

ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum 2019
Workshop on Promoting Regional Green Growth: Best Practices of
Eco-friendly City Construction and Sustainable Management of
Marine Ecosystem

17-18th September 2019, Nanning, Guangxi, China

Topic 1: Promote the Construction of Green “Belt and Road”: Building a New
Multi-Dimensional Cooperation Platform for Regional Green Development

Lao PDR's Experiences

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Outline

1. Lao PDR's National Strategy and Policy on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Environmental Safeguard
2. Localization of SDGs and Green Growth in the Lao PDR
3. Key Policies and Activities related to Sustainable Development and Green Growth
4. ASEAN ESC Award/ESC Model Cities Program
5. SDG Frontrunner Cities Program
6. Way forward
7. Main Challenges for Natural Resource Management and Environmental Protection

1. Lao PDR's National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Environmental Safeguard

- ❖ In 2011, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) was officially established, focusing on 2 main areas: 1) Sustainable Management of Natural Resources; 2) Environmental Quality Monitoring and Protection.
- ❖ In 2016, the Government of Laos (GoL) set up 3 significant goals in order to guarantee Green & Sustainable Development by 2030.
- ❖ One of those goals is, “*Securing the most effective & efficient use of natural resources & environmental protection in the direction of green & sustainable development; effective preparedness for natural disasters & adaptation to climate change*”.
- ❖ To achieve the goals, the GoL has mainstreamed the sustainable management of natural resources and environmental safeguard in the 8th Five-Year National Socio-economic Development Plan (2016-2020) as identified in outcome 3 – *Environmental Protection and Sustainable Natural Resource Management*.
 - Outcome 1: Macro economic..
 - Outcome 2: Social & Cultural...
 - Outcome 3: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Natural Resource Management
 - Output 1 – Environmental Protection & Sustainable Natural Resources Management
 - Output 2 – Preparedness for Natural Disasters & Risk Mitigation



MONRE is a core public agency materializing the governmental policy on sustainable management of natural resources and environmental safeguard.

Environmental Protection Law (EPL)
issued out in 1999 and revised in 2012

Legal Frameworks:
(Legislation, Decrees...)

National Strategy on Environment
2006-2020

1st Five-Year Action Plan
2006-2010

2nd Five-Year Action Plan
2011-2015

Vision toward 2030

National Strategy on Natural Resources
& Environment 2016-2025

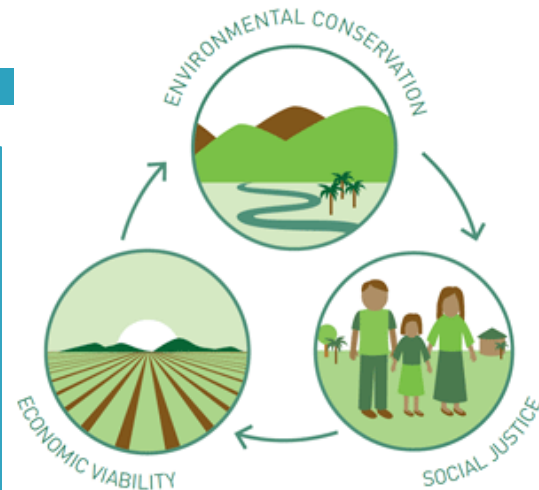
3rd Five-Year Action Plan
2016-2020

Latest
update
(2015)

MONRE's Vision toward 2030

Three Pillars of Sustainable Development

“**Green, Clean,** and **Beautiful Laos** with the richness of natural resources on a basis of **Green Economic Development** to reach the **Sustainable Development** and **Industrialization** in parallel to **Climate Change Adaptation** and **Disaster Resilience.**”



AIM



The 3rd Five-Year Action Plan (2016-2020)

