

International Rivers Network March 2007 Visit to Nam Theun 2 Village Notes¹

Xe Bang Fai

Village:	Mahaxai Tai
Location:	Upper Xe Bang Fai (riverine)
Number of inhabitants:	304 families, more than 2,000 individuals
Ethnic group(s):	NA
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice (dry and wet season), fish, and riverbank gardens

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Mahaxai Tai is located downstream of the Nam Phit-Xe Bang Fai confluence. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Mahaxai Tai will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level and water quality changes, and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Mahaxai Tai is part of the NTPC livelihood restoration pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Village savings fund is not accessible to the poorest villagers
- Some people have not been able to pay back loans and have had to sell their securities

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- NTPC will provide 2.5 million kip per family to the village savings fund
- NTPC will develop a sanitation program
- NTPC supports pig farming and fish ponds
- Some villagers have found employment with the he project

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Villagers would like a flood protection dike, improved irrigation and a drinking water system.
- Villagers are concerned about additional flooding, fish losses and water quality changes in the Xe Bang Fai (their current source of drinking water).

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-03):

We met with approximately 6 women and men, including the village headman, and spoke with the head of the village savings fund by phone.

One man said there are more people in the village nowadays and that living standards have gone up. Many of the people working with the dam pass through the village. He says that NTPC often comes to the village and talks about the village savings fund, but he is not happy with the

¹ These notes were compiled together with Henrik Lindholm, SwedWatch.

fund. He says you need to have collateral to borrow money; therefore the fund is only good for those that already have some money. He himself cannot borrow money since he does not have any assets.

Another person explained that the village suggested a flood protection dike, protection against erosion and a drinking water project three times, but nothing has happened. The company told the villagers they are out of budget and have to wait for a new stage of the project. At first NTPC said yes to the flood protection request, but later told them there was not enough money.

NTPC has told them that access to drinking water will decrease after the dam is built because they will not be able to use the wells by the river. They cannot have drinking water from a nearby tributary either because the company said the water there will also be affected. There is still no solution for how to get water after the dam is built.

The headman measures the water level in the XBF for the company. He thinks the flooding will not be so bad since he has been told that water levels will only rise 1 meter. Now they suffer from flooding some years, but he thinks people will get used to a new flooding regime. He is worried that more floods will mean they will use their rice harvest in the wet season. NTPC said villagers should be prepared to move important things away from the river in the wet season. The biggest problem will be if they cannot use their paddy fields. Making new paddy fields will be very expensive. They have 175 ha of wet season paddy and they lost all of it when the area flooded. They have 70 ha of dry season paddy.

Right now, the village catches about 30 to 100 kg of fish every day at permanent nets in the river at three different points. (Villages individually catch about an additional 1 kg of fish per day.) The village co-operative manages the fish catch and sells it locally. The nets were set-up one year ago as part of the NTPC fish-monitoring project. NTPC pays 70,000 kip per month for the fish monitoring work. During the wet season, they catch fish from the tributaries and paddy fields but they don't think they will be able to catch fish in tributaries after the NT2 is built.

Villagers were told that fish will decrease after the dam. They were told that they could have a fish pond, but that they would have to borrow money from the village savings fund and pay the loan back. They do not like that idea because now they have fish for free from the river. The company provides fish seed for the pond, but villagers have to buy the feed from the company for 1 million kip. The company said they will buy fish from the villagers in 6 months, but the project just started so they do not know yet if it will work.

Almost every family has riverbank gardens where they grow onions, lettuce, chili, eggplant, cucumber, etc. NTPC has told them they will not be able to use the riverbank gardens after the dam is built. NTPC suggested they grow more rice in the dry season, but there is only one irrigation system in the village for 70 ha and there are no plans to expand this.

The water in the river is good; they use it everyday for drinking and bathing. In the wet season, they collect rainwater. When NTPC first came here they asked about drinking water, but the company said that was too expensive. The company also told them that they would be able to use water from the downstream channel for irrigation, or that maybe they would help reduce their electricity costs for the existing pumps [because of higher water levels?]. Villagers typically pay 150,000 kip per ha for electricity and maintenance of the irrigation system, but one villager says she pays 270,000 kip for 0.7 ha now.

They use the river a lot for transportation now. The company has not told them that it will be difficult to travel on the river after NT2 operations begin.

NTPC will pay 2.5 million kip to the village savings fund for every family. They have now paid half of this. Many people do not know how to propose projects to the village savings fund. From the village savings fund they can borrow up to 2.5 million kip. But villagers have to return the money within six months by paying 75,000 kip per month, because the interest rate is so high (3% per month). Many find this difficult and have now stopped being members. Some have been forced to sell land or their motorbike to repay the loans. It is very difficult for someone to do something that will generate money in only six months time. This system has only been in place for two to three months and requires them to have collateral for the loan.

Villagers can borrow money to plant crops and to raise pigs. One villager bought a pig and now needs to buy feed for it (9,000 kip per day). Her husband (the village headman) has training to take care of animals, but the pig is not vaccinated. If they buy the pig from the company it is vaccinated, but if they buy the animal from elsewhere villagers have to take care of vaccinating themselves. They have also borrowed money to raise fish. They have no experience with fishponds. For some of the projects, NTPC provides material, like providing corrugated steel for building toilets.

Some villagers get money by working for logging companies and others have worked clearing land for transmission lines. One man works as a security guard for NTPC and earns 25,000 kip per day. He says this is not enough because he has to pay for petrol to get to work.

The head of the village savings fund said that villagers can use the loans for starting a commercial business, for buying pigs, for developing a fish pond (NTPC will provide the fish seed), for cultivating dry season crops or for handicrafts. He confirmed that collateral is required, such as a TV or a motorbike or something equivalent to 2.5 million kip, if villagers want to borrow money. Villagers have a difficult time paying the money back. The village savings fund charges an interest rate of 3% per month for commercial projects, 2% per month for livestock and agriculture projects, and 1% per month for handicrafts. Villagers complain that 2% is too high for agriculture projects, so they just had a meeting to see if they could reduce the rate to 1% (the issue has still not been resolved). They are trying to get every villager to be a member, but not every one is yet.

Village:	Kham Phare Dong
Location:	Upper Xe Bang Fai (hinterlands)
Number of inhabitants:	49 families
Ethnic group(s):	Phou Tai, others
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice (wet season), fish, forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Kham Phare Dong is located approximately 6 km east of the Xe Bang Fai in Khammouane Province. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Kham Phare Dong will likely experience fish losses as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Kham Phare Done is not part of NTPC's pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Villagers are worried about food security and currently do not have sufficient drinking water in the dry season

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-03):

We met with 2 women along the road and then with a group of about 7 men and women.

Villagers fish in the Xe Bang Fai every day. The women had been visiting relatives in Khamfeuung Nyai along the XBF and said that people in that village are better off since they can catch more fish. In Kham Phare Dong, they can just catch enough fish to eat. They are able to catch about 1 kg of fish each time, but they used to catch 5 to 6 kg of fish. They depend on fish from XBF as their main source of food. They also collect vegetables, bamboo and insects from the XBF and from the forest. They only have one well in the village which dries up so they have to wait for the water to come back.

A young man and an older woman in one of the houses say that they depend on the XBF and on the Houay Lai, but that the smaller river dries up. However they only catch small amounts of fish now. The man tells us that it is very hard to catch fish in the XBF nowadays and he does not know where it has gone. In the wet season, the XBF is too high to fish in so they go to where the Houay Lai crosses the paddy fields to catch fish. There they can catch fish for two meals in one catch (6 fish for 4 persons). But a lot of the time the food situation is very poor and they only have rice and chili sauce to eat. They eat meat or fish every two to three days and sometimes get wildlife from the forest.

They have 1 ha of paddy (not irrigated) where they harvest 100 12-kg bags of rice. They also grow vegetables like cucumber and corn for their own consumption. Some people practice swidden cultivation. Last year it was too hot and all the crops died. Some villagers sell cattle, buffalo or rice to loggers in the surrounding forest reserve. They also sell coconut.

The water situation is really bad in the dry season.

Villagers said that Khamfeuung Nyai along the XBF also does not have electricity or dry season rice. In Khamfeuung Nyai, they have very serious flooding. If their wet season rice is destroyed by the flood, they have to come here and exchange fish for rice.

There are no fishponds in either village.

The villagers did not know about the dam. Sometimes the district staff comes here but they do not talk about any dam. The 3rd headman said that he had heard about the dam. He went to one meeting in Ban Mai (head of the zone) and was informed, but he does not really know much about it.

Village:	Vernsananh
Location:	Middle Xe Bang Fai (riverine)
Number of inhabitants:	72 households, 84 families, 419 individuals, 191 women
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Loum 60%, Lao Theung 15%, Phu Thai 10%, Kaleung 15%
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice (wet season), fish, riverbank gardens and forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Vernsananh is located east of Route 13 along the Xe Bang Fai. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Vernsananh will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level and water quality changes, and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Vernsananh is part of the NTPC livelihood restoration pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- NTPC will contribute 2 million kip per family to the village savings fund
- NTPC has promised a sanitation and drinking water program, fishponds and flood protection

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Villagers are very concerned about fish losses after the dam is built
- Want irrigation, electricity and fish ponds to compensate for NT2's impacts

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-02):

We met with a group of approximately 5 men, including the headman. The village appeared to be the poorest of all those we visited in the XBF region.

