

# Regional Forum on Gender Equity and Women’s Leadership in Transboundary Water Governance in the Lower Mekong Basin

Vientiane, Lao PDR

13 – 15 September 2017



Supported by:



## Forum organisers

### Oxfam and the Inclusion Project

Oxfam is an international confederation of 20 organisations working together with partners and local communities in more than 90 countries. One person in three in the world lives in poverty. Oxfam is determined to change that world by mobilising the power of people against poverty. Around the globe, Oxfam works to find practical, innovative ways for people to lift themselves out of poverty and thrive. We save lives and help rebuild livelihoods when crisis strikes. And we campaign so that the voices of the poor influence the local and global decisions that affect them. Oxfam works with partner organisations and alongside vulnerable women and men to end the injustices that cause poverty.

In the Mekong region, Oxfam's Mekong Regional Water Governance Program enables communities to be better able to realise sustainable livelihoods in the Mekong and Salween river basins. One of the main projects in the regional program, the Inclusion Project is a 5.5 year AUD 9 million project from 2014 – 2019 and which is one of the four pillars in the Australian Government's Mekong Water Resources Program. In the Inclusion Project, Oxfam facilitates increased civil society participation and engagement in water resource governance, and promotes more open, inclusive, accountable and effective water resource governance together with partners in five Mekong countries: Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam. The project supports women's leadership, improved consideration of gender in water governance, builds the capacity of communities and civil society to engage in water policy, and convenes and contributes to opportunities for water policy dialogue. Oxfam and partners seek to influence changes at the community and civil society level, as well as changes in policies and practices at the national and trans-boundary level.

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### IUCN and the BRIDGE programme

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice

The BRIDGE (Building River Dialogue and Governance) programme is facilitated by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and is a multi-regional project being implemented in 14 river and lake basins across the world. The programme aims to build water governance capacities through learning, demonstration, leadership and consensus-building for sustainable river basin management. In Asia, the BRIDGE programme is working in the 3S Basins (Sekong, Sesan and Sre Pok Rivers) shared by Cambodia, Viet Nam and Lao PDR. The BRIDGE programme has been operational since 2011, and is facilitating processes contributing to gender mainstreaming in water policies and programmes in the 3S region. Gender integration is an essential crosscutting theme within the BRIDGE programme.

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# 1. Forum Objectives

Oxfam Inclusion Project and IUCN BRIDGE programme in collaboration with the Lao Women's Union and with the support of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), organised a Regional Forum on Gender Equity and Women's Leadership in Transboundary Water Governance in the Lower Mekong Basin from 13 – 15 September 2017, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. 80 participants (approximately 50 women) from government, civil society organisations, private sector and academia in the Mekong countries attended the three day forum in Vientiane, Lao PDR (See annex 4.4 for participant details).

The forum provided spaces for experience sharing and capacity building on gender issues and to create an enabling environment and build partnerships for mainstreaming gender issues in water governance policy and practice.

The specific objectives were:

- To hear from high-level panellists about opportunities to promote and support women's leadership in transboundary water governance;
- Expand and build a network of 'gender champions' from different sectors who have applied their knowledge and influence in both the national and regional policy arena and in the implementation of water related programmes and initiatives on the ground;
- Share experiences and learning from various initiatives on the development of women's leadership in water governance;
- Present and discuss the preliminary results of Oxfam-IUCN joint research conducted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Bangkok on the challenges and opportunities to influence Gender in Regional Water Governance policy and practice in the Lower Mekong Region;
- Identify the key changes or impacts the regional network of organisations/partners would like to contribute leading to the mainstreaming of gender in policy and practice in transboundary water governance within the next two years, and develop a strategy to coordinate our efforts to influence this change.

The three day forum started with an opening reception including a panel discussion, and a performance by a youth group from Lao PDR, highlighting gender issues in water governance. Day 2 of the forum provided spaces for sharing leanings from individual organisations and identified opportunities for mainstreaming gender in water governance in the LMB. Day 3 was dedicated to identification of the shared vision and concerted actions that Oxfam, IUCN and partners organisations can together undertake in the coming years for better impact (see annex 4.3 for the detailed agenda).



