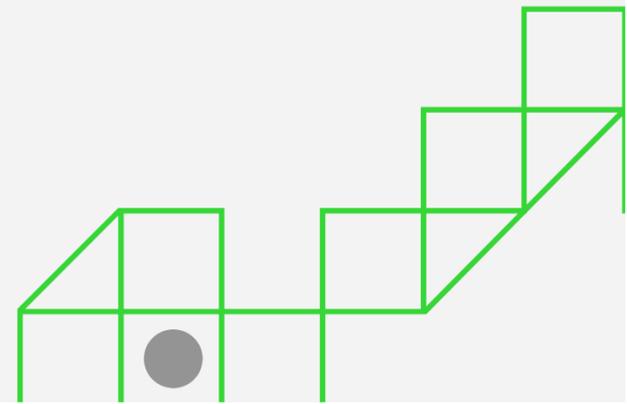
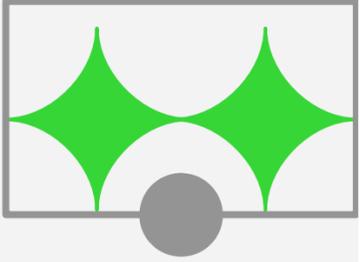


Natural Resources and Environment Sector Working Group Annual Meeting.

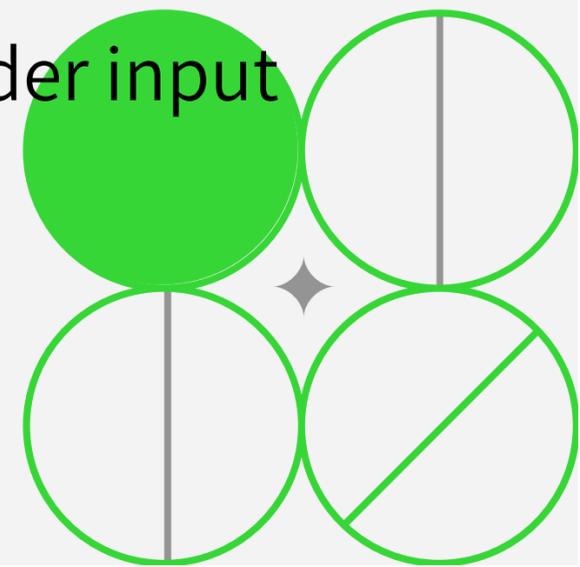
by Department of Planning and Finance, MoNRE





Contents on Today's Meeting

- Review progress on NRESWG initiatives
- Plan for the next five years (2026-2030)
- Discuss VDCAP implementation
- Gather reflections from stakeholders
- Shape future strategies based on stakeholder input



PM's Instruction on Result of 2023 RTM ✨

1. Efficiency & Investment:

- Attract investments in renewable energy and eco-tourism.
- Protect and responsibly use natural assets.

2. Agricultural Innovations:

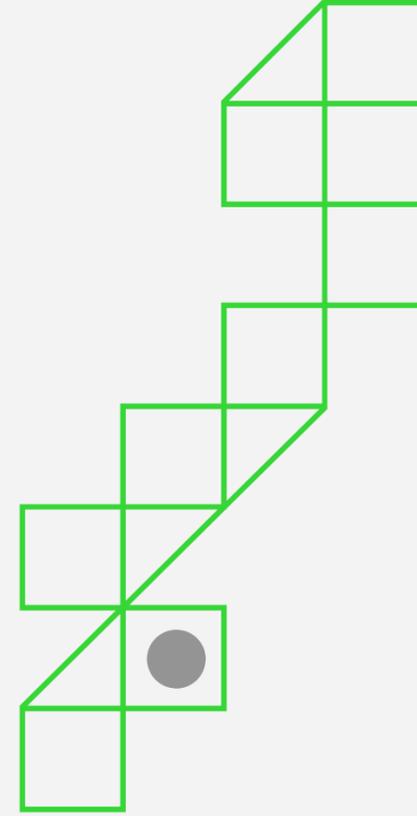
- Develop climate-resilient and eco-friendly agricultural practices.

3. Capacity Building:

- Equip with tools and techniques for accurate land surveys.