The village is very dependant on fish from the XBF. They have two spots upstream from the village where they fish. They catch 4 to 5 kg fish per family every day, but 2 years ago they could catch 6 to 7 kg every day. In the wet season, they only catch 1 to 1.5 kg fish because it is harder to fish then. Everyone in the village has a fishing boat. Every day someone comes here to collect the fish and villagers get 50 to 60,000 kip. They are still able to catch big fish, even though the catch is less than it used to be. They also collect snails, small crabs and vegetables from the river. Every second to third day the villagers can sell these products and get about 20,000 kip for them.

They have some riverbank gardens for corn and other vegetables. They don't cultivate the riverbank gardens when there is risk of flooding. It normally floods every year, except last year was very dry. When there is flooding, only 15 ha of the 45 ha of paddy can be harvested.

The villagers also have some livestock: 65 goats, 95 water buffaloes, 170 cattle, 1,000 chicken and ducks and 50 pigs. The village has two wells, but one of the wells was broken.

The village has 1,945 ha of forest. They collect rubber and resin from the forest. Nowadays they don't collect so much rubber though. The whole village sells 100 kg of resin every day and earns 3,500 kip.

NTPC has been here several times, including the week before. They come to the village to explain the effects of the dam, and to start sanitation (toilets) and drinking water programs and fishponds. The company has also promised to build a dike, but so far nothing has happened.

NTPC has also contributed 2 million kip per family to the village savings fund and so far they have paid for 35 families whose paddy land will be affected by flooding (70 million kip). The families have to contribute 5,000 kip per month to be part of the fund. 80% of the villagers are members of the fund. The village headman who promotes the fund says those who are not members don't understand how it works.

They know that after NT2 there will be more water in the river. They will not be able to use the crossings that they use now and fish will be reduced. They will not be able to have riverbank gardens where they do now. Water quality may not be good in the river. They have talked to the district people about this and asked for fishponds and for 20 ha of irrigated dry season paddy to compensate for the dam. The fishponds and the dike they will get soon, but they have been told that the irrigated paddy is too expensive.

They are not doing corn projects because there is no irrigation and pig farming is not suitable there. The headman stressed that two fishponds are absolutely not enough to compensate for losing fish in the XBF, but he hopes that they will get electricity after the dam is built. They have no experience of fishponds but someone from NTPC will come and teach them. According to NTPC, the company's budget is limited so the village can only have two ponds.

They are very worried about what will happen to the fish after the dam is built. The headman says that he thinks that the NTPC usually listens to them and their ideas and he understands that the company cannot respond right now but hopes they will.

Village:	Gnangkham
Location:	Lower Xe Bang Fai (riverine)
Number of inhabitants:	256 households, 1,324 individuals, 668 women
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Loum
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice (dry and wet season), livestock, fishing and fishponds

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Gnangkham is along the lower Xe Bang Fai in Khammouane province. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Gnangkham will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level and water quality changes, and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Gnangkham is part of the NTPC livelihood restoration pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Do not understand how decision is taken on what projects the village savings fund will support

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- NTPC has provided fertilizer and made a demonstration plot for growing corn
- NTPC has provided 400 million kip to the village savings fund (2 million/family)
- NTPC has provided fish fry to 10 families with fishponds

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- The village headman said they have problems with sanitation and drinking water. He also asked for flood protection, noting that the dikes proposed by NTPC could also be used for irrigation canals.

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-01):

We met with the village headman.

The headman explained that villagers depend on paddy rice, livestock and fishing. Usually they can get two rice harvests per year. The village has 90 ha of dry season paddy and 350 hectare of wet season paddy.

Most of the families fish in the XBF. They catch fish all year except for September and October when the water is too high and dangerous. June is the best month to catch fish. Most of the fish caught is for village consumption, but some is also sold. About 0.2 kg of fish per family is caught daily. Sometimes middlemen come to the village to buy fish, but mostly the villagers go to the village at the Xe Bang Fai bridge (Route 13 crossing) to sell the fish.

Two years ago, they caught 2 to 3 kg fish every day. They used to catch big fish, but now most of the fish are small. The village headman thinks the decrease is because of population increase and maybe because people now have better equipment to catch more fish. In this village, they use many different kinds of fishing equipment like nets, traps and hooks. The

village has a 100 m stretch of protected reserve in the river just below the headman's house where fishing is not allowed.

Ten of the families have fishponds. There are also 3 natural fishponds (dependent on XBF flooding bring fish into paddy fields) that the village shares.

Villagers also collect snails and young bamboo from the paddy fields (from XBF they only get a small amount of snails). During September when the water is high, they can also catch fish in the paddy fields. The fish in the rice fields come from the XBF. The river does not flood every year but quite often. It usually floods in September and lasts for 10 to 20 days. In 2005, the river flooded to the first step of the headman's house. That year they lost their entire rice crop. If the flood lasts for more than two weeks, the rice dies. There are rarely other flooding losses because people prepare for the flood by moving chicken, livestock, tools, etc. to higher ground.

The dry season rice depends on one pump (electric). Usually one pump could irrigate a lot more than almost double the 90 ha of dry season paddy they have, but the canals are not very good and a lot of water is lost. The pump was installed in 1996 and has broken down twice since then.

The paddies are quite productive and the years where the crop isn't damaged by flooding they can sell rice (for a 12 kg bag they get 25,000 kip). This year nothing was damaged by the flood and the village headman could sell 2 tons of rice.

The main source of villagers' income is rice, followed by fishing. The village grows 1 ha of corn, 0.2 ha vegetables, and 0.2 ha tobacco for their own consumption. The village also grows bananas, mangos and coconut. From a certain kind of tree, they collect cotton-like material.

Nowadays they don't have any more riverbank gardens. They were moved up to the fields after the irrigation channel was finished. There it is a lot easier to water the vegetable garden than on the riverbank.

The village has approximately 200 cows, 180 water buffaloes, 400 to 500 pigs, and 2,000 to 3,000 chicken and ducks. Chicken and ducks provide quite a good income. They are sold two times a year to a man that comes from Vientiane. The village headman got 700,000 to 800,000 kip from selling livestock this year.

Disease kills 50% of the pigs around May every year, but the last two years they have not had any problems with this (the headman does not know why). Now they have problems with the cows instead. Already more than 20 have died this year. The village headman thinks that the years with flooding increases disease amongst cows and chickens.

Drinking water is collected from the XBF and in the rainy season they collect rain water. To get water from the XBF they make holes in the riverbanks where they collect the water. Some buy water from the market but only very little. Since all water is boiled before drinking no one has gotten any diseases from the water.

The village headman says so many people have been here and talked about the NT2 that he cannot remember who they all are. Some of them have come to do surveys about flood protection dikes.

The company has contributed 400 million kip to the village savings fund. Everyone in the village is a member and contributes 5,000 kip per month. Villagers borrow money for agricultural projects and for buying fertilizers (the interest rate is 2% per month). The micro-credit system was in place and working before the company came. The system works fine. Before they had to go to town to get money, but now there is a representative in their village.

The headman understood that the dam will have impacts on the village's drinking water and on fisheries. The village headman says he does not know exactly what will happen but since people are coming here to check it seems like they have the situation under control.

Villagers discuss what is needed and make proposals, but the village headman does not know how decisions are made on which proposals to accept. The villagers suggested making bigger fish ponds and this is being surveyed now.

An engineer who came here to investigate fisheries said that the company would bring machinery to improve and enlarge the natural ponds. The company has been in the village and provided fertilizer for a demonstration plot for growing corn. The company gave fish fry to the families with the 10 smaller fish ponds. The ponds were built three years ago at the same time as the road was improved.

Village:	Hadkhamhieng
Location:	Lower Xe Bang Fai (riverine)
Number of inhabitants:	233 households, 1,365 individuals and 713 women
Ethnic group(s):	Phu Thai, Lao Loum,
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice (dry and wet season), vegetables, weaving, livestock and fish

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Hadkhamhieng is along the lower Xe Bang Fai in Khammouane province. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Hadkhamhieng will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level and water quality changes, and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Hadkhamhieng is part of the NTPC livelihood restoration pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- NTPC has contributed 466 million kip to the village savings fund
- NTPC has promised to provide drinking water and sanitation
- Specialists come to the village and give advice on fish farming, pigs, agriculture and weaving
- NTPC started to provide fish seedling one month ago for the old fish ponds
- NTPC has promised to build over 100 fish ponds of 10 x 15 meters [?]

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Villagers are worried about rice production and livestock when flooding increases (but the headman says more water will be good and make it easier to travel on the river).
- Villagers would like flood protection, better irrigation and road maintenance.

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-01):

We met with 2 men (the village headman and the head of the village savings fund) and 3 women.

The villagers said their key sources of income are their paddy fields (193 ha dry and 336 ha wet season), agriculture (chilies, eggplant, beans, tomatoes), weaving products sold in Thakek by middlemen, livestock and fishing. Fish is mainly caught from the river but also from two public ponds. They have had their public fishing ponds for over 100 years. Now the village only catches 1.5 kg of fish per day, but 2 to 3 years ago they used to catch 1 kg per family. In 2005, they had a lot of fish because of the floods, but the same year they lost all the rice. In 2006, there was no flood so they could sell rice in the wet season. The village usually does not sell a lot of rice. In the dry season, they can sell about 5 ton per ha, but almost all the profit is needed to invest in fertilizer and electricity for the irrigation system.

