

Marianne LAIGNEAU
*Group Senior Executive Vice President
in charge of the International Division*

Paris, Oct 31st, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you very much for your concern about Human Rights and responsible development in Myanmar. We appreciate the engagement and opportunity to respond to your publication.

The EDF group is committed to rigorously applying the best standards of social and environmental responsibility around the world. We have a stringent and demanding policy in this field, based on international conventions and agreements related in particular to the protection of human rights¹. As a responsible business developer we rely on the capability and experience of key experts that we work with in order to apply caution and ensure quality to effectively avoid, minimize or mitigate E&S impacts concerning our activities.

Currently, the Shwe Li 3 hydropower project is in its development phase. This means EDF aims to determine all key conditions including, but not limited, to human rights risks, environmental and social risks and understanding concerns and suggestions of communities within the project area. Based on these findings, EDF and its partners will be able to determine action plans required to manage risks and impact ensuring human rights risk are not further exacerbated.

The safety of the people living in the vicinity of EDF's projects, as well maintaining, or improving their livelihoods and standards of living is a primary priority for the group. We are fully aware of the sensitivity of Human Rights issues in Myanmar, and have taken the necessary measures to analyze the issue, and ensure that our partners, contractors, and relevant authorities are well informed of our standards, commitment, and position on Human Rights issues in Myanmar.

To that effect, we have highlighted the following actions initiated prior to the publication and release of Burma Campaign:

- Since the signature of the Notice To Proceed for Shweli 3 project (September 2018), EDF and its partners have implemented studies to identify and then avoid or reduce E&S impacts of the project including, but not limited to, ensuring that powerplant and reservoir sizes have been optimized and downstream Ecoflow determined;
- Since early 2019, the project has launched a comprehensive study regarding the potential impacts in the area downstream of the dam. A clear assessment of these impacts has allowed us to adjust the design of the project and plan for further assessments ensuring responsible practices are continuously applied;
- The project consortium has been preparing over the last months, among other studies, a comprehensive Human Rights Impact Assessment and Management study.

¹ A summary of these commitments can be found in the "Global Framework Agreement on the EDF Group's Corporate Social Responsibility", in particular in its clauses 1, 2, 3, 12, 13 :

<https://www.edf.fr/sites/default/files/contrib/groupe-edf/engagements/rse/2019/20180626-accord-rse-en.pdf>

This study includes understanding interactions between the Project and the current conflicts in Shan state;

- Previous engagement made with communities included preliminary meetings whereby communities raised questions and concerns regarding compensation, livelihood support, and community development programs; a full-scale stakeholder engagement plan will be implemented over the coming months.
- As part of this Stakeholders Engagement Plan, the consortium is preparing a comprehensive grievance redress mechanism that will ensure transparency and enable to understand and receive concerns from the communities in the area. This human rights tool will help to receive, acknowledge, and address concerns and suggestions in a transparent manner, and at the same time, respecting the rights of all stakeholders influenced and or impacted by this project.

At last, it is worth mentioning that the project is not located on the Namtu River as the document posted on UK Burma Campaign site could lead one to believe. Shweli 3 is in fact located on the Shweli River.

EDF and its partners are experienced developers. EDF has previously successfully developed large hydropower projects like Nam Theun 2 in Lao PDR and Nachtigal in Cameroon. Both project meet the most stringent international standards (World Bank and/or IFC and/or ADB, etc). Our experience to date has provided us with the expertise and knowledge to respect, protect, and remedy human rights risks in the projects we work on and the countries we work in. Our network and access to experts provides us with the confidence to apply responsible business practices and encourage transparency in the process.

We firmly believe in the opinion and concerns of our community and project stakeholders. Should there be further questions or interests in Shweli 3, please do not hesitate to contact us by email: DI-ES@edf.fr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Laigneau", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Marianne LAIGNEAU
Group Senior Executive Vice President
EDF – International Division

MIMU



Myanmar Information Management Unit

SHAN STATE (NORTH) - MYANMAR



Canada



Map ID: MIMU182V05
Creation Date: 16 August 2015.A3
Projection/Datum: Geographic/WSG84

Email - info.mimu@undp.org
www.themimu.info

Legend

 State/Region Capital	 Railway	 River/Water Body	 Elevation (meters)
 Main Town	 Township Boundary	 Non-Perennial	 0 - 250
 Other Town	 District Boundary	 Perennial	 251 - 500
 Airports	 State/Region Boundary		 501 - 750
 Road	 International Boundary		 751 - 1,000
	 Stream		 1,001 - 1,500
			 1,501 - 2,000
			 2,001 - 2,500
			 2,501 - 3,000
			 3,001 - 4,000
			 4,001 - 5,000
			 5,001 - 7,002

Data Sources: MIMU
Base Map - MIMU
Boundaries - WFP/MIMU
Elevation: SRTM
Place names - Ministry of Home Affairs (GAD) translated by MIMU

Disclaimer: The names shown and the boundaries used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.