Participants in the Day 3 Planning Session, Oxfam-IUCN Regional Forum on Gender Equity and Women's Leadership in Transboundary Water Governance in the Lower Mekong Basin, Vientiane, Lao PDR, 15 September 2017

## 2. Forum Sessions

### 2.1. *Panel discussion on Women’s Leadership in Water Governance*

The opening reception for the forum began with a panel discussion where water leaders and gender experts from the Mekong region shared their experiences. The panel was chaired by the Australian Ambassador to Lao PDR, H.E. John Williams, and included representatives from the Lao Women’s Union, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Myanmar, Viet Nam Women’s Union, Ministry of Environment Cambodia, Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and UNDP Laos.

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***“Gender equity and environmental protection are newly established work and the knowledge and experiences are very limited for women in Lao PDR. Public awareness on gender equity in water resource management and environment protection is still low, including lacking of information, education and communication materials on gender and environment protection in Lao language,” said Madame Kaysamy Latvilayvong, the Deputy Director General of the Department of Women Development, Lao Women’s Union, Lao PDR.***

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L-R: **Kaysamy Latvilayvong**, Deputy Director General of the Department of Women Development, Lao Women’s Union; **Sengamphone Chithtalath**, Translator; **Hla Hla Htwe**, Deputy Director, Environmental Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar; **Tran Thu Thuy**, Director of General Office, Viet Nam Women Union; His Excellency **John Williams**, Australian Ambassador to Laos (chair); **Sophy Prum**, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia; **Nhu Duong Hai**, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, Mekong River Commission Secretariat; **Margaret Jones Williams**, Head of the Environment Programme, UNDP in Laos.



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***“Practically in my department, I am the only woman in the decision-making role and I work with other eight men in the head department. So for women to catch up the leadership and decision-making role, women should have to improve their skills, knowledge and technologies as well as try to be smart and professional,”*** said Ms Hla Hla Htwe, Deputy Director Environmental Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation from Myanmar

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The panel discussion highlighted the steps taken by governments in Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR to improve social inclusion and gender equity in national policies; including:

- The Government of Cambodia has established an inter-ministerial Technical Working Group on Gender with representatives from all national ministries.
- Myanmar has commenced a national Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of hydropower to understand the socio-ecological impacts of proposed hydropower developments in the country. The SEA process is planned to generate sex-disaggregated demographic data, and capture ethnic and social values from across Myanmar’s primary river basins. The final SEA report could therefore act as an information resource and decision making tool to foster socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable hydropower plans in Myanmar in the next 10-20 years.
- In Lao PDR, the government is working with UN and other development partners to adapt Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 goals and targets, including the SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) into national and local planning processes, policies and strategies. The Lao PDR’s 8th National-Socio-Economic Development Plan - the country’s guiding strategic policy document has already incorporated the global development agenda by linking its indicators to those of the SDGs.

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***Woman is a main person who takes care and has responsibility to collect the water- from 4 to 5 hours a day. We need to do something such as research studies, or survey to identify women’s problems and seek solutions to improve women’s role in water resource management,”*** said Ms Tran Thu Thuy- Director of General Office of the Viet Nam Women’s Union

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## 2.2. *The Story of Nang - Young women's voices in community water governance*

The panel was followed by an insightful and humorous performance by a Lao youth group, Mayahahey. The performance highlighted women's exclusion from the natural resources management decision-making processes. The show used the charismatic and endangered Mekong Dolphin to explain its struggle with the rapid changes in river conditions and increasing pollution. The Dolphin challenged the young woman champion, Nang, to take action and make her voice heard in her community. While the story was set in the Lao context, participants from other countries stated that there were similarities in cultural norms and challenges that women face. Some expressed interest to use this theatre and clowning method in their future work to raise awareness on the issues around gender in water governance. [Click here for the Video of the Show.](#)

NANG: Oh right, yes it's a real problem, all these things really affect the number of fish and for fishing villages like ours, the river is our life! And it's not just the fish...all this impacts on the whole environment in lots of ways, it effects the birds, the turtles, and the vegetables we grow near the river, now the morning glory tastes like 'FAB'!

DOLPHIN: Mine too...the lack of fish is really starting to make me look skinny, but that's just the way it is with the Mekong, what can you do about it?

