



Full report

National Consultation Meeting on Development of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) of Lao PDR



Date: 25-26 November 2021 I 13.30-15.45 (Bangkok Time)

Venue: Laotel Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR, and online broadcast via KUDO

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List of Acronyms:

10YFP 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and

Production

ASEAN The Association of Southeast Asian Nations

DPF Department of Planning and Finance

EU European Union

GGGI Global Green Growth Institute

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

INGOs International Non-Governmental Organization

Lao PDR Lao People's Democratic Republic

MoNRE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NESDP National Economic and Social Development Plan

SCP Sustainable Consumption and Production

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs Small and medium-sized enterprises

SWITCH-Asia SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component

RPAC

SWOT Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

UN United Nations

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNFPAVNRUnited Nations Population FundVoluntary National Reviews





Background:

The Department of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR, together with the EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy (RPAC) implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by the European Union Delegation to Lao PDR, organised a two-days consultation to identify national priorities on SCP and opportunities for collaboration among policy makers, practitioners and civil society, ultimately strengthening Lao PDR's work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and encouraging the uptake of responsible consumption and production practices across sectors.

Since 2016, Lao PDR localised the Global SDG Agenda and progress was reported under SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production – in the areas of sustainable management and use of natural resources (SDG12.2) and the development of ecotourism. The need for the development of a National Policy Framework on SCP was identified as a key priority by the Government, as well as mainstreaming SCP into the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) of Lao PDR. As an outcome of the support the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy (RPAC) is providing to the country, a Scoping Study and the National SCP Roadmap for Lao PDR will be developed, to enhance mainstreaming of SCP into the 9th national development plan (NESDP) of the Lao PDR.

The 2-day consultation provides opportunities for line ministries, private sectors and other stakeholder to learn more about overall support to promote SCP by the European Union through the SWITCH-Asia Programme, to enhance their understanding on SCP, to share their views and concerns, to propose their needs and identify cooperation for actions towards sustainable future of key sectors and to establish coordination network in getting data and information to develop the Scoping Study and the National SCP Roadmap. The engagement of a wide range of stakeholders in the process is a demonstration of commitment to aligning its agenda with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Objectives of the event

- 1. Present the project activities on SCP Roadmap development of Lao PDR.
- 2. Create a SCP network, inform and prepare a participatory data and information collection mechanism for SCP Scoping report of Lao PDR.
- 3. SCP introduction and awareness raising.

Logistical information about the event

The organization of the National Consultation Meeting on Development of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) of Lao PDR was organized as a closed hybrid-event at Laotel Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR, and online broadcast via KUDO.

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Summary of key messages:

Objectives of the Meeting

Mr. Nakhalin Vorasam

Chief of Cooperation Section, DPF, MoNRE

Mr. Vorasam briefly addressed objective of this SCP consultation as (1) Presenting the project activities on SCP Roadmap development of Lao PDR, (2) Creating a SCP network, informing and preparing a participatory data and information collection mechanism for SCP Scoping report of Lao PDR, and (3) Introducing and raising awareness of SCP.

Opening remarks

Mr. Sounadeth Soukchaleun

Deputy Director General of DPF, MoNRE

Mr. Soukchaleun welcomed participants and expressed his gratitude to the European Union and the EU SWITCH-Asia Programme. He said "It is important and necessary to take further steps on SCP, starting from sharing available information and data between line ministries. The SCP Scoping Study will be valuable when building networks and joint cooperation on SCP implementation in Lao PDR".

Mr. Soukchaleun also highlighted the main objective of this project is to outline the state of SCP implementation in Lao PDR. The DPF, as the key national coordinator, along with various stakeholders, has been putting great efforts in implementing, monitoring and evaluating SCP in their related areas. This SCP consultation is thus held to take the further steps to mainstream the SCP. To improve the effectiveness and harmonization on implementation of SCP in Laos, Mr. Soukchaleun encouraged representatives from line ministries, business sector and other stakeholders to share information and data related to SCP implementation in previous activities as well as the next plan on SCP. He wished for a fruitful discussion in terms of networking and collaboration of SCP implementation in Lao PDR.

