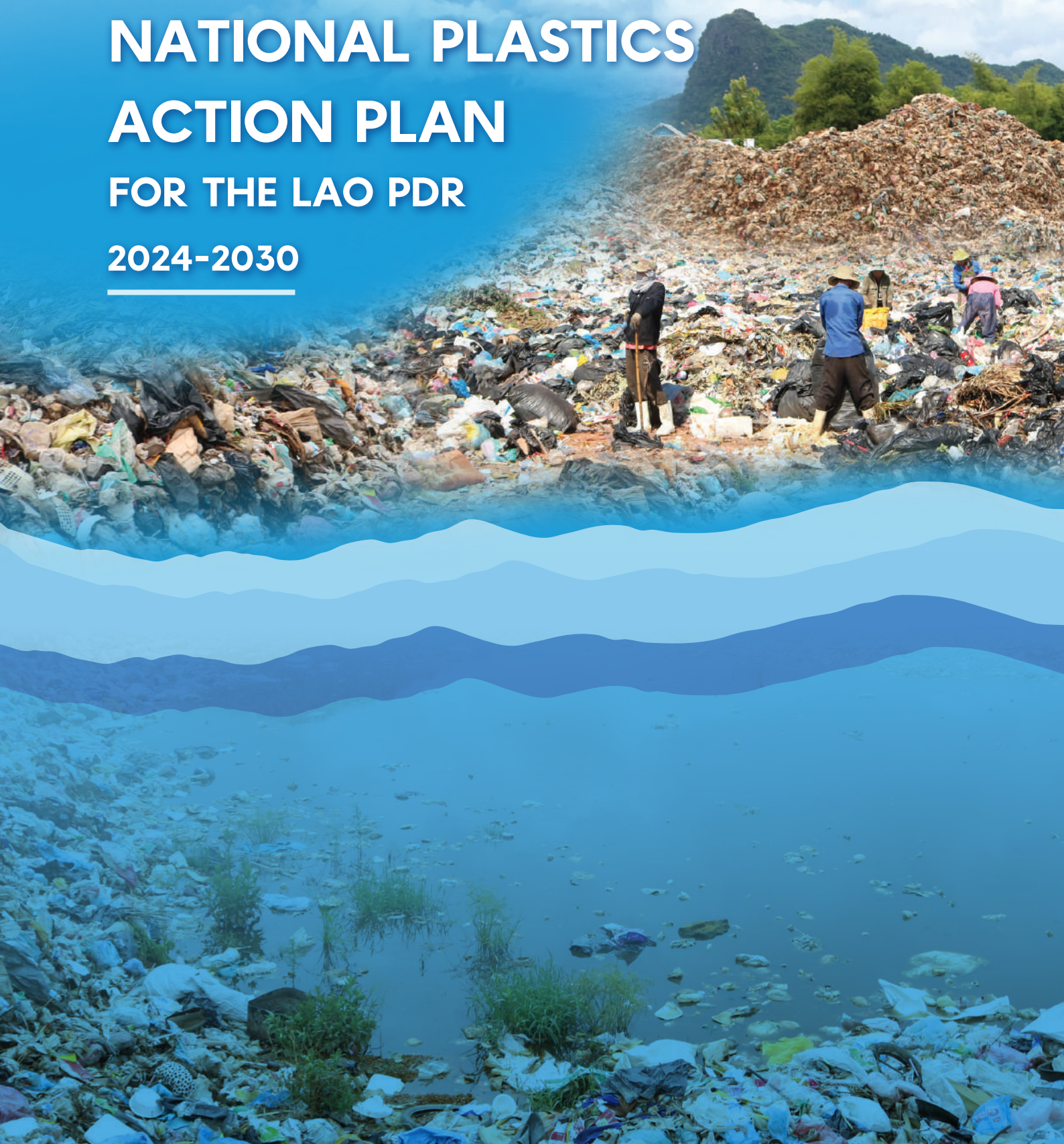


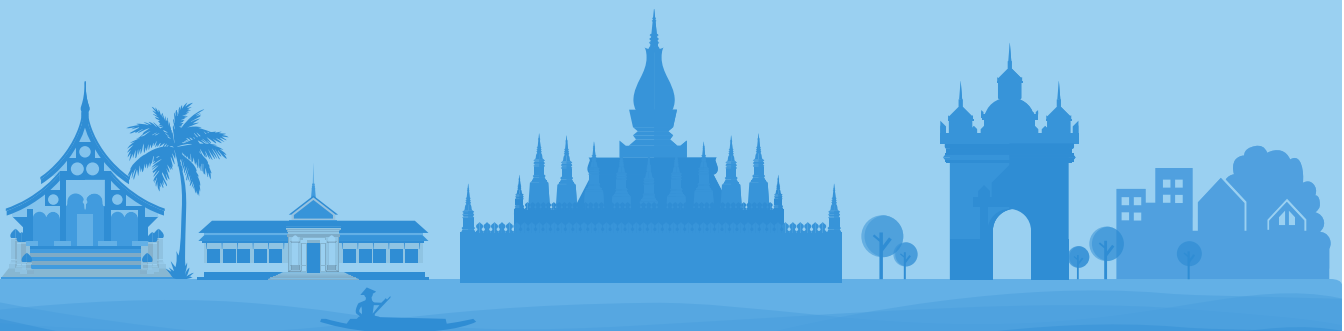


# NATIONAL PLASTICS ACTION PLAN FOR THE LAO PDR 2024-2030





# NATIONAL PLASTICS ACTION PLAN FOR THE LAO PDR 2024-2030







## Executive Summary

The National Plastic Action Plan of the Lao PDR 2024-2030 (NPAP) aims to support the implementation of the National Social and Economic Development Plan (2021-2025). This plan identifies controlling pollution from plastic use as a priority task. Additionally, the action plan will support the implementation of the Lao PDR's National Green Growth Strategy 2030, and the 10-year Natural Resources and Environment Sector Strategy 2016-2025. These strategies aim to make plastic management more efficient. Furthermore, the NPAP will contribute to Lao PDR's implementation of international and regional commitments. These include achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 14 (life below water), as well as implementing the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN, signed by ASEAN member countries on June 22, 2019.

Currently, waste management is an urgent challenge and a priority strategy for the Lao PDR government. The government has called for solutions to the problem of waste disposal, including illegal dumping and outdoor burning of garbage. Improper waste management and treatment are now recognized as having a negative impact on public health and the environment. Outdoor burning of garbage causes pollution and affects the respiratory system, leading to increased illness and death. The improper treatment of organic waste in landfills produces methane gas, a component of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. Furthermore, the lack of a system to collect valuable or recyclable waste results in economic losses. Effective management mechanisms would allow for the collection and recycling of waste, especially plastic waste, thereby creating additional value.