NANG: There's lots of things! We could start monitoring the river to stop people fishing with electricity, we can start educating people about why it's bad to throw rubbish and chemicals in the river. We can make sure the construction companies are not dumping things in the river, we can start fish farms! I'm going to talk at the village meeting about this, we need to do something!

DOLPHIN: HA! You? Talk at the meeting!?

NANG: Yes!

DOLPHIN: But you're a woman!

NANG: SO??

DOLPHIN: Only men go to the meeting! No one will listen to you!

NANG: Yes they will, this is too important.

DOLPHIN: No they won't!

*At the community meeting....*

NANG: we all know we are facing some challenges in our community. With illegal fishing, pollution and the problems of climate change and of sustainability as the water level is lower and fish numbers fall... Well there are things we can do to overcome these problems....but it needs inputs from everyone...especially women in our village!

Women have so much knowledge about all these issues we're facing because we work on the river every day. And it's not just about water management, we have women in our village who know about business, managing the forest, and who have finance skills...Look... I know that's a change. But when my parents were little only boys went to school and what's it like today? Lots more girls are going to school right?! So we *can* change! And it can be a benefit for the whole community, women, men, girls and boys!!



### 2.3. *Presentations: Gender and women’s leadership in water governance*

On Day 2 of the forum, four presentations from subject experts and CSO representatives from Myanmar, Viet Nam, and India highlighted the work of organisations and local governments supporting gender equity and women’s leadership. A key reflection was that cooperation among the civil society, government and academic sectors is necessary in order to build organisational capacity on gender, and to overcome barriers to women’s leadership. There is also need to ensure engagement of women’s agencies and organisations in national and regional water dialogues and decisions; and for women’s experiences and knowledge to inform policy and planning.

#### 2.3.1. **“Gender Equity and Goal 6: The Critical Connection and opportunities”, Ms Melita Grant, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney**

Melita provided insights into the global discourse, challenges and opportunities related to gender equity and social inclusion in water resources management. She identified some of the key strategies at play globally that stakeholders from the Mekong Region can replicate (e.g. funding), frameworks and trends (such as SDGs); and tools (such as the [Global Water Partnership’s Action Piece](#), and the Green Climate Fund’s gender manual).

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***“How do we bring women to the centre of the agenda? And moving from being an add-on to a core business goal.”*** Melita Grant, Institute for Sustainable Futures – University of Technology Sydney, and author of the recent global publication ‘Gender Equality and Goal 6: The Critical Connection’ for the Australian Water Partnership

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Melita shared that the global research has clearly identified that the critical actions to support gender equality in water governance include: engagement of gender experts in planning process, supporting women’s leadership development through capacity building and ensuring quotas for women in local and national policy making bodies and governance mechanisms, and engagement and collaboration with women’s organisations. [See Melita’s blog about the forum](#) and [her presentation](#) for more details.



**Melita Grant**, Senior Research Consultant, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, presents to the forum participants.



## FOUR ACTION AREAS



Action areas from the **Global Water Partnership's** ["Action Piece on Gender equality and inclusion in water resources management"](#), August 2017.

### 2.3.2. "The use of GIA to influence the up-coming revision of gender law", Ms Pham Thi Dieu My, Director of the Centre for Social Research and Development, Viet Nam

My provided a snapshot of actions to improve gender equity and use of Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) to influence the up-coming revision of gender laws in Viet Nam. The country adopted the Law on Gender Equality in 2006 and has issued a national strategy on gender equality until 2020 to improve public awareness, close the gender gap, heighten women's status, protect women's rights, and fight discrimination against women. However, there are gaps, such as lack of local participation in implementation of this law and the practical gender needs are not fully met. The community still has a low level of knowledge on gender issues, particularly those linked to water governance. Engaging with hydropower companies to incorporate gender impact assessment in their projects has been challenging, however, to persuade the companies, CSRSD is now working to build the business case on the benefits of integrating gender as well as the risks associated with not considering the impacts on women. CSRSD is also working with government to ensure EIA/SIA is gender sensitive and working with educational institutions to promote interdisciplinary research and teaching on gender equity from early school years, were emphasised as critical work to be strengthened. [Click here for CSRSD Gender Impact Assessment of Hydropower Projects Policy Brief.](#)

### 2.3.3. "The story of Ms Rinku Das", Mr Vishwa Ranjan, Programme Officer IUCN

Vishwa presented a story of Ms Rinku Das, a young woman leader from Namkhana panchayat (village cluster) in Sunderbans, India. The story highlighted the role of women leaders and government policies in the development of gender balanced and resilient societies. In 2013, the state government of West Bengal enforced reservation for women in local elections and also initiated efforts to build women's capacity on locally relevant and ecologically sustainable livelihoods. Today, Namkhana Panchayat is headed by a woman, has achieved impressive results on WASH indicators and there are a lot of active Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) functioning in the region.