The village headman says that the floods are not a big problem. They prepare by moving livestock and things that might be damaged. Now they usually travel by the river in the wet

season because the road is not good. They have been told that the company will make a marker to monitor flood levels and will cut power production if there is a risk of flooding. The company has also told them that they will build a flood protection dike this wet season. NTPC has also promised fish farms, drinking water and sanitation. The sanitation program is starting very soon. They used to get their drinking water from the river, but now they get it from a well. NTPC will also build two wheel-wells in the village.

NTPC has also contributed 466 million kip to the village savings fund (2 million kip per family). Before the NTPC contribution to the fund, they only had 39 million kip in it. They have been told that this is to compensate for fish loss and damages such as increased riverbank erosion. They have not received anything written about this, but it was explained to them by NTPC. Is this enough? "Of course not, but it is a good system and we are happy that we got it. It will be possible for the village to develop with this."

To be a member in the village fund, you have to pay 5,000 kip per month. 70% of the villagers are members. Those who are not members are afraid and want to wait to see how the system works. The money is used for pig farming and dry season paddy. Specialists come to the village and help them with fish farming, pigs and agriculture.

Less than a month ago, NTPC started to provide fish seedlings for old fishponds. New fishponds will be dug at the same time they build the dike at the end of 2007. Villagers said that NTPC will provide over 100 fishponds of 10 x15 meters [?].

They asked NTPC for an irrigation system, but the company said it was too expensive; they only have a limited budget and need to do things step-by-step. The village has two pump stations with two electrical pumps each, so they have had no big problems with getting water to their paddy fields. They have tried a fast growing variety of rice, but this did not work because of strong winds (these attempts had nothing to do with NTPC).

NTPC is trying to promote corn, but the area isn't good for it because irrigation is poor. One month ago they started with approximately 1 ha of corn. NTPC has said that if they village starts large corn production (50 ha) the company will come and pick it up and transport it to the market.

They mostly agree with the services provided by NTPC and like the idea of micro credit because the money goes back to the village. The village elected the head of the village savings fund (also a Party member).

When asked what they would need the most the villagers list three things:

1. Flood protection
2. Good irrigation with a higher-level canal
3. Better road maintenance (now villagers do it themselves)

Village:	Dong Ka Sinh
Location:	Lower Xe Bang Fai (hinterlands)
Number of inhabitants:	80 households, 97 families, 550 individuals, 260 women
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Loum
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice (dry and wet season), livestock, broom making, vegetable gardens, fish

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Dong Ka Sinh is near the lower Xe Bang Fai in Khammouane province. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Dong Ka Sinh will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level changes and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Dong Ka Sinh is not part of NTPC's pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Villagers expressed a strong desire for a flood protection dike. They would also like fish ponds, a flood pump, animal husbandry training and vegetable gardens.

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-01):

We met with the 1st and 2nd headmen and approximately 5 other men.

The most important issue or problem experienced by villagers is the XBF flooding that destroys their wet season rice crop. The flooding has gotten worse since a flood protection built dike was for a village on the other side of the river.

According to the villager the major sources of income are building houses and other forms of labor both in and outside of village, making brooms (which are sold in Thakhek), and dry season rice. Dry season rice requires approximately 2 million kip/ha of investment and they can earn 3 million kip/ha. There are 246 ha of wet season paddy and 100 ha of dry season paddy in the village. Many families have riverbank gardens where they grow beans, chili, etc. A long stretch of the river is covered with gardens.

They catch most of their fish in the river. They have 26 boats in the village. There are also two big natural fishponds in the village. One of these is only used half a day during the year for religious reasons and the other pond dries out in the dry season. From the river, they catch about 0.2 kg per family per day in the dry season and about 2 to 3 kg per family per day in the wet season.

They have 145 cows, 125 water buffaloes, 47 pigs and 2,500 chicken and ducks. Most of the animals are for consumption, but 2 to 3 animals are sold per family every year.

Five years ago, they had problems with people having kidney stones. Villagers think it might have been because of the water so now they filter all the water from the wells. There are 56 wells in the village that they built themselves.

The villagers know about NT2 because a team from NTPC came to the village and informed them about one year ago. NTPC showed them how the river levels would rise (they also left a poster in the village that showed this) after the dam was built. The company explained that the dam would have several negative impacts. Fish migration would be disturbed so fish catches would decrease, river bank erosion would increase and so would flooding. The company did not talk to them about compensation. The villagers put together a group of 10 people that wrote down what they need the most to compensate for the effects of the dam. They gave NTPC a list with four things in order of importance:

1. Flood protection dike
2. Fish pond
3. Flood pump
4. Animal husbandry training and vegetable gardens

The have not heard back from NTPC since, but the company promised to come back and fix any problems (but did not say when). NTPC left a complaint form in the village to use for any problems from the dam and also if NTPC does not take action before the dam is built. NTPC also promised to clean the reservoir of biomass so that water quality would not be so affected.

The major concern of the villagers is flooding. Flooding already destroys their wet season rice harvest and the flooding has recently been exacerbated by the flood protection built on the other side of the river. For the last five years, they have not been able to sell any wet season rice. Up to 90% of their land is flooded and they have to move around in boats. Only the 10% where their houses are is not flooded. The flooding is now so bad that some people even hesitate to grow rice. They would need a 2 km dike along the main river and floodgates at the four tributaries. When the land is flooded for a month, the buffalo get sick from eating the grass that has been under water.

<i>Village:</i>	Hat Xaisung Neua
<i>Location:</i>	Lower Xe Bang Fai (riverine)
<i>Number of inhabitants:</i>	NA
<i>Ethnic group(s):</i>	NA
<i>Primary livelihood sources:</i>	NA

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Hat Xaisung Neua is along the lower Xe Bang Fai in Savannakhet province. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Hat Xaisung Neua will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level and water quality changes, and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Hat Xaisung Neua is not part of NTPC's pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers: NA

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-02):

We met one man.

The villager said that floods are much better now because they have a flood protection dike (built by the Province). They do not lose the rice crop like before, but the dike only protects the paddy land and not their houses.

The company came and told them that after the dam is built there will be more flooding and that travel along the river will be different. "But the company told us not to worry. They promised bank protection and fishponds for us. Sometimes we are worried and sometimes we are not because the company told us not to be scared."

Village:	Boeung Xe
Location:	Lower Xe Bang Fai (riverine)
Number of inhabitants:	NA
Ethnic group(s):	Phu Thai, others
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice (mainly wet season), watermelon and tobacco (mainly dry season), livestock and fish

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Boeung Xe is along the lower Xe Bang Fai in Savannakhet province. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Boeung Xe will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level and water quality changes, and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Boeung Xe is the model or demonstration village for NTPC's downstream livelihood restoration program.

Main NT2 problems villagers described by villagers:

- Pig farming failed last year and villagers still have to pay loans back to village savings funds
- Declining prices when more people are growing vegetables to sell and lack of easily accessible markets

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- Several NTPC projects are being implemented and some villagers are happy the livelihood projects

Specific recommendations and/ or concerns expressed by villagers:

- The villagers are worried about increased flooding, decreasing fish catches, paying back loans for failed projects and finding a market for the new produce that they grow.

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-02):

We met with approximately four women and one man.

The villagers are worried about increased flooding after the dam. The area floods every year even though they have a dike. One woman says, "Maybe we will have to move". The company has promised to build a better dike, but so far nothing has happened. One villager said she is very concerned about fish decreasing after the dam is built. Villagers depend heavily on fish -- they go to paddy fields and then come back to fish every evening.

In the wet season they mostly depend on paddy rice and in the dry season on watermelon, some paddy rice and tobacco. Fishing is also done primarily for household consumption. Now villagers catch about 2 to 3 kg of fish per day whereas they used to catch 5 to 6 kg per day and could sell some in the market. Some people can catch fish in paddy fields, but now they are applying more chemicals to dry season paddy so there are fewer fish.

NTPC established the village savings fund in the village one year earlier. They gave each family 250 million kip.

More than 20 families tried to do pig farming last year. They took money from the savings fund and NTPC helped villagers buy the pigs. Families bought approximately 2 to 3 pigs, but 2 months later, most of the pigs had died. Now the families have to pay back money for the pigs and find this very difficult to manage. "Maybe it would have worked if we had done like the company told us, but we don't have the time because we are working in the fields."

One man said that this year pig farming will work better because he has a vaccine for the pigs. 21 of his piglets died, but the parents survived so now he has new piglets. Within this year he has to pay back 7 million kip for his loans. He thinks he will earn only 2 million kip from the pigs this year so he cannot afford the loan repayments.

A young woman who grows watermelon said NTPC has showed them how to grow watermelon and contributes fertilizer. But there are too many watermelons being grown by villagers and they are not able to sell them before they rot. Last year she could sell watermelons to NTPC and on the local market. This year it is hard to sell anything at all. She has to return 1.5 million kip that she borrowed to grow watermelon. She wants NTPC to help them find markets for their products.

