REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (RCE) AMENDMENT

PROJECT/ACTIVITY DATA:

Activity Name: Wonders of the Mekong  
Country/region: Bureau for Asia  
Start Date: 9/30/2016  
End Date: 9/30/2026  
Life of Project Amount: $9,900,000  
IEE Prepared by: Mary Melnyk  
Date: 8/1/2019

1.0 Purpose of the Amendment

The purpose of this RCE amendment, in accordance with Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 216, is to increase the life of project amount from $5,000,000 to $9,900,000 and extend the life of project duration from September 30, 2021 to September 30, 2026, while the scope and environmental determination for the activities remain the same as documented in Asia 16-87 document.

2.0 Description of Activities

The Wonders of the Mekong in Cambodia Activity will continue to stimulate and inform a discussion about how to achieve the optimum balance of meeting current needs without diminishing future potential--how to make development more sustainable. The activity will continue to:

- Conduct applied field research and develop communications products designed to increase the public's and government's valuation and conservation of the vital ecosystem services that the Mekong River, its watershed, and biodiversity provide for the sustainable development of Southeast Asia and resilience to climate change.
- Utilize the results of multi-disciplinary analyses to produce a multimedia package of communications products consisting of documentary films, social media campaigns, educational seminars, and articles in regional and international publications. These products will encourage appreciation of the Mekong as a global asset, and facilitate discussions and actions demonstrating that conservation is development.
- Build a constituency among government, civil society, and private sector entities across the region to advocate for and pursue sustainable development options in the face of a changing climate.
- Work closely with local and regional scientists, political leaders, civil society, and media houses to involve them in the Activity.
- Build capacity within Cambodia on the areas of research and promote the active participation of citizen scientists.
3.0 Revisions

Per 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), when ongoing programs are revised to incorporate a change in scope or nature, a determination will be made as to whether such change may have an environmental impact not previously assessed. If so, this environmental analysis will be amended to cover the changes. Per ADS 204, it is the responsibility of the USAID Agreement Officer’s Representative to keep the Asia Bureau Environmental Officer informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this amendment and environmental determination.

4.0 Approval of RCE Amendment

Approval: Anna Mary Coburn, USAID/Asia Technical Service Office Director [Signature] 8/1/2019 Date

Concurrence: Will Gibson, Asia Bureau Environmental Officer [Signature] August 1, 2019 Date

Distribution:
Project Files
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