Therefore, the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment is taking initiative by developing the NPAP with the engagement of all parties to solve plastic waste issues, based on unity and voluntary participation. The goal of the NPAP is to reduce the use and promote sustainable management of plastics. It focuses on 3 outcomes: 1) Improvement of plastic waste management system and reduction of pollution; 2) A clean and sustainable environment with improved resource use, and 3) A low-carbon society based on the principles of the circular economy.

Furthermore, the NPAP entails 4 outputs: 1) To develop and improve legislation, regulations, policies, and manuals to manage and reduce plastic waste and develop an Extended Producer Responsibility Mechanism; 2) To raise awareness of everyone in society and business about plastic reduction, reuse, and segregation of plastic waste at source; 3) To encourage the reduction of single-use plastics, promote the use of sustainable alternative products, and increase recycling rates; 4) To create a management, monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of the NPAP.



In addition, the NPAP also provides activities with timeframe for each output, including an implementation mechanism clearly defining the roles of all parties and stakeholders, as well as monitoring and evaluation and regular updating-modifying the plan to adjust to developments and actual situation.

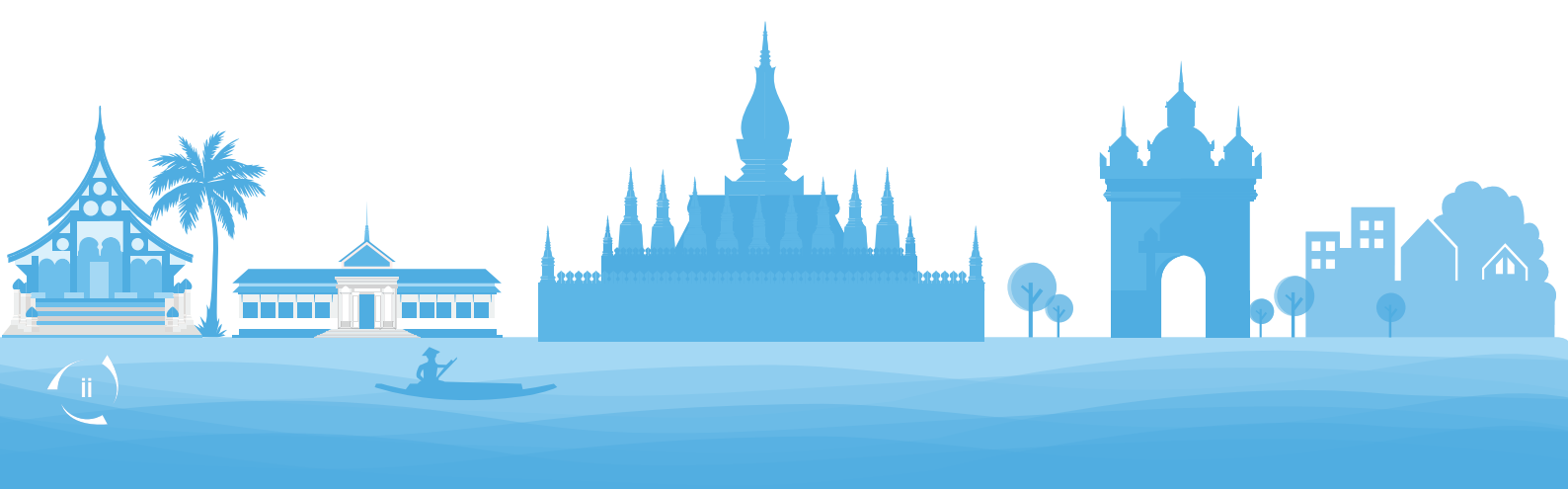
On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and the Lao PDR government, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the World Bank and EU-Switch Asia for their technical and financial support in developing the National Plastic Action Plan (NPAP). I would also like to thank all other contributing development partners, international organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector representatives who participated in and supported this process. I would like to commend the Steering Committee and Working Group for their dedicated efforts and commitment to completing their tasks with enthusiasm and a high sense of responsibility.

This National Plastic Action Plan (2024-2030) is the result of the collective efforts of all parties in society. I sincerely hope that under this action plan, all segments of society will continue to support and participate in addressing the problem of plastic pollution. By contributing to environmental protection, we can develop our country's economy and society in a green and sustainable manner, achieving effectiveness.

Minister of Natural Resource and Environment



ນ.ບຸນຄຳ ວໍລະຈິດ



# Contents

## Section I

### Overview of current and future plastic waste in Lao PDR 1

1.1. The Reason and Necessity for Creating the National Plastics Action Plan 4

1.2. The Process of Creating the National Plastics Action Plan 5

## Section II

### Goal, Outcomes and Outputs of the National Plastic Action Plan 6

2.1 Overview of the NPAP 6

2.2 Goal of the NPAP 6

2.3 Outcomes of the NPAP 7

2.4 Outputs of the NPAP 8

2.5 Activities and Indicators 10

2.5.1 Short-Term Program 10

2.5.1 Medium-Term Program 13

2.5.1 Long-Term Program 14

## Section III

### Outputs and Activities from 2024-2030 15

3.1 Output 1 16

3.2 Output 2 19

3.3 Output 3

3.4 Output 4 22



# Contents

## Section IV

### Implementation Mechanisms

	24
4.1 The Role of the Sectors Involved in Implementation	25
4.1.1 Government	25
4.1.2 Social Organizations	28
4.1.3 Development Partners	28
4.1.4 The Private Sector	28
4.1.5 The General Public	28
4.2 Financial Mechanisms	28
4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation	28
4.4 Amendments and Updates	29





## Abbreviation

BOT	Built-Operate-Transfer
BTO	Build-Transfer-Operate
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
DOE	Department of Environment
DOPF	Department of Planning and Finance
DONRE	District Office of Natural Resources and Environment
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOIC	Ministry of Industrial and Commerce
MOICT	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
MOES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPWT	Ministry of Public Work and transportation
NPAP	National Plastic Action Plan
PONRE	Provincial Office of National Resources and Environment
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
R&D	Research and Development
EU-Switch	European Union Switch Asia Programme
SUP	Single Use Plastic
VCOM	Vientiane City Office of Management and Service
3Rs	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