Ten families are growing 1 ha of watermelon each. The kind of watermelon they are growing is very tasty and sweet, but they have to compete with a local variety of watermelon that is cheaper. They try to sell the melon at the market in Savannakhet or Thakhek, or along the road. It is difficult to transport them further because they rot. [One villager was selling watermelon along the road, and she said she was doing quite well.]

They have also tried growing corn, but the cows ate most of it. One woman also says that she thinks there will be no market for selling corn when everyone is harvesting the corn at the same time. So maybe a mix of activities like fishponds, paddy and pig farming will be better.

One woman says she would like to ask the company what kind of compensation they will get. They have to buy seed, fertilizer and everything [using the village savings funds]. Nothing is given to them by NTPC. So far they have only received money for the village savings fund which they have to borrow and pay back. What compensation will the company give them for flooding if they stay in the village? They have heard that the company may build flood protection, which is good because no one wants to leave their houses.

Eight families are growing tobacco for a Chinese company that provides them with pesticide, fertilizer and seed. Selling tobacco can earn one person 8 million kip per year.

Village:	Ton Haen
Location:	Lower Xe Bang Fai (hinterlands)
Number of inhabitants:	NA
Ethnic group(s):	NA
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice, gardens, and fishing

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Ton Haen is near the lower Xe Bang Fai in Savannakhet province. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Ban Ton Haen will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level changes and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Ton Haen is not part of NTPC's pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Villagers are concerned about increased flooding.

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-02):

We met with a group of about 6 young women and men.

One villager said the paddy fields flood every year for about 10 days and the villagers lose their rice crop. They have flood protection dikes but there are cracks in them.

They have heard about the dam and know that fishing and transportation will be more difficult along the Xe Bang Fai after the dam is built. The company comes to the village about once every two months to explain these things. They have said something about what they will do for villagers, but he didn't go to the meeting. She is worried about her paddy field flooding.

Village:	Beungboatong
Location:	Lower Xe Bang Fai (hinterlands)
Number of inhabitants:	132 households, 192 families, 972 individuals, 500 women
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Loum
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy rice (dry and wet season), fish, gardens, and livestock

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Beungboatong is in Savannakhet province, between the Xe Bang Fai and Route 13. When Nam Theun 2 begins operations, Beungboatong will likely experience fish losses, increased flooding, water level and water quality changes, and other impacts as a result of additional water flows into the Xe Bang Fai from the Nam Theun. Beungboatong is part of the NTPC livelihood restoration pilot program for downstream villages.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not yet affected by NT2

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- NTPC has started projects for growing watermelon and corn and pig farming
- NTPC is doing a sanitation program
- NTPC has put 25 million kip in the village savings fund and will contribute another 132 million kip later
- NTPC will help them with fishponds

Specific recommendations and/or or concerns expressed by villagers: NA

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-02):

We met with the 3rd headman.

The 3rd headman said that flooding is not usually a big problem in the village. Only about 50 ha of the wet season paddy is flooded. 2005 was the last time there was flooding.

They fish in the Xe Bang Fai (travel by motorbike) and in a tributary (Nam Mong Heua?) that they can reach by walking. From the rivers they can also collect snails and frogs. If they catch a lot, they sell some. They also fish in a small lake in the dry season. During the wet season, they get about 2 to 3 kg of fish from the Xe Bang Fai each day.

The village is near 20 to 30 ha of protected forest. There they collect mushrooms and other vegetables, and can find wood and bamboo for building houses but not to sell. They also grow bean, corn and chili.

There are two natural fishponds and three years ago they built another six ponds using heavy machinery with their own money. They took fish from the XBF to the ponds. Now they get 2 to 3 kg of fish per family per day from the ponds.

NTPC has been in the village and informed them about the NT2 dam and started projects on corn, watermelon, pig farming and sanitation. NTPC said that the dam would result in more water in the river and loss of fish. They are worried that there will be more flooding and that the paddy rice will be damaged. But maybe the more water will help them irrigate additional land, so it could be good.

Six families tried growing corn, 13 tried pig farming and one family tried watermelon growing.

The village savings fund was started five months ago. They have to contribute 5,000 kip per month to be a part of it. The village headman does not think this is a lot; those who aren't members are those that do not understand the system. 25 million kip was put in the fund by NTPC. He thinks the system is working well. NTPC will put another 132 million kip in the savings fund.

They asked NTPC for irrigation but were told that this was too expensive and that they should use the money in the savings fund for other projects. He says that irrigation is the only problem that the village has. They have tried to block the river at some points to get water for the fields. If they had an irrigation system, they could do 70 to 80 ha more of dry season paddy.

The headman is not so worried about NT2. The village is not affected by flooding very much and already has a flood protection dike. He also says it is no problem that they will lose fish in the river if this is compensated by fish in the ponds promoted by NTPC.

So far they have not had problems with the NTPC projects because they just started five months ago and they have not harvested anything yet. He is not worried about finding a market. If there are a lot of other villagers producing the same vegetables, they will just have to travel a bit further to find a market. He is excited about the chili, corn and pig farming. But paddy is the most important and they need irrigation.

They have had pigs for three months. They all got vaccinated and NTPC taught them how to take care of them. NTPC has promised to come here this wet season and raise fish in the ponds.

PROJECT LANDS

<i>Village:</i>	Tham Phuang
<i>Location:</i>	Project Lands, near downstream channel
<i>Number of inhabitants:</i>	NA
<i>Ethnic group(s):</i>	Makong, Lao Loum
<i>Primary livelihood sources:</i>	paddy and swidden rice, gardens, fishing, livestock

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Tham Phung is located near the downstream channel along Route 8b. Although villagers' land was already taken by the NT2 project, downstream channel construction had not yet reached their village.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Unequal compensation for land and confusing compensation system
- Not able to find affordable replacement land
- No compensation for hardwood trees
- No compensation for fish losses (Houay Lok river)

Main benefits noted by villagers:

- Heard that irrigation will be provided after the channel is constructed

Specific recommendations expressed by villagers:

- Address compensation problems and help villagers find affordable replacement land

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-07):

We met with a group of about 8 men and women and the following villagers specifically discussed their situation.

One man said that almost all of his land will be affected by channel construction, but he only received compensation for 2 ha. He was told to stop cultivating this year (did not do dry or wet season cultivation) on ALL of his land. Usually he cultivates gardens along the edges of the fields but he did not do that either this year. He hasn't received any compensation for the rest of his land and does not know why. District officials came and took note of his case (perhaps some time last year) but nothing has happened. He still has 3 gardens from which he can usually sell 1 million kip/year of produce. He said: "I am waiting for the company staff everyday to come and tell me what I should do and when I will get compensation."

Another man lost almost all of his paddy land (4 ha) and received only 7 million kip. He has 1 ha left and 1.2 ha of slope land for garden. 1 ha of this land he still cannot use because it is too close to the construction work. The man asks, "How can I live now?" He has heard that they will provide irrigation in the future but says that this will do him no good because he will not have any land left then.

His wife's land was also taken for NT2. She received a little money but does not understand how it was calculated. She tried to complain to NTPC about the amount, but the company told her that your data is already registered and we cannot redo it. Also, she lost 30 trees on her land and the company did not register the hardwood or include it in her compensation estimate. He was told by NTPC to buy land in Gnommalat. But the cost of the land is 15 million kip and he only received 7 million kip. As far as he knows no one in the village has bought any land with the compensation they have received. The company told him he will only be paid once.

Villagers don't understand why they've received different amounts of compensation. Two villagers received very large amounts (57 million and 97 million kip). Villagers reported that the person receiving 97 million kip lost less than 4 ha of land.

Villagers can still catch fish in Houay Lok but there is less now than in previous years. Fish decreases started in 2006 from chemicals released in the water from blasting rocks nearby. They have not received compensation for fish losses.

One villager said: "Don't think about compensation for the fish. Even [the compensation] received for my land is not enough."

Another villager said: "We never reject the policies of the government. If they are reasonable, that would be good."

Villagers received money to buy land in other areas, but they have not found any land yet that they can afford and have not received help from the company. Villages tried themselves to go to Bang Nong Ping to look for land. They have heard that irrigation will be provided after the canal is constructed. If they have to go to another place to cultivate, they will have to pay water fees, fertilizer costs, etc.

Village:	Nong Ping
Location:	Project Lands, near downstream channel
Number of inhabitants:	NA
Ethnic group(s):	NA
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy and swidden rice, gardens, fishing, livestock

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Nong Ping is near the downstream channel on the east side of Route 8b along Nam Kathang/Nam Gnom river. Villagers have experienced water quality problems and fisheries declines as a result of construction upstream. Approximately two to three families have lost paddy land to NT2 project construction.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Water quality problems in the Nam Gnom as a result of construction leading to shortage of drinking water, livestock sickness/death, and skin problems from bathing in the river.
- No compensation for livestock or fisheries losses as a result of water pollution.

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers: NA

Specific recommendations expressed by villagers: NA

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-07):

We interviewed one woman.