Welcoming remarks

Ms. Cecile Leroy

EU Delegation to Lao PDR

Ms. Leroy stressed synergy of the EU support to Asia through the EU SWITCH-Asia programme which aims at supporting partner countries in Asia to promote and boost the development of sustainable consumption and production models to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and greener economies.

Ms. Leroy highlighted further the importance of EU SWITCH-Asia efforts in the country: "In Lao PDR, EU SWITCH-Asia provides policy guidance and specific support to develop the institutional framework and conducive regulation for a circular economic development. This Consultation is essential to capture the knowledge of the actors in their respective sectors as well as the existing opportunities and constraints. This is key to develop an ambitious but feasible plan and design appropriate supporting tools for SPC policy implementation."

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Welcoming remarks

Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak

UNEP Programme Management Officer, SWITCH-Asia RPAC

Ms. Srisakulchairak expressed her gratitude to all working group for setting up this first national consultation for developing the Scoping Study and roadmap of SCP. She addressed that SCP is everyone's matter as it is the main driver of all SDGs which would lead to a good economy and environment of our further and sustained benefit. She explained that a final consultation might be hold after this meeting to ensure all required data and comments of the SCP Scoping Study and roadmap are well collected. She also encouraged participants to share their comments and thoughts contributing to the developing process.

Presentation of the project's background

Mr. Nakhalin Vorasarn

Chief of Cooperation Section, DPF, MoNRE

Mr. Vorasarn started with a brief introduction of the project's background and objectives. He outlined the current state of SCP implementation at policy level. In Lao, following 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), circular economy and SCP was included and mainstreamed into the 9th NESDP plan (2021-2025). Mr. Vorasarn highlighted the actions are currently being conducted by the government to implement 10YFP in Lao PDR, including development of policies, financial and technical support as well as information sharing of SCP and awareness raising to upscale cooperation between private and public sector.

Linkages among all SDGs was presented to bring attention and enhance cooperation with all stakeholders to SDG 12 Implementation, to help participants' easy understanding. Mr. Vorasarn explained that SCP interlinked with almost all other SDGs, including plastics management, food loss and waste, tourism, education, waste management and emission control. That is why all the stakeholders needs to be involved in the process of SCP roadmap development. The findings of the SWOT analysis regarding SCP implementation in Lao PDR were presented by DPF team as well.

Brainstorming: Open floors for discussions

Day 1

The representatives shared their ongoing work and project related to SCP and SDGs such as green label supported by Germany government from GIZ and handicap products from Ministry of Information and Tourism office. Several comments were suggested to smoothen the developing process and ensure all information will be well collected without leaving any sector behind.

Some comments from the discussion were as follows.

- 1. Develop more specific report timeframe.
- 2. Identify the task role, responsibility and budget of the activities in the report.
- 3. Consider all the relative stakeholder to join in the development process.
- 4. To prioritize sectors for SCP. Tourism sector is suggested to involve.
- 5. The level of the roadmap document will be considered through internal consultation and endorsement from the Ministry.

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Day 2

The second day targets for private sectors, associations and INGOs. Apart from sharing their SCP related project and stressed out the important of green product awareness raising, the participants also raised some questions to the DPF, e.g. which sector should the roadmap focused on and is there any other data collection process except from this consultation to collect data. The representative also encouraged the working group to look into previous Grants Programme project which included concepts of both SCP and Circular Economy together.

Some comments/questions/information received from the discussion were as follows.