4. Sustainable Growth:

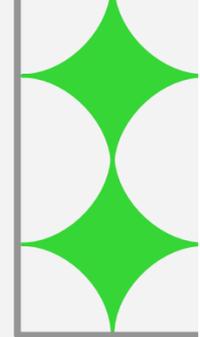
- Balance environmental protection with investment promotion.
- Ensure green development involving business and society.





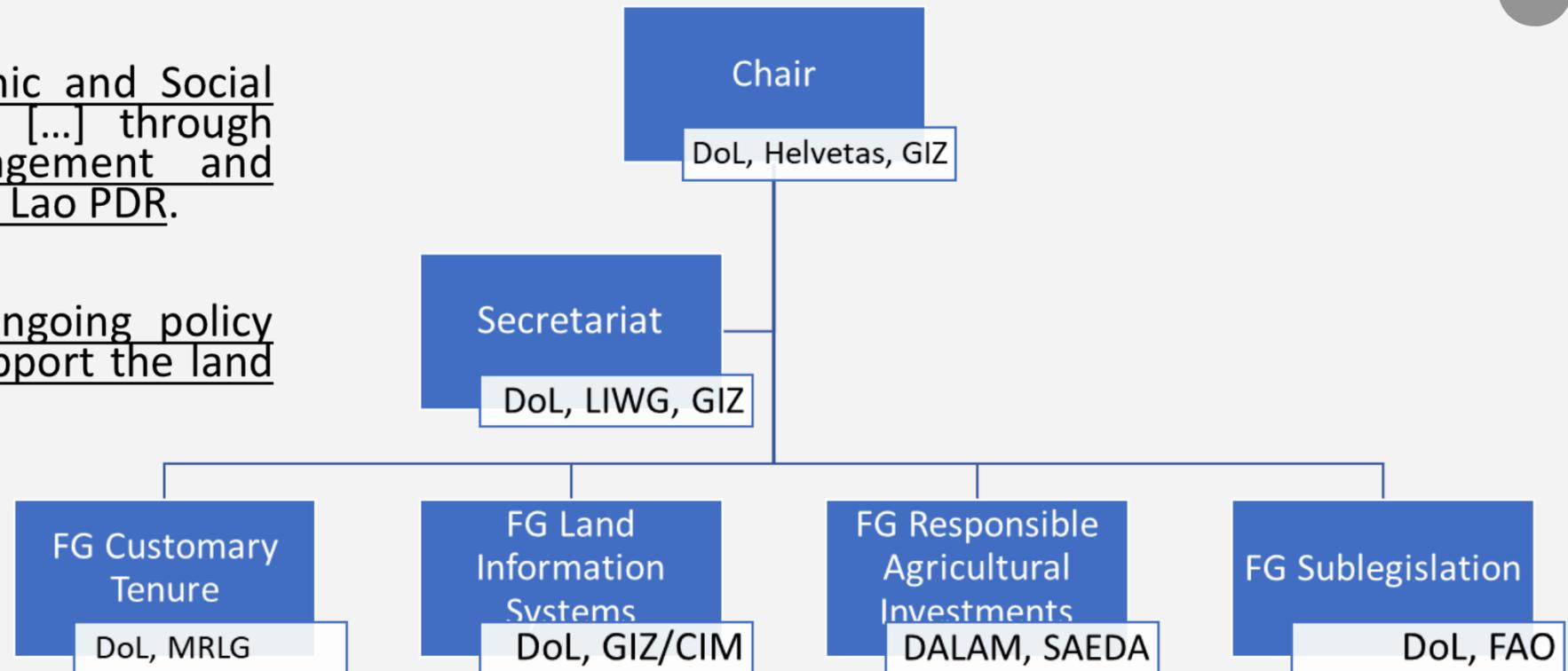
Land Sub-Sector Working Group - LSSWG

Overall Objectives

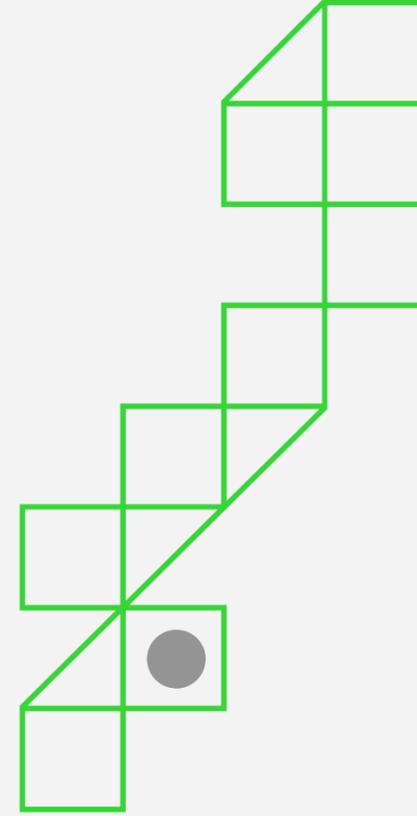


[...] contribute to the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, [...] through coordination, exchange and support to the land management and administration policies, strategies and plans of the Government of Lao PDR.

The LSSWG will serve as a mechanism for facilitating the ongoing policy dialogue and coordination, and the identification of issues to support the land sector development.