She said that the Nam Gnom river has been affected since Nam Theun 2 construction began approximately three years ago. She mentioned that oil had been discharged into the river from machines and now the villagers cannot use the water for drinking. They still use the river for bathing and washing, however, because they have no other alternative. The river is still dirty but it is not as bad as last year, which she thinks might be because they are doing construction elsewhere. They try to use water from the well, but some of the wells are not yet completed. [It is not clear how many wells or boreholes there are in the village and if NTPC supported the construction of any of them.]

She and her children have skin problems from bathing in the river. The water is still dirty, but is better than last year. People living around the river have lost livestock because they drank water from the river. She lost a duck but this year and 3 buffalo also died in the village from drinking the polluted river water. The problem is more serious in the next village downstream (Ban Kenglake). The pollution was the worst in 2004 when they started building the tunnel and is generally worse in the wet season than in the dry season. Most of the villagers also fish in the river and are reportedly catching significantly less fish than in previous years.

Healthcare staff [from NTPC?] have visited the village and told them to use water from the wells instead of from the river. They recently provided villagers with chemicals to treat the water, but she had not used the pills yet. Villagers have not received any compensation for fisheries or livestock losses due to drinking polluted river water. The only people that have been compensated are the two to three families that have lost paddy land for downstream channel construction.

The majority of the people fish in the river, but fish catches are decreasing. Villagers go out to catch fish almost every second day, but this year they could only catch about 3 fish every time they went out. The year before they could catch a bamboo trap full of fish every time (about 1 kg). She says that after the dam is built there will be more fish in the river migrating here from the Xe Bang Fai.

Village: 2006)	Phone Lat Khuay (3 villages were combined at end
Location:	Project Lands, near downstream channel
Number of inhabitants:	160 families
Ethnic group(s):	Makong, Lao Loum
Primary livelihood sources:	irrigated paddy (have had irrigation system, provided by the Province, for past 6 years), gardens, fishing, livestock

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Phone Lat Khuay is next to the downstream channel on the west side of Route 8b. Villagers have primarily lost land for construction of the channel.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Lack of access to paddy land and gardens on the opposite of the downstream channel
- Less irrigation water as a result of a canal blocked by the project
- In some cases, inadequate, confusing or unequal compensation
- Delayed construction of replacement houses and promised electricity

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- Heard that electricity will be provided after they have finished constructing the new houses

Specific recommendations expressed by villagers:

- Provide bridges across the channel to reach villagers' land on the opposite side
- Ensure more water for irrigation
- Complete housing construction and then provide electricity as promised

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-06):

We met with one man.

The 2nd headman said that 53 families in the village have lost approximately 25 ha of land to the project. Some families lost most of their land and have only a few blocks left. They were paid approximately 25 million kip/family and last year were paid approximately 3.5 million kip/family for two seasons of rice production. This amount does not fully cover the value of lost production, however, because the rice price was very high. For about four families, the compensation is not enough to buy rice to replace what they've lost. The company said they would find new land for villagers after construction.

For example, he received 1 million kip last year for his family and this year he received approximately 12 million kip. He thinks villagers received more this year because they complained that compensation was too low when rice prices were increasing. At first, he estimated that the project would take 1 ha of his land for spoil disposal, but they haven't done that so he hasn't lost any rice production yet. He did lose some fruit trees, however.

They have received some compensation for bamboo and other forest products. They were given 7,750,000 kip for the whole village in January or February 2006. Villagers have also been compensated for lost gardens.

As a result of the downstream channel construction, it is difficult for them to reach their gardens and paddy land on the other side of the channel. The project has also blocked one of the canals that provided their irrigation water, so they have less than before. They think that they will get a pipe from the company later to compensate for the lost irrigation water, but they do not know when.

The company told villagers to keep money in the bank so they can use it for projects.

Some villagers have lost their houses as a result of construction activities. Nine families received money to construct temporary houses. The company said that they will construct permanent houses in January 2007, but as of March 2007 nothing had happened yet.

Transport to the village is very difficult (there is no easy road access).

He asked for our names because a number of district officials come every week and ask him if any foreigners have come to the village and what they were doing. The officials also ask for the names of Lao people who are with them.

Compensation is distributed by the company and by district officials who are working for the company. The company started coming to the village after construction began.

Village:	Sangkeo (old Keolivay and 2 other villages)
Location:	Project Lands, near downstream channel
Number of inhabitants:	195 families, 854 people
Ethnic group(s):	Makong, Lao Loum
Primary livelihood sources:	paddy and swidden rice, gardens, fishing, livestock

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Sangkeo is the first village south of the main ITD construction camp along the downstream channel on both sides of Route 8b. Villagers have primarily lost land for construction of the channel. According to the 3rd headman, 74 families – or slightly less than half the village - have lost land as a result of the NT2 project.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Unequal compensation for land and confusing compensation system
- Inadequate compensation paid which does not cover estimated value/production value of land and common property resources
- No compensation for fish losses (Nam Kathang river)
- Lack of drinking water due to construction activities and Nam Kathang pollution

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- Heard that irrigation will be provided after the channel is constructed

Specific recommendations expressed by villagers:

- Provide well for drinking water as promised
- Address compensation problems and help villagers find affordable replacement land

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-06):

We met with 4 different individuals or small groups of men and women in various areas of the village.

One villager said she now has 20 blocks of land on which she can produce 80 to 100 50-kg bags of rice. She used to have 40 ha of land and lost approximately half of her land to the project (upon which approximately 40 to 50 bags of rice are typically produced.) She says the price of rice is around 75,000 kip/bag. She also lost some banana trees and chilies in her garden. She used to earn approximately 1 million kip/year from chilies and bananas. The company told her they would pay her, but she doesn't know when. She has not received anything yet and has lost two seasons worth of production. She goes to the mountains to collect forest products to sell in order to buy rice. She was not able to buy enough rice to feed the five people in her family.

Both she and the man with her used to fish in the Nam Kathang but are not able to catch fish anymore because the river is blocked/diverted by the company. They used to catch approximately 1 kg of fish/day which is worth about 8,000 kip.

Drinking water is also a problem. There is one open shallow well in the village, but it dries up for one month. It used to be available all year, but because of the company's digging, the shallow well has dried up for the past two dry seasons.

They have complained to the headman. Company and district officials sometimes come to the village and people gather for a meeting. They keep telling them "please wait, please wait."

They do not know about the grievance mechanism. They cannot read.

Some villagers borrow money, but they say that they are poor and can not borrow money without collateral like a buffalo.

Some villagers go 3 km away to rent land for dry season cultivation.

This year the man will lose all of his fields because they will move the houses from under the transmission lines to the fields. He has been told they will be compensated but does not know when or how much.

Another villager lost 75% of his paddy land to the project. He used to produce 200 bags of rice on his land and for the past two years he has produced only 40 bags/year. He says the price is approximately 60,000 kip/bag. Last year, the company paid him 1,080,000 kip and this year he received 4,500,000 kip. Last year, he was paid immediately after the harvest and this year the payment was delayed by three months (he was supposed to be paid in December 2006, and instead was paid in March 2007). He doesn't know if his land has been taken temporarily or permanently. He is not happy with his compensation because he cannot live on 4,500,000 kip for the whole year. He lost 9 million kip/year of rice production.

There is not as much fish in the Nam Kathang as there used to be. He used to catch 2 to 3 kg of fish each time, but now the river has dried up.

They usually get water from the foreigner construction camp. There is a shallow open well in the village, but it always dries up in the dry season.

He doesn't know if he will have to move. They have come to take pictures of the house. Four other houses alongside him are in the same situation.

He earns money by cleaning out the construction camp. Approximately 20 people from the village work there. He earns about 800,000 kip/month and uses it to buy rice. The headman selects the people who will get to work for the company.

He doesn't know about the grievance mechanism. He said that a lot of people complain about the situation, but he thinks it is the policy of the government. He's not against the policy of the government, but how can he survive without enough rice?

The 3rd headman said that villagers have been paid compensation for the past two years. The compensation is classified into two categories: 1) payment for villagers' land and 2) payment for common property resources. Most villagers have been paid for their land, but not everyone. Those that have been paid have not received the full amount they were promised. For common property resources, the company originally said they would pay \$15 (150,000 kp) per person

(total), but they actually only paid \$15 per family. Now the company has said they will fix it and give each person 150,000 kip [this was later confirmed by NTPC who said it was an oversight.]

There are problems with the data collection system. The company's database is not clear. Some people are not registered there. The company has only evaluated or estimated the value of people's lost production and paid families for that. The majority of people have not received the full amount based on the estimates that were done. For example, someone should receive 1,000,000 kip but are paid 500,000 kip. Villagers do not know why and are complaining.

Many people want to get permanent compensation but only people that have lost smaller amounts of land can get permanent compensation. The company says it is trying to find new land for villagers. The company tries to encourage people to do other things like raising frogs and growing cotton.

Villagers are also complaining about drinking water. Before people used to drink water from Nam Kathang, but now the river is polluted from upstream construction. On the other side, water is being diverted to the construction camp well. They have received no compensation for drinking water losses and he has complained about this. The company said they would come and dig a well, but they have not done it yet.

A lot of people are working with the company. The men are involved in construction and the women are cleaning. If they work regularly, they can earn 700,000 to 800,000 kip/month.