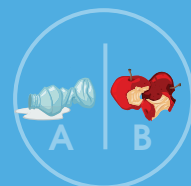
# Section I

## Overview of current and future plastic waste in Lao PDR

Towards reduced use and sustainable management of plastics



No plastic



Waste sorting



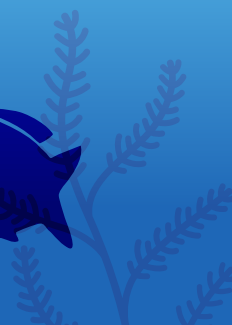
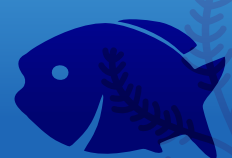
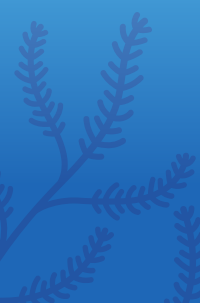
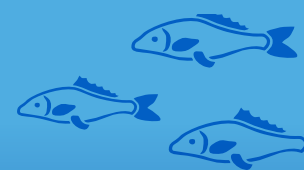
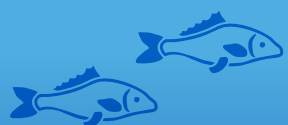
Reduce



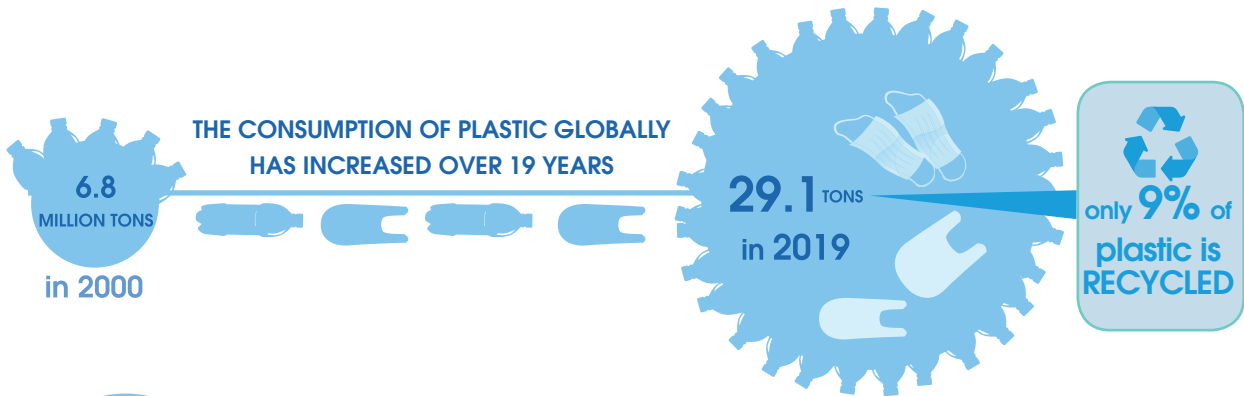
Reuse



Recycle



Since the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, plastic has become one of the necessary materials in modern society due to the variety of its usage, low cost and multipurpose. The consumption of plastic globally has increased over four times during the past 30 years, from 6.8 million tons in 2000 to 29.1 tons in 2019<sup>1</sup>. Out of this volume, only 9% of this plastic is recycled. The majority of plastic waste is burned, deposited into landfills, or dumped into the open environment. In addition, plastics account for 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions.



Most plastics are produced from fossil fuels. According to the World Economic Forum, about 4-8% of annual global oil consumption is associated with plastics. If this reliance on plastics persists, plastics will account for 20% of oil consumption by 2050<sup>2</sup>. The processes of extracting and creating these plastics release greenhouse gases. The exploration and extraction of fossil fuels and transportation to plastic factories are estimated to emit 12.5 to 13.5 million metric tons per year of greenhouse gases globally.



Plastic waste is often thrown into rivers, seas and oceans, and it is estimated that every year more than 150 million tons of plastics end up in the world's oceans<sup>3</sup>. Plastics show minimal biological biodegradation, with the persistent nature of these materials providing a threat to the environment, economy, culture and beauty. Uncontrolled management of plastics can result in the loss of biological diversity and the degradation of habitats and ecosystems. Aquatic animals are especially vulnerable to ingesting plastic waste in the water. Microplastics have become an emerging environmental and health issue. Microplastics, which are less than 5 millimetres in diameter, can be easily ingested by marine animals and can bioaccumulate through the food chain, with implications for human health and the environment.

1 [www.oecd.org/environment/plastic-pollution-is-growing-relentlessly-as-waste-management-and-recycling-fall-short.htm](http://www.oecd.org/environment/plastic-pollution-is-growing-relentlessly-as-waste-management-and-recycling-fall-short.htm)

2 [www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/08/how-plastics-contribute-to-climate-change/](http://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/08/how-plastics-contribute-to-climate-change/)

3 <https://www.asyousow.org/our-work/circular-economy/plastic-pollution#:~:text=The%20ocean%20contains%20an%20estimated,flow%20of%20plastics%20into%20waterways>



The OECD's 2022 Global Plastic Outlook found that the COVID-19 crisis had caused the global use of plastic to have decreased by 2.2% in 2020 due to a slowdown in economic activity, but the increase in plastic waste in the health sector and the food delivery industry, especially food packaging plastic, has increased dramatically (plastics such as masks, gloves, protective suits (PPE), foam boxes, plastic bags, straws, and cups).<sup>4</sup>

In addition to national efforts, reducing plastic pollution requires international action and cooperation to reduce plastic production, including innovation, better product design and the development of environmentally friendly alternative materials, as well as efforts to improve waste management and increase recycling.



Plastic waste management in the Lao PDR continues to face challenges due to its close connection with municipal solid waste (MSW) management. Laos' existing MSW management system relies solely on "collecting and disposing" methods, without sorting waste at the source. Policies that support the 3R principle of reduce, reuse, and recycle are not yet widely implemented, missing valuable opportunities to transform waste into resources. Additionally, the collection rate remains low, and some areas lack access to collection services. As a result, plastic waste is often discarded or burned carelessly along riverbanks, roadsides, and outside homes, particularly in pre-urban and remote areas.

4 [www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9e4fd47f-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/9e4fd47f-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/9e4fd47f-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/9e4fd47f-en)





According to the World Bank’s study in 2022, 95 percent of plastic pollution in the Lao PDR is caused by 10 plastic items—all of which are single-use plastics in surveyed rivers. Plastic bottles and their caps and lids accounted for most plastic leakage in the Lao PDR (45 percent of plastic waste). Plastic bags were the next most common type of waste (23 percent), and cups and lids followed next (11 percent).

The Lao PDR currently lacks a comprehensive strategy or guidelines, including specific legislations or regulations for plastic waste management at the national or local level. Existing legislations remain general and nonspecific, while enforcement is not yet stringent. The roles and responsibilities of various government and non-government entities are unclear, with overlapping responsibilities. Furthermore, the service system is underdeveloped, lacking approaches beyond standard waste management, such as formal collections of recyclables. Due to these challenges, plastic waste management in the Lao PDR faces limitations in many areas, hindering its effectiveness. Therefore, all parties must prioritize these issues and establish an effective and systematic plastic management mechanism. Changes in values and consumption behaviors cannot be solely achieved by the government. Contributions and participation from all segments of society are necessary, and actions must be unified and comprehensive to ensure that economic development goes hand-in-hand with environmental protection. In this regard, the development of the National Plastics Action Plan for the Lao PDR (NPAP) represents an initial step. However, the ultimate success lies in the implementation of the actions outlined in this plan. These actions will reduce plastic waste and encourage industries to adopt new environmentally friendly options, leading to sustainable and comprehensive plastic waste management. The NPAP will serve as a crucial plan and tool in addressing plastic pollution.