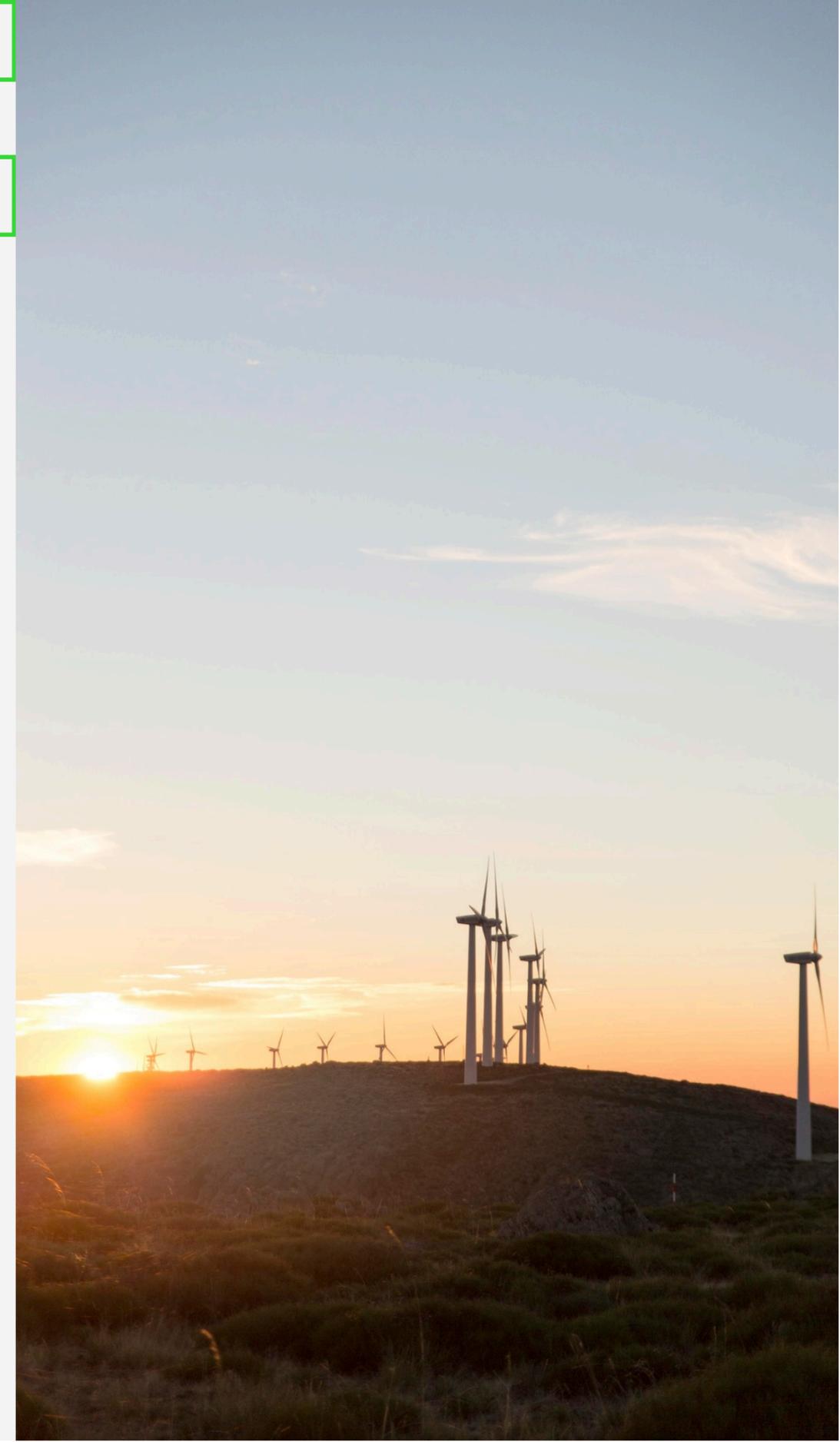


Main Achievements under LSSWG



Dissemination of Guidelines for Sectoral Land Use Requirement:

- All sectors at national and provincial levels must develop a land use strategy for their managed land categories.
- Spatial Planning Framework:
 1. Land Allocation Planning
 2. Land Use Planning
 3. Land Use Strategies
 4. Socio-Economic Development Planning





Agricultural Land Management Strategy 2030 & Vision 2040

Goals:

Effectively manage, protect, develop, and optimize agricultural land.

Alignment:

- National Land Allocation Master Plan
- Land Law of 2019
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Green Growth Strategy



WATER RESOURCE SUB-SECTOR WORKING GROUP - WRSSWG

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

TERM OF REFERENCES

Water Resources Sub-Sector Working Group (WRSSWG)

I. Objective of the WRSSWG

The overall objective of the establishment and operation of the Water Resources Sub-sector Working Group (WRSSWG) is to facilitate effective development and implementation of water resources sector's programs through strengthened coordination and cooperation between relevant Lao government agencies and development partners. It is also established to support annual Round Table Meeting Processes where each sector working group including Natural Resources and Environment report on sector's progress and priorities. The water resources sector includes regulatory and institutional updates and development, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programs and other water resources related programs that support implementation of prioritized programs and action plans identified by the Government of Lao PDR (GoL). These programs contribute to the implementation of the 8th National Social and Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 6 and other related SDGs.

The specific objectives of the WRSSWG are:

