

# Sustainable dam development in India

Between global norms and local action

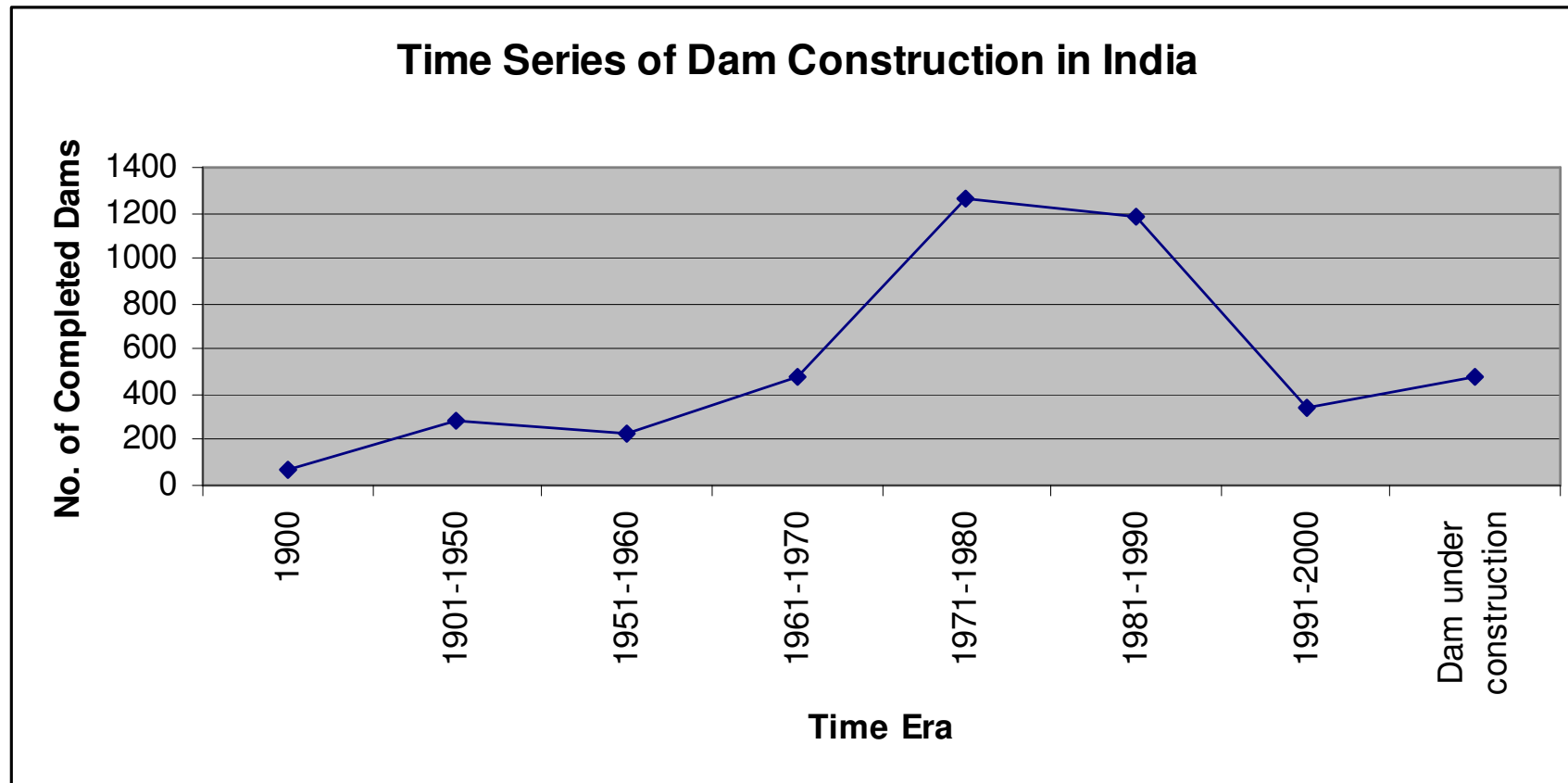
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**On behalf of**

**German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn**

Sixth Dialogue on Water Bonn 15-16 October 2009



4711 completed large dams and 390 under construction.(NRLD 2009)