#### **2.3.4. “Engaging and Empowering rural women in Water Governance”, Dr Hla Myo Thwe from Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID)**

Thwe presented on lessons from engaging and empowering rural women in MIID’s local river health monitoring project, supported by the Water Land and Ecosystems Program and Oxfam Inclusion Project.

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***“Women’s Active Participation is a key to achieving good water governance”*** Dr Hla Myo Thwe, Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID).

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Thwe emphasised the important role of education and communication as essential elements to build knowledge and awareness about the roles of women and men and bridge the existing gender gaps and find practical solutions for women to participate in community monitoring and dialogues with government. She noted that cultural norms and practices and the stereotypical perceptions about the natural role of women in society are what prevent women’s inclusion. She shared practical tips to ensure women’s meaningful participation in community and state level dialogues including peer to peer learning, and supporting women to bring children to meetings, or travel with a family member.

[Click here for all the Presentations by CSRD, MIID and IUCN.](#) [Click here](#) for MIID’s video

#### **2.4. *Analysis by Stockholm Environment Institute: Opportunities and challenges for mainstreaming gender in transboundary water governance***

Oxfam and IUCN commissioned SEI to conduct an assessment and scoping of challenges and opportunities to influence greater gender equity and women’s empowerment in transboundary water governance in the Mekong Basin.

SEI presented their preliminary findings for discussion in the workshop, including:

- The gendered norms and inequalities that prevent women’s meaningful participation and leadership in water governance sectors and decision-making
- Water and energy sectors and agencies are male-dominated, and have limited focus or expertise in gender and social issues
- The changing investments and plans in energy and infrastructure in the region have implications for transboundary water governance and for gender relations and women’s opportunities

Following SEI’s presentation, group discussions were held on four topics, drawing both from participants’ existing knowledge and experience of what works well, what opportunities they see, and ideas for action:

1. Strategies to increase women’s meaningful participation and voice
2. Strategies to break silos and facilitate cross-sector collaboration
3. Legal and institutional entry points at national level
4. Regional platforms and agreements

The discussions from this session were then refined and taken into the final day of planning for ideas for action that Oxfam, IUCN and partners can take to link our work and influence the identified opportunities.

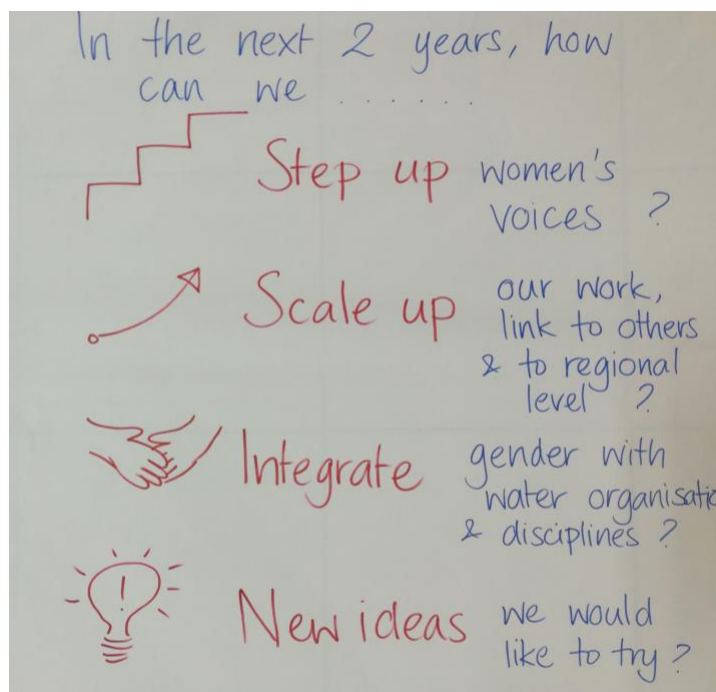
SEI’s completed report will be published in March 2018.

