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Laos People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity and Prosperity

Environment Protection Fund

PAW/LENS2 Sub-project Application

General Instructions: Please refer to the Project Implementation Manual (PIM) Volumes 1 to 5 for subproject design, implementation and monitoring/evaluation (M&E). In summary:

- Applications should be submitted in both Lao and English to EPF Office. Translating the application is SDA's responsibility. It can be financed by the subproject preparation facility, if such facility has been mobilized, or pre-financed by EPF.
- Applications must demonstrate that the subproject meets the following eligibility criteria: (a) supports a Government of Lao PDR policy, strategy and/or an official plan; (b) contributes to at least one outcome indicator and at least one intermediate outcome indicator from the LENS2 results framework; (d) fits into either the PICE or CBI EPF funding windows; (e) excludes activities from the negative check-list in the PIM, and (f) aligns with project's geographical scope which includes the national/central level and the following provinces: Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Houaphan, Xiengkhouang, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Vientiane and Xaysomboun.
- Applications for protected area and wildlife sub-projects must demonstrate that the subproject meets an additional eligibility criteria: contributes to a regional or global outcome such as cross-border cooperation, knowledge transfer or prevention of illegal wildlife trade.
- Sub-projects are approved for their proposed duration. However, implementation requires the prior annual approval of an Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB). EPF has the possibility to cancel an approved subproject if the annual performance is consistently unsatisfactory and the achievement of its objective has become unlikely.
- An SDA can only implement one subproject at a time although additional financing is possible.

EPFO Sub-project number:

1. Sub-project delivery agency (SDA) (name/address)	The Nam Theun 2 Watershed Protection and Management Authority Ban Oudomsouk, Nakai District, Khammouane Province, Lao PDR Telephone: +856 51 620123 Fax: 856 51 620131
2. SDA focal point (name/function/contact details)	Mr. Thong Eth Phayvanh, Acting Director E-mail: tphayvanh@gmail.com
3. Geographic scope (can be more than one option)	<input type="checkbox"/> International level <input type="checkbox"/> Central/national level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provincial/district level. Please indicate target provinces: Khammouane and Bolikhamxay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected area. Please indicate (NPA, protection forest, conservation forest and name) - Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area
4. Sub-project title	Strengthening the capacity of the WMPA to effectively manage the NT2 Watershed and Nakai-Nam Theun NPA
5. Amount requested (US\$)	\$ 2,999,920

¹ PICE Policy Implementation and Capacity Enhancement; CBI Community and Biodiversity Investment

6. EPF's eligible funding window <i>(please check only one window)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Implementation and Capacity Enhancement (PICE) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Biodiversity Investment (CBI)
7. LENS2 Project Development Objective	To help strengthen selected environmental protection management systems, specifically for protected areas conservation, enforcement of wildlife laws, and environmental assessment management.
8. Sub-project related sectoral and institutional context, challenges and priorities <i>(Describe role of SDA, current capacity and activities related to PA/wildlife/env. and social safeguards, challenges and priority needs and approach proposed to address priority needs/gaps).</i>	<p>Globally unique, the Nakai-Nam Theun (NNT) National Protected Area (NPA) is well-known to host several endangered fauna and flora of global conservation significance, especially Annamite endemic species – species not found elsewhere in the world, such as Saola (<i>Pseudoryx ngetinhmsis</i>), Large-antlered Muntjac (<i>Muntiacus vugangensis</i>), Striped Rabbit (<i>Nesolagus timmins</i>), Douc langur (<i>Pygathrix nemaesus</i>), white-cheeked gibbon (<i>Nomascus leucogenys</i>), and Chinese Swamp Cypress, for instance.</p> <p>The biodiversity of the NT2 watershed is equally rivaled by cultural diversity. It is also home to approximately 7,000 indigenous people of four main ethno-linguistic groupings of Vietic, Brou, and Tai-Kadai backgrounds in 31 enclave villages. Each of these groups speaks their own dialect and has unique cultures and traditions, and their livelihood depends largely on natural resources for daily subsistence, both for food and income, including NTFPs collection, hunting of wildlife, and fishing. Additionally, another 42 villages (with a total population of about 9,400 people) located in the Peripheral Impact Zone (PIZ), also rely directly and indirectly on the watershed resources for their subsistence and livelihood.</p> <p>NNT NPA and its two corridors, connecting to Hin Nam Nor NPA in the south and Phou Hin Poun in the north, cover proximately 4,200 sq. km and form an important watershed for The Nam Theun 2 (NT2) Hydropower Project. Approximately 130 km² of a NT2' reservoir (~450 km²) was inside the original NNT NPA as designated by Government of Lao PDR by Decree 164 in 1993.</p> <p>NT2 Multi-purpose Project is acknowledged as having the potential to significantly contribute to the country's development objectives. It was anticipated that over the period of operation the Nam Theun 2 Power Company (NTPC) will provide income revenues to the Government of Lao PDR in the order of about US\$2 billion (average annual revenue of US\$80 million) in the form of shareholder dividends, taxes and resource use royalty charges over the life of the concession. At the completion of the concession the plant will be handed over to the Lao government at no charge, with all revenues thereafter accruing to the Lao state.</p> <p>In recognition of the project's environmental impacts on biodiversity values, and in compliance with international standards, the NTPC has agreed to pay the amount of USD1 million per annum (CPI adjusted) under concession agreement (CA) for the management of the NT2 watershed over the 31.5 year period as a means of paying for the environmental services (water) provided to the NT2 project, for the mitigation of project impacts on the NPA and to significantly improve the management of the NPA as the source of the water for the reservoir through the establishment of a new type of Lao government agency – the Watershed Management and Protection Authority.</p> <p>The NT2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (NT2 WMPA), a unique management unit established under the Ministerial Decree No. 25/PM, dated on 26th February 2001, updated by the PM 122 in 2017, was given its management mandate by the government of Lao PDR to work with local people and other stakeholders to ensure sustainability of both biological diversity and living condition and welfare of watershed inhabitants. The overall goal of the watershed management by WMPA is to restore, maintain</p>

and enhance the biodiversity, habitats and conservation values as well as the cultural values of the National Protected Area (NPA), and to guarantee sufficient volume of water with low sediment load, flowing into or from the Nam Theun 2 Reservoir.