## 1.1. The Reason and Necessity for Creating the National Plastics Action Plan

- To manage the use, production, and disposal of plastic waste throughout the country with high efficiency and effectiveness, create value from waste and use resources in a green and sustainable way.
- To reduce single-use plastics consumption to contribute to a circular economy and reduce plastics pollution and related environmental impacts.
- To contribute to reducing greenhouse gases, as required under the National Determined Contribution (NDC) Lao PDR 2021, which has an unconditional 2030 target of reducing emissions by 60% compared to the baseline scenario.<sup>5</sup>
- To contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 12.
- To reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, as well as to extend the lifespan of landfills and reduce the government’s budget required for creating new landfills, waste collection, and street cleaning.
- To show the intention of the Lao PDR in cooperation with other countries in solving environmental problems related to pollution from plastic waste, which calls for all countries to have a joint obligation in implementation.

5 [tps://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/NDC%202020%20of%20Lao%20PDR%20%28English%29%2C%2009%20April%202021%20%281%29.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/NDC%202020%20of%20Lao%20PDR%20%28English%29%2C%2009%20April%202021%20%281%29.pdf)



## 1.2. The Process of Creating the National Plastics Action Plan

The National Plastics Action Plan for the Lao PDR (2024-2030) (NPAP) has been developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), with support from the World Bank and the EU's SWITCH-Asia Programme.

The technical team at the MONRE has worked with an expert panel in this regard. To develop the NPAP a study was conducted of the government's existing national policies and regulations of the relevant sectors in waste management, as well as an examination of various international approaches. This work helped to determine the vision, frame activities and identify stakeholders in plastic waste management.

In addition, widespread consultation was conducted with the government, the private sector, NGOs and civil society, and international development organisations. This consultation helped to find solutions to plastic waste problems and to create a consensus and responsibility of all parties in implementing the National Plastics Action Plan for the Lao PDR (NPAP 2024-2030).

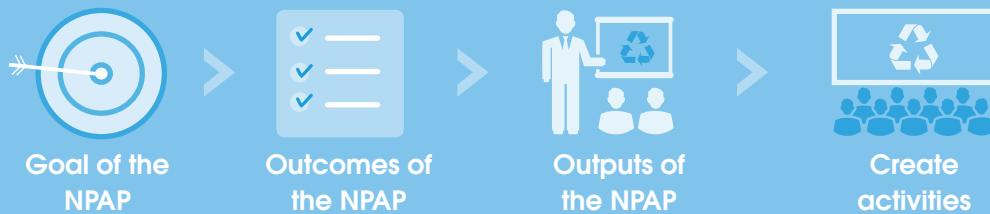


## Section II

# Goal, Outcomes and Outputs of the National Plastic Action Plan

### 2.1 Overview of the NPAP

The National Plastics Action Plan is summarised below, showing the overall goal, three main outcomes, four key outputs, and the associated activities. The following sections provide further details on each of these components.



### 2.2 Goal of the NPAP

The overall aim of the NPAP is that plastic production and use will be reduced in Laos PDR, and where plastics are still required, they will be managed more sustainably through increased recycling and improved waste management.

“Towards reduced use and sustainable management of plastics”





## 2.3 Outcomes of the NPAP

To achieve the overall goal, the NPAP focuses on the following outcomes:

- ✓ **The Plastic Waste Management System is Improved, and Pollution is Reduced:**



The achievement of this outcome requires the development of the management framework for the use, production, and disposal of plastic waste in the Lao PDR so that it is unified in each sector, while also being highly efficient, green and sustainable. This outcome will result in a reduction in plastics leakage into the environment and related harmful impacts.

- ✓ **A Clean and Sustainable Environment with Improved Resource Use:**



This outcome will result in the reduction of waste and the creation of value where waste is produced. This outcome will ensure the utilisation of resources in a more sustainable way, requiring the development of infrastructure for managing plastic waste in Laos and increasing the level of plastic recycling.

- ✓ **A Low Carbon Society Based on the Principles of the Circular Economy:**



This outcome will limit the use of single-use plastic products and will result in the promotion and use of alternative products that are environmentally friendly, accessible, and affordable. This outcome will reduce the demand for raw natural resource inputs, as well as lower associated energy requirements in the production of virgin materials and lower the carbon footprint of products.