The company said if people are not happy, the head of the village can submit a complaint. They have to start with the village grievance committee, then the district grievance committee, then the provincial level and finally the complaint goes to the company. So far, they have submitted 3 complaints. One complaint (December 2005?) was about the difference between the compensation promised and what was paid (villager was given 20,000 kip for land that produced 60 kg of rice). Nothing has been resolved. Another complaint (December 2005) was about his land which was taken by the company for its office. They have not paid him for it and the complaint has reached the district level. The third complaint (2006) involves more than 20 villagers who are not happy with compensation. That complaint has reached the district level. The complaint only includes people who came to him.

The wife of the 3rd headman was severely burned when she passed under low-hanging or fallen electricity lines. She has a large burn mark covering most of her upper arm and on her head and one foot. Villagers said that usually a guard sits by the electricity line to keep people from crossing, but that day there was no one there. According to the 3rd headman, the electricity line was constructed by a subcontractor (Tango) to NTPC. After the accident there was confusion as to who was responsible: EdL, Tango or NTPC. Tango has now paid 600,000 kip in compensation and EdL has paid 300,000 kip to the family. The 3rd headman said he had to pay 640,000 kip for his wife's hospital bills. Since she cannot work now, they need more compensation. The man says that they would need 2 to 3 million kip. [The incident was reported to NTPC in Vientiane and they said they would look into it.]

Another villager had 30 blocks of land on which he used to produce 78 bags of rice. He said the price of rice now is 66,000 kip/bag. He has 11 blocks left. Last year, he received 600,000 kip in compensation. This year, he received 2 million kip. He doesn't know how much he was supposed to get. He thinks the difference in compensation between the two years may be because he complained and because the price of rice increased. Maybe he also did not receive

the full amount he was due the first year. He also lost his house and received 8 million kip for that. So this year he received a total of 10 million kip.

He used to complain to the headman. He is not happy because he sees some cases where people lost just a garden or empty land and received 6 to 7 million kip.

He does not know how to write.

Village:	Na Thong
Location:	Project Lands, near transmission lines in Savannakhet Province
Number of inhabitants:	NA
Ethnic group(s):	NA
Primary livelihood sources:	NA

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Na Thong is off of Route 13 in Savannakhet. Villagers have lost land (some temporarily and some permanently) for construction of NT2 transmission lines.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Unequal compensation for land and confusing compensation system
- Inadequate compensation paid which does not cover estimated value/production value of land and common property resources

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- NA

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers: NA

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-02):

We met with two families.

An old man and his daughter explained that they lost paddy land as a result of the transmission line construction. On the land that was taken by the project they used to produce more than 20 50-kg bags of rice a year. They would earn approximately 2,000 kip per kg or 2 million kip per year. They received only 3 million kip in compensation without any explanation for what it is for or for how long the compensation is supposed to cover. They did not receive or sign any piece of paper. They don't know when or if they will be able to use their land again.

In another family, a young woman said she received 100,000 kip compensation for lost grazing land. Even though the construction is finished, they still have to graze the animals elsewhere since all the grass was cleared. They did not receive any paper explaining the compensation. She says they will be able to use the land under the transmission lines again for grazing, but they cannot grow trees under them.

NAKAI PLATEAU

<i>Village:</i>	Done
<i>Location:</i>	Nakai Plateau
<i>Number of inhabitants:</i>	154 families, approximately 770 people
<i>Ethnic group(s):</i>	Lao Theung (Brou, others)
<i>Primary livelihood sources:</i>	swidden rice, fishing, gardens, fruit trees, buffalo, forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Done was resettled in July 2006. Villagers are living on their permanent housing plots, but are still in temporary housing.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not enough drinking water in new village
- Temporary houses are falling apart
- Rice support is not enough for large families

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- The company provides food support

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Construct their permanent houses
- Ensure adequate water supply
- Will not be able to grow rice after the reservoir is flooded
- Will not be able to keep all their buffalo because there is not enough land
- Will not have enough food

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-05):

We met with approximately 7 men and women.

Villagers cleared the land before they moved to the new village. The company did not pay them to clear the land, but it paid them to construct their temporary houses (625,000 kip for a small house and 900,000 kip for a big house). It took villagers around two months to clear the land and it was hard work.

They receive rice and food from the company. They get 18 kg of rice/month for an adult and 12 kg of rice/month for a child. One villager said he had nine people in his family and had a 10-day rice shortage every month. Sometimes the company comes late with the rice deliveries. They have heard that the company has a rice shortage. Villagers also did swidden rice this year which helped. They don't know for how long the company will provide rice. Villagers also get dried fish, fresh fish, meat (0.2 kg each per person/week) and 2 eggs per person/week.

They are basically happy with the new place because they have food to eat provided by the company. When the company stops providing food, they can go to the old place. They hope that when the flood comes [the reservoir is flooded], they can still get food from the "flood." They are

very worried that they won't be able to grow rice after the flood. The new land (0.5 ha) is too small. If the company does not keep feeding them, they do not know what they will do.

Right now they catch approximately 1 to 2 kg of fish from the river each time they go.

They are worried that after the flood there will be less bamboo available.

They keep their livestock in the old village. They will move it to the new village when the flood comes. The company says they have to plant grass when the flood comes to feed the livestock in the new village. They have figured out on their own that they will have to sell buffalo when the flood comes because there is not enough land. But first they will try to keep them and see how that works.

"The most important thing in our life is buffalo. If we want to buy something, we can sell buffalo. If we need to buy rice, we can sell buffalo."

One villager had sold buffalo to buy a motorbike.

The company plans to give them 0.5 ha of land for rice, vegetables, fodder, and everything. It will not be irrigated. Villagers said they are very worried that they will not be able to do swidden agriculture after inundation and that 0.5 ha of land will not be enough to feed them.

The company is constructing a borehole and pump for groundwater. Only 8 out of 20 sites are operating now and there isn't enough water for the whole village.

NTPC staff usually stays in the village. Villagers tell the company about the rice and water problems and the company says they're still working on it.

They do not have electricity now, but they will get it after they move into their permanent homes. They don't know when they'll get their new house. They ask the company and the company keeps saying "next month." But their temporary houses are falling apart because the wood is not good. [NTPC said that Ban Done's permanent housing construction has not even started yet. They will be given assistance to bolster their temporary houses.]

There is no savings fund for the village but there is a rice bank. People can borrow rice and pay back with kip or with rice. Three kg of rice is the interest rate. So far this year only four families have not been able to pay back their "rice loan."

They miss the mango, tamarind and other fruit trees in their old village. They still go there to collect fruit now and stay there in a small hut where they used to live.

They don't know about the grievance mechanism. They usually just follow the headman and do what he says.

Village:	Sop On
Location:	Nakai Plateau
Number of inhabitants:	105 households, 456 people
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Theung (Bo, Brou and others)
Primary livelihood sources:	swidden rice, gardens, fishing, buffalo, forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Sop On moved to the new village in March 2006. They are living in temporary houses on their permanent housing sites.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Rice support is not enough for large families

Main benefits noted by villagers:

- New village will have roads, electricity, water and better houses
- The company may have work for them after the reservoir is flooded

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Will not have enough food and will not know what to do unless company tells them

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-05):

We met with the 2nd headman.

Villagers came to the new site to construct their temporary houses first. It took them two months to clear the land. They were paid 600,000 kip to clear 1 ha of agriculture land. When they arrived in the new village they already had water and a school. The company provided 0.66 ha of agriculture land per family. Last wet season, villagers did swidden rice, but the company told them not to plant rice again and they will teach them to do something else.

Villagers are receiving 18 kg rice/adult and 12 kg rice/child from the company, as well as fish, meat, and eggs. The company usually delivers the food in time, or maybe two to three days later. His family usually has about a four to five day shortage of rice. If there are a lot of adults in the family, it is a problem. If a family has mainly children, they usually have enough rice.

In principle, they are OK. They will have a big house, good roads, water and electricity. But it will be quite difficult if the company stops giving them food support.

They keep their cattle and buffalo in the old village. When the flood comes it will be difficult and they will have to sell some. He has 5 buffalo. If necessary, he will sell some.

Some people go to the old village to find food. They get fish from the river and bamboo and vegetables from the forest. Villagers rely on the old village for about half their food and get the other half from the company.

He has a garden with onions, cabbage and other vegetables. Sometimes they sell the vegetables and sometimes they're just for them to eat.

In general, they follow instructions from the company. He is quite worried, but the company will take care of them. When the flood comes the company may have some good work for them. He does not know what the future will bring and whether or not the company will keep providing support. He is worried that the company will not provide instructions or food and villagers will not know how to do things themselves.

Village:	Boua Ma
Location:	Nakai Plateau
Number of inhabitants:	80 families, 376 people
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Theung (Brou, Bo)
Primary livelihood sources:	swidden rice, fishing, buffalo, gardens, fruit trees, forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:
 Ban Boua Ma was resettled in June or July 2006. They are living in temporary houses on their permanent sites.

- Main NT2 problems described by villagers:**
- Not enough drinking water in new village
 - Temporary houses are falling apart
 - Company did not pay them what they said they would for clearing land
 - Rice support is not enough (had to sell buffalo to buy rice)

Main benefits noted by villagers: NA

- Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:**
- Will not be able to keep all their buffalo because there is not enough land
 - Will not have enough food and will not know what to do unless company tells them

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-05):
 We met the 2nd headman who was tending buffalo near the old village.