The WMPA mandate was detailed in the first five-year management plan - the Socio-Environmental Management Framework and Operation Plan (SEMFOP), which sets out the objectives, approach, institutional and management arrangements for the protection and sustainable development of the NT2 watershed and its inhabitants. The SEMFOP 1 was finalized in January 2005 to cover a first period from April 1st 2005 up to September 30th 2011, and followed by the SEMFOP 2, which describes the current setting, institutional arrangements, management planning, program activities and budget framework for the subsequent 5 years period (2011-2016). The key objectives laid out in the SEMFOP were to;

1. Maintain/increase forest cover over the NT2 watershed area, with a particular focus on rehabilitation and management of the riparian vegetation and sustainable use of riparian ecosystem
2. Maintain and increase biodiversity and its habitat with particular reference to populations of rare and endangered wildlife species.
3. Improve the livelihood of the local people living inside and around the watershed through a community-driven development approach.
4. Strengthen capacity and ownership of both local people and other government stakeholders, including the Implementing Agencies, in sustainable management of natural resources.

This 5-year Plan along with the Environment and Social Management Plan and the Community Engagement Framework, together are considered to constitute the SEMFOP III.

To fulfill aforementioned objectives set in SEMFOP I, the WMPA implemented a number of activities toward achieving major objectives, which contributed to reduce some major threats that pose a detrimental effect on the biological resources in the NT2 watershed, such as poaching of wildlife and luxury timbers. Key management interventions, which have been undertaken to date include law enforcement, community outreach, land-use planning, and livelihood extension. However, given the context of the implementation, effectiveness has been problematic. This is related to the weak capacity of WMPA staff; at the recommendation of the POE and IMA the WMPA staffing was, therefore, requested to be replaced and a new institutional arrangement for co-management of the NNT NPA with the international conservation non-government organizations (INGOs) proposed. Simultaneously, a strategic re-staffing of the WMPA will be executed.

The large size of the watershed, combined with the both limited financial and human resources, made it less effective in tackling those emerging threats. Threats to the NT2 watershed are similar to those found in other NPAs across Lao PDR, experiencing a range of development pressures, ranging from unsustainable wildlife hunting to illegal logging and habitat conversion, which collectively could undermine the long term viability of this ecologically significant area. Of most concern, due to its proximity to the Lao-Vietnam international border (associated with increasing demand for wildlife and timbers at international markets), the illegal cross-border wildlife/timber poaching is an exceptional challenge in management of NT2 watershed. There is very clear evidence that poaching of wildlife and high-value timbers by the Vietnamese has a significant increase at present time, particularly in those forest areas along the Lao-Vietnam border. In the event that the current high level of threats continues unabated, several key wildlife species (as well as plants) will experience rapid decline, and eventually disappear from the

	<p>watershed if they are not immediately removed. It is, therefore, recommended that the new management strategy and capacity of the WMPA be immediately strengthened to better address those emerging threats.</p> <p>In order to effectively reduce the current threats to the watershed, the WMPA is presently in the process of being restructured under a task force chaired by the Governor of Khammouane Province, aimed primarily to strengthen the WMPA' capacity to effectively respond to the emerging threats to the watershed, and thus secure effective protection of biodiversity values across the entire watershed. The task force has proposed bold moves including a new decree, which places the WMPA under the purview of the Minister of Agriculture and Forest (MAF). The Decree has been now approved, and provides a clear role and responsibility to empower the WMPA to take lead in conservation of biodiversity, and also develop the Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Areas and the NT2 watershed to become the Nakai Nam Theun National Park (NNT NP) in the next five year period. The Decree also emphasizes the national/international conservation organizations need to be the formal partner to the WMPA in the design, development, implementation and reporting on all aspects of the strategic planning and annual work plans and budgets of the NNT NPA.</p> <p>WMPA is now meant to implement its protected area management mandate, and delegate the development and livelihood mandate to local stakeholders, toward the direction of designating NNT as a National Park. The fiduciary system is being upgraded to standard level to effectively manage the funds. Following a strategic staffing outline, an organigram of the institutional arrangements is being designed, following which, all staff positions will be re-advertised and new staff will be appointed. Recognizing the extreme complexity of the WMPA mandate, a formal partnership with the national and international non-government conservation organizations, , formed as a consortium of technical experts, will be established through a Memorandum of Understanding with the WMPA secretariat. Specific TORs will detail the role and responsibilities of technical partners in directly supporting the WMPA in the management of NNT NPA. The partner will be expected to provide technical support to core areas of management, namely (1) strategic planning and administration, (2) monitoring & evaluation, (3) capacity building, (4) biodiversity monitoring, (5) law enforcement, (6) community engagement and livelihoods, (7) community outreach. This technical support will be provided to the WMPA until its management systems are determined by independent monitors (including POE, IMA and IFI) to be sufficiently and proficiently in place to ensure sustained effective management of the protected area. Other technical partners with long experience in the livelihood development, e.g., Village Focus International (VFI), will be contracted as part of a consortium team to provide technical support to the evolving Livelihoods Development for Conservation Programme and providing support to the LDC facilitator staff and their district implementing counterparts.</p> <p>In order to ensure smooth implementation and compliance with Safeguard, a focal person from the WMPA will be appointed to implement, monitor and report on ESMP compliance and safeguard related matters to EPFO under this subproject as well as the 5-year NPA management plan being developed.</p>
<p>9. Sub-project objective <i>(only one sentence)</i></p>	<p>To establish the foundations for NT2 watershed as a regional model for efficient, collaborative, and locally-owned protected area management</p>

<p>10. GoL Policy/Plan/Strategy supported by Sub-project<i>(including provincial if applicable)</i></p>	<p>This subproject, or 5-Year Plan, support the following government policy and strategies;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the NT2 Government of Implementation Policy, 2005 (2) 8th Socio-economic Development Plan 2016-2020; (3) National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy; (4) MONRE and MAF Vision 2030 and Strategic Plan 2016-2025 (5) Forestry Strategy to the Year 2020 (6) The first and second Socio-Environmental Management Framework and Operation Plan (SEMFOF) for NT2 watershed (7) Lao Tiger National Action Plan 2010-2015 (8) The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Lao PDR 2016-2025
<p>11. Sub-project Regional or global outcomes <i>(for protected area and wildlife related sub-projects only: e.g. cross border cooperation, knowledge transfer, prevention of regional illegal wildlife trade)</i></p>	<p>The NT2 watershed shares a long border with Vietnam to the east, and it is adjacent to Vu Quang national park on Vietnamese side. Cross-border poaching of wildlife and luxury timber by Vietnamese has recently posed a detrimental effect on biological resources in the NT2 watershed, and becomes now the greatest challenge to the protected area management. This subproject attempts to improve the WMPA' management system by strengthening the bilateral cooperation between Laos and Vietnam, especially at provincial and district levels. This cross-border cooperation is intended to promote greater transboundary protected area management, and help prevent illegal wildlife poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the region.</p>
<p>12. Sub-project Outcome Indicators</p> <p><i>Select and list the related outcome and intermediary outcome indicators from the LENS2 Results Framework and describe additional sub-project specific outcome indicators.</i></p> <p><i>Outcome/impact is the longer-term benefit of particular goods or services to a target group.</i></p>	<p>The WMPA strategic plan (vision and goal) are measured with a set of impact indicators which are listed in the attached result framework and will be measured as part of the project.</p> <p>Key outcome indicators will also measure the immediate outcomes of the combined NTPC and EPF financing in the next five year.</p> <p>These are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Area brought under enhanced biodiversity protection measured by score of management effectiveness (annual) (also LENS2 PDO indicator #1) 2. Increase in score of functional capacity of WMPA (annual) (LENS2 PDO indicator #3) 3. Village organizations within, or adjacent to, PAs supported by the project that meet the terms of a CA (cumulative). (LENS2 PDO indicator #5) 4. Direct project beneficiaries (of which women) as measured by additional staff of public and partner institutions having completed basic adaptive training (short courses) (cumulative). (LENS2 IRI # 1.1) 5. Direct project beneficiary recipient of livelihood or conservation grants (of which women or women organizations) (cumulative) – Over seven thousand enclave villagers and nine thousand PIZ villagers receive benefits (LENS2 IRI #2.1) 6. Area within PAs where the status of the population of selected mammals and threats are measured (LENS2 IRI #2.2)