## 2.5. Planning Session: How can we increase consideration of gender and women's leadership in water governance in the next 2 years?

On the final day (Day 3) of the forum, Oxfam, IUCN and partners further considered key opportunities to influence gender in regional water governance policies and practice, and discussed actions that we can take together as a network to step up, scale up and integrate gender into water governance, and brainstormed new ideas. The discussion was a key input to our planning for the up-coming years.

The key opportunities discussed were:

1. **Working with women's organisations** (unions, women's ministries, and women's civil society organisations)
2. Monitoring and leveraging the commitments in the **ASEAN Vientiane Declaration**
3. Exploring **gender and opportunities for women in the energy** investments and plans in the region, and
4. Supporting **stronger linkages between gender and water governance disciplines in research and teaching** in regional and national universities.



Planning session questions for the four opportunities identified

### 2.5.1. Working with women's organisations

*How can we ensure women's organisations - women's unions, women's ministries, and women's civil society organisations - are involved in water governance decision making?*



- Continue to raise awareness, build capacity and share information to
  - Women's Unions and Ministries of Women's Affairs
  - Women's and gender-focused CSOs
  - Young women and men – provide training and support for young women to build leadership skills and confidence
- Provide the spaces and platform for Women Unions to share and network with other stakeholders such as local authorities; and where possible have formal requirements for their involvement
- Start with a pilot project at a small scale or exchange visit and learning events for Women Unions and organisations to work with other agencies on water governance issues
- Explore opportunities to integrate gender issues in water governance and conservation of environment in the MOU between Laos and Viet Nam Women's Unions.
- Organise exhibitions and similar events for women's leadership development in water governance



## 2.5.2. Monitoring and leveraging the commitments in the ASEAN Vientiane Declaration

*What opportunities does the 2012 ASEAN Vientiane Declaration Enhancing Gender Perspective and ASEAN Women's Partnership for Environmental Sustainability present for ensuring gender and women's leadership is a priority in regional water governance?*

The declaration was signed at ministerial level to support capacity building for women on environmental governance in ASEAN countries. However, there is not much information of the status of the implementation of this declaration. Therefore, it was discussed that likeminded organisations from the LMB could look for opportunities to monitor and/or support the implementation at the national level, while working with the ASEAN Committee on Women, which is responsible for the implementation of and reporting on the declaration.



The commitments in the declaration and action plans are relevant for country commitments to meet the SDGs, and for different national line ministries. Working with media and existing networks or supporting sub-national authorities to disseminate information on the content of the declaration could also be an option for promoting the commitments.

## 2.5.3. Gender in changing regional energy investments and plans

*How can gender be considered and incorporated, and what are the opportunities for women, in the changing regional energy investments and plans in the Mekong countries and region?*

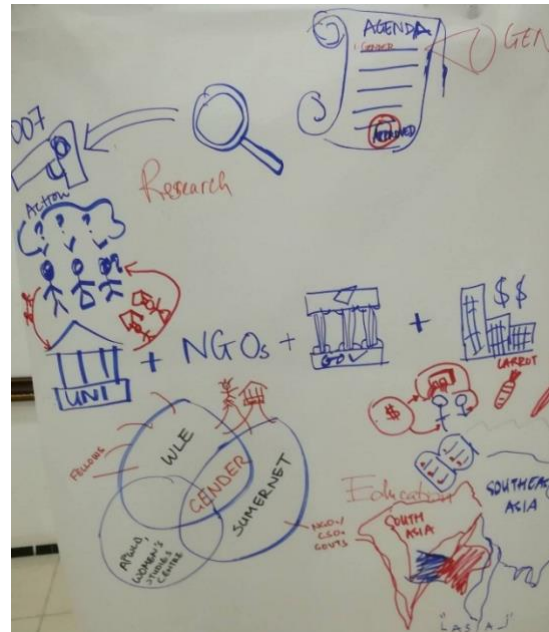
- Promote equitable involvement of women and men in renewable energy value chains
- Use the existing reports and studies; e.g. Stimson Centre analysis of regional energy policy; or Can Tho University research on the use of energy at a household scale; to inform energy policy from a gender perspective
- Organise training at national and local levels on gender issues in energy sector
- Hold regional workshops to share experiences and use it as input to develop policies
- Provide information for communities on renewable energy options such as solar, wind, biomass, and biogas; drawing on existing projects on local and decentralised energy planning options.



