



Lao People's Democratic Republic: Updating the National Water Policy and Strategy

Project Name	Updating the National Water Policy and Strategy		
Project Number	40193-012		
Country / Economy	Lao People's Democratic Republic		
Project Status	Closed		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance		
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 7013-LAO: Updating the National Water Policy and Strategy		
	Technical Assistance Special Fund		US\$ 500,000.00
	Government of Australia		US\$ 500,000.00
	TA 7013-LAO: Updating the National Water Policy and Strategy (Supplementary)		
	Government of Australia		US\$ 300,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth		
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships		
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development / Water-based natural resources management		
Gender	No gender elements		
Description	<p>The TA will address two key activities that are urgently required to enable Lao PDR adopt integrated water resources management (IWRM) namely: (i) the development of a National Water Resource Policy and Strategy; and (ii) the first phase of the preparation of a national water resources information inventory and assessment. In addition, the TA will assist the Government develop the design and framework document for a Lao IWRM Support Program including financing requirements.</p> <p>The primary outcomes of the TA are (i) WREA will be strengthened and its staff capacities for IWRM will be strengthened; (ii) WREA will be able to guide future development and investment planning in the sector consistent with the national water resources policy and strategy; and (iii) development partners will commit to a program of support for WREA with the objective of moving towards a sector wide assistance program.</p>		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The ADB and the World Bank have collaborated since 2004 on the preparation of the Mekong water resources assistance strategy (MWRAS). MWRAS was developed through analytical work and strategic workshops carried out in 2004 and early 2005 with the national governments of Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The MWRAS preparation work confirmed that there is a need for extensive capacity-building in all aspects of IWRM in the region to support the further investments required in water management.</p>		
Impact	Integrated water resources management supports development and sustained economic growth in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.		

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Water Resources and Environment Administration provides effective leadership in the implementation of National water resources policy and strategy.
Progress Toward Outcome	IWRM support program design has received broad support from Government and development partners and will form the basis for future support to water resources capacity development. Broad policy directions are being established through consultations and studies.

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	Review of water data, information and analytical tools, including strategic needs assessment completed National Water Resources Policy and Strategy is developed and adopted by the Government. WREA support program is designed and adopted by development partner group.
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	<p>The draft National Water Resources Policy and National Water Resource Strategy and Action Plan have been prepared. Further refinements of these documents in Lao and English, based on comments received during a series of workshops with key stakeholders across the country. The Policy and Strategy was scheduled for submission to the National Assembly in November 2010.</p> <p>The TA designed a draft national IWRM Support Program in August 2008. Development partners are processing assistance projects to make the support program operational.</p> <p>A major change in TA scope was approved on 14 July 2009 to assist WREA in improving internal processes and staff capacities and ensure that it is fully prepared for implementation of the IWRM Support Program.</p>
Geographical Location	

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects
Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation
During Project Design

During Project Implementation During implementation, consultation workshops will ensure that key stakeholders participate in achieving the expected outcomes of the TA. Workshops will be organized to debate key findings and to facilitate dissemination of policies and strategy documents. In addition, design of the Lao PDR IWRM support program will be done in consultation with major stakeholders.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services A total of 31 person months (pm) of international and 53 pm of national specialists will be engaged by ADB in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants. Consulting services for component 1 will be engaged as independent consultants, including international IWRM specialist (1.5 pm); international program development specialist (1.5 pm) and national IWRM specialist (3.0 pm). Consultants for components 2 & 3 will be engaged through a firm (QCBS 90:10) and will include international consultants with expertise in IWRM/institutional specialist/team leader (18 pm), short term consultants with expertise in various aspects of IWRM (10 pm), and national consultants with skills in IWRM (50 pm).

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Timetable

Concept Clearance	11 Oct 2006
Fact Finding	08 Oct 2007 to 22 Oct 2007
MRM	-
Approval	12 Dec 2007
Last Review Mission	-
PDS Creation Date	11 Jan 2008
Last PDS Update	24 Feb 2011

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Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
12 Dec 2007	10 Jan 2008	10 Jan 2008	31 Jan 2010	31 Dec 2010	16 Jun 2011

Financing Plan/TA Utilization							Cumulative Disbursements	
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
800,000.00	500,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,360,000.00	17 Jun 2022	1,206,969.98

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