<p>13. Sub-project main outputs (Goods or services provided by the sub-project's intervention (supply-driven) e.g. x staff trained; guidelines on x developed)</p>	<p>Through Component 1, key intermediary outcomes or outputs will include, but not limited to, the followings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual workplan and budget (AWPB), and Annual Report (AR) submitted and approved on time and that meet WMPA board standards 2. Progress toward a NNT National Park Management Plan 2021-2025 (in conformity with NNT Concession Agreement and Decree) 3. Ratings at or above a "Satisfactory" for (i) financial management, (ii) procurement, and (iii) asset and stock management 4. Training days of WMPA staff and immediate1 partners in various relevant subjects <p>Through Component 2, key outputs will include, but not limited to, the followings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1x1 sq.km grid cells patrolled 6 times per year in totally protected zone, and 5 times per year in buffer zone, and 1 time per year in controlled used zone (village enclave) 2. Illegal items confiscated or removed from the forest 3. Illegal resource users caught and given warning and receiving behavior changing sanctions (fines) 4. Poachers, and all illegal resource users caught and prosecuted 5. Boundary line between macro zones (e.g., TPZ, CUZ) demarcated 6. Training days of WMPA staff and immediate partner in various relevant subjects <p>Through Component 3, key outputs will include, but not limited to, the followings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Area within PAs where the status of the population of selected mammals and threats are measured 2. Area within PAs where gross forest loss rate are measured (at interval of two years) 3. A biodiversity related research and monitoring programs carried out by partners ongoing 4. Training days of WMPA staff and immediate partner in various relevant subjects <p>Through Component 4, key outputs will include, but not limited to, the followings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Direct project beneficiary recipient of livelihood or conservation grants (of which women or women organizations) 6. Number of enclave and PIZ villages completed PLUP 7. Number of contracts with resource users in both enclave and PIZ villages 8. Training days of WMPA staff and immediate partner in various relevant subjects 9. Audiences in enclave and PIZ villages, and other outsiders are better educated on participatory integrated conservation and development issues, and relevant regulations
<p>14. Sub-project Components and Activities: <i>List the components and main activities to produce outputs above. Do not use more than 5 components. Details will be in Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) annex attached.</i></p>	
<p>Component</p> <p>Component 1. Planning and administration</p>	<p>Main activities –can't edit/change with this format</p> <p>Sub-component 1.1: Planning and monitoring</p> <p>Key activities include;</p> <p>Development of M&E Manual. A qualified technical expert will be identified to design and develop the manual for M&E, performance-based monitoring framework, and reporting format with training delivery for WMPA' staff to</p>