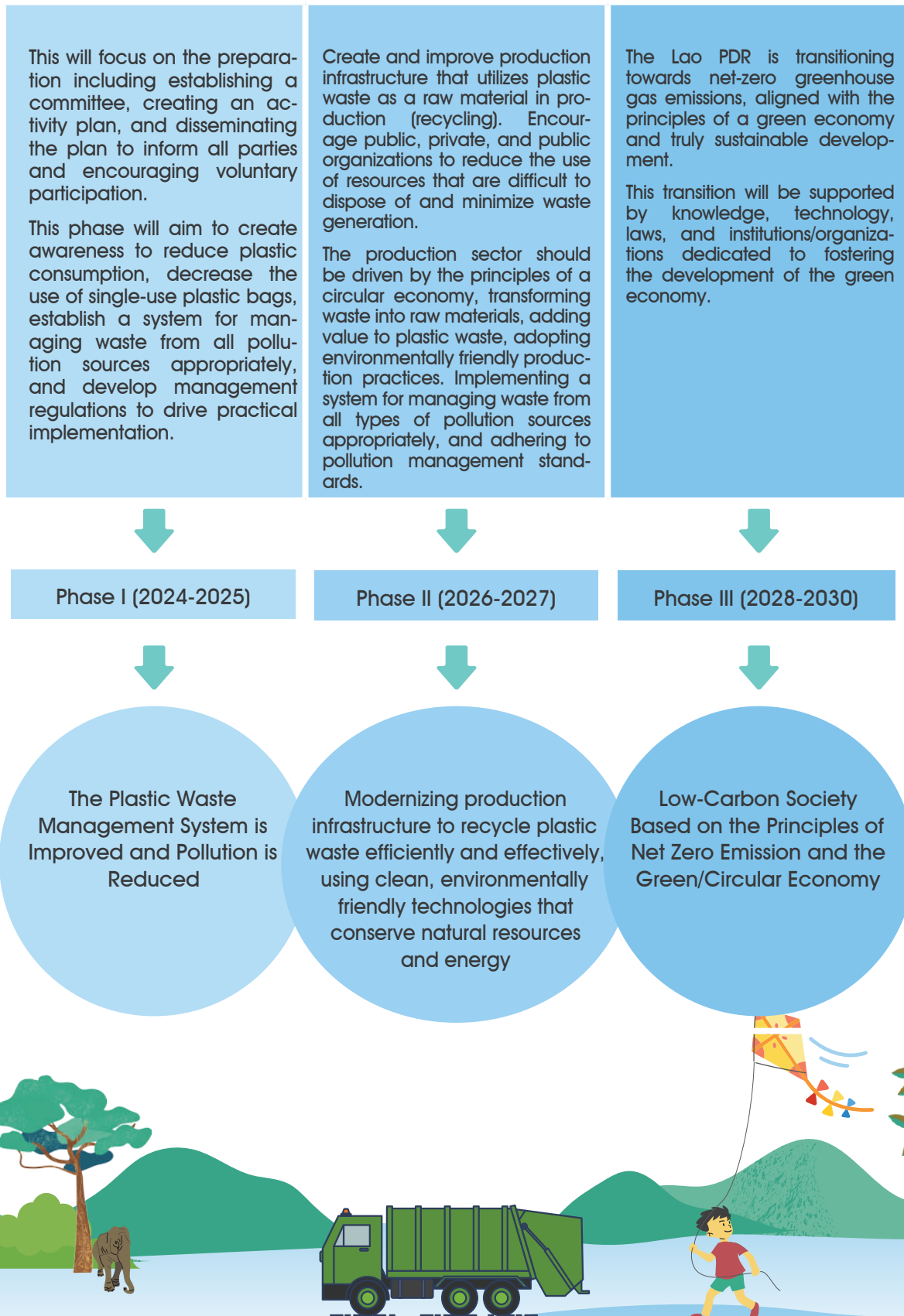
## 2.4 Outputs of the NPAP

The National Plastics Action Plan for the Lao PDR 2024-2030 has four main outputs:

- 1 ✓ Output 1: To develop and improve legislation, regulations, policies, and manuals to manage and reduce plastic waste, and enhance an extended producer responsibility mechanism.
- 2 ✓ Output 2: To raise awareness for everyone in society and business about plastic reduction, reuse, and segregation of plastic waste at source.
- 3 ✓ Output 3: To encourage the reduction of single-use plastics, promote the use of sustainable alternative products, and increase recycling rates.
- 4 ✓ Output 4: To create a management, monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of the operational plan.



## Activity map for each phase until 2030



## 2.5 Activities and Indicators

### 2.5.1 Short-Term Program

Short-Term Activities 2024-2025	Output	Indicators	Responsible Units
Establish a secretariat to coordinate, monitor and facilitate the implementation of the NPAP of the Lao PDR.	O4	A technical team to monitor the implementation of the NPAP is established in by quarter 3 (Q3) 2023 and is comprised of all key relevant agencies.	MONRE, MOIC, MPWT, DOE, VCOMS/ UDDA
Analyse and determine the appropriate regulations and instruments to create regulations to reduce the production and use of a range of single-use plastic products.	O1	<p>Report of the regulation analysis with the list of single use plastic to be restriction.</p> <p>There is legislation for single-use plastics management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrictions on the distribution of SUP straws and drink stirrers 2024</li> <li>Restrictions on the use of certain SUPs of onsite consumption in food establishments 2024</li> <li>Restriction (voluntary agreement) on the distribution of plastic disposable cutlery for online food delivery 2025</li> <li>Restrictions on the distribution of SUP toilet products in hotels 2024</li> <li>Restrictions on the use of certain SUPs in tourist establishment or area 2024 such as Louangprabang and Vangvieng and Dondet, etc</li> <li>Fee on consumers for the purchase of non-degradable plastic and coffee to go cups 2025.</li> <li>Restriction on the sale of plastic straws, drinks stirrers, non-degradable plastic bags and EPS food containers 2026</li> </ul>	MONRE

Short-Term Activities 2024-2025	Output	Indicators	Responsible Units
Create manuals and standard operating procedures to improve the collection and transportation of plastic waste.	O1	Technical manuals and standard operating procedures are developed by the end of 2024.	MPWT
Create voluntary extended producer responsibility schemes (EPR).	O1	EPR policy are put in place, with at least 50 businesses participating in voluntary EPR schemes (e.g., collection of recyclables/ take back schemes) by the end of 2024.	MONRE, MOIC
Create a plastic waste information system, which provides a range of data on plastics such as source, quantity, import, recycling.	O4	There is an integrated plastic waste database and reporting system established by the end of 2024, with various parties defined and identified for data provision.	MOIC, MONRE
Integrate plastic waste management into the education system.	O2	Plastic waste management is integrated into the curriculum of the general education system, by the end of 2024.	MOES, MONRE
Create electronic campaigns and dissemination tools.	O2	A wide range of electronic advertisements on plastics such as video, print media, and photos are generated every year.	MONRE, MIT
Develop manuals and regulations for plastic recycling plants to manage plastic in an environmentally and socially responsible way.	O1	Guidelines and legislation on recycling by 2024	MOIC, MONRE



Short-Term Activities 2024-2025	Output	Indicators	Responsible Units
Develop policies and encourage reduction in the use of single-use plastics in offices, both public and private, including when organising meetings and workshops.	O2, O3, O1	A policy is put in place and disseminated around all central ministries by the end of 2024, before promoting to wider society. Publicise the actions of high-performing offices, to help with uptake in the initiative.	MONRE, Local Government and communities
Announce the implementation results to achieve the goal by setting a date to ban the use of plastic bags "23 March 2025" is a day of banning the use of plastic bags in retail supermarkets and large supermarkets.	O2, O3	There is a national plastic ban and 30 business units participate.	MONRE, Local Government and communities
Create a plastic network group to share lessons on plastic management.	O4, O2	A wide range of sectors and stakeholders participate in the network, with at least 20 members. There is an annual national workshop/conference by end of 2024	MONRE, CSOs
Set standards and reduce plastic waste imported from other countries, which is being used as raw materials for production in Lao PDR.	O1	The standards and policy are introduced by the end of 2024. The amount of plastic waste imports has decreased by 10% and the standard has been reached by 80% by 2024. Also, the list of plastic waste can be imported to Laos.	MOIC, MONRE

