts on fisheries.

<p>Ban Khok Tom</p> <p><i>Located north of the dam site in the middle of the impoundment area. Population: 96 households. We visited on June 15 and interviewed 7 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: The company has been vague on how the village will be impacted. Between seven and eleven households will be relocated because of erosion and flooding. They will likely be resettled within the same village, but are unsure where exactly. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The company has been vague on how much compensation people will receive. The company said it would solve problems as they arise. The villagers to be resettled are unclear about how much food they will be provided. Some believe they will receive one year of food from the company, while others believe they will receive three years. - Company not taking responsibility for dam’s impacts above 275 meters elevation: The company said it would not compensate for any losses that occur above 275 meters in elevation. If this is true, much of the village would be excluded from compensation. People are concerned about what will happen if flooding goes above this level. People further inland are confused about what impacts will be, and are concerned they will not be compensated. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: Villagers were told there would be no impacts on fisheries.
<p>Ban Houay Khua</p> <p><i>Located north of the dam site in the middle of the impoundment area. Population: 42 households. We visited on June 15 and interviewed 6 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: The company told the villagers to “wait and see” which households will be affected by flooding. As a result, there is a great deal of uncertainty among many villagers about what to expect. Most recently, the company said that six households will be resettled to another part of the village. The company also said that if too many houses are flooded, it will move the entire village to higher land nearby. The villagers believe that more houses could be affected and that the flooding will extend into the nearby tributary river, causing damage to other houses, rice fields. The company has not acknowledged the risk of flooding along the tributary. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The company promised compensation but did not indicate what will be compensated and how much they will receive. Gold panning is major source of income for the village between March and June. Company will not compensate for lost income but promises to provide other jobs such as weaving and aquaculture.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new houses for resettled villagers: The company promised to move the materials of the resettled house, but it will be up to the villagers to rebuild their own houses. The company is not planning to provide new houses, although it is doing so in other resettled villages. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: The company said there would be no impact on fisheries, and is offering no compensation for lost fisheries.
<p>Ban Pak Hao</p> <p><i>Located north of the dam site in the middle of the impoundment area. Population: 67 households. We visited on June 15 and interviewed 2 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: The company first told the villagers that five households would be resettled, and later said two would be resettled. The villagers are not clear what to expect. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The company promised to compensate for lost riverbank gardens and fruit trees, but did not indicate how much compensation they would offer. Villagers will not receive compensation for gold panning and fisheries. The project company promised to provide alternative sources of income. - Company not taking responsibility for dam’s impacts above 275 meters elevation: The company has only promised to compensate for losses up to 275 meters (the projected water level of the impoundment area) and will not compensate for any damage caused above this point. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: Villagers have not been told about the dam’s potential impacts on fisheries. Villagers believe that the number of fish in the Mekong will increase because there will be more water. - Loss of low-cost microhydro electricity: Villagers will lose their microhydro generators on a nearby tributary, which will be flooded by the dam. The company promised to provide electricity, but villagers will have to pay higher rates for this electricity.
<p>Ban Vangsa / Pak Heng</p> <p><i>Located north of the dam site in the middle of the impoundment area. Population: 111 households. The two villages merged one decade ago. We visited on June 15 and</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: Six households were originally told they would be resettled, and then the company said that no households would be resettled. The villagers are unclear about what to expect. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The village is located near a tributary, so inland flooding of gardens and

<p><i>interviewed 5 households.</i></p>	<p>rice fields will occur. The villagers are unclear if they will receive compensation for these lands. Many villagers living near the riverside are concerned, because they will be at higher risk of floods, erosion, and insects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No warnings about fisheries impacts: Villagers have not been told about potential impacts on fisheries. - Loss of low-cost microhydro electricity: Around 75 households have electricity from microhydro generators on a tributary next to the river. These generators will not be able to function when the dam raises water levels, but the company has not promised to compensate for this loss.
<p>Ban Pak Pho</p> <p><i>Located north of the dam site in the middle of the impoundment area. Population: 85 households. We visited on June 14 and interviewed 6 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: The villagers believe that more than ten households could be flooded by the dam. The company has given villagers mixed messages about how many houses will be flooded, so villagers do not know what to expect. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The company told villagers it will resolve all compensation issues after the dam has been built and impacts have already happened, but villagers want assurances now that they will be compensated. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: The company did not tell the villagers about potential impacts on fisheries.
<p>Ban Pak Lum</p> <p><i>Located at the northern end of the impoundment area near Luang Prabang. Population: 51 households. We visited on June 14 and interviewed 7 households.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company has given mixed messages on dam’s impacts: The village is located near one of the Mekong River’s tributaries, and villagers are not clear how rice fields and lands along a nearby tributary will be affected. Along the Mekong River, villagers will lose riverbank gardens, teak trees, and income from gold panning and sand collection. - Vague promises to provide compensation: The company promised to compensate villagers for riverbank gardens and teak trees, but villagers do not know how much compensation they will receive. The company said it would not provide compensation for gold panning or sand collection, but would find them new jobs. - No warnings about fisheries impacts: The company told the villagers that there would be no impacts on fisheries.

Ban Saleuan

Located at the northern end of the impoundment area near Luang Prabang. Population: 67 households. We visited on June 14 and interviewed 3 households.

- **Company has given mixed messages on dam's impacts:** Villagers are still confused about whether their village will be flooded. The company told villagers that if the houses flood, they will find new land for them.
- **Vague promises to provide compensation:** Villagers have not been told if or how much they will be compensated. The company told the villagers it will wait and see what the impacts will be. The company has also not clarified if people in the village will be resettled.
- **No warnings about fisheries impacts:** The company told villagers there would be no impacts to fisheries.