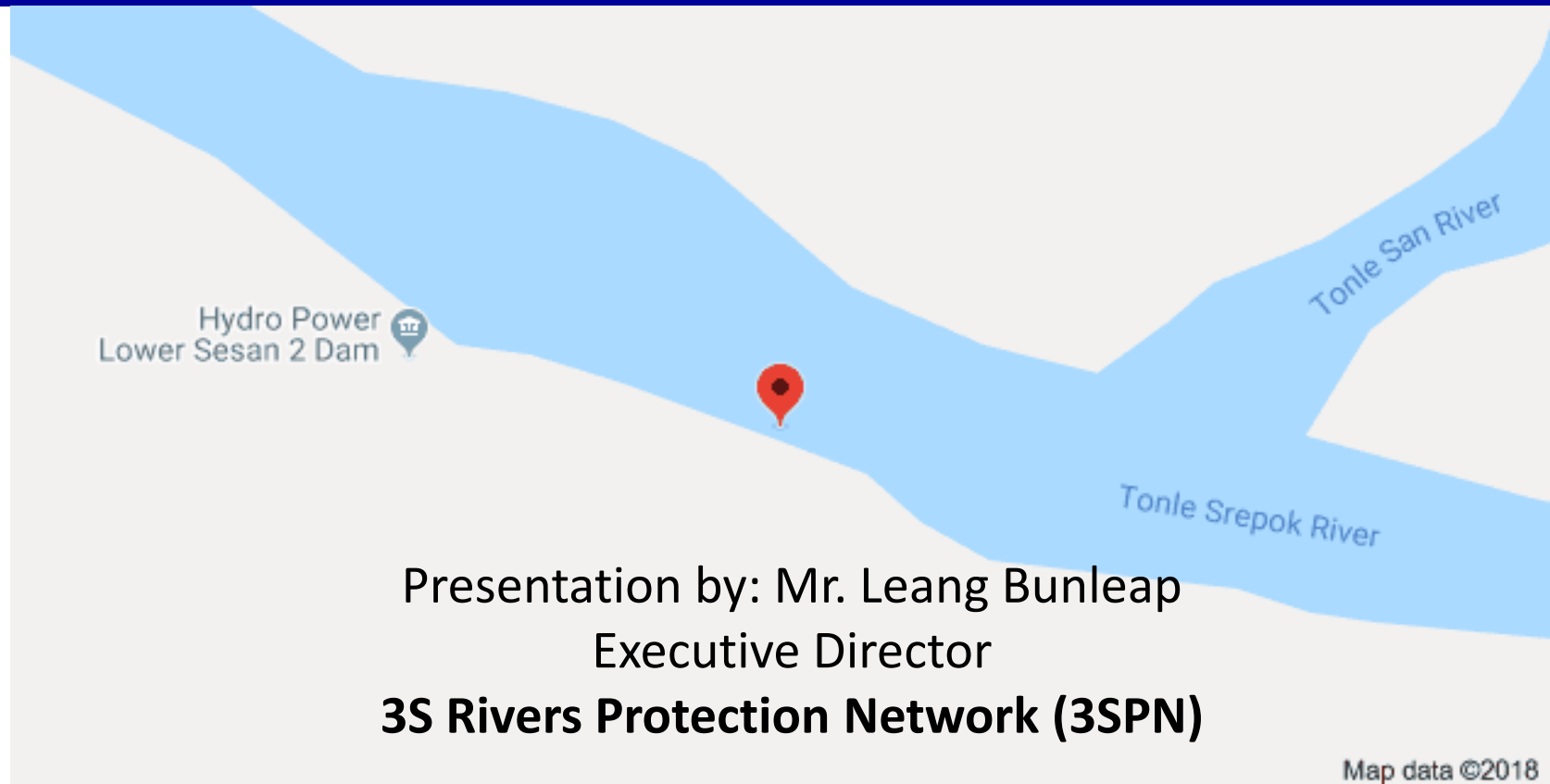


The Linkage of Transboundary Mekong Water Governance and Livelihood of 3S Rivers Community in Cambodia



The importance of 3S System

- The transboundary river system of Srepok, Sesan and Sekong (3S) are major tributaries to lower Mekong.
- Critical important for people living in the basin – livelihoods, cultures, social etc.
- Provide essential water and sediment flows to the downstream floodplains
- Serve as major routes for fish migration, production and biodiversity conservation.



Fishing and biodiversity



Water Sources for Agriculture (eg. Rice product and animal raising etc.)

Livelihood Impacts Caused by Dam Operation

“Impacts Experienced From Yali Dam since, 1996 ”



- Reduce wet season flow and increase dry seasons flows;
- Disrupts water and sediment flow to downstream
- Pollution and worsen water quality
- Riverbank and bed Erosion caused villagers to move or relocation;
- Often droughts: The water shortage and irregular water fluctuation;
- Flash Flooding: Destroy properties, people death, losses of livestock

Impacts to Livelihood of people along Sesan river in Cambodia



- Flooding in upstream and water fluctuation in downstream;
- Blocks fish migration;
- Loss of deep water pools up with sedimentation;
- Loss of food security and decrease in household income,
- Abandon village and houses, far from rivers;
- Decrease tradition, and culture of indigenous people.

Hydropower development in the 3S region

- **Lower Sesan II**
(operation since 2017)
- Lower Sesan 1&3
- Upper Sesan 4
- Lower Srepok 3&4
- Sekong
- Prek Liang 1 & 2.

(Source: ODC

<https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/hydropower-dams/>)



Lessons Learned

- EIA are not properly conducted, transboundary impacts not considered;
- Lack of community participation & information sharing;
- No compensation for losses/damages;
- No resettlement program on downstream in Cambodia;
- Lack of cooperation mechanism, little or no community or civil society engagement;
- Have no proper plan respond to common problems.

Recommendation to the MRC

- Establish Rivers-Based Organization (RBO) for 3S basin, engaging affected communities and civil society;
- Strengthening cooperation among CNMC and VNMC to fulfill the IWRM project agreement on 1995;
- Create dataset for 3S trans-boundary cooperation;
- Increase public participation for all stakeholders engagement;

Recommendation to the government

- Keep the Mekong and 3S rivers free flow;
- Provide the legislation and commitment to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) for sustainable livelihoods;
- Issue legislation to strengthen payment for ecosystem services to hold the developers accountable and compensate to the loss of ecosystem services;

Thank you for your attention

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Q & A



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