## 2.5.1 Medium-Term Program

Short-Term Activities 2026-2027	Output	Indicators	Responsible Units
Follow up and evaluate the implementation of the NPAP.	O4	There is a mechanism to follow up and fully evaluate the implementation of the program every three years.	MONRE, MOIC, MOES
Create a pilot program to promote medium-big companies as model companies for repurchasing and reprocessing of plastic products.	O3	There are at least five model companies by beginning of 2025.	MOIC, MONRE, VCOMS/ UDDA
Develop a management system for the informal waste pickers and junkshops.	O4, O1	There is a responsible unit established for overseeing the system established by end of 2025 The informal waste sector workers and junkshops register in the system.	VCOMS/ UDDA, MONRE, MPWT, MOIC
Create a financial policy mechanism for recycling factories to become green factories.	O1	There is an increase in the number of recycling plants that meet the green plant standard by 2026	MOIC, MOF, MONRE
Create regulations to increase the tax on single-use plastic products and create a policy to support the supply of eco-friendly products (e.g., subsidies).	O1	There is an additional tax system for single-use plastics and a policy for supporting eco-friendly products by end of 2026.	MOF, MONRE, MOIC
Engage in awareness raising campaigns with entrepreneurs and businesses.	O2	There are policy or commercial advertising by engaging in awareness campaigns, which has at least 10 business units joining the implementation by beginning of 2025	MONRE, MOES, MOIC
Create activities to mobilise various wholesale-retail shops including entrepreneurs to use renewable products.	O2, O3	There are at least 100 wholesale-retail shops participating in the activities by 2027	MONRE, MOIC, CSOs
Publicise and raise awareness for the general public to widely use renewable materials that are friendly to the environment.	O2	There will be publicity and awareness activities in every province by 2025.	MONRE, MOIC, CSOs

## 2.5.1 Long-Term Program

Short-Term Activities 2028-2030	Output	Indicators	Responsible Units
Procure and provide R&D budget for alternative products that are more environmentally friendly.	O3	Alternative products are increasingly popular and accessible to everyone in society. There are shops that distribute alternative products in all provinces, especially in the biggest four cities. Business units with alternative products can access both domestic and international sources of funding, including monetary policy.	MONRE, MOIC, CSOs
Expand the plastic waste purchase points for the general public and increase the value of plastic waste.	O3	The plastic waste purchase points are increasing. Every city in the country and each province will have at least one place that cooperates with the public sector.	VCOMS/ UDDA, MOIC
Promote and create a waste sorting system at source (e.g., households and businesses) to reduce the contamination in recyclable material supply chains.	O3	Householders and businesses understand the requirements of separating wastes at source. The amount of waste sent to landfills is decreased by more than 40%. Waste sorting systems from collection and sorting facilities, including plastic and organic waste, are available in all major municipalities.	MONRE, VCOMS/ UDDA, MPWT, MOIC, CSOs
Summarise, create and disseminate a final report on the implementation of the NPAP for the Lao PDR.	O4	There is a monitoring and evaluation report on the implementation of the NPAP at the end of the program.	MONRE

CSO (Civil Society Organisation); MOES (Ministry of Education and Sport); MOF (Ministry of Finance); MOIC (Ministry of Industry and Commerce); MONRE (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment); MPWT (Ministry of Public Works and Transport); UDAA (Urban Development Administrative Authority); VCOMS (Vientiane City Office for Management and Service);

## Section III

# Outputs and Activities from 2024-2030



*To develop and improve legislation, regulations, policies, and manuals to manage and reduce plastic waste*



*To encourage the reduction of single-use plastics, promote the use of sustainable alternative products, and increase recycling rates,*



*Promote awareness for everyone in society and business about plastic reduction, reuse, and segregation of plastic waste.*

*Create regulations to reduce the use of single use plastics and production, mainly straws, plastic bags, polystyrene and plastic cups.*



### 3.1 Output 1:

To develop and improve legislation, regulations, policies, and manuals to manage and reduce plastic waste.



#### Program 1:

Create regulations to reduce the use of single-use plastics and production, mainly straws, plastic bags, polystyrene and plastic cups.

##### Main activities

1. Collect information and summarise the legislation on waste and plastic management in Lao PDR;
2. Identify single-use plastic items or products that will be targeted;
3. Create management regulations to announce the termination of the use of single-use plastics for some items;
4. Set standards for single-use plastic products;
5. Disseminate legislation through meetings, websites, and various online media.



#### Program 2:

Create a manual and standards to improve the collection and transportation of plastic waste.

##### Main activities

1. Create a manual and update the plastic waste transportation manual.
2. Determine the standards for the storage and transportation system.

#### Program 3:

Create a policy on voluntary Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

##### Main activities

1. Baseline study to understand the situation of packaging in Laos, including the quantity of material, so that it is possible to set up a reduction target.
2. Study the readiness of manufacturers to use the mechanism of Extended Producer Responsibility;
3. Determine the indicators and obligations of manufacturers to have a clear responsibility;
4. Create policies for manufacturers to be responsible.







#### Program 4:

**Develop manuals and regulations for plastic recycling plants to manage plastic in an environmentally and socially responsible way.**

##### Main activities

1. Summarise information on the existing plastic recycling plants and their operations;
2. Create a manual for the environmentally and socially responsible management of plastic recycling plants;
3. Announce the use and dissemination of the manual to the plants for their implementation;
4. Monitor and inspection their implementation to meet the standards outlined in the guideline.

#### Program 5:

**Set standards and reduce plastic waste imported from other countries, which is being used as raw materials for production.**

##### Main activities

1. Set a policy to reduce plastic waste imported each year;
2. Determine cleanliness standards and methods of handling non-recyclable waste to reduce the impact on the environment;
3. Create regulations to manage the import of plastic waste from other countries, as well as determine the plastic items that can be imported (noting Basel Convention requirements);
4. Announce the use and dissemination of the standard for the plants to implement it.





**Program 6:**

**Create a financial policy mechanism for recycling plants to become green plants.**

**Main activities**

1. Create a strategic plan to access budget resources to become green plants;
2. Define green plant standards to encourage access to capital;
3. Develop policies to promote recycling to meet standards and reduce the impact on the environment.

**Program 7:**

**Create regulations to increase the tax on single-use plastic products and policy to support eco-friendly products.**

**Main activities**

1. Identify single-use plastic items to be taxed and a list of eco-products to be subsidised;
2. Create a mechanism to collect additional tax on single-use plastic accounts and a subsidy policy for eco-products;
3. Announce the use and implementation of additional taxes and subsidies.



**Program 8:**

**Announce the results of the implementation to achieve the goal by setting a date to ban the use of plastic bags. The 25th May 2025 is the day of banning the use of plastic bags in small and big supermarkets.**

**Main activities**

1. Assess the readiness and alternatives products for businesses to replace plastic bags;
2. Create regulation and enforcement mechanisms to ban plastic bags in small and big supermarkets;
3. Awareness campaign activity for banning plastic bags in business sectors.



## 3.2 Output 2:

Promote awareness for everyone in society and business about plastic reduction, reuse, and segregation of plastic waste.