47 million hectares irrigation potential

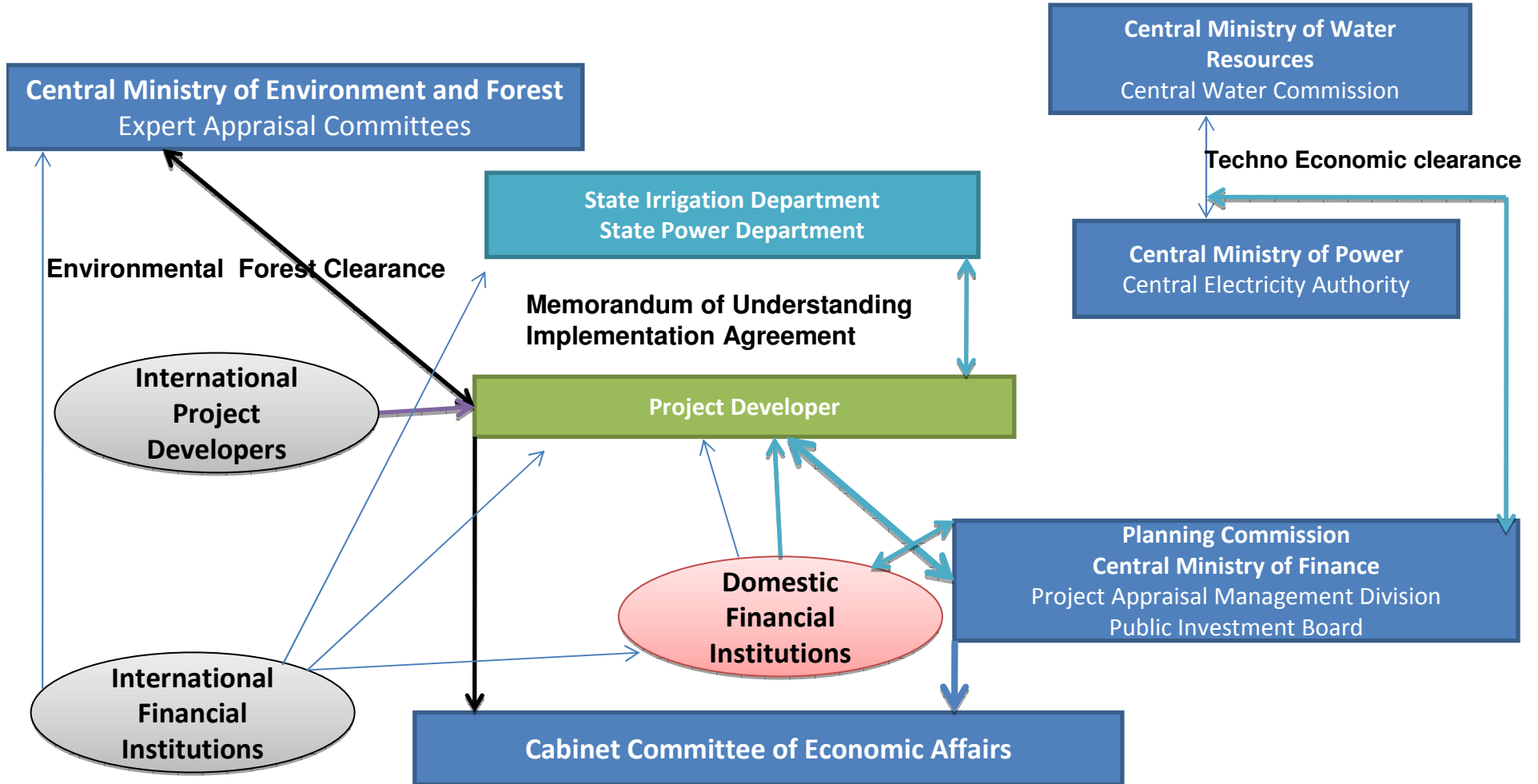
148 GW..hydropower potential....31% realized...26% of the gross power generation

Double hydropower capacity by 2030.

