



Photo: Chawee Wongprasittiporn

What we may already know

- Different groups of people, *especially local communities* across the Lower Mekong Basin **are still excluded** from Mekong resource management and planning
- Understanding and knowledge of **how people in the LMB use water resources** is still inadequate
- High demand for Mekong **water-related socioeconomic data and information ..**
- and requests for **more inclusive decision-making process**





Photo: Pai Deetes

What we may need to know

- National agencies, the MRC and many organizations have realized these needs, and have **been working through different projects and initiatives**
- However, **the scale of existing responses is still small**. There is still great need for support.
- **Imminent threats** from climate and suspected impacts (as well as benefits) from large-scale land use change and Mekong mainstream dams



What we may not know

- **Not only** the *socioeconomic data* is needed
- But also
 - Set up **right priorities and objectives**
 - A multi-disciplinary/stakeholder platform
 - Expertise and collective capacity in **designing data monitoring**, **surveying**, **sampling** and **upscaling** methodology, and analysis
 - Open database access



Photo: Pai Deetes



Photos: LMI-SIP

What is going on?

- The SIP with 20 organization and agency partners facilitated **the first Mekong Socioeconomic Data Experts Meeting in September 2019 in Bangkok**
- Among many areas of consensus, the expert team agreed that **the priority of the LM region is to understand cumulative impacts of mainstream hydropower projects**
- Water-related socioeconomic data and survey methodology should be designed and used for **cumulative social impact assessment, and transboundary impact assessment**



Photo: Nook Pattanoot



What is next?

- We need more input from you
- A capacity-building program is collaboratively being prepared with partners
- The platform is being developed within www.MekongWater.org
- We welcome you to be part of this from the beginning until the end!