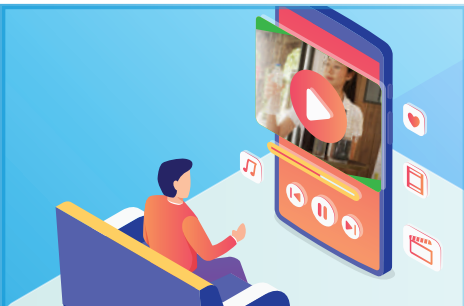


### Program 1:

**Integrate plastic waste management into the education system.**

#### Main activities

1. Create a manual (curriculum) to integrate plastic waste management into the education system of all classes, including the non-formal education system;
2. Create habits for students to use reusable products;
3. Create motivation in the school to separate waste properly;
4. Provide general knowledge on the use of alternative products that are friendly to the environment.



### Program 2:

**Create electronic publishing and disseminating tools.**

#### Main activities

1. Create a mechanism to impose entrepreneurs and businesses to ensure that there is space on their products and advertising for environmental education;
2. Raise awareness on the impact of plastic waste (all channels);
3. Use celebrities or Net Idols to campaign for reducing the use of plastic.



### Program 3:

**Identify a role model office and organisation for plastic reduction.**

#### Main activities

1. Develop a policy to restrict using plastic bottles in offices;
2. Campaign to raise awareness for people to stop using plastic bottles and promote waste segregation in office buildings;
3. Identify role model offices that introduce eco-friendly products and set up water refill stations in the office etc. Publicise these offices and their initiatives to encourage further uptake.
4. Reduce single-use plastic such as water bottles, coffee capsules, cutlery, and other types of packaging.



#### Program 4:

Joint awareness campaigns with entrepreneurs and businesses.

##### Main activities

1. Campaign to raise awareness for people to use renewable products that are friendly to the environment;
2. Disseminate and advertise the impact of using plastic and recommend using alternative products that are friendly to the environment.



#### Program 5:

Identify an annual recycling day to reduce plastic waste.

##### Main activities

1. Identify the recycling day;
2. Awareness campaign and dissemination of plastic recycling information.

## Output 3

### 3.3 Output 3:

To encourage the reduction of single-use plastics, promote the use of sustainable alternative products, and increase recycling rates,



#### Program 1:

Create a pilot program to promote medium-big companies as model companies for repurchasing and reprocessing.

##### Main activities

1. Study and evaluate business units that generate large amounts of plastic waste;
2. Determine the list of business units that will participate in the pilot program as model business units for repurchasing;
3. Determine the repurchasing points and buy equipment, including facilities for implementation;
4. Marketing and advertising to consumers for them to be aware and involved in the repurchasing points.



### Program 2: Find and provide R&D budget for more environmentally friendly alternative products.

#### Main activities

1. Mobilise resources for the study from public, private and international organisations;
2. Study and create a list of alternative products that are friendly to the environment, including determining the source of production;
3. Create promotional activities, such as competitions to invent modern alternative products;
4. Analyse the market to develop products that everyone can access.

### Program 3:

#### Expand the purchasing points for plastic waste to the general public and add value to plastic waste.

#### Main activities

1. Collect information on the purchase points for recycling waste or plastics waste in each locality;
2. Create an effective and sustainable procurement system between stores, shipping and recycling factories;
3. Create purchasing points in areas that do not yet exist and involve the public sector, schools and everyone possible in society;
4. Publicise the types of plastic waste that can be sold, including the price.

### Program 4:

#### Promote and create a waste sorting system at source (e.g., households and businesses) to reduce the contamination in recyclable material supply chains.

#### Main activities

1. Evaluate the current state and the system for sorting plastic waste;
2. Study tours and exchange knowledge with countries that are good examples of plastic management;
3. Design a waste sorting system for waste at source (i.e.g., households and businesses);
4. Develop technical capacity for the sector that is responsible for managing the sorting system;
5. Develop training centres for transforming plastic waste and adding value;
6. Construction of sorting plants and procurement of facilities, equipment, and vehicles.







### Program 5:

**Develop a plastic prevention system to reduce the leakage of plastic into watercourses.**

#### Main activities

1. Investigate and identify hotpot of plastic leakage into rivers, building on the previous work undertaken by the World Bank<sup>6</sup>;
2. Apply innovative technology to collect plastic waste from waterbodies.

## Output 4

### 3.4 Output 4:

To create a management, monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of the operational plan.



**Program 1: Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Plastic Action Plan.**

#### Main activities

1. Appoint a committee responsible for monitoring and designate a coordinator for each project to report on NPAP information;
2. Create a template or reporting tool;
3. Develop an annual report to evaluate implementation;
4. Organise a dissemination meeting and find solutions to the challenges jointly with stakeholders.

### Program 2:

**Develop a management system for informal waste collectors and junkshops to register in the system mainly those who collect plastic.**

#### Main activities

1. Collect the statistics of garbage collectors and garbage purchasing shops in the system and outside the system;
2. Create a management system, have responsible persons and a registration process;
3. Clearly define the size of the business and the obligations of garbage purchasing shops;
4. Dissemination meetings and seminars for the responsible units to understand the management system;
5. Report and collect plastic statistics from the garbage purchasing shops every year.



<sup>6</sup> World Bank. (2020). *Diagnostic Study and Advisory Service to Support Lao PDR to Improve Solid and Plastic Waste Management*.





### Program 3:

**Create a plastic network group to learn and exchange lessons with each other.**

#### Main activities

1. Create a leadership team to lead the activity plan of the plastic network group;
2. Create a system and conditions for applying for the membership and including obligations;
3. Mobilise and open the network for members and create a joint activity plan;
4. Find the budget to organise joint activities;
5. Organise a workshop or conference to learn and exchange lessons with each other.



### Program 4:

**Summarize, create and disseminate a final report on the implementation of the NPAP for the Lao PDR.**

#### Main activities

1. Assess the implementation of the Nation Plastic Action Plan;
2. Organise a meeting to disseminate and evaluate the implementation;
3. Plan and design the next version of the National Plastic Action Plan for the Lao PDR;
4. Print and publish in various advertising media.