He has 20 buffalo and is tending them here (near old Boua Ma). Villagers also come to the old village to collect fruit from the fruit trees. It is approximately 2 km from the old village to the new village. He doesn't know what he will do with his buffalo when the flood comes. Some people in his village have more than 50 buffaloes, and there are 400 buffaloes in the village in total. He does not know what he will do if he has to sell buffalo. They are very important - if a family has more than 5 buffalo it can stand on its own. Villagers can sell a buffalo for about 2 to 3 million kip. He already had to sell some buffalo to buy rice. The company told him he could keep 10 buffalo (since there are 10 people in his family) in the new village.

There are 7 boreholes for drinking water in the new village. It is not enough and there are no water deliveries from the company. If many people go to collect water at the same time, villagers have to wait for an hour or so.

The company is providing them with 0.64 ha of land and told villagers they would come to explain to them how to grow crops. But there isn't enough water even for drinking, so he doesn't know how he will be able to grow crops. There is no other irrigation water available, only a small river 1 km away which is too far. He has no idea what to do with this land. The company hasn't told them what to do yet, only told them that they could not burn it.

He misses a lot from his old village, especially mango and other fruit trees, the river and a place to keep his buffalo. "Starting a new life in the new village is very difficult."

The company said villagers would only be living in a temporary house for three months, so told them not to worry about constructing it very solidly. But now they've been living in their temporary houses for more than nine months and some peoples' houses are falling apart.

He fishes at night in the Nam Theun and is able to get about 2 kg of fish in 3 hours. When the flood comes, the company will tell villagers how to catch fish.

The company paid them the equivalent of 1 ha = 1 million kip to clear their agricultural land. Villagers were not paid to clear their housing site, however. The company said they would pay them 25,000 kip per day for this, but they never did. It took them 9 to 15 days to clear the land. When he complained to the company, they told him that the money for the village is finished.

They have not had food deliveries yet this month. They are supposed to come on the 27th of the month. The company has stopped meat and fish deliveries. He does not know when or if rice deliveries will be stopped.

He was carrying a rifle for protection against elephants. He has seen many elephants recently, even in the daytime

The village used to be 74 families, but 6 families moved to the village from a very poor area to live with their relatives. The company says they do not have money for these villages and they have no responsibility for them.

Village:	Old Sop Hia
Location:	Nakai Plateau, near dam site
Number of inhabitants:	NA
Ethnic group(s):	Vietic, Phu Thai, Brou
Primary livelihood sources:	swidden agriculture, fishing, livestock/buffalo, forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Villagers in old Sop Hia are in the process of being moved to join other villages in the Northern Cluster (the river by their originally selected resettlement site in the Khemkeut District was found to be polluted). Most villagers have already been relocated to resettlement site 7 (see next entry). The Vietic villagers were told that they could choose their new resettlement site, but the people we spoke with said now they were being forced to move resettlement site 7.

Main NT2 problems villagers described by villagers:

- Do not want to move to the new site
- Dust from the road

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- New houses will be better

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Land in new village is not fertile enough
- Afraid they will not be able to adapt to the new life away from the river

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-04):

We met with a small group of men and women and another small group of Vietic women.

Villagers running a shop by the roadside complained about the dust from the road. They said that the water trucks only spray water at the check points. They are concerned about where they will go and how much land they will have in the new village. The new place is called Ban Mai.

The Vietic women said they do not want to leave here because here they have lots of crops and fish and frogs from the river. They do swidden rice here but also have to sell vegetables to buy rice. In the new place, the only good source of food will be the company. The soil there is not as good so the vegetables will be smaller and require more work. Some people from the village are already in the new place. They say that the company gives them 10 kg rice per month.

One villager said she is leaving the village this month and so is everyone else.

Her group wanted to move to the Khemkeut District where their people live. They don't understand why they cannot move there. At first a foreigner told them they could choose where to move, but then a Lao man came and said they would be moving to resettlement site 7

“They just came here and told us that we cannot stay, that we have to move to a new place. We don’t want to leave this place at all. We don’t know anything about this new place. It feels like they are taking us there to kill us.”

“The new place is very dry and we don’t want to go at all.”

She does not know if there will be enough land for the buffalo in the new place. The grass is very poor there. The cattle of her older brother, who has already moved to the new village, come back to this village by themselves because there is no food and because they miss this place. She thinks it is a two-day walk for them.

Will anything be better in the new village? She said that in the new place they will have a concrete house and they don’t know how to adapt to this. “How can we sit on a concrete floor? ... And the water, we will have to pump the water out of wells. How do we know that water will come? Here it is easy to take a bath. You just go to the river.” The new life is changing so much.

Her brother is glad to have a good new house. The company also provides meat and rice, which is good. But she does not know how long the will last. The company has promised to provide food until the end of the project, but they do not know when the project will end.

Four families will move to live with relatives in Ban Phon Tong [?] and they will not receive any support from the company.

They will get money for taking their houses apart. The woman says she will not move if they do not pay her to take her house apart.

She says that their group is the poorest in the village. The others do commercial business, go to other villages and buy and sell things. “They are very brave, but we only know how to grow crops”.

Village: Resettlement Site 7 (includes villagers from old Sop Hia)

Location: Nakai Plateau

Number of inhabitants: NA

Ethnic group(s): Vietic, Phu Thai, others

Primary livelihood sources: food support from company

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Part of Ban Sop Hia was resettled here in May 2006, along with people from other villages. They are living in temporary houses on their permanent sites.

Main NT2 problems villagers described by villagers:

- Rice support is not enough
- Agricultural land provided is not enough
- Dependant on the company and have to wait for instructions

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- New village has drinking water and roads

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Will not have enough food and will not be able to fish
- Will not be able to grow rice

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-06):

We met with a group of men and women and a family.

When we ask the villagers about how life is in the new village, one villager answers “very good, here we have drinking water.” He is then interrupted by another man who tells him, “tell the truth, don’t lie” and other villagers shake their heads in agreement. The other villagers say that there are only 3 places for drinking water and it is not enough.

They tell us that the company is delivering the food to the village. The protein support is sufficient, but they don’t receive enough rice. Even though the rice support is delivered on time, they usually have a 15-day rice shortage every month.

When asked what they miss from the old village, one villager says “Before we depended on the mountain, now we depend on the company supporting us. We used to live next to the river and could get up in the morning and catch fish for breakfast.” They do not know if they will be able to find fish in the future.

They used to do swidden agriculture, but here it is not allowed. Here they are supposed to grow vegetables but they don’t know how to do this. They are worried about not growing rice.

They are disappointed that their houses are not finished yet. They are not happy with what the company is doing because they are using two pieces of connected wood as beams instead of

one long, solid beam. Also they only have temporary toilets in the village. And the agricultural land they have been promised is not enough.

They were paid 800,000 kip for clearing the agricultural land. The housing plots were already cleared when they arrived.

Thirteen families in the village are selling textiles.

The Vietic villager told us that four Vietic families have moved here and that 20 are still in the old place. He moved here in June 2006 and in general, he is happy with the new place. They have access to a clinic, drinking water and a good road. They still miss the old place because there it was easier to find food. Here they depend on the company and sometimes the food they provide is not enough.

The company proposed four different places for them to move next to rivers. But the company said all those places will be flooded, so they cannot stay. Then the company selected this place for them. They didn't want to move here. They wanted to move to Nam Pan, but the company said it was too expensive to take electricity there, and now they say you can't drink the water there.

At the end of this month, the rest of his ethnic group is moving. Some will go to zone 7. There are three different villages moving to zone 7 now. The Vietic group will move from old Sop Hia to three different places. It is because space is limited that they have to move to different places.

He does not know yet what they will grow. He is just waiting for the company to instruct them on what to do. Right now he is just clearing land. He has not yet received the 5 to 600,000 kip he was promised for clearing his 0.7 ha of land.

What he misses the most about the old village is fishing. Fishing was their main income in the old village; they could fish all year around. In the old place, they could also collect some non-timber forest products. Here they only get 50 kg per day because there are so many people living here. Vietnamese traders come and buy their non-timber forest products for 200 kip per kg.

Village:	Sop Phene
Location:	Nakai Plateau
Number of inhabitants:	57 families, 238 people, 120 women
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Theung (Bo)
Primary livelihood sources:	swidden rice, fishing, buffalo, gardens, fruit trees, forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Sop Phene was resettled in June 2006. At the time of our visit, approximately half of the villagers were living in temporary houses about 0.5 km from their permanent site. 27 families were living in their permanent houses. Permanent houses for the rest of the village were supposed to be completed by the end of March 2007.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Not enough drinking water in new village
- Waiting for company to help clear land on housing sites and agricultural plots
- Dust from the road

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:NA

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Will not be able to keep all their buffalo because there is not enough land
- Will not have enough food

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-04):

We met with two women at temporary site, one villager at permanent site and the headman.

One woman said she has been living in the temporary house since June 2006. The new village cannot compare with the old place. She misses the mango and other fruit trees there. But she was told there would be a flood, so she said she would move.