	<p>effectively perform monitoring and evaluation of management activities. The M& E /manual framework will be structured, based on the different programmes of work, i.e. Law enforcement, Biodiversity monitoring, Livelihood development Outreach, Admin and finance. This will be completed in year 1 and submitted to the BOD for approval.</p> <p>Annual Planning. Every year, before November 30, the WMPA, with support from technical partners, must prepare and submit the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) to the BOD for approval. The M&E officer is tasked with collaborating with other WMPA staff and local partners to gather information on priorities or needs to be taken each year, and prepare the plan accordingly.</p> <p>Annual monitoring and reporting. Every quarter a Quarterly Report is produced by the M&E Officer. Every year, before February 15, the WMPA must prepare and Annual Report according to the outline described in the M&E Manual. The M&E officer is tasked with tracking and assessing implementation of all activities against the quarterly and annual work plan and budget and then preparing quarterly or annual reports.</p> <p>Five Years Management Plan for the NT2 watershed for the period 2021-2025. A qualified expert will take lead in the development process of this plan. A series of consultation workshops among stakeholders, including local communities, technical partners, district, provincial and national government offices will take place to discuss in-depth issues or threats that pose detrimental effect on biodiversity in NT2 watershed, and together propose improvement to current practices. This Watershed Management Plan will focus not only on biodiversity as well as local development of hamlets; tourism; and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Sub-component 1.2: Administration Key activities include;</p> <p>Financial management. This aims to strengthen fiduciary management system, and capacity building for WMPA' fiduciary staff to effectively manage the fund, and ensure smooth implementation of management activities. The key tasks will be hiring the fiduciary consultant firm to re-establish and strengthen the fiduciary management system of the WMPA. The accounting program will be set up and operated by a well-trained accountant. A dedicated WMPA financial manager and accountant will be hired under the strategic re-staffing of the WMPA. The consultant will closely supervise this WMPA team through coaching, mentoring, teaching and guidance in implementation of activities until it is determined that the WMPA fiduciary system is functioning effectively and operated by well-qualified WMPA staff. In this regard, all WMPA fiduciary staff as well its partners staff will receive necessary trainings on various topics relevant to their careers via formal/informal training courses and on-the-job training provided by external experience consultants.</p> <p>Procurement – This aims to strengthen the procurement system and capacity building for WMPA staff to ensure that all procurement of goods, services or works are transparent and compliance with standards of the Ministry of Finance and World Bank procurement procedures. The task will be the hiring of an experienced consultant and to assist the WMPA in development of procurement plan, preparation and processing of buying goods and services or works via competitive bidding process to ensure the WMPA receive goods, services or works the best price and best quality. A dedicated WMPA procurement staff will be hired under the strategic re-staffing of the WMPA. The procurement consultant will provide sufficient training to the WMPA staff to ensure sufficient aptitude for adherence to procurement policy and procedure.</p>	
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	<p>Human resources management - aims to strengthen the WMPA to effectively manage its human resources to ensure that all staff perform their tasks in a professional manner, and also all individuals within the organization are equally treated. Key tasks include job analysis and staffing, staff performance appraisal, implementation of reward systems for employees, professional development and training of staff, and maintenance of work force. A dedicated WMPA Human Resources Manager will be hired under the strategic re-staffing of the WMPA. On the job training will be provided to the Human Resources Manager by a consultant specialist.</p> <p>Sub-component 1.3: Oversight and controls</p> <p>Key activities include;</p> <p>Board Meetings. The annual WMPA' board meeting, participated in by all board members will be organized at the end of each calendar year to allow board members to assess the extent to which the WMPA' performance is achieved prior to approving the subsequent annual work plan and budget.</p> <p>Stakeholder meetings. Every six month, a stakeholder meeting will be organized to allow all stakeholders (DAFO, PAFO, district police, military, cluster heads) to assess the progress of implementation of management activities and also assess the extent to which the AWPB need to be adapted based on remaining resources availability and level of threats.</p> <p>External auditors. An annual financial audit will be performed by independent auditing consultant at the end of each calendar year to verify the proper use of fund in compliance with annual work plan, verify assets and procurement files for compliance with Lao legislations and financing agreement, as may be the case. The section of the audit firm will be made by WMPA and will follow the WMPA procurement manual procedures.</p> <p>POE and IMA. Monitoring mission by Independent Monitoring Agency (IMA) is organized at the end of each calendar year to perform assessment and evaluation of the progress and effectiveness of the AWPB, and provide recommendations for the subsequent year AWPB. Recommendations will be taken into consideration by the WMPA/Consortium in preparing subsequent AWPBs in advance of submission to the WMPA' Board of Directors for approval.</p> <p>External financier's supervision. Other visits to WMPA by World Bank and other financiers will be occasionally made each year to overview the implementation project activities, and also provide feedback that help WMPA improve its performance on key management activities.</p> <p>A Consortium of Technical Experts (COTE) is formed by a partnership between several national and international technical individuals from national associations (Lao CSOs) and international organizations (NGOs). As partnership with WMPA under a 5-year MOU, COTE will serve as the formal technical partner in development, implementation and reporting on the NNT NPA work plans and associated activities. The COTE will have both full time and part time staff appointed to the WMPA and embedded in the WMPA organization structure to support and work alongside with WMPA staff in different management interventions such as Law Enforcement, Research & Monitoring, Outreach and Livelihood Development. Of those experts include short-term international persons who will be recruited periodically to provide overall supervision and capacity building for team members to ensure effective implementation of management activities.</p>	
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<p>Component 2. The Watershed resources management and protection</p>	<p>Sub-component 2.1: The NT2 Watershed Institutional Capacity <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>PA technical support. A well-qualified PA management expert as part of a consortium will provide overall supervision on PA management applying Integrated Conservation and Development approach, and encourage team members, who work either on conservation or on development, to support each other and work together toward a common goal. See also sub-component 1.3</p> <p>Development of Law Enforcement Strategy. A technical LE expert will lead in developing the WMPA Law Enforcement Strategy and provide overall guidelines for strategic implementation of law enforcement activities, and deliveries of trainings on law enforcement techniques for WMPA and partners staff.</p> <p>Field equipment and supply. Necessary field equipment and supplies will be procured to ensure that all WMPA LE staff are fully equipped with uniforms and other necessary field gears or tools and transportation.</p> <p>SMART installation: A qualified expert will lead in the set up and support to sustained management of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting (SMART) program. A dedicated WMPA staff will be hired under the strategic re-staffing to ensure operation and data management, which will be under supervision of technical LE expert.</p> <p>Cooperation with border' military to suppress cross-border illegal activities. Cross-border illegal wildlife/forest activities represent one of largest threats to biodiversity values in NT2 watershed, against which it requires immediate responses. The WMPA, therefore, needs to build strong ground patrol teams (who are well-trained and well-equipped) in cooperation with the border guarding military units to conduct regular forest (and village) patrols along Lao-Vietnam border. The binding contract between concerned parties will be made given the clear Terms of Reference to ensure integration of wildlife/forest crimes into their patrol agenda and those patrols are met the standard monitoring system.</p> <p>Village cluster or Koumban Law Enforcement Network (KLEN). In parallel to suppress the cross-border illegal activities, the Koumban (i.e., village cluster) Law Enforcement Network (KLEN) will be established and strengthened in order to engage the enclave (as well as PIZ) village authorities and local communities in combatting illegal wildlife/forest activities in their localities. A binding contract or Community Conservation Agreement will be made between WMPA and each Koumban through participatory consultation and agreements. Quarterly meeting among all stakeholders will be organized to allow individuals to assess the effective implementation of law enforcement activities and also to what extent the LE efforts need to be adapted or invested further in order to effectively address the current level of threats.</p> <p>Lao-Vietnamese transboundary cooperation. Due to cross-border illegal activities by Vietnamese are of most concern, it is required that the cooperation with Vietnamese authorities, on Vietnamese side, at villages, district, and provincial levels are necessary to share concerned issues and build their long-term support and commitment in addressing the problems when they may occur. Annual exchange visit by WMPA and local authorities (district and provincial levels) will be organized, and agreements made between delegates (or MOU) of two countries will be signed by both parties to provide legal binding for the WMPA to deal with those cross-border illegal wildlife/forest crimes, which are sometime beyond WMPA' administrative boundary. However, in order for the cooperative (Vietnamese) team to</p>	
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	<p>effectively function their tasks, it requires that necessary equipment and tools, vehicles, and budget need to be provided.</p> <p>Staff capacity building. All law enforcement staff, either from WMPA or from implementing partners – village and district military, will receive proper trainings on law enforcement techniques. In-house trainings (or refresh training) for staff will be taken place as necessary by qualified technical expert, while some staff will also attend international training course as needed and dependent on appropriateness of trainings offered. Exposure visits of law enforcement staff from WMPA and partners to neighboring countries' or to other protected areas in Lao will be organized to allow law enforcement staff to learn experience from somewhere else.</p>	
	<p>Sub-component 2.2: The NT2 Watershed Law Enforcement Operation <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>Strategic implementation of law enforcement activities on monthly basis in priority biodiversity areas (PBAs), namely Thongkacheng and Thongkouang, to secure them from illegal hunting using fence snares or other hunting gears by poachers (either Vietnamese or Lao). Other than these two PBAs, ground patrol attention will also be given to those areas of high conservation significance across the watershed to suppress any further illegal activities (hunting, habitat encroachment, for instance) according to the reality of the threat situation. Rangers' stations are to be built and operated in optimal locations in the upper headstream areas of Nam On and Nam Noy (near Lao-Vietnam border) to tackle Vietnamese poachers. Other water or road checkpoints to be set up provided the well-trained and well-equipped LE staff to control people from enter/exit the NT2 watershed. Those ranger' stations or checkpoints are not permanent/fixed locations, but opportunistically operated by rangers to respond timely and spatially to threats during the peak season of the year.</p> <p>Alongside with land patrols, the Reservoir Patrol teams need to be trained and equipped to conduct regular patrols in the NT2 reservoir and its major tributaries to prevent illegal wildlife/forest activities by poachers. In order to support the ground patrols, the prosecution unit (consist of law enforcement agencies – justice, court, police) is established and performed by well-trained and well-quipped staff to effectively deal with any wildlife/forest crimes, and ensure that all crimes are fairly addressed according to national laws and the NT2 watershed regulations. An incentive mechanism for well-performed staff will be established to provide sustainable support for and encouragement of the staff to effectively perform their tasks.</p>	
<p>Component 3 Research, monitoring and evaluation</p>	<p>Sub-component 3.1 Research and monitoring Capacity <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>Biological monitoring design and staff capacity building. Technical expert with high experience will lead in the design and implementation of a biological monitoring system, and delivery of a training program on various research and monitoring techniques for WMPA' technical staff to ensure that they are capable of doing proper job and those results generated from research and monitoring are useful for management purpose in measuring the progress or effectiveness to the management interventions toward achieving the set up objectives, and goals, and adapt the management strategy to effectively and sufficiently deal with the emerging threats. In addition to the staff capacity building (in forms of training and attending international conferences), the necessary research equipment and tools are to be procured, incentives for staff required, and funding for research activities will be made available.</p> <p><u>This component will also include a socio-economic assessment that measures the wealth levels of communities within the Nakai-Nam Theun watershed and</u></p>	