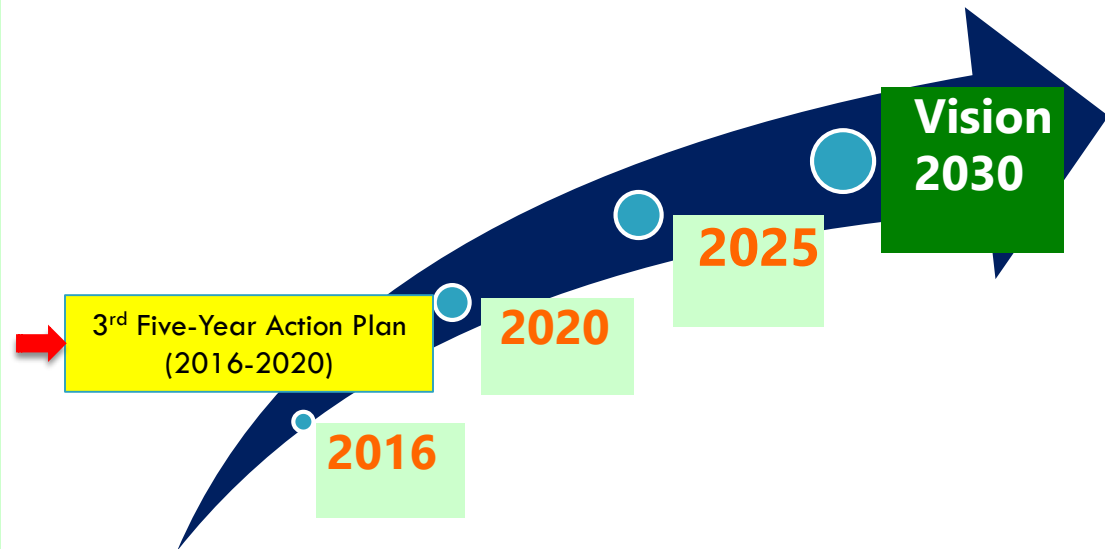
National Strategy on Natural Resources & Environment (2016-2025)



❖ Overall Goal: “To build *Green, Clean, & Beautiful* Laos on a basis of *Green Economic Growth* in order to ensure *Sustainable Development, Climate Change Adaptation, & Disaster Resilience*”

□ Core Targets:

- ❖ Land Management Program
- ❖ Water Resources, Meteorology & Hydrology Management Program
- ❖ Environmental Protection & Climate Change Program
- ❖ Regional & International Integration & Cooperation Program
- ❖ Institutional Capacity Development Program



2. Localization of SDGs & Green Growth in the Lao PDR



Source: <http://www.la.one.un.org/sdgs/sdg-18-lives-safe-from-uxo>

- ❑ SDGs have been mainstreamed in the 8th Five-Year National Socio-economic Development Plan 2016-2020;
- ❑ The National Roadmap for the Achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in the Lao PDR is being developed;
- ❑ Green Growth Strategy and Green Growth Criteria Guideline is also being developed;
- ❑ MONRE has also acceded five SDGs with 19 targets and 28 indicators for sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection.

3. Key Policies and Activities related to Sustainable Development and Green Growth

Key Policies/legal framework

❖ Existing

- Environmental Protection Law (EPL)
- 10-Year Strategy and 5-Year Action Plans on Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
- Water and Water Resource Law
- [Guidelines for Environmentally Sustainable Cities of Laos](#)
- Environmental Education, Awareness Raising, and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2025)
- Guideline for Pollution Control, and etc.

❖ Under Development Process

- Land Law (under approval process)
- [Guideline for Green, Clean, Beautiful Laos](#) is now being developed.
- Pollution Control Strategy is now being developed.
- [The Government of Vientiane Capital](#) is now about preparing for [Waste Management Strategy](#), and etc.

