



INFORMATIVE NOTE

PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON PLASTICS IN LAO PDR



7 July 2021 • 0900-1200 (Lao PDR Time) • **Virtual**

CONTEXT

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) Lao PDR has requested support from the World Bank and the EU SWITCH-Asia Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) facility for assistance in the development of the Government's National Plastics Action Plan. Multiple activities have been carried out in 2020 to 2021, in partnership with MoNRE, to improve understanding of plastics pollution in the country and identify suitable measures to improve plastics management and reduce plastics pollution. World Bank supported plastic diagnostics, including the identification of priority plastic items leaking into the environment, and building on these results an assessment of high potential policy measures to reduce single-use plastics consumption and pollution. The EU SWITCH-

Asia SCP Facility supported the development of a draft Policy Strategy Action Plan towards reducing Single-Used Plastics. These assessments have been developed with the purpose to provide a basis for the GOL/MoNRE for developing the National Plastics Action Plan.

With the agreement of the Leading Committee in MoNRE, a series of stakeholder consultations will be conducted in the development of a National Plastics Action Plan, with necessary support provided by World Bank and EU SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility. The first activity will be a Planning Workshop for a National Action Plan on Plastics with MoNRE.

DETAILS

Event: Planning Workshop for a National Action Plan on Plastics with MoNRE

Date: 7 July 2021, 09:00 AM (Lao PDR Time)

Led by: the Department of Planning and Finance (National Focal Point on SCP)

Participated by:

- Department of Pollution Control
- Department of Environment
- Natural Resources and Environment Research and Statistic Institute
- Other officials from relevant departments of the MoNRE
- Members of the World Bank and EU SWITCH-Asia teams working on plastics and waste in Lao PDR

Format: Virtual meeting (platform to be arranged by World Bank) with participants joining remotely.

Languages: Lao and English with two-way simultaneous translation (to be arranged by World Bank).

Duration: 3 hours.

The key objectives of the workshop are to:

1. present and discuss key findings of the plastic diagnostics;
2. present and discuss findings and recommendations of the plastics policy assessments;
3. discuss and determine priority plastic policies for initiation of stakeholder consultations and support and next steps on the development of a National Plastic Action Plan.

Questions for Discussion

1. Is the name “National Action Plan (NAP) on Plastics” suitable or is there a better option? How do we ensure that the National Roadmap on Sustainable Consumption and Production being led by MoNRE is also in line with the proposed National Action Plan on Plastics?
2. What is the institutional arrangement in preparing for the NAP on Plastics? Which Ministries have to be involved, in the process (such as the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI))? What would be the roles of other ministries?
3. Which plastic policies are considered by MoNRE as priority and most suitable for the country, and should be selected for stakeholder consultations and the NPAP? (see recommended policy options in WB and EU policy assessments)
4. Who are considered key stakeholders in the country (governmental, private sector, civil society etc) to be involved in stakeholder consultations?
5. What Department in MoNRE would take the lead in the development of a NAP on Plastics and what other Departments should be involved?
6. What would be a realistic timeframe for developing a National Action Plan on Plastics?
7. What would be the approval process for such a Plan?
8. How can multi-stakeholders such as those from the private sector and civil society provide input in the development of the plan? What kinds of activities would be useful in this regard?

Outputs

1. **Findings** and **policy options** identified in the two technical reports developed by the World Bank and SWITCH-Asia reported to MoNRE and feedback received from participants on these studies, especially on priority-setting and the feasibility of policy options;

2. Confirmed intention to jointly develop a **National Action Plan on Plastics**;
3. Agreement on **timeline** and next steps for developing the Action Plan;
4. Agreed major **activities** to be undertaken to provide input and to seek buy-in from stakeholders;
5. Identified **role-sharing** among MoNRE, other Ministries and Government bodies (as appropriate), the World Bank, and the EU SWITCH-Asia on agreed activities;
6. Draft **outline** of the National Action Plan on Plastics (including **timeframe**, selected plastic **products** to be covered, select policy measures, and Plan and means for implementation).

References and knowledge products

The following plastics policy assessments and other ongoing continues by WB and the EU Switch Asia SCP facility shall support the Government of Lao PDR in identifying, developing, and implement the most suitable and effective measures:

- **WB: Plastic diagnostics:** identification of plastic waste sources; pollution hotspots; quantities; types; brands; impacts; product alternatives. Identify priority plastic types for plastic policies
- **WB: Assessment of Plastic Policy Options:** Assessment of plastic policy options based on identified priority items, international practice, and local context
- **EU: Assessment of Single-Use Plastics Policy Options:** Assessment of single-use plastics situation, and identification of policy options
- **WB: Solid Waste Assessments:** Institutional and regulatory assessments and investment priorities in selected cities.

PROGRAMME

9:00-9:10	Welcome remarks By Department of Planning and Finance, MoNRE Lao PDR
PART 1: Findings of technical studies, priorities for action	
9:10-9:25	Presentation of World Bank study on plastic diagnostics and identified plastic policy measures
9:25-9:35	Q&A
9:35-9:50	Presentation of SWITCH-Asia study focusing on situation analysis of Lao PDR, SWOT, and suggested policy approach, specifically on Single-Use Plastics
9:50-10:00	Q&A
10:00-10:30	General discussion on priorities and policy approach
10:30-10:40	Refreshment break
PART 2: Process for developing a National Action Plan	
10:40-10:55	Presentation on the process for developing a National Action Plan on Plastics By Department of Pollution and Monitoring Control, MoNRE, Lao PDR
10:55-11:10	Q&A
11:10-11:40	General discussion on the process and image of a National Action Plan on Plastics
11:40-11:55	Wrap-up discussion to agree on next steps and roles
11:55-12:00	Closing remarks