Proposed Rogun Hydropower Project Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

Report by Environmental and Social Panel of Experts: 3 presentations

PART 1: GENERAL ON THE ES PANEL REVIEW RESETTLEMENT AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

PART 2: IMPACT ON RIPARIAN COUNTRIES

Prof. Torkil Jønch Clausen (Panel Chair, water resources)

PART 3: ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

by

Prof. Richard Fuggle (environment)

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PART 1: GENERAL ON THE ES PANEL REVIEW RESETTLEMENT AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PANEL OF EXPERTS

To ensure due diligence and environmental and social studies of international quality

To provide independent advice and guidance to support objectivity and credibility in the environmental and social assessment process

To share expertise and knowledge

To assure a level of international confidence in the quality and integrity of the environmental and social assessment process and findings

HOW THE PANEL HAS OPERATED

SUMMARY OF MOST IMPORTANT PAST ADVICE AND GUIDANCE -

Consider livelihood restoration together with resettlement

Give greater attention to downstream impacts on Amu Darya (to the Aral Sea), both positive and negative

Examine and evaluate Central Asian water allocation agreements and practices

Undertake systematic comparison of the costs and benefits of different dam heights

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF DRAFT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT (ESIA)

The Panel s advice and guidance has largely been heeded and the ESIA draft reports greatly improved

The main focus of the Panel has been on the key strategic issues

Of the key concerns considered, the Panel recommends that key messages that highlight the main concerns of the Panel and have mostly been reflected in the main body of the report, should also appear as in chapters and in the Executive Summary

ESIA CHAPTERS REQUIRING NO FURTHER CHANGE

The following suggestions were taken into consideration

Chapters 1-7:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Legal and Administrative Framework
- 3 The project

ESIA CHAPTERS REQUIRING NO FURTHER CHANGE -

suggestions were taken into consideration Chapters 9 16:

- 9 Vegetation
- 10 Terrestrial Fauna
- 11 Aquatic Fauna
- 12 Protected Areas
- 13 Local Population and Social Economy
- 14 Archaeology
- 15 Main Impacts
- 16 Mitigation Measures

OVERALL PANEL ASSESSMENT: 3 KEY POINTS

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Key Point 1: Resettlement

The World Bank Operational Policy 4.12 (and the relevant policies of all International Financial Institutions) require that resettlement should as far as possible be avoided, hence the proposed focus on dam height optimisation. It also requires that the livelihoods of involuntarily resettled persons must be restored or improved. The Panel recommends that the GOT should commit formally and unequivocally to implementing the agreed Resettlement Policy Framework and Resettlement Action Plan, which comply with World Bank involuntary resettlement and livelihood restoration policies and international good practice.

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ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PANEL: CHAPTER 8 WATER

The key message that the legal basis for the interstate cooperation between the Central Asian states is still in development process is important.

The section on basin-wide interstate agreements and present water allocation is appreciated, including the dear reference to lack of darity of the present framework

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PANEL: CHAPTER 8 WATER

The Panel notes that although the current mechanism and practices for water allocations appear functional and satisfactory to all parties currently involved, emerging pressures and trends in water availability and demand will underscore the need to strengthen the current institutional framework, including a water monitoring system, and greater transparency

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PANEL: CHAPTER 8 WATER

The Panel notes that the report consistently states

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PANEL: CHAPTER 8 WATER

To avoid future misunderstandings due to differences in interpretation of the rules governing water allocations from the Amu Darya, revised agreements that are clear, transparent, enforceable, and monitored are strongly recommended, irrespective of whether Rogun is built or not.

Such agreements would be expected to also address the agreed Tajik share during the future operation of Rogun and the Vakhsh cascade.

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PANEL: CHAPTER 21 DOWNSTREAM IMPACTS

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ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PANEL: Chapter 21 DOWNSTREAM IMPACTS -

The Panel recommends that the statement from the ESIA that follows must be included in the Executive Summary on (quote):

OVERALL PANEL ASSESSMENT: 3 KEY POINTS

Key Point 2: Impacts on riparian countries

The necessity for future harmony and avoidance of misunderstandings or differences in interpretation, calls for Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan, to come to a revised agreement and a strengthened legal and institutional framework on water sharing in the Amu Darya. Such an agreement should include clear, understandable, transparent, monitored and enforceable rules to ensure sustainable water sharing, especially under dry conditions

THANK YOU



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PART 3 ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

by Prof. Richard Fuggle (environment)

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PANEL: CHAPTER 22 "ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES -

The Panel recommends that environmental economics inputs, and consideration of the role of intangibles and financial burden on the people of Tajikistan, should be included

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE PANEL: CHAPTER 22 "ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES -

OVERALL PANEL ASSESSMENT 3 KEY POINTS-

Key Point 3: Analysis of alternatives

The TEAS and ESIA consultants have recommended the 1290 option for further study and design in the next phase.

Both high dams are feasible. Considering that the difference between the 1255 and 1290 options is not large from a techno-economic perspective, but have significant social implications, the trade-offs must be carefully articulated. A possible way forward is to apply a multi-criteria decision approach, with stakeholder participation, as a priority activity in the next phase.

THANK YOU

