



# History of Lao PDR's Engagement in the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

- 
- 2006** Lao PDR joined PEMSEA when it signed the Haikou Partnership Agreement during 2006 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress in Haikou, China. The Haikou Partnership Agreement formally established PEMSEA as the regional coordinating mechanism for implementing the agreed regional strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). The Haikou agreement also contained the Partnership Operating Arrangements that specified the roles and responsibilities of PEMSEA country and non-country partners in implementing the SDS-SEA.
- 
- 2007** The year 2007 marked the start of the third phase of the UNDP/GEF project, entitled "Implementation of the SDS-SEA", which facilitated the expansion of integrated coastal management (ICM) in the EAS region and the transformation of PEMSEA into a regional intergovernmental organization with an international legal personality and formally established headquarters in Quezon City, Philippines.
- Lao PDR passed the Decree on the Establishment and Activities of the Water Resources and Environment Administration to integrate and streamline the management of its water and environmental resources. The Decree established the Water Resources and Environment Administration under the Prime Minister's Office to serve as the secretariat that will provide advice to the government on the management of activities related to the country's water resources, environment, meteorology, and hydrology.
- 
- 2008** The Lao PDR component of the SDS-SEA Implementation Project was implemented from 2008 to 2010 in the Sedone River Basin, which comprised three provinces (i.e., Champasack, Saravan, and Sekong) located in the southern part of the country. This component was called the Sedone Integrated River Basin Management Project (SIRBMP).
- 
- 2009** Lao PDR participated in the 2009 EAS Congress hosted by the Government of the Philippines, where it signed the Manila Declaration committing to strengthen the implementation of ICM and climate change adaptation in the Seas of East Asia.
- The country also signed the Agreement Recognizing the International Legal Personality of PEMSEA along with Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Philippines, RO Korea, and Timor-Leste.
- In support of capacity building efforts for the SIRBMP, the PEMSEA Resource Facility hosted several staff from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the provinces of Champasack, Saravan, and Sekong as interns.
- 
- 2010** Lao PDR initiated the implementation of on-the-ground activities in Sedone River Basin, covering community-based solid waste management, riverbank rehabilitation and stabilization, and water use and livelihood management.
- 
- 2011** Lao PDR participated in PEMSEA's Regional Training Course on Integrated Coastal/River Basin Management held in Da Nang, Vietnam.
- 
- 2012** Lao PDR participated at the 2012 EAS Congress hosted by the Government of RO Korea, where it signed the "Changwon Declaration Toward an Ocean-based Blue Economy: Moving Ahead with the SDS-SEA," which adopted the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2012-2016 and the definition of blue economy.
- 
- 2014** Lao PDR was one of the eight participating countries of the UNDP/GEF Project on Scaling up the Implementation of the SDS-SEA. The project focused on PEMSEA's transformation towards organizational sustainability by scaling up the implementation of the SDS-SEA as a regional framework through national action programs while drawing from the experiences of successful
-

	<p>ICM practices, establishing a stronger link between the management of coastal and marine areas and their contiguous watersheds, and conducting pilot investment studies to pursue a blue economy in the EAS region.</p> <p>The Sedone River Basin Strategy and its implementation plan, the Sedone River Basin Sustainable Development and Management Plan 2015-2030, were adopted by the DWR and the provinces comprising the Sedone River Basin. The strategy serves as a blueprint for the sustainable development and management of resources in Sedone River Basin.</p>
2015	<p>Lao PDR participated in the 2015 EAS Congress hosted by Viet Nam, where it signed the Da Nang Compact, which adopted the 2015 SDS-SEA. The updated SDS-SEA lays down the post-2015 strategic targets of PEMSEA in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The country passed Presidential Decree No. 001 on Natural Resource Fees. The Decree mandates the imposition of fees on domestic and foreign individuals and legal entities who are operating businesses in relation to mining, non-timber forest products, and water resources in Lao PDR with the objective of creating additional income for the government.</p>
2016	<p>The country initiated the development of National Guidelines on Water Resource Fees as part of the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 001 on Natural Resource Fees.</p>
2017	<p>Lao PDR approved the updated Water and Water Resources Law, which covers the comprehensive management of the country's water resources, mitigation of potential water-related disasters, and management of wastewater discharges. The country has also embarked in the development of its National River Basin Strategy to 2030 for improved management of its water resources.</p> <p>Representatives from the DWR participated in PEMSEA's study tour to water utilities in the Philippines as part of capacity strengthening support for the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 001 on Natural Resource Fee and the development of National Guidelines for Water Resource Fees.</p> <p>Personnel from the Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment of Champasack and Saravan joined the Regional Traineeship Program at PEMSEA's headquarters to learn about the concept, principles, application, and good practices of integrated river basin management (IRBM).</p>
2018	<p>Lao PDR participated in the 2018 EAS Congress hosted by the Government of the Philippines, where it signed the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration, which commits to pursue PEMSEA's sustainability post-2019 and adopted the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2018-2022.</p> <p>Personnel from the DWR and the Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment of Sekong joined the Regional Traineeship Program at PEMSEA's headquarters to learn about the concept, principles, application, and good practices of IRBM.</p>
2019	<p>Lao PDR finalized several regulations, namely the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Guidelines on Water Resource Fees, which were pilot-tested in Sedone River Basin; and</li> <li>• National River Basin Management Strategy to 2030.</li> </ul> <p>The government also initiated the development of management plans for the three sub-basins in Sedone River Basin.</p> <p>Lao PDR also continued its implementation of on-the-ground activities in Sedone River Basin to improve people's access to safe and clean water, protect the headwaters, and strengthen the state of water supply and quality monitoring programs.</p>
2021	<p>Lao PDR participated in the 2021 EAS Congress hosted by the Government of Cambodia, where it signed the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration endorsed the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 as the region's decadal strategic guide, anchored on the SDS-SEA vision and commitment to blue economy and aligned with the countries' green recovery plans and programs as well as key international environmental commitments.</p>
2022	<p>PEMSEA is formulating the SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027 in consultation with country and non-country partners.</p>
2023	<p>Lao PDR signed the agreement to reduce pollution and strengthen water resources management in Nam Tha River Basin in July 2023, with the national inception workshop held later the same year.</p> <p>Lao PDR government leaders convened for the High-level Policy Forum on Water Resources Management Led by DWR of MONRE, Lao PDR, High-level Policy Forum on Integrated Water Resources Management was organized on December 14, 2023 followed by the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the IRBM Project in Nam Tha River Basin.</p>

---

On 18 December 2023, the SORB framework and indicators were introduced to national and provincial partners in Luang Prabang, serving as the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanism for IRBM implementation

---

2024

Lao PDR signed the Xiamen Ministerial Declaration during the EAS Congress 2024. SORB Report were developed for the Nam Tha River Basin, providing critical data on biophysical, socioeconomic, and governance conditions to guide targeted interventions for sustainable river basin management.

---



**PEMSEA Resource Facility**

Tel: (+632) 929-2992 | [info@pemsea.org](mailto:info@pemsea.org)  
Fax: (+632) 426-3849 | [www.pemsea.org](http://www.pemsea.org)