## 2.5.4. Linking gender and water governance disciplines in research and teaching

*How can we create stronger linkages between the gender and water disciplines in research and teaching by national and regional universities and research/training organisations?*

- Create a 'Gender and Water Governance' network
- Create networks between the existing research institutes and research fellowship programs
- Organise student exchange program between the LMB countries
- Gender issues shall be integrated in interdisciplinary research & teaching (e.g. Can Tho University, Viet Nam) or have a separate subject such as in National University of Laos and AIT under the courses IWRM and sustainable hydropower development
- Use information and knowledge available with local communities and engage them during research and share research results back to the community
- Support collaborative research between universities, CSOs, government and the private sector



## 3. Conclusion

The forum created new networks and strengthened the existing ones, particularly between government and CSOs. Participants demonstrated that they received a lot of knowledge through opportunities to share and learn from each other's experiences on how to integrate gender in water governance. It was positive to see many women participate in this regional forum and with a higher male participation rate compared to last year's event. Four key regional priorities to shape our plan for the coming years were identified as well as the potential actions. There is still more work to be done to finalise these priorities and to move from the ideas to the on ground implementation.

Take-away messages:

- Focus on bringing women to the centre of the water governance agenda, including supporting women's economic empowerment, and strengthening and raising women's voices at community, national and regional levels
- While organisations will take different approaches, we can work together on a shared vision for women's leadership and gender equity
- We need to support greater participation and recognition of women's organisations working on women's rights and gender issues in water governance

### 3.1. *Next Steps*

- Oxfam and IUCN will work with SEI to finalise the report on opportunities to influence gender in regional water governance to be published in March 2018
- Develop plans with key partners to on selected regional priorities to be implemented.

## 4. Annexes

### 4.1. *Link to download the presentations and key resources*

A Dropbox Folder containing key documents and presentations was shared with participants:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hnvhw3itpfai9p/AADZFJISMy8iWm-YOLNLtgVia?dl=0>

### 4.2. *Forum evaluation and feedback*

24 participants (21 women) evaluated the forum. 95% confirmed the learning event is relevant to their work, and 90% reported they have met new people and organisations relevant to their work. 62.5% are able to find way they can link their work to one another, and 60% felt encouraged and inspired to be part of a broader network of organisations working on gender equity and women's leadership.

#### **Key learnings:**

- Improved understanding of gender barriers, gender status of the countries in the region
- Gender is cross cutting issue not stand alone
- How to raise women's voices
- Gaps in gender mainstreaming in different levels- local/community and national level; and scaling up gender mainstream to higher level - national level to regional level
- Practical experience to integrate gender in policy and strategies in practice and promote women in water governance
- Opportunity in partnership and networking
- Action research to inform policy making in gender

#### **Participants committed to apply the learning in various forms:**

- Internal sharing with organisation and team
- Networking - looking for potential NGOs to collaborate in promoting gender priorities in water governance with the line ministry
- Explore more about Vientiane Declaration how to contribute and consider gender concept in energy sector
- Use the information and knowledge in their work

#### **Event organisation:**

70% reported the content of the forum was organised and easy to follow. 87.5% said instruction from the facilitators was good and helpful, 70.1 % confirmed that the materials given were useful and helpful, 83.3% reported participation and interaction were encouraged, 75% reported adequate time was provided for question and discussion, and 91% reported that the venue and facilities were suitable for the event.