3. Key Policies and Activities related to Sustainable Development and Green Growth (cont.)

Projects/Activities Undertaken

- ☐ Series of factories, mining, and other big projects have undergone reviews.
- ☐ Some that did not pass the reviews have been permanently closed down, temporarily paused and marked for rectification.
- ☐ IEE and EIA have been actively undertaken to ensure that we move forward to sustainable development and better social well-beings.
- ☐ In 2018, 60 projects related to natural resource efficiency and environmental solutions were implemented.
- ☐ It can be highlighted by that we have tried to mainstream the integrated spatial planning (ISP) into socio-economic development plans at all levels and to apply the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to policy and strategy making processes.
- ☐ A little step toward SCP has been started up at a stakeholder through their production of sugarcane biodegradable plastics.
 - ✓ These products are biodegradable within 80-90 days under natural condition.

4. ASEAN ESC Award/ ESC Model Cities Programme

- **Two cities have been awarded ASEAN ESC Award**
 - ▣ Luang Prabang (in 2008, 2014, 2017)
 - ▣ Sam Neua City (in 2011)

- **Implementation of ESC Model Cities Programme**
 - ▣ **Year 1 (2011/12):** Improve Green Park in Sam Neua
 - ▣ **Year 2 (2014/15):** Installation of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Solutions (DEWATS) in Luang Prabang
 - ▣ **Year 3 (2016/17):** Construction of a public toilet with ASEAN standard linked to the wastewater treatment facility.



Luang Prabang City, 1st, 3rd, 4th ASEAN
ESC Award



Sam Neua, 2nd ASEAN ESC Award



Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Solutions (DEWATS)



Public Toilet with
ASEAN Standard



5. SDG Frontrunner Cities Program

❖ Proposed Activities for SDG-FC candidates

▣ Sam Neua City

- Tree plantation in public parks and along the main roads
- Public awareness raising of the 3Rs in communities and markets
- Establish the environmental volunteer units at community level

▣ Luang Prabang City

- Improve public parks in urban areas
- Reallocate night markets in order
- Sustainable waste management by using the 3Rs

❖ Proposed Activities for Model City Candidate

▣ Kaysone Phomvihane City

- Capacity building for public officials at district and village levels
- Tree plantation in the public parks
- Sustainable waste management in the target communities