- i. To provide a platform for technical discussion on the water resources management and planning for a more strengthened and coordinated water resources governance that contributes to sustainable social and economic development.
- ii. To provide a forum for policy dialogue and coordination amongst water resources and water related actors including government agencies, private sectors, educational and research institutions, donors, civil society organizations and local communities working on Lao water resources management.
- iii. To disseminate and facilitate the implementation of water resources related actions and

e. Reporting

The WRSSWG prepares reports on achievement, progress, priorities and plans, and presents to meeting of NRESW and RTM Processes if required. This Term of Reference has been prepared and accepted by the members of WRSSWG under facilitation of both Department of Water Resources MONRE as chair and Secretariat and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as co-chair.

Revised: 19 October 2016



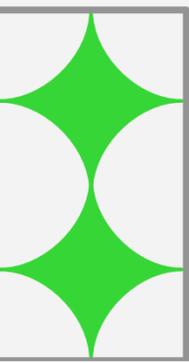
Mr. Chanthanet Boualapha
Director General
Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment of Lao PDR

Ms. Rachel Jolly
First Secretary
Development Cooperation Section
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and
Trade (DFAT)

★ Achievements under WRSSWG

Establishing Legal Framework for Water Resource Management

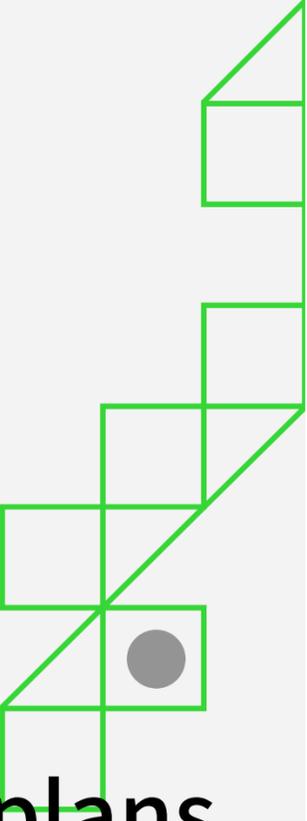
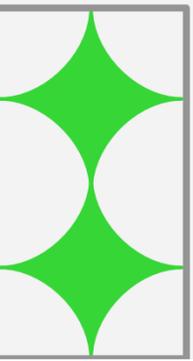
1. Decree on Water Resource Areas, No. 350/GoL, dated 13 November 2023
2. Agreement on the Water Resource Information System, expected in 2024
3. Agreement on Establishing Water Flow Quantities in Water Basins, currently pending cooperation with the Inspection Committee for Legal Consistency
4. Guidelines on Setting Minimum Water Flow Quantities, September 2023
5. Guidelines on Water and Water Resource Accounting (draft in progress)