	<p><u>a selection of those villages in the periphery impact zone. The COTE will complete this task under the guidance of Agrisud. Prior to work beginning a technical proposal will be required to be submitted for World Bank No Objection.</u></p>	
	<p>Sub-component 3.2 Terrestrial mammals and bird monitoring <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>Technical expert will lead in the design of scientific sampling strategies for NNT NPA and provide trainings on techniques of field surveys, species identification, data collection, data management, data analysis and reporting is required for WMPA staff (and also local villagers involve in the field survey). Annual camera trapping in the core biodiversity conservation areas (e.g., PBAs), especially in those areas targeted by law enforcement activities, will be conducted to secure source wildlife populations and to monitor populations of terrestrial mammals and birds. In addition, conducting the occupancy survey for monitoring ungulate populations across the entire watershed using direct signs or sights of animals will be conducted on alternate years. Results generated from these two survey techniques, both wildlife populations and threats, will allow the WMPA and its stakeholders to assess the effective implementation of management interventions and thus track the progress over time against the performance goals and objectives laid out in the plan.</p>	
	<p>Sub-component 3.3 Selected key species research and monitoring <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>Project Anulak has an already established research and monitoring program, which is now focused on Primates, and has supported the establishment of a permanent field research station in the forest to allow researchers a base of operation while conducting the field activities. Another project on the Cypress rehabilitation has been taking place more recently, which is supported by the University of San Francisco, USA. The two projects have been facilitated by the Lao Wildlife Conservation Association (Lao WCA). To ensure the establishment of a strategic long-term research & monitoring program these on-going efforts from Project Anulak and University of San Francisco will be coordinated and WMPA to inform strategic planning, AWPB and ensure efficient communication and information sharing. In order to further support other research projects in the NT2 watershed, the WMPA, with assistant from technical partners or experts, will seek cooperation with other national and international institutions, such as Universities and NGOs (e.g. Saola Working Group, NUoL), to conduct other research projects on other key species of conservation interest based on coordinated strategic planning.</p>	
	<p>Sub-component 3.4 Forest cover/land use monitoring <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>Perform the forest cover/land use analysis using Remote Sensing and GIS-quantitative-based analysis. A qualified technical expert will lead on development and implementation of a forest cover/land-use monitoring program to track changes in the forest cover and habitat conditions across the entire watershed (as consequence of improved land use planning and LE)., Satellite images are required, and ground truth accuracy assessment is needed. To ensure sustainability, technical expert will provide training for WMPA technical staff to continue on the use of information for monitoring and management purposes.</p>	
	<p>Sub-component 3.5 Monitoring of threats <i>Key activities include;</i></p>	

	<p>With direct oversight from technical expert, installation of the SMART software program, and training delivery on SMART uses, which including data entry, data management, data extraction, data analysis and reporting. SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) is an information management tool designed to “measure, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement patrols and site-based conservation activities. SMART is a software that allows rangers to record locations of poaching encounters, traps, and other key locations on GPS units, which are then uploaded into a computer and displayed on a map, upon which the protected area managers can plan for strategic patrols. At least one technician (preferably 2 people) is to be recruited to work and be responsible specifically on SMART. He/she may need to have some basic quantitative statistics and GIS background. This will help him/her to perform proper data analysis and reporting.</p>	
<p>Component 4 Community engagement and livelihoods</p>	<p>Sub-component 4.1 Community livelihoods for conservation (LUP, CAP, CA, etc.) <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>This engages with 31 enclave and 42 PIZ villages on the principle of participatory conservation and development bases . To effectively engage with the communities, subproject implementation unit will adopt CEF and apply CEF manual throughout working with communities. The CEF provides principle guidance to engage with communities through its four stages implementation including; Target Area Selection and Sub-project Orientation; Community Awareness and Resource Diagnostic; Participatory Planning and Agreements and Implementation of Community Action Plan. In addition, CEF manual serve as field implementation guidelines for SDA and district team to properly engage with community.</p> <p>Key activities in this component will be macro-zoning of the NT2 watershed accordance to national law on forest and NPA regulations such as Totally Protected Zone (TPZ), Controlled Use Zone (CUZ), Corridor, and Buffer Zone. The macro-zoning of the NT2 watershed will be revised given clear boundary demarcation and revised regulation on management of different zones. Moreover, the land use planning and regulation in all 31 enclave (13 village clusters) and 42 PIZ villages (12 village clusters) are also revised (for those villages that were already done) and undertaken (for other villages not completed in the past). The CAP for each village will be developed, and then the conservation contracts (or CCA) with resource users will be made to ensure sustainable use of resources for subsistence and livelihood in compliance with regulation and land use planning.</p> <p>Technical partner with qualified experience in macro-zoning and PLUP (e.g., VFI) will be contracted to support the process of CEF, which include Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP), Community Action Plan (CAP), and Community Conservation Agreement (CCA). In direct coordination with WMPA and other local stakeholders, the technical partner will provide training and supervision on CEF implementation to the community support teams consisting of WMPA coordinators and its leading government agency partners staff (E.g. DAFO). It has been proposed that at a suitable point in time, once livelihood strategies and monitoring capacity with the WMPA are sufficient, the WMPA will hand over most livelihood activities to the district and provincial government line agencies (e.g., PAFO, DAFO, Health, Education) so that the partnership agreement (given clear Terms of References) between government line agencies and WMPA will be first prepared and signed. Technical partner will serve to QA/QC of all livelihood activities in alignment with approved AWPBs. WMPA coordinators (WMPA-paid staff), together WMPA and partners will work with district partners to develop work plans and budget to submit to WMPA for approval. Budget will be transferred directly to the concern agency to pay for activities based on approved technical and</p>	