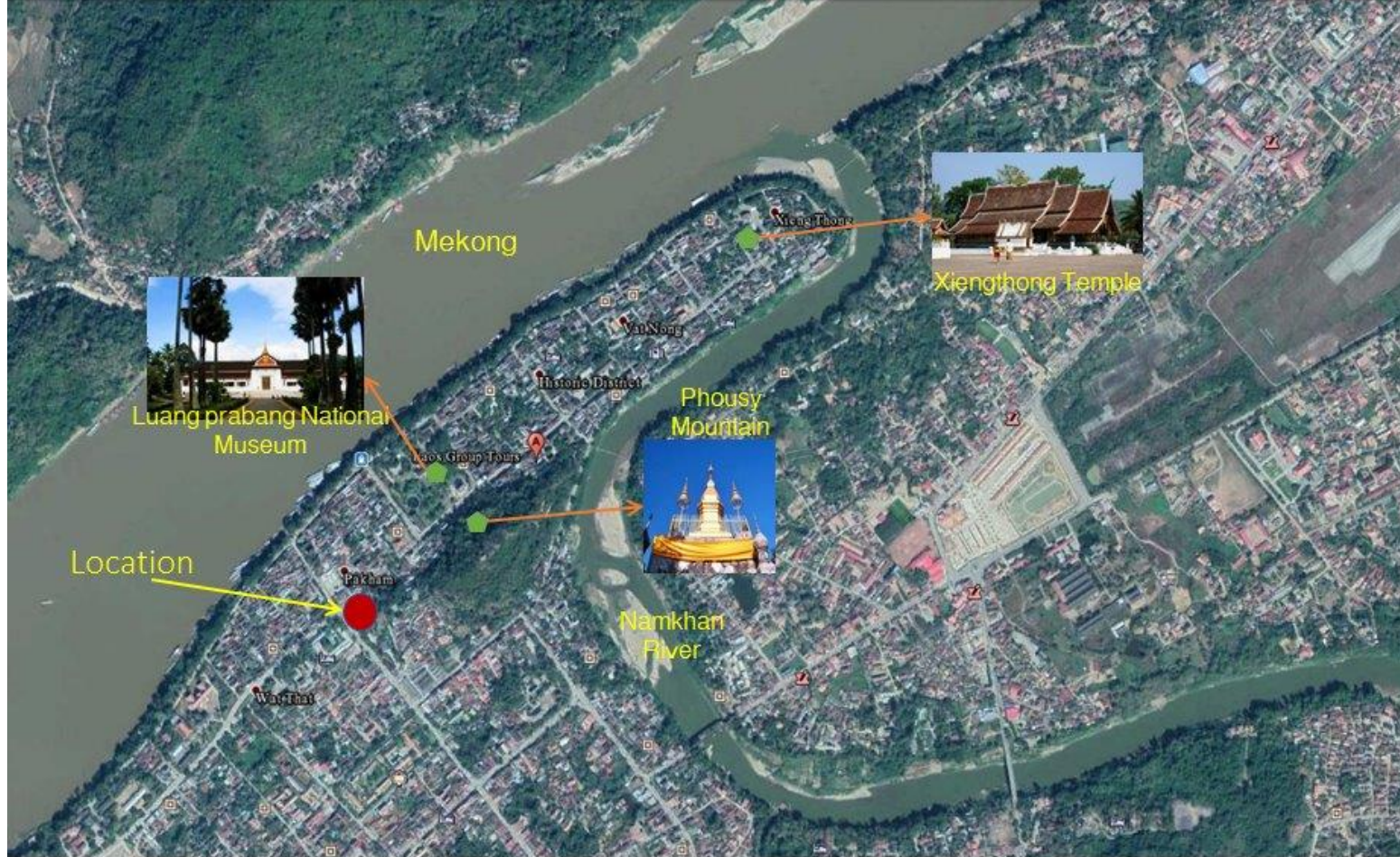
Sam Neua City



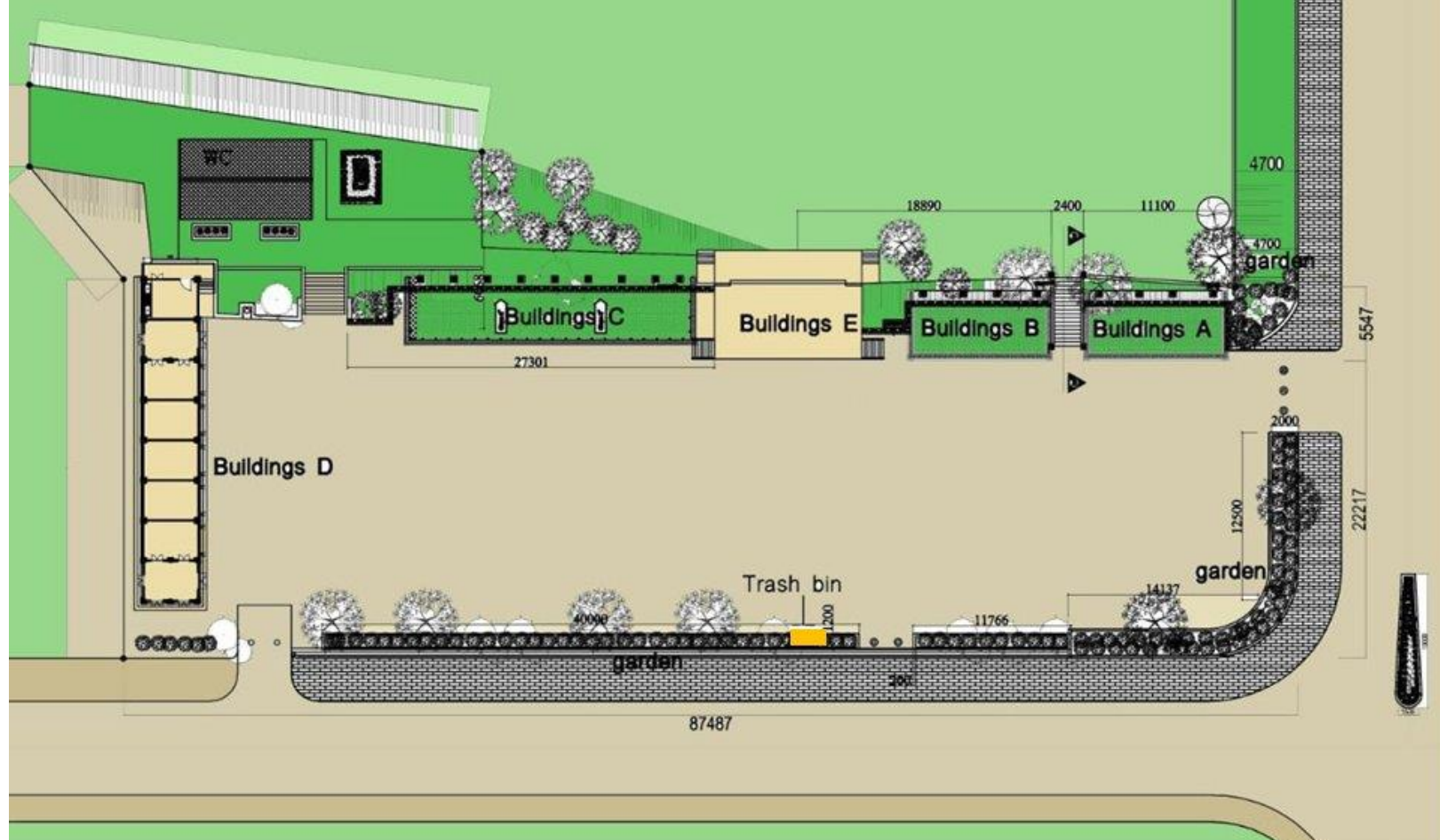
Luang Prabang City



Kaysone Phomvihane City



Project Location in Luang Prabang



Layout of Upgraded Project Areas in Luang Prabang

6. Way forward

- ❑ To continue and strengthen the localization of SDGs, Green Growth, and SCP in public sector at all levels;
- ❑ To promote the understanding and implementation of SDGs, Green Growth, and SCP among private sector and stakeholders;
- ❑ To continue developing guideline for green, clean, beautiful city and other legal framework related to sustainable development;
- ❑ To move forward on implementation process of the SDG Frontrunner City Program in three cities;
- ❑ To continue implementing the SWITCH-Asia II Programme on SCP (2018-2020) through
 - ▣ policy support and advocacy;
 - ▣ awareness raising among all public and private sector, in particular all stakeholders;
 - ▣ capacity building for government officials and key stakeholders;
 - ▣ best practices sharing and promotion; and
 - ▣ adoption of cleaner technologies and practices.

7. Main Challenges for Natural Resource Management and Environmental Protection

Within MONRE

- Budget or financial resources are still not fully secured for its 5-year programmes and activities;
- As a young organization, capacity building is highly demanded;
- Inadequate tools and equipment to perform its mandate.

General Aspects

- Existing poverty and least education in some local communities might probably lead to carelessness & inattention to natural conservation and environmental protection;
- Practicing conventional agriculture, industrial production activities, and improper waste management practices are now challenging both underground & surface water quality monitoring & management;
- More coordination and synchronization among governmental agencies at all levels are still required to fully support our Natural Resources and Environment Programs;
- Limitation of high qualified local experts and advanced technology in environmental management & monitoring.

Thank You Very Much for Your Attention!



Picture of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World heritage Site since 1995 and ASEAN ESC City.