



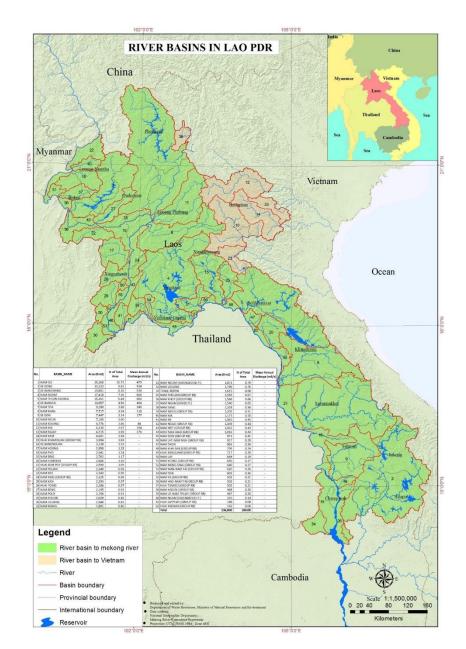
Water Resources Management in Lao PDR

Singthong PHANTHAMALA Department of Water Resources

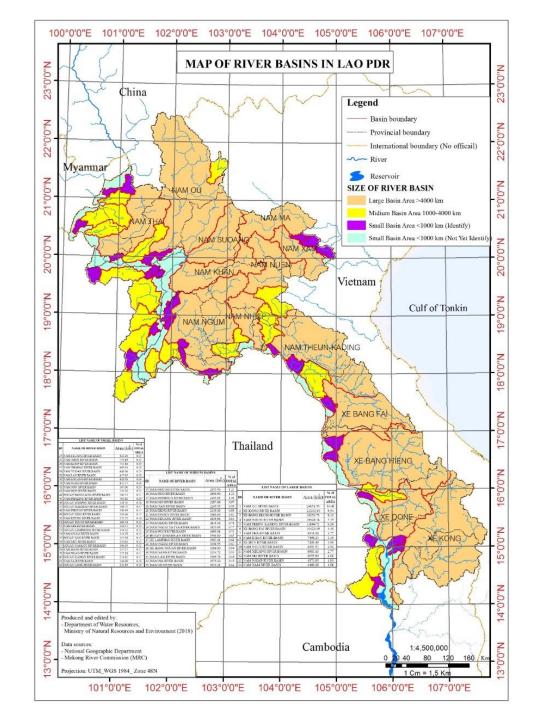
I. Overview-Water Resources in Lao PDR

- Lao PDR is located in South-East Asia with total land area of 236,800 km2, approx. population 6.49 mill. (2015);
- 90% of the country territory is located in the Mekong Basin
- Water resources per capita is around 55,000 m³ per year;
- 35% of annual flow (or equal 270,000 mil. m³) in Mekong flow is from tributaries in Laos;
- The monthly rivers flow by the pattern of rainfall is around 80% (flood season) during the rainy season and 20% (drought season) in the dry season.

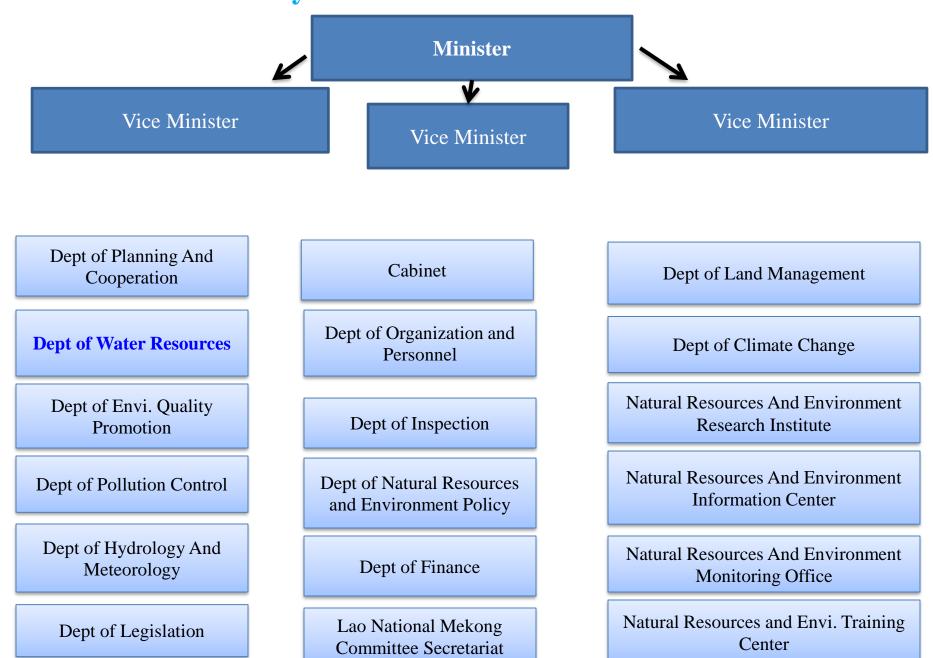
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Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