	<p>financial reports, and the WMPA coordinator and partners will then participate in the process to follow up implementation of the activities. The community support teams made up of WMPA team and technical partners will work together to design and produce materials necessary for the CEF implementation process.</p> <p>During this process, a wide range of livelihood development activities will be identified based on actual need or priority of local community, and also some prohibited (negative list) activities to be identified, which attempt to ensure that livelihood development activities are truly linked to support the conservation of biodiversity in the NT2 watershed. The funding support for those livelihood priorities is allocated annually by WMPA to the Village Conservation and Development Fund (VCDF), which allow individuals (villagers or village organizations) to access the financial resources to support activities via fund mechanism. During this process, the team will work with Village Conservation and Development Committee to ensure that livelihood activities are properly funded and well managed.</p>	
	<p>Sub-component 4.2 Livelihood development support <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>WMPA and its technical partner will develop a livelihoods strategy that ensures community empowerment and improved resource stewardship aligned with the protection of the NNT watershed. It is expected that a wide range of livelihood development activities will be supported accordance to community priority identified through the consultation and agreement in the initial stage of CEF such as CAP. The budget package is allocated to the village conservation and development fund in both enclave and PIZ villages. Any livelihood development activities in the CAP (preference list) as results of village need assessment and consultation will be funded via mechanism of village development fund. The livelihood development activities are not to be limited to securing the food and income generation for local villagers, which involve supporting the subsistence agriculture practices by raising rice (crop) yields in the permanent agriculture fields with suitable rice (crop) varieties and modern agricultural techniques, and raising the livestock husbandry management techniques to ensure the rearing of livestock is more productive and truly an alternative source on income for villagers, but other basic infrastructure for livelihood, enhanced sustainable use of NTFPs and any other priorities or needs of local communities.</p> <p>Technical partner and WMPA will lead in supporting options for Community conservation enterprise and feasibility of sustainable financing through nature-based tourism. The unique scenery of the watershed consists of pristine natural habitats, wildlife species, human cultures, and other physical features, suggests that ecotourism development may also provide a sustainable income source for local villagers from tourist services. Linking with tourism activities, village products (e.g., ODOP) will be promoted to generate another income source based on village traditional knowledge and practices.</p>	
	<p>Sub-component 4.3 Social development (health, education) <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>Good living conditions are fundamental to the well-being of people. Attentions are given to the support of nutrition, public health and education programs in the enclave villages in line with government strategies through working partnership with relevant government agencies (e.g., District health and education, public work). Other key activities include the improvement of clean water supply and sanitation, electrification, and access linked among enclave villages. The detailed annual work plan and budget will be collaboratively developed with relevant sectors to ensure that all activities or supports are in</p>	

	<p>line with government strategy for social development, and also truly link the biodiversity conservation. The partnership agreement with the given clear TORs will be developed and signed by both WMPA and district government offices.</p>	
	<p>Sub-component 4.4 WMPA' livelihood Capacity <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>The WMPA and its technical support partners will lead on development and implementation of a livelihoods development strategy. Most (if not all) livelihood development for conservation will be handed over to the district offices. As such, the expert will work closely with the WMPA and its partner agencies, such as DAFO, district Health and Education, to implement the CAP and also provide technical supervision on livelihood development activities that tightly linked to the biodiversity conservation in the watershed in order to ensure that the all development activities are closely linked to biodiversity conservation in line with CEF or CAP.</p>	
<p>Component 5. Human resource development and stakeholder awareness building</p>	<p>Sub-component 5.1 Community outreach capacity building <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>A qualified technical expert will lead on development and implementation of a conservation awareness strategy and delivery of training for WMPA and its partners staff on awareness campaign techniques to continue on dissemination of conservation messages and relevant laws and regulations in the relevant villages and other target communities. Other key activities include conducting an awareness campaign in the enclave and PIZ villages, and cross-border awareness campaigns on the Vietnamese side to deal with cross-border illegal activities by the Vietnamese. The support to set up and operate the conservation awareness program at local media, e.g., district radio program, etc. In order to achieve above activities WMPA will work in partnership with other institutions such as the National Radio program to build the outreach team capacity, set up media program at local level, and also build partnership with Vietnamese media.</p>	
	<p>Sub-component 5.2 Training for the NT2 WMPA Staff and Other Stakeholders <i>Key activities include;</i></p> <p>All trainings of various topics will be provided to WMPA and its partners staff, and those training are distributed to each relevant component of management interventions. In order to achieve above activities WMPA will work in direct partnership with the technical support partners to provide sufficient expert in-house training. As needed, partnerships will be established with other institutions such as National University of Laos, Faculty of Forestry, where training courses on wildlife and protected area management are frequently provided. All trainings are distributed under each above components, they mostly include;</p> <p><i>In-house training workshops for WMPA and other stakeholders on various topics;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. fiduciary skills (e.g., financial, accounting , procurement) for fiduciary staff of WMPA and other stakeholder 2. technical skills of biodiversity conservation awareness raising techniques for WMPA and counterparts 3. law enforcement techniques for park rangers (refresh-training) 4. data management "SMART" program (database, data management, technical planning, data analysis, and reporting) 5. various techniques relevant to livelihood development 6. other technical skills (e.g., GIS, statistic) for WMPA and partners 7. skills on protected area management 	