## Section IV Implementation Mechanisms



The aim of the implementation is to ensure that the National Plastic Action Plan for the Lao PDR is highly effective in achieving the objectives, goals and vision through the development of an effective plastic recycling system, social participation, pollution prevention and a sustainable environment in 2030. Therefore, it is necessary to have an appropriate mechanism to implement the roles of each unit, including monitoring, evaluation and updating the plan to be consistent with the actual situation from time to time, which will be determined as follows:



## 4.1 The Role of the Sectors Involved in Implementation

### 4.1.1 Government

Sectors	Responsibilities
 <p data-bbox="240 703 485 801"><b>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="507 483 1385 689">➤ Research and define the policies, create and improve legislation, regulations, standards, and technical manuals on plastic management, and promote the reduction/stopping the use of single-use plastic bags in order to prevent the impact on the environment that may be caused by plastic throughout the country;</li> <li data-bbox="507 701 1385 770">➤ Raise awareness and promote the use of alternative products that are more environmentally friendly;</li> <li data-bbox="507 781 1385 958">➤ Create a joint action plan between the relevant sectors to implement the plan, such as signing and certifying the implementation of a MOU/MOA. Determining the main unit that will be the core unit for the integration, coordination and setting the indicators together with other sectors;</li> <li data-bbox="507 969 1385 1115">➤ Coordinate with the relevant parties in taking the National Plastics Action Plan to be developed into projects and detailed plans so that they can be implemented in an actual and effective manner;</li> <li data-bbox="507 1126 1385 1196">➤ Create a plastic network group to learn and share lessons with each other;</li> <li data-bbox="507 1207 1385 1317">➤ Responsible for collecting information and data related to plastics from each sector such as quantity, usage, recycling rate, import and export;</li> <li data-bbox="507 1328 1385 1397">➤ Monitor, inspect and evaluate the implementation in each phase.</li> </ul>
 <p data-bbox="245 1655 475 1753"><b>Ministry of Public Works and Transportation;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="507 1503 1385 1709">➤ Research, create and update legislation, regulations, standards, and technical manuals for the construction of waste disposal sites and entrances in accordance with standards set, verify the construction techniques of waste sorting and processing plants, including plastics, and recommend the use of appropriate waste transport vehicles;</li> <li data-bbox="507 1720 1385 1865">➤ Participate in raising awareness, educating, and publicising various regulations related to waste transportation operators regarding the planning of the route and the frequency of the collection service to be appropriate and safe.</li> </ul>

Sectors	Responsibilities
 <p data-bbox="240 595 411 696"><b>Ministry of Industry and Commerce;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Research, create and improve legislation, regulations, standards, and technical manuals on plastic recycling plants and manage the plastic plants;</li> <li>➔ Encourage and promote plastic recycling factories to meet international standards and be environmentally and socially responsible. Promote investment in the field of recycling and re-manufacturing;</li> <li>➔ Responsible for collecting information related to plastics from each sector, such as recycling rate, import and export;</li> <li>➔ Set a plan to reduce plastic imports;</li> <li>➔ Expand the purchase points of plastic waste to the general public and increase the value of plastic waste;</li> <li>➔ Participating in awareness-raising of commercial campaign for manufacturers to reduce the use of plastic.</li> <li>➔ Promote the use of alternative products that are more environmentally friendly,</li> <li>➔ Disseminate guideline, standard and advise business operators - shopping malls - markets, industrial-handicraft processing factories to maintain hygiene, collect, treat and destroy waste according to technical principles.</li> </ul>
 <p data-bbox="225 1496 419 1597"><b>Ministry of Education and Sports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Create a manual (curriculum) to integrate waste and plastic management into the education system for all classes and the non-formal system;</li> <li>➔ Responsible for raising awareness, changing the behaviour of students to reduce the use of single-use plastic and encourage them to use alternative and reusable products, and create incentives in schools to separate garbage properly;</li> <li>➔ Create a mechanism with the relevant parties to have model schools in plastic management.</li> </ul>

Sectors	Responsibilities
 <p data-bbox="252 521 464 618"><b>Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Create standards and mechanisms for operators in the tourism sector to reduce plastic waste;</li> <li>➔ Participate in raising awareness for tourism operators including foreigners and Lao tourists, by using celebrities or Net Idols to contribute and campaign for the reduction of the use of plastic;</li> <li>➔ Create a wide range of electronic advertising media about plastic, such as video, print media, and photos every year for sustainable tourism.</li> </ul>
 <p data-bbox="272 999 450 1059"><b>Ministry of Finance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Develop and improve laws and regulations on plastics (economic tools) to ensure that businesses meet environmental requirements.</li> </ul>
<p data-bbox="261 1193 459 1223"><b>VCOMS/UDDA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Create and improve rules and manuals for waste collection service fees and regulations for managing plastic waste collection shops and garbage collectors;</li> <li>➔ Coordinate with related organisations, district administration, and district and village authorities to publicise the project, raise awareness for the whole society to be informed and participate in creating a contract for the use of waste transportation services;</li> <li>➔ Determine the activities to separate waste, determine the format and method for the service organisation to collect and transport the waste;</li> <li>➔ Promote and expand the collection of waste material that can be transformed (recycled) in various cities;</li> <li>➔ Responsible for collecting information related to plastic, such as the amount of plastic waste inappropriately dumped or burned.</li> </ul>

### 4.1.2 Social Organizations

Social organizations such as the Lao Youth Union, the Lao Federation of Trade Unions, the Lao Women's Union, associations, volunteer groups must be involved in the implementation of the National Plastics Action Plan. The activities for these groups may include awareness raising and contribute to various related implementation activities.

### 4.1.3 Development Partners

Development partners can contribute to implementing the National Plastic Action Plan. This involvement is likely to be based on their interests and project activities but may include involvement in awareness campaigns, financial support, and technical assistance.

### 4.1.4 The Private Sector

Business units, from small to large, must actively contribute to the implementation of the National Plastic Action Plan, participating in reducing, awareness-raising, and recycling. Overall, businesses must be responsible for the plastic waste generated by their own business or products. Moreover, business units must comply with the regulations related to plastic waste that has been set out and be partners with the public sector and social organizations to achieve the goal of the NPAP.

### 4.1.5 The General Public

Lao citizens and everyone living in the Lao PDR must be ready to cooperate in reducing plastic and disseminating information about the impacts of plastic, including in the implementation of the program.

## 4.2 Financial Mechanisms



After the National Plastic Action Plan Lao PDR (2024-2030) has been approved, the important issue is the budget to implement activities to achieve the goals and activities set in the plan. The funding resource can be from government, grants from developments partners, loan with low interest from financial institutes, investors from Laos or foreign countries such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), public-private partnership (PPP) under various forms (such as Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Build-Transfer-Operate (BTO) and others).



## 4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

- 1) The central steering committee consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MPWT), the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) and representatives from local government authorities must monitor the progress and evaluate the implementation of the projects at least once/year.

- 2) Representatives from related organisations and sectors in the special steering committee must do their duty to monitor and inspect the implementation of the national program, and the progress of the implementation of the program, as well as summarise the evaluation every six months.



#### 4.4 Amendments and Updates

This Nation Plastic Action Plan can be amended or added to, as appropriate, if there are problems in implementation at any stage (according to the evaluation). Any changes will require initial agreement by the central steering committee, with suggested revisions subsequently presented and approved at the ministerial level.







Towards reduced use  
and sustainable  
management of  
plastics



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



ສະຫະພາບ ເອີຣົບ  
European Union