Achievements under WRSSWG

Water Basin and Water Area Management Plans

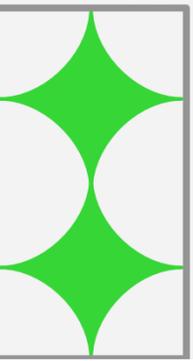
- Completion and government approval of water basin management plans for Ma and Nern Rivers expected in July 2024.
- Bueng Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site Management Plan (2021-2025): Document No. 2228/MoNRE, dated 14 August 2023.
- Xe Champhone Ramsar Site Management Plan (2021-2025): Document No. 2256/MoNRE, dated 16 August 2023.



Achievements under WRSSWG

Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat (LNMCS)

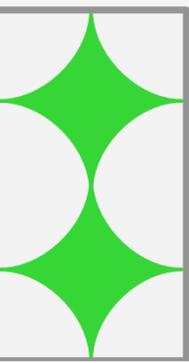
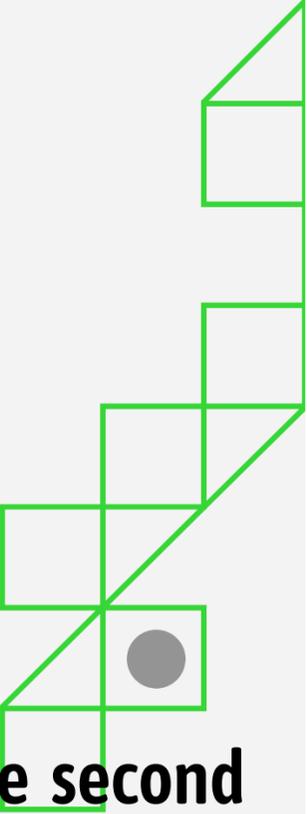
- Participated in Pre-Consultations: Completed pre-consultations for 5 hydropower projects on the Mekong River: Xayaburi, Don Sahong, Pak Beng, Pak Lay, and Luang Prabang. Currently conducting pre-consultations for the Sanakham project and awaiting pre-consultations for the Phou Ngoy project. Xayaburi and Don Sahong projects have been constructed and are exporting electricity to neighboring countries.
- **Collaboration with China:** Coordinated, promoted, and monitored joint studies on hydrological changes with the International Mekong River Commission and China. This included reporting past hydrological changes, joint explorations, and consultations. The joint committee agreed to continue collaborative projects in Phase 2 and joint surveys in the Mekong-Lancang Basin.



Achievements under WRSSWG

Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat (LNMCS)

- **Second Mekong-Lancang Ministerial Meeting: Concluded pre-consultations with member countries for the second Mekong-Lancang water resource cooperation ministerial meeting. Vietnam is planned to host this meeting in March 2025 in the Mekong Delta.**



✦ **Environment Sub-Sector Working Group - ESSWG**

National Work on Creating Plans to Address Climate Change (Nationally Determined Contributions, NDC)

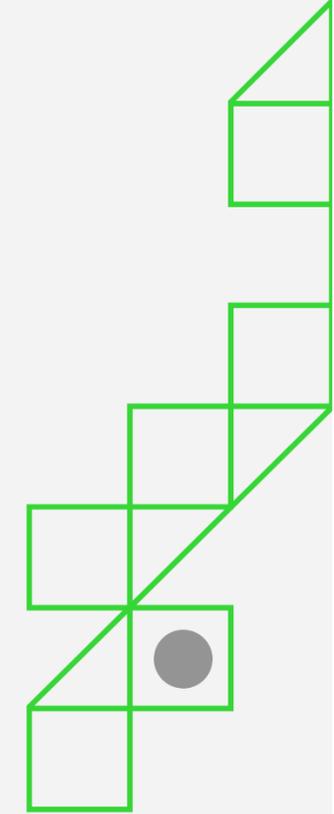
- **Development Partners: GGGI / WB**

Progress:

- **Collaboration with GGGI to expand the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for 2021-2025 (Second Edition).**
- **Ongoing collaboration with relevant sectors to develop the Third Edition of the NDC.**
- **Initial support from WB to develop the Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), expected to be completed by November 2024.**

✦ **Environment Sub-Sector Working Group - ESSWG**

National Adaptation Plan, NAP



- **Development Partners: GEF/UNEP**

Progress:

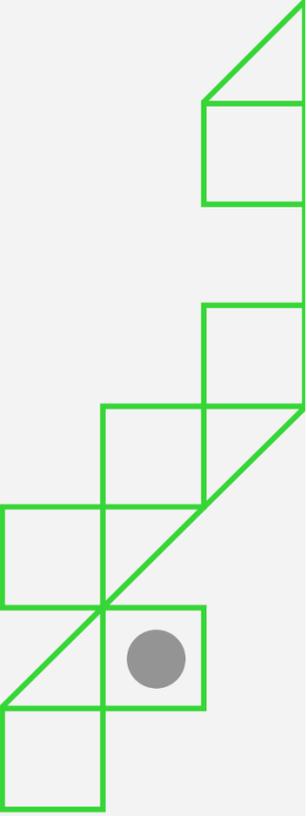
- **Completed the final draft of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which will be submitted to the regular government meeting in November 2024.**

- **Developing a framework for monitoring, evaluation, gender integration, and preparing a database for the NAP.**



✦ **Environment Sub-Sector Working Group - ESSWG**

National Climate Change Strategy

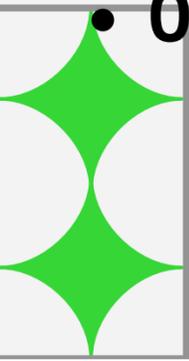


- **Development Partners: ADB**

Progress:

- **Successfully created the National Vision, which has been approved and officially adopted by the government as Document No. 98/PM, dated 24 May 2023.**

- **Organized meetings to disseminate and distribute this vision to central and local levels.**



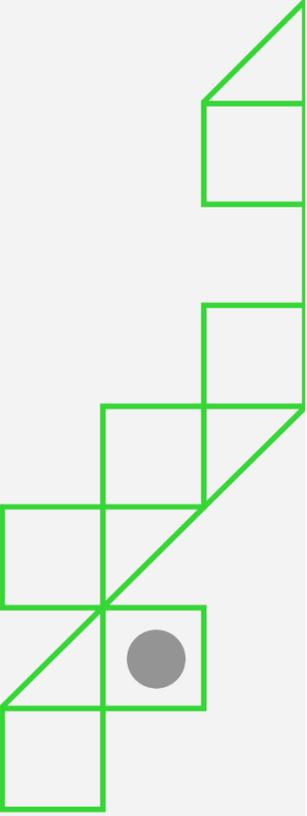
✦ **Environment Sub-Sector Working Group - ESSWG**

Draft Carbon Credit Decree, Lao PDR

- **Development Partners: Australia Gov. /GGGI**

Progress:

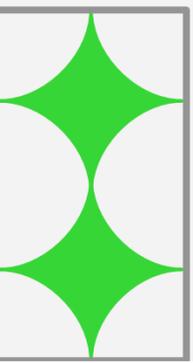
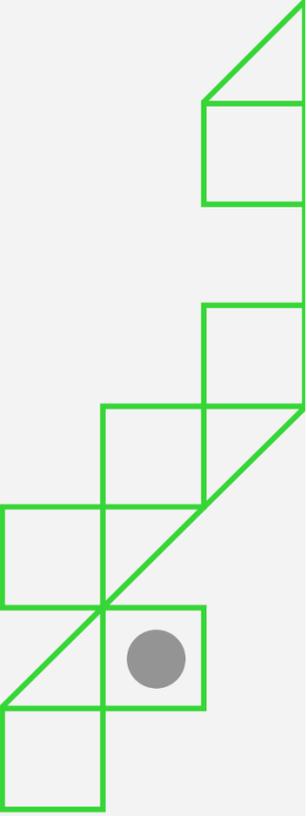
- **Final comments on the draft carbon credit policy have been completed, and it is expected to be submitted to the government for consideration in November 2024.**
- **Successfully organized dissemination meetings on carbon credit work and the carbon credit market in Lao PDR with relevant sectors and development partners.**