Suggestions from participants for future regional events include:

- Organise a gender forum two times per year
- Big discussion questions and little room for solving them
- To have more local NGOs and government agencies
- To have more time for group discussion
- To have booth for each organisation to share their experience on gender in water governance / share more successful and innovative gender working model to share and implement together



### 4.3. Agenda

## Regional Forum on Gender Equity and Women’s Leadership in Transboundary Water Governance in the Lower Mekong Basin

13 - 15 September 2017, Vientiane, Lao PDR

### Opportunities and Objectives:

This two and a half day forum will provide the space to exchange experiences and advance our activities to promote gender justice in regional and transboundary water governance policy and practices in the Mekong region, including an opportunity to:

- To hear from high-level panellists about opportunities to promote and support women’s leadership in transboundary water governance
- Share experiences from different stakeholders with experience in gender analysis and supporting women’s leadership in water governance
- Expand and build a network of ‘gender champions’ from different sectors who have applied their knowledge and influence in both the national and regional policy arena and in the implementation of water related programmes and initiatives on the ground
- Identify with project partners the key change/s we want to see in gender in transboundary water governance within the next two years, and plan for how we will coordinate our efforts to influence this change (Day 3 Planning Meeting)

### Agenda:

**Note:** *At the Dinner Opening Reception, you will be joined by gender champions from different sectors in the Mekong region*

### Day 1: Opening Reception

Time	Activities	Chair	Venue
<b>Wednesday 13 September 2017, Settha Palace Hotel</b>			
Opening Reception			
4:00pm – 4:15pm	Welcoming Drink	Organising Team	Pool Area
4:15pm-4:30pm	Opening Remarks from Lao Women’s Union, Oxfam and IUCN	LWU	Luang Prabang
4:30pm-6:00pm	Opportunities to promote women’s leadership in national and transboundary water governance High level panel discussion	His Excellency Mr John Williams, Australian Ambassador to Laos	
6:00pm-6:45pm	Continue Dinner and Networking	Organising Team	
6:45pm-7:30pm	Magic Performance by Mayahahey	Oxfam	
7:30pm-8pm	Networking Event	Organising Team	

## Day 2: Conference

Thursday 14 September 2017, Room 1, New Rose Boutique Hotel			
Session 1: Welcome and introduction			
8:00-8:30	Registration	Organising Team	
8:30-9:00	Welcoming Remarks	LWU, Oxfam, IUCN	
9:00-9:10	Ground rules and agenda	Oxfam	
9:10-9:30	Getting to know each other	Oxfam	
9:30-10:00	Coffee Break and Group Photo		
Session 2: Learning from the stakeholder experiences on mainstreaming gender and women's leadership development in water governance			
10:00-11:05	Knowledge Sharing: Theme 1: Experiences and Opportunities to improve consideration of gender in policy and practice  Speaker 1: <b>"Gender Equity and Goal 6: The Critical Connection and opportunities" by Melita Grant, Australia Water Partnership</b>  Speaker 2: <b>"The use of GIA to influence the up-coming revision of gender law" by Pham Thi Dieu My, CSRD</b>	Oxfam	
11:05-12:10	Knowledge Sharing: Theme 2: Experiences/approaches and Opportunities to increase women's leadership in water decision making  Speaker 1: <b>"The story of Ms Rinku Das" by Vishwaranjan Sinha, IUCN</b>  Speaker 2: <b>"Engaging and Empowering rural women in Water Governance" By Hla Myo Thwe, The Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID)</b>	IUCN	
12:10-13:10	Lunch		
Session 3: Gender mainstreaming in Lower Mekong basin: from policy to practice			
13:10-16:40	The challenges and opportunities to influence Gender in Regional Water Governance policy and practice in the Lower Mekong Region  Presentation on the outcomes of research conducted by SEI, Bangkok and group work	SEI	
16:40-16:50	End of the day Evaluation	Oxfam	
16:50-17:00	Closing Remarks		



### Day 3: Planning Session

Friday 15 September 2017, New Rose Boutique Hotel			
Session 4: Working together and contributing to gender mainstreaming in the Lower Mekong Countries			
8:30-9:00	Recap: Key opportunities to influence Gender in Regional Water Governance policy and practice	SEI, Oxfam, IUCN	
9:00-10:00	Small Group Work:  What change we want to see in gender and women's leadership in transboundary water governance in the next two years  Ideas for actions we can take in our organisations and collectively to amplify women's voices, scale up and link our work regionally, and strengthen gender in policies and practice in water governance	Oxfam/IUCN	Room 1
10:00-10:30	Groups Reporting Back	Group	
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00-12:00	Group Work:  1. How are we going to achieve that change?  2. How are we going to measure the progress and its effectiveness?	Oxfam/IUCN	
12:00-12:30	Reflection and Closing Remarks	LWU, Oxfam and IUCN	
12:30	Lunch		Level 1

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