	<p>8. Health and safety / First aid</p> <p>International training on topics;</p> <p>9. law enforcement techniques for park rangers</p> <p>10. International courses on wildlife research/monitoring design techniques</p> <p>11. Skills on protected area management for NPA manager</p> <p>Exchange visits;</p> <p>12. Domestic exposure visits for livelihood project staff and villagers</p> <p>13. Exchange visits for WMPA' LE members to neighboring country/in country</p> <p>14. Oversea exposure visits to well-managed NPAs for senior WMPA staff and other counterparts</p>	
<p>15. Sub-project direct beneficiaries</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governmental staff Total number (65) of which women (10%) <i>Central level (5) of which women (10%)</i> <i>Provincial level (10) of which women (10%)</i> <i>District level (50) of which women (10%)</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural communities () Number of people (7,000 people in 31 enclave villages and 9,400 people in 41 PIZ villages) of which women (around 50%) in Khammouane and Bolikhamxay Provinces</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students (5) of which women (at least 10%)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General public</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private sector ()</p>	
<p>16. Proposed Start Date</p>	<p>01/6/2017</p>	
<p>17. Proposed End Date (<i>duration in years</i>)</p>	<p>5-Year Plan is 2017-2021. But LENS2 financing closing is 31/12/2020</p>	
<p>18. Co-financiers(<i>source and amount (US\$) including in-kind contribution; per component if possible</i>)</p>	<p>The NTPC provide annual support of about US\$ 1.4 million adjustable to inflation, and is flexible to meet actual needs for the management activities of the NT2 watershed. It is a fundamental support for most activities other than EPF support over the project period.</p> <p>Another secured fund is from the NGO "Project Anulak" that contributes over US\$ 50,000 per annum to implement it research and awareness building program.</p> <p>Other sources of funding are expected to be from other research and conservation projects on endangered species (e.g., Swamp cypress and Saola) but the amount of fund is yet to be confirmed as it depends on donors decision or proposal basis.</p>	
<p>19. Complementary ongoing or planned projects/programs/initiatives(<i>name/source of funding/linkage</i>)</p>	<p>Other LENS2 subprojects would be positively influencing the WMAP 5-Year Plan such as to PFRM BLX & KHA (protected area capacity building), POFI BLX & KHA (law enforcement), NUOL FFS and FNS (training and research)</p>	

20. Implementation Arrangements

a. Describe the project management structure.

b. What additional staffing or technical assistance is needed to successfully complete the proposed project (e.g. M&E officer, accountant, ...)?

a. Project Management Structure/5-Year Plan implementation team

The Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority or (NT2 WMPA) was established by the government (the Prime Minister's Decree No. 25/PM, dated on 26 February 2001, and amended by Decree No. 39/PM, dated on 23 Feb. 2005) as the leading agency responsible for management, development and protection of Nam Theun 2 Watershed Area in cooperation and coordination with local administrations and divisions in compliance with the Concession Agreement (CA) of Nam Theun 2 Power Project on 3th October 2002.

WMPA is a focal point for coordinating in the implementation of other sector activities in NT2 Watershed area and its buffer area. It has the right to summarize and prioritize proposed programs, plans and projects of concerned sectors and based on those documents to allocate the budget and technical assistance to support and assist the concerned sectors to implement activities. It therefore has the powers and duties to monitor and evaluate the implementation of all activities and to report to the Government.

The 5-Year Plan focal point and the Project Director will be Mr. Thong Eth Phayvanh, acting now as a director for the WMPA Secretariat. The implementation of the 5-year plan will not be treated as a project but as a core and unique activity of WMPA and all staff will be equally involved in its implementation.

b. Partnership with national and international NGOs

During the 5-Year Plan implementation period, the NT2 WMPA will formalize a partnership with national and international conservation non-government organizations (NGOs), such as the Wildlife Conservation Association (Lao WCA) and the Project Anoulak who will take lead to form a consortium of technical experts (COTE) to ensure efficient and sustained management of the NNT NPA. In this regard, the Lao WCA will serve as a leading body or the head of the COTE in which a legally binding agreement between the head (Lao WCA) and the leaders of other organizations or individuals will be firstly made. The WCA will then sign a Single Source Firm Contract between COTE and WMPA. The technical partner will operate under a 5-year MOU with the WMPA as the formal technical partner in development, implementation and reporting on the NNT NPA work plans and associated activities. The COTE will have full time staff appointed to the WMPA and embedded in the WMPA organization structure. Both part time and full time staff will include: Technical Director, Technical Advisor, Community Engagement Officer, Law Enforcement Officer and Research & Monitoring Officer. Additional technical and administration support will be provided by well-qualified fiduciary experts. This will ensure partner's role in full implementation of key management activities and also strengthening the WMPA capacity via providing technical supervision on both conservation and livelihood activities and training deliveries for those staff of WMPA and its partners on various relevant topics.

Based on strategic planning of WMPA and technical partners, aligned with financial forecasting and implementation needs, separate agreements (service contracts or MOUs) may be created with other institutions that demonstrate expert knowledge and experience in areas such as, sustainable finance, conservation enterprise development, PES, and livelihood development. Agreements, with clear TORs and financial support will be created as needed and signed by WMPA.

c. Additional core partnerships

The WMPA will intend to work with both academic and conservation institutions at national and international levels to enhance biological research and conservation projects on various topics, especially endangered species of fauna and flora, necessary for strategic planning and effective management of the watershed. For instance, the existing research and conservation initiatives in the NT2 watershed include the Project Anulak, and the Swamp Cypress project, facilitated by the Lao WCA, and the projects will continue for the 5-Year Plan period, which contributes to the technical support and capacity build for WMPA and its partners.

d. Partnership with *Provincial/district partners*

The site-based implementation teams of the 5-Year Plan will consist of government staff from various sectors (including MAF, MONRE, DOF, DOFI, PAFO, POFI, DAFO, Provincial/district soldiers, police, health and education) at national, provincial and district levels, and local communities. Though a 5-year MOU with WMPA, the technical partner will also provide full time technical support to design, implementation and reporting on all aspects of the strategic planning and annual work plans.

Recognizing the roles of line government agencies, the WMPA will work in partnership with the PAFOs and DAFOs, Provincial/district soldiers (e.g., border guard unit) and police to implement the ground conservation activities across the entire NT2 watershed. Focal coordinator in each district of five relevant Districts (namely, Nakai, Boualapha, Ggommalath, Khouankham (Khammouane province), and Khamkert (Bolikhamsay province), will be established in order to facilitate or support coordination with other government agencies and local communities to effectively implement the ground management activities. In this regard, the partnership agreements (provided clear TORs) in form of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed or sealed between WMPA and concerned agencies to allow each partner to take lead in their own tasks while WMPA is responsible for providing fund and technical support as necessary to ensure that all development activities are truly linked to the biodiversity conservation, and monitoring implementation of activities. P/DAFOs will take lead in most livelihood development activities for conservation. District Health and Education offices are in charge of social development such as health care center and schools. They will introduce or integrate the biodiversity conservation issues in their Health and Education agenda. Provincial/district Military, Police, Justice, and P/DOFI offices are working alongside with WMPA to take lead in law enforcement to suppress illegal poaching of wildlife and timbers, and violation of other regulations, e.g., village or district regulations. All illegal cases about wildlife and forests will hand over first to POFI before distributing to concerned government line agencies (e.g., Police, Justice, Court) to prosecute as necessary. In this regard, performance-based monitoring framework will be together developed to enable both WMPA and partners to track the success or progress of their activities, and if necessary the plan will be adapted and the subsequent payment is then made to support future activities.

e. Local communities – local organizations of various sectors (e.g., Youth, Woman Union, Police, Militia, Governance, Health, Education etc.) at village clusters (Koumban) will take part in all ground development and conservation activities. Village Conservation and Development Advisory Committee for each village cluster will be established to support implementation of activities of both conservation and livelihood development activities. Koumban Law Enforcement Network (KLEN), which consists of representatives from village militia, police, and Youth assigned as rangers in each village cluster will be set up to specifically support enforcement of laws and regulations. The partnership contract provided clear TORs and financial support between WMPA and KLEN will be signed by both parties to ensure smooth implementation of ground activities. Performance-based monitoring framework will be developed to allow both WMPA and local communities to track the success or progress of their activities, upon which (if necessary, the strategies can be adapted) and the payment will be made accordingly to support future activities. The Advisory Council composed of two representatives of each of the three enclave areas and of each PIZ and the District Governors will be establish at each district to provide the overall supervision and monitoring of activities at the village level.

