

**COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORT:  
LAO PDR**

**PSC MEETING OF THE GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA PROJECT ON  
SCALING UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDS-SEA  
JULY 24, 2017**

# LAO PDR

## Summary of Major Achievements/Outputs in 2016 – 2017

### National Level:

- Approval of the Water Law by the National Assembly (May 2017)



- Development of National Guideline for Water Use Fee
  - RTF mobilized to conduct scoping workshop for the development of National Guideline (December 2016)
  - Initial draft of National Guideline developed. Undergoing review.

- SDS-SEA Implementation Plan (2017-2022)
  - Collaborative planning workshop conducted
  - Priority programs/projects integrated in the regional SDS-SEA IP (2017-2022)



- Participation to regional activities
  - EAS PC Meeting (July 2016)
  - Training on nutrient load model and PROA (October 2016)
  - Expanded EC Meeting (April 2017)



### Local Level:

- Baseline assessment addressing focus management aspect in Sedone River Basin
  - Validation workshop on baseline assessment results conducted (July 2016)
  - Baseline assessment report drafted
- Value chain analysis in Houay Champi
  - RTF mobilized to conduct value chain analysis in the districts of Paksong, Sanasomboun, Bachieng and Pakse (January 2017)



### **Existing collaboration with other projects or programmes in the country:**

- Small Grants Programme (SGP);
- National University of Laos;
- ADB, WB, WWF
- Environmental Protection Fund (EPF);
- Japan and China;
- and other MONRE Programs;

### **Impacts:**

- National Activities
  - The regulation under Water Law Amendment will be implementing;
  - Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) system in Laos mainstream/link to international IWRM;
  - The Sedone River Basin Management Project was successful become a model for others river basin management;
- Local Activities
  - Sedone river basin is one of Ten priority river basin;
  - There are 3 protected/conservation area established: 1) Sedone head, 2) Fish conservation area in Huay Champi and, 3) Forest protected area in Huay Champi upstream
  - Three PSC of Sedone River Basin establishes in Champasack, Saravan and Sekong province.

- Three village water resources funds existed and wells management, and;
- Capacity Building Program
  - Project team gained more knowledge and experiences and capacity to train to colleagues and more high responsibility;

#### Challenges:

- The project implementation was slow and could not finished by the time indicated in the first stage;
- Replacing new team member in both national and provinces;
- Weak of English communication;

#### Lessons Learned:

- Combine **on-the-ground activities** (visible impacts) with **capacity development** and **institution building** (i.e., development of management plans, research);
- Bottom up approach on river basin planning and implementation is significant factor;
- Public participation is a main key for sustainable river basin management;

#### Priority/Target Activities (2017 – 2018)

- National Level
  1. Review of existing institutional mechanism for sustainable management of river basins and integration of SDS-SEA
  2. Development of National Guideline for Water Use Fee
    - ✓ Review and stakeholder's consultation of draft guideline (August 2017)
    - ✓ Study visit of DWR Team to Water Utility Facilities in the Philippines (July 2017)
  3. Basin-wide Forum
  4. Updating of National State of River Basin Report
  5. National IWRM Demonstration Site (Vangvieng District)
- Implementation of IRBM in Sedone River Basin
  1. Capacity building/Training Needs
    - ✓ Internship/Traineeship
    - ✓ IRBM
    - ✓ River Basin Profiling
    - ✓ River Basin Planning
    - ✓ Water quality monitoring
    - ✓ Participation to Blue Economy Forum (2017) & EAS Congress 2018

2. On-the-ground management activities
  - ✓ Access to water supply and protection of headwaters
  - ✓ Livelihood
  - ✓ Solid waste management
3. Hydrological modeling

**GEF Budget:**

- 2017 – \$98,278
- 2018 – \$140,590