The company provides rice every month. If they come regularly, the food is enough (the usually come on time). The water is good because the company usually comes every day. There is no well in the permanent village so they will pump water from the river to the permanent village. So far they haven't done any dry season cultivation. They've only been collecting snails and crabs from the paddy fields. She doesn't know if they will grow rice in the future, but she assumes they will get food from the company in the new village as well. She also has chicken, pigs and 14 buffalo. She will go far to the mountains and find something to eat. She doesn't know about the reservoir, but was told that because of the dam she would have to move here. She has heard about the dam, but doesn't know if it will happen. She hasn't gone to see it. When the company comes, they talk to the headman and not to the villagers. She's not really worried if the company stops providing food.

She does not know anything about the community forest or how it will work.

The headman said that villagers are happy in the new place, but drinking water is difficult. Sometimes the pump doesn't work.

Each family will get 1 ha of land in the drawdown zone of the reservoir to grow rice. They will also have 0.66 ha for a permanent garden. If there are two people or less in the family, then 1 ha for rice is enough. There are only 10 families in the village with one or two people.

The village has a total of 153 buffalo. When the flood comes, the company will only allow two to three buffalo per family because food will be difficult. Sometimes the buffalo go back to the original village. Villagers were told to sell buffalo before moving to the temporary houses, and the company said that if they bring the animals villagers would have to manage to provide enough food for them. Many who brought a lot of buffalo found it difficult to find enough fodder for them. Villagers don't want to sell them, but will have to by 2009. The company will provide a baby cow to people who do not have buffalo.

Villagers are also selling forest products like resin right now. They sell this to a Vietnamese company. NTPC suggested they grow a certain species of tree, but headman says this takes 20 years to grow so this will not help them.

They are very much worried about food and their future after the flood. Their main concerns right now are:

- 1) Road spraying. Dust from the road is a big problem. The company used to spray every day, but today was the first time they have sprayed since the new year. One person who lives close to the road has a respiratory illness from the dust. The doctor came to see him today. Villagers' pigs and chickens are also killed by trucks all the time.
- 2) Clearing land in new village on housing sites and agricultural land. Villagers are waiting for the company to come clean the new place (remove trees, trunks and soil disposal from building the new road). The company told them they would clean it at the beginning of the dry season, but now it's the beginning of the wet season and they haven't done it yet. It requires heavy equipment and people can't do it by themselves. Villagers cannot wait any longer and some are just building their house over the trees, trunks, etc. The company told them they could not burn their permanent garden area to clear it, but it is difficult for people in the middle of the new village to move the trees out to the road.
- 3) Constructing a well. The company said they would build a well, but they have not done it yet. Sometimes the pump is broken on the water tanks in the temporary village site. There is enough water for drinking, but not enough for bathing.

One person from the company is staying in the village and the headman tells him about these concerns every week. The company responds: "please wait."

Village:	Nong Boua (demonstration village)
Location:	Nakai Plateau
Number of inhabitants:	NA
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Theung (Bo, Brou, others)
Primary livelihood sources:	gardens, fishing, buffalo, forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Nong Boua was resettled in 2003. It is the demonstration village for the agricultural livelihood activities that are part of the Nam Theun 2 resettlement plan.

Main NT2 problems described by villagers:

- Do not have enough rice (some have to sell cattle or buffalo to buy rice)
- Receive a lower price for their vegetables now that other resettlers are growing the same vegetables
- Difficult to collect forest products

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- New village has roads, electricity, water and better houses

Specific recommendations and/or expressed by villagers:

- The company should continue to provide them with rice

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-04):

We met with 3 women and men from different families.

The conditions are only OK here. They are doing vegetable gardens but no paddy rice. They are growing chili, cauliflower and cabbage. Last year was good and they earned about 2,000 to 3,000 kip/kg for cauliflower or cabbage. This year they could not sell the vegetables because there was a surplus in the market because the other villages have started to grow vegetables too. This year the price was only 1,000 kip/kg. They walk to Oudomsouk to sell their vegetables.

They sell fish and some vegetables to buy rice. To get fish, they go to the river near their old village. They cannot buy enough rice to last all year, however. Some people have to sell cattle or buffaloes to buy rice (approximately 20 cow or buffalo were sold). Rice support from the project stopped in 2004.

One villager said he had to sell 6 buffaloes last year to buy rice and a tractor. To get enough rice for one year, he said he had to sell 3 buffaloes.

Other families without cattle or buffalo go to find fish, bamboo and other forest products and some work as day laborers. The wage that is paid is not bad, but only some people are able to find work. They are not able to collect a lot of forest products and have to walk far to get to the place where they collect them so they have to stay overnight in the forest.

There is a village savings fund that was started by NTPC. Some people have to borrow money just to buy rice and others have borrowed money to buy medicine.

“Rice is the main problem. If we have enough rice, we can do anything. We use all of our money to buy rice.”

One villager said that people here do not have much choice – they don’t have paddy or space to grow rice. Their plot at the demonstration farm is only 0.5 ha per family. The company used to provide fertilizer, but not anymore. Now they used organic compost from the company’s factory. The company also comes sometimes to tell them how to grow vegetables.

One woman has a shop selling snacks, drinks, etc. There are 3 shops in the village. She earns about 20,000 kip per day[?] from her shop.

The project provided them with 2 cattle. The village does not have enough food for buffalo and cattle so they graze in the forest.

“The house looks very good, but we don’t have enough rice to eat.”

“The life here is better than before because we have electricity, roads, water and good houses. The food is almost the same, because we used to have rice shortages in the old village.”

In the mornings and evenings, she said villagers work in their gardens. During the day, they go to the old village to find bamboo, fish and tend the buffalo and cattle (buffalo and cattle are kept in the old village).

When the flood comes [the reservoir is flooded], because there will be more water, there will usually be more fish. That is what the company told him. He will buy a boat.

They don’t know about the grievance mechanism, but the headman should know.

Electricity costs 15,000 kip/month, which they have to pay themselves. If they do not pay the bill for 2 or 3 months, the electricity is cut.

The company sometimes comes to the village to teach them how to grow vegetables. When they come here the villagers tell them about their situation, so they think the company knows about their problems.

Village:	Nakai Tai
Location:	Nakai Plateau (along the main road to the dam site)
Number of inhabitants:	190 households, 210 families, 884 people, 444 women
Ethnic group(s):	Lao Theung (Bo, Brou, others)
Primary livelihood sources:	rice, gardens, fishing, buffalo, forest products

Effects of Nam Theun 2:

Ban Nakai Tai will be resettled. All households are still in the original village and they expect to move at the end of 2007.

Main NT2 problems villagers described by villagers: NA

Main NT2 benefits noted by villagers:

- New village will have roads, electricity and water
- New village is closer to the forest

Specific recommendations and/or concerns expressed by villagers:

- Will have to clear their own housing site and agricultural land in the new village
- May have to sell some buffalo when they move

Detailed description of village interviews (2007-03-04):

We met with a group of about 12 men and women and the some villagers specifically discussed their situation. We met separately with the headman.

Ban Nakai Tai will move approximately 2 km away. They don't know they name of the new village, but they have seen it. It is a good place and they prefer it because it will have a road, electricity and water. Here it is difficult for drinking water. In the new place, they will have a shallow well and groundwater pumping.

They will leave some paddy field here but they can have more in the new village. They have to clear the forest first and dig the field to make their agricultural land which is quite difficult. The company will pay them to clear the land, but they don't know how much.

In the new village, they will be given 4 sq m of land per person for their house. Here they have 80 ha of paddy and they will have the same amount in the new village. In the new village, they will also have 1 ha for their garden. If they cannot prepare their land in time for the dry season, that is fine because the company will provide food. One villager said he thinks the new land they get will be irrigated.

The villagers have experience with dry season paddy. They block water from the river for irrigation and it works well. The soil in the new village will be the same as here. Some families have buffalo, but he does not. Some families have 20 to 30 buffalo and the company told them to sell them and keep only a few. They were told that they will not have time to take care of them in the new village because they will be busy with agriculture. Fodder should be no

problem. Some people have already tried to grow food and have had no problem. His wife has 10 buffalo and 10 cattle. His mother-in-law has 7 buffalo. She said she won't sell any of them. She thinks she will have enough feed because she will buy grass for the buffalo. The company will provide cows for those people without any buffalo.

Now they get fish from the river. There will be more water after the flood [flooding of the reservoir] and they think it will be even better. If people have money, they can take the boat and go out with a net and catch more fish.

To collect forest products, they have to go very far away to the mountains. In the new place, they will be even closer to the forest.

They spray the roads 3 times per day so dust is not a big problem.

They have a relative in the demonstration village (Nong Boua). He said that if the whole family can work, there are lots of good opportunities. But if a family has lots of children then they are still poor. It is good in the demonstration village. The company pays them for their labor and they can sell their products in the market.

The headman said he doesn't know when they will move. Some people say the end of 2007, but he also heard something about 2009.

When they move they will have to sell some of their buffalo because there is limited space and limited food in the new village. He does not know how many buffalo people can keep, but they can keep 3 to 4 cattle. The company was going to give each household 1 ha of land, but now they will get 3 ha for buffalo fodder and vegetable cultivation.

Villagers are not happy about having to clear the land in the new village. Villagers want to have a smooth place to build their house and now they will have to work hard to clear it. The company said they would pay the villagers to do this but he does not know how much.