Plans for 2025

- **Establishing Legal Frameworks for Water and Water Resource Management**
- **Strategy for Managing Water Resource Areas**
- **Agreement on Managing Protected Water Areas and Water Resources**
- **Guidelines for Issuing Water Usage Permits**
- **Agreement on Determining Water Flow Quantities in Water Basins**
- **Agreement on Managing Floods, Droughts, and Drainage Systems**
- **Proposal to Approve Guidelines for Water and Water Resource Accounting by the end of 2025**
- **Initiate Research and Draft Guidelines on Water Flow Changes in 2025**





Plans for 2025

- **Continue disseminating, encouraging, and promoting various sectors both centrally and locally in expanding and implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Second Edition, updating the NDC Third Edition, National Vision to 2030, Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDs), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and Carbon Credit Policy.**
- **Improve the vulnerability assessment report regarding climate change to be more detailed.**
- **Continue building urban resilience to adapt to climate change by managing and utilizing ecosystem services in 6 target districts across 6 provinces.**
- **Establish financial mechanisms to support resilience building and climate change adaptation at the local level.**
- **Update the national report on climate change under the UN climate change convention.**



✦ Propose for Cooperation

Detailed water resource assessment across the country, covering:

- Pressure points, risk areas, and natural disaster management
- Water usage, groundwater levels, and quality
- Establishment of water and water resource accounting.
- Strengthening assessments in:
 - Surface water, groundwater, and water quality (trial phase)
 - Water allocation and management systems
 - Information management systems
- Implementation of:
 - Practices and management plans for basins and groundwater
 - Budget allocation for these implementations

Establishment of water and water resource accounting.

Strengthening assessments in:

- Surface water, groundwater, and water quality (trial phase)
- Water allocation and management systems
- Information management systems

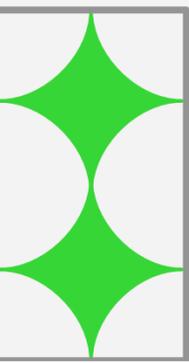
Implementation of:

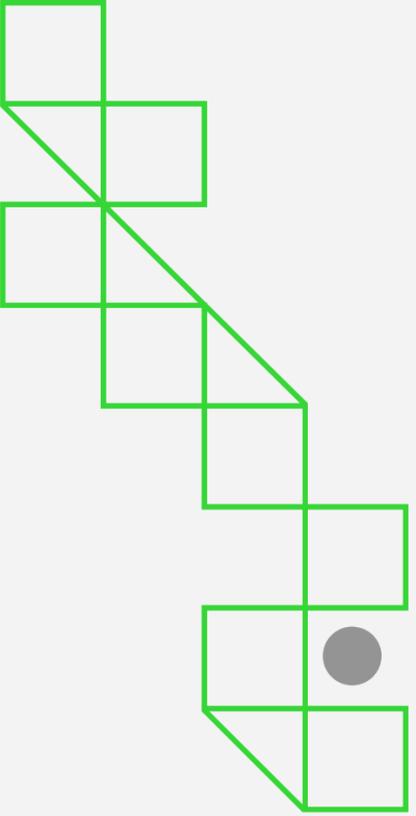
- Practices and management plans for basins and groundwater
- Budget allocation for these implementations

✦ Propose for Cooperation

Continue Collaborating with Development Partners, especially with international organizations and various financial institutes to secure technical and financial support for implementing climate change initiatives, including:

- Carbon credit trading
- Building resilience to climate change in high-risk and vulnerable provinces
- Strengthening sectors for implementing climate change work and public awareness campaigns
- Other related activities





Thanks!

