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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern over the recent applications for carbon credits for the two hydropower projects in Cambodia and Laos respectively, namely Kamchay and Nam Lik 1. I am afraid that the negative social and environmental impacts incurred by the captioned projects may not be able to "off-set" the carbon emissions reductions. I hope that your institution can reconsider and withhold the applications until all the following negative impacts are properly resolved.

**Nam Lik 1 hydropower project (Laos)**

According to a Technical Assistance Consultant's report conducted for Asian Development Bank,

"(the) proposed hydropower schemes on the Nam Lik will permanently cut off a large part of the lower Nam Ngum and Nam Lik-Nam Xong basins, for local and Mekong mainstream aquatic fauna migrants. The damming of the Nam Lik will be expected to have considerable local impacts on habitats, species diversity and genetic mixing. The existing migration route to and from the Mekong River is the only remaining, effectively unregulated connecting channel in the Nam Ngum Basin, and used by important migrant species such as Pangasids and Cyprinids. The Nam Lik river supports a population of over 30 000 people, many of whom have a strong dependence on fisheries."

"Given the social impacts, the environmental costs and the rather limited electricity-generating capacity (a combined total of only 160 MW), there would have been a clear strategic benefit to leaving the Nam Lik in its current, effectively unregulated, condition. In light of the extensive plans for hydropower in the Nam Ngum Basin, the Nam Lik could have been used as part of an offset strategy for intact river systems suggested in the Lao government's Hydropower Development Strategy Study, and the approach now taken as a national priority in many other countries. The protection of the Nam Lik river was seen by the consultant as a key priority."

**Kamchay hydropower project (Cambodia)**

On the other hand, the Kamchay hydropower project also exacerbates the series of social and environmental concern:

- The construction of the dam has partly cut off the water source for a popular waterfall at the Toek Chhou resort, which has cut people's (those engaged in the local tourism) earnings by at least half. Many tourists visit the area to swim and bathe, but have stopped coming as there is now very little water. This was also reported in March 2008, as

tourism had gone down from 60,000 to 7,000 tourists in a month. The water quality was also reported as bad, that Sinohydro had built toilets for the workers which channeled human waste into the river.

- Prime Minister Hun Sen said "The construction of the hydro-electric dam at Kamchay really creates floods in the upper areas, but it helps us with some points, including- creates power of 193 MW, helps to control floods and ensures that Toek Chhou has water both in rainy and in the dry season."
- The Prime Minister Hun Sen opened the first stage of the dam on December 7th 2009 for the opening of 10 MW. At this time, Chhith Sam, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia stated: "We worry about what impact this dam will have on Bokor [National Park]'s forest and threatened species living in the reservoir area, as this area is well known for its high biodiversity." He added that the dam would cause communities living around the project site to lose access to non-timber forest products, which he described as an "important" source of supplementary income. He also called on Sinohydro to make its mitigation and compensation plans publicly available, saying the "community has informed to us [that] they were never consulted by the company regarding any of the negative impacts the dam would cause and the mitigation measures that would be needed."
- In October, a group of about 20 Chinese nationals working for Sinohydro beat up 8 Kampot city traffic policemen in Andoung Khmer commune. The fight occurred after traffic police stopped a truck carrying the workers, the driver then made a phone call and about 20 people appeared hoes and tubes in hand and started beating the policemen. The police confiscated the truck but were still looking for the suspects, who fled after the assault.
- In November 2008, 70 families blocked a road in protest claiming the explosions from a nearby quarry at Kamchay had damaged their homes, crops and land. They said the quarry was throwing rocks as far as 300 meters. As the problem had occurred a few times, the villagers wanted the company to buy their land. According to Khoy Khun Hour, the Governor of Kampot, said that Sinohydro had agreed to pay \$10,000 per damaged hectare of land. The governor then called on the community to demarcate their land.

I am very much concerned about the environmental impacts mentioned in the report. I request that the mitigation measures for this project should be disclosed for public scrutiny. In addition, any additional funding for this project should be withheld if the mitigation measures cannot resolve the negative environmental impacts and the reparation measures do not meet with the basic needs of local fishermen and the affected communities.

All in all, I hereby request that your institution should review the entire approval procedure of carbon accreditation for these projects, and take our social and environmental concerns into account. I hope that our timely information would meet with your favourable consideration.

Yours faithfully,

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