40,000 MW...target set by Gol by 2017

Hydropower development has regional dimension...[hydro- states](#)

# Dams decision making



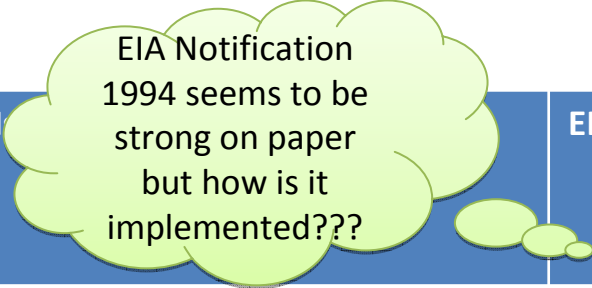
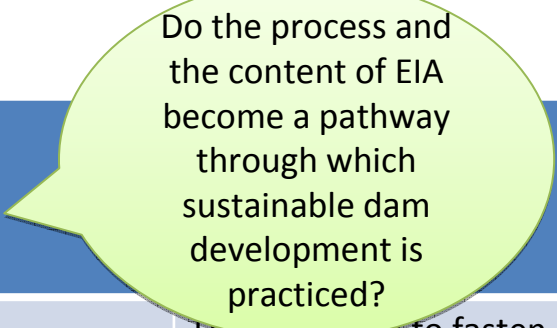
# Environmental Planning

Year	Early 1970s	1970-80s	1986
Event	National Committee of Environmental Planning	EIA tool for dam decision making	Environmental Protection Act
Trigger for change	United Nations convention for Human Environment	Planning Commission, Government of India	-- India's commitment to UNHE -- Recommendation of National Committee of Environmental Planning.
Implication	Environment institutionalized in public policy in India.	Environment Impact as part of water infrastructure planning process	Central Government ..power legal authority administrative provision ..protect and improve quality of Environment.

# EIA as part of dam planning over the years

Year	1980-94	1994-2006	2006	Draft 2009
Events	EIA as part of decision making	EIA Notification in 1994 followed by several amendments.	EIA Notification 2006.	Draft EIA Notification 2009 currently being finalized.
Trigger for change and main institutional actors	Planning Commission	-Environmental Protection Act 1986 -MoEF	- MoEF - Govindrajan committee report, MoF	- MoEF - Dept of Economic Affairs, MoF
Presence of International Actors	Multilateral Financial Institutions		World Bank's environmental capacity building programme with MoEF.	

# EIA 1994 to 2006

 <p>EIA Notification 1994 seems to be strong on paper but how is it implemented???</p>	<p>EIA Notification 1994</p>  <p>Do the process and the content of EIA become a pathway through which sustainable dam development is practiced?</p>	
Coverage and scope of EIA.	Reduced with several amendments.	Decentralized to fasten but state level institutions yet to form.
Comprehensive Option Assessment in EIA	Site clearance ..form of option assessment with site not technology.	4 stages to make it comprehensive and efficient.. No mention of option assessment
Public Participation..gaining public acceptance	Broad participation but the process was not well defined.	Participation limited to locally affected people, process made comprehensive.
Involvement of governmental and non governmental actors in decision making	Ministerial decision with input from EAC, EAC to have broad representations	Decision primarily taken by EAC and then passed to ministry, EAC representation narrowed to <i>technical experts</i>
Compliance Monitoring	Site visit during the process of granting environmental clearance and post clearance	Site visit restricted to during and before the process of granting environmental clearance.
Sanction measures in case of violations	Strong and unambiguous.	Ambiguous " <i>deliberate misrepresentation</i> "

# EIA in the project cases

	Allain Duhangan	Lower Subansiri	Dibang Multipurpose
Coverage and scope of EIA.	High social mobilization and advocating with IFC prior to clearance.	High but after sustained advocacy and advanced stage of construction.	High with fresh EIAs along with downstream impact studies recommended by EAC for clearance.
Public Participation..towards gaining public acceptance	High prior to the clearance issued by IFC.	Low	Low the process of public hearing boycotted and stopped.
Involvement of governmental and non governmental actors in decision making	National NGOs tried to influence the IFC decision making	IBWL during clearance National level NGOS, local NGOs and mass semi political organizations throughout	Strong NGO mobilization Involvement of EAC of MoEF.
Compliance Monitoring	Low with allegations od repeated forest clearance violations	Low	.....
Sanction measures in case of violations	Fined by the state government.	Repeated complains by NGOs but the project avails all clearances.	.....

# Displacement..Resettlement..Rehabilitation

How big is the problem of displacement???

- 16-38 million displaced (WCD estimate)
- Half of world wide displacement from Bank funded projects in India.
- Early studies highlight faulty resettlement planning if any...