21. Summary Budget

Detailed activity plan and budget for total period and year one must be attached in annex. Provide a summary of the budget as part of the proposal. Note that the sub-project will be approved for the entire duration but the sub-grant agreement will be signed on a yearly basis based on previous year performance (and agreed triggers as defined in section 24). For approved sub-projects, a procurement plan will be developed by EPFO.

Components (<i>not more than 5 components including project management</i>)	Total US\$	NTPC US\$	LENS2 US\$	Others
(1) NT2 Watershed planning and administration	2,463,065	1,774,740	688,325	-

(2) The Watershed resources management and protection	4,209,810	3,462,690	747,120	-
(3) Research and monitoring	1,505,130	845,130	165,000	495,000
(4) Community engagement and livelihood	3,496,460	2,162,985	1,333,475	-
(5) Community Outreach	397,650	331,650	66,000	-
Base cost	12,072,1150	8,577,195	2,999,920	495,000
Contingency (10%)	Included in each budget line.			
Total	12,072,115	8,577,195	2,999,920	495,000

22. Sustainability

Please explain how the benefits of the project will continue or be maintained once the sub-project is complete.

In compliance with the Concession Agreement, the NTPC has agreed to provide US\$ 1.2 million per year (adjustable for inflation) to the WMPA over the period of 25 years to support the management and protection of NT2 watershed in which the Nakai-Nam Theun NPA is embedded. The 4-Year Plan funding requested from EPF is largely to support capacity building for WMPA and its partners at provincial, district and village levels to effectively manage the NT2 Watershed. The working mechanisms resulted from restructuring will enable the WMPA and its partners to be in a better position in tackling the threats to biodiversity and community development. It is anticipated that, once the 5-Year Plan is complete, most (if not all) WMPA and other staff of government agencies as well as local communities participated in implementation of the project activities will be properly trained either by on-the-job training or formal training courses. Those staff will be fully equipped with innovative tools, skills and knowledge, which enables them to replicate or continue on the conservation activities at NT2 Watershed in the long-term that effectively suppress the threats to the biodiversity decline provided the secured funding support by the NTPC, and other sources of funding in supporting the long-term research and conservation projects on those key biodiversity indicators. Moreover, if successful, this model of protected area management could be replicated in other NPAs or watersheds affected by hydropower or mining throughout the country to secure the national biodiversity in the long run.

23. Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

Check if an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) needs to be prepared (see guidelines in the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be obtained from EPF website).

Please check if CEF applies²

Some of the 5-Year Plan's activities trigger World Bank safeguard policies and required the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) consistent with the ESMF of LENS2. An ESMP has been prepared as part of the design of the 5-Year Plan and incorporated in its activities. A consultation process with relevant stakeholders and affected communities was carried out by the experience consultant in those target enclave and PIZ villages as well as district government authorities and WMPA who will take part in implementation of the 5-Year Plan.

24. Community Engagement including gender issues at community level

Check if compliance with the Community Engagement Framework (CEF) is needed and follow guidelines on steps to be obtained from EPF website.

Please check if CEF applies³

² Please follow the procedures outlined in the CEF document and ensure that details related to sub-project CEF implementation including implementation arrangements, activities, indicators and budget are correctly included in the related sub-project application sections (RF, budget, activities, M&E)).

³ Please follow the procedures outlined in the CEF document and ensure that details related to sub-project CEF implementation including implementation arrangements, activities, indicators and budget are correctly included in the related sub-project application sections (RF, budget, activities, M&E)).

25. Gender issues (mainstreaming)

Please explain how the sub-project is complaint with GoL commitment to gender issues under the project.

Planning on arrangement of staff for any project activity should take account of gender issue. The desired standards us that at least 20% of the beneficiaries are woman. The project activities which to identify participants for training, study tour and a meeting require to check a proportion of women's participation.

The development and implementation of the CEF schemes will follow the principles of the CEF to comply with the GoL's commitment to gender mainstreaming. The 5-Year Plan will give sufficient attention to encourage women to play an active role in the consultation process. During implementation, women will be: (a) consulted and their concerns addressed; (b) consulted and trained to be able to participate in the pilot CEF schemes1 (b) given the opportunity to participate in community group meetings, discussions, planning and implementation as well as in the pilot CEF schemes as a member of a supplier team; and (d) represented equally in the Grievance and Redress Committees (GRCs).

Additionally, many of the coordinators and facilitators at the provincial, district and village level will be females. The village-level Lao Women's Union will be involved in all information, consultation, and training sessions to ensure the inclusion of women in all participatory and consultation processes.

26. Agreed Annual Performance Triggers

For information find below the list of agreed targets that must be achieved to trigger approval of next year's funds:

Agreed triggers:

- i. Compliance with fiduciary and safeguard requirements (at least Moderately Satisfactory in year 1 and Satisfactory in subsequent years)
- ii. Compliance with reporting requirement (number, quality and timeliness) (at least Moderately Satisfactory in year 1 and Satisfactory in subsequent years)
- iii. Year 1, at least 50 % of activities in AWPB completed. Year 2 and after, at least 75 % of activities in AWPB completed
- iv. All outcome targets for current year are measured, evaluated and show progress toward target
- v. AWPB produced for each new fiscal year cleared by WB and approved by EPF Board

27. Document Checklist

Please ensure to attach the following based on templates (excel file) provided:

- Sub-project results framework (entire period)
- Sub-project detailed budget entire period (2a. per component and 2b. per category)
- Sub-project detailed activity work plan per component year 1
- Sub-project Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) if applicable

Signature

Date:.....

Approved by:

Submitted by:

(Head/DG of SDA or equivalent)

Edits to a submitted application prior approval not requiring-submission, accepted by SDA and EPF, are summarized below: *(Please list application form reference number (e.g. #20) or annexes and date of EPFO communication on accepted changes to SDA).*