IWRM History in Lao PDR

Prior 1975	1975-2000	2001-2010	2011-Present
 Traditional management /practice No clear institutions and specific legislations on IWRM 	 Water and water resources law, 1996 Mekong Agreement 1995 Local knowledge and some regional and international applied 	 IWRM principle introduced Water Resources Coordination Committee and its secretariat established Water Resources and Environment Agencies established 2007 (including Department of Water Resources) Integrated River Basins Planning Local knowledge + regional + international 	 Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment established 2011 (Dept of Water Resources) Water & water resource law revised & approved (May 2017) Water Resources Sub- sector working group established Expand IWRM into 10 priority river basins Technical guidelines developed Up scale local knowledge + regional + international experiences

experiences

IWRM application in different river basin scale in Lao PDR **Geography IWRM** instruments Mekong IWRM Strategy 2020 Mekong Basin Mekong IWRM-based BDP Lao PDR **River Basin Management Strategy** 2030 Nam Ngum RB Nam Ngum River Management Plan 2016-2020 Nam Ngum sub-basins Nam Ngum sub-basin plans (as e.g. Nam Xong and Nam Lik) Watersheds/Catchment **Integrated Watershed** Management Plans (as e.g. Nam Po) 6

II. Achievement and Progress

IWRM

Demonstration Site

Training and awareness raising on

IWRM

- Water & water
 resources law and 8
 legislations
- Water strategy 2025 and action plan 2020

water quality monitoring – 180 sample points (incl. pollution control – industry, pesticide)

Financial mechanism: - Water use fee put in the Presidential Ordinance 001, in 2015

SDG 6

Developing 9 technical guidelines, eg. River basin planning

IWRN

River basin atlas 62 basins, WR database (LaoWIS) IWRM applied in river basins and sub-basin (profiles & integrated plans, WR modeling being developed & implemented)

Groundwater:

- Conduct GW assessment/profile
- Action plan 2020 developed
- Pilot in major basins

National green growth development policy is implementing

IWRM Curriculum developed – Bachelor and Master degree





III. Problems and Challenges







Challenges

<u>Institutional</u> arrangement & establishment – need to strengthen cross sector collaboration;

Limited <u>financial support</u> & sustainable mechanism – equipments, tools...

<u>Legislations, guidelines</u> need to enforce and implement

Limited <u>capacity of concerned staff</u> on RB planning & management + public awareness & local participation on IWRM. – thus need to strengthen staff capacity and more on-the-job training, etc.

Lack of efficient & accurate WR data & information

IV. Way Forward

To address those challenges....we have to implement Natural Resources and Environment Sector Vision towards 2030

"Keeping Lao PDR Green, Clean and Beautiful based on green economic growth, to achieve sustainable development toward industrialization and modernization and to ensure the resilience to climate change impacts and disaster risks"

Draft Water and Water Resources Management Strategy 2030 **Water and Water Resources Management**

Strategy Programs

1. Protection

2. Development

3. Disaster Risk

4. Institutional Arrangement

Thank You