Since 60s Committees formed by diff. dept. of Govt of India.. better resettlement planning and rehabilitation through employment based or livelihood based compensation.

Narmada controversy the *tipping point* of displacement resettlement rehabilitation discourse.. Both nationally and internationally



# Towards National Resettlement Policy

	1989		1994-95	1994	1998-99
Policy	National Working Group	Policy	Draft National Policy on Resettlement Rehabilitation	Draft National Policy on People Affected by reservoir Project	Draft National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation
Major institutional Actor	Civil Society Alliance	Major institutional Actor	Ministry of Rural Development	Ministry of Water Resources	Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment
Triggers for change..international actors	Human rights and sustainable development	Triggers for change..international actors	Overt International financial institutions and domestic movements	Overt International financial institutions and domestic movements	
Main Features	Right of PAF in the entire decision making, comprehensive option assessment, development resettlement.	Main Features	Participation in resettlement action plan, beyond cash compensation, weak institutional planning	Comprehensive resettlement plan beyond cash compensation.	

## National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy 2007

2004: First National Policy on resettlement and rehabilitation..severely criticized by citizens for lack of transparency and community reengagement.. New Policy in 2007

- Intrinsic to development process rather than an add-on
- Argues for comprehensive option assessment. Technology is not the end in itself. Technology..loose end in implementing the same
- Minimizing displacement along with some specific suggestions for compensation. With caveat *as far as possible*
- Social Impact Assessment becomes a part..but institutional structure ill defined.. How does it affect the decision making?? Only characterization?
- Espouses for participation..action plan discussion with village institutions.. But is it symbolic?? What will it yield to??
- Equitable share of benefit... sustained benefit/income increase. . debentures /shares of the company.. Employment not compulsory

NRRP 2007 has made progressive changes.

Result of a long process of advocacy .

Has undertaken an act of balancing interests.

# R&R in project case studies

	Allain Duhangan	Lowland	Case
Displacement as an issue of negotiation	Low. Partial displacement Downstream impact on livelihood	Low Displacement Downstream livelihood	Displacement of Indigenous population.
Pattern of Compensation	Cash Compensation to landowners. Grazing land developed to be developed. Right to water assured	Compensation only to directly displaced	Cash compensation is proposed which is around 1% of the total project cost.
Current status	Negotiated cash compensation Right to water still contested in Court.	Comprehensive downstream impact study No Compensation for downstream affected people	Local populace not willing to negotiate compensation, opposing the project.

Penchant towards cash compensation.

Allain Duhangan benefitted the landowners but not shepherds.

## International Embeddedness

International embeddedness defined in terms of country's adherence to commitment made in international forum...

Mainstreaming the environment in the public policy making in India.. Partially attributed to India's commitment at UNCHE.

# Social Mobilisation

- Strong *normative effect* of WCD on the civil society..not by gradual diffusion of WCD norms..rather domestic norms found international anchor.
- Social mobilization in different projects triggered changes in R&R issue arena..the various policy drafts covertly or overtly accepts it...
- Social mobilization at the project level results in better adherence to the existing norm and rules.. Allain Duhangan (IFC norm) and Lower Subansiri (Government of India own provision)

# International Actors and international finance

- Presence of multilateral finance is a pathways of ushering in of superior standards.
- International financial institutions have been overtly referred in various draft policy on R&R
- EIA Notification 2006.. World Bank played a critical role
- *Material effect* of international actors are observed in the policy documents of financial agencies and power developer.
- Presence of international actors may not necessarily mean better compliance by the project developer... Allain Duhangan
- The impact of international actors is largely project specific as their investments are project specific.

- Project case studies show mere presence of international finance is not necessary sufficient for superior norms and standards
- .... the social mobilization is necessary to ensure that the same are followed.
- . combination of both results in superior changes.
- Independently social mobilization can also usher in progressive changes and superior standards ..it is time taking and depend on the strength on local level social mobilisation.

# Some more actors of change

- Developmental Priority of the country..liberalization.. actors in various *growth* ministries... EIA Notification changes are manifestations..
- Judiciary: historically most potent ... mellowed down but play a role... Lower Subansiri, Allain Duhangan.



**Thank You!**



Hydropower states

Allain Duhangan Hydropower Project

Lower Subansiri Project

Dibang Multipurpose Project

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