- 1. SMEs and non-registered business in tourism sector should be focused and prioritized as there include a large number of enterprises in Lao PDR, and SMEs are 99% business in Lao.
- 2. Is there any financial mechanism support from government to promote green product and encourage SCP?
- 3. Some green products are facing selling challenges as they cannot be manufactured in a large stock at one time and require support on online selling platforms. It is to propose the government to engage more on 'green-mark', such as a subsidy for green products.
- 4. Financial mechanism for encouraging green products business is suggested and needed.
- 5. Education on what is SCP, how to improve SCP, will be critical for Lao.
- 6. Micro-finance mechanism would be very useful to make technology accessible for SMEs. For example, home-based bio-organic technology.
- 7. The information bridge between household and recyclers needs to be enhanced. E.g., is it possible for relevant sectors to deliver knowledge to each household to create product from the household waste in order to reduce waste and gain more income?

A network and platform on green products in textile sector with the government's support is needed to upscale the selling of green products, e.g. natural silk, cotton, traditional paper.

Presentation: The contents of SCP Scoping Report, data need, work plan and the way forward

Ms. Bounmany Soulideth

Project Consultant

Before drafting the report, the consulting team gathered data and studied frameworks of 10 ASEAN countries to use as a guideline of the Scoping Study report. The team presented lessons learned from two neighboring countries, Viet Nam and Thailand. The Vietnam's National Action Plan on SCP focused on 9 priorities while Thailand SCP Roadmap mainly focus on implementing CE in multiple sectors as well as raising SCP awareness. Ms. Soulideth thanked GIZ for their support in drafting the National Plan on GPP of Lao PDR. The work plan, initially proposed priorities and timeframe of the scoping study and roadmap development were shared by her. Ms. Soulideth informed that discussion and consultation survey for the SCP Scoping Study and roadmap will soon be sent to stakeholders for further processing.





Wrap up and concluding remarks

Mr. Sounadeth Soukchaleun

Deputy Director General of DPF, MoNRE

Mr. Soukchaleun appreciated stakeholders for their participation in this national consultation meeting. He underlined that the main objective of this meeting is to set the framework for the SCP roadmap in Lao PDR. The DPF will ensure letter for document collection and questionnaire is well shared to every stakeholder. Also, he agreed with the participants that the report required timeline for its developing process and hope to upscale the document into decree or master and action plan in the future.

Highlights of discussions:

During brainstorming session, participants were actively provided comments and feedbacks on the SCP Scoping Study and roadmap. More clearly timeframe is required for both of the documents. Many green businesses need financial mechanism support from the government in order to promote green products and encourage consumer behavior to shift to SCP. Vietnam SCP Action Plan and Thailand SCP Roadmap were presented as a lesson learned for the SCP documents development process.

Evaluation/Assessment results:

The national consultation was organized as a closed hybrid-event with the purpose of presenting and discussing SCP roadmap development as well as creating network and raised awareness of SCP. The organizers did not conduct evaluation or assessment in details, instead encouraged participants provide comments and share their ideal during the events. The organizer will send discussion and consultation survey for the SCP Scoping Study and roadmap to stakeholders for further processing after this event.







Review on Participants:

The event was attended by 12 representatives from public sector on the first day and 15 representatives from private sector, association, developing partners and INGOs on the second day. The meeting was held under the COVID-19 restriction and allowed only the maximum number of 20 people to attend the meeting room.

List of Organizations

No.	Name of organization	
I. Under MoNRE		
1	Department of Planning and Finance	
2	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection	
3	Department of Environment	
4	Department of Climate Change	
5	Natural Resources and Environment Research Institute	
II. Line ministries		
1	Ministry of Planning and Investment	
2	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	
3	Ministry of Energy and Mines	
4	Ministry of Public Works and Transportation	
5	Ministry of Press, Culture and Tourism	
6	Ministry of Education and Sport	
7	Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry	
III. Private sectors, association, developing partners and INGOs 1 Lao Biogas Company		
2	Mid Happy Company (Iwater)	
3	Lao Young Entrepreneur Association	
4	Lao SMEs Association	
5	Lao Handicraft Association	
6	Lao Hotel and Restaurant businesses Association	
7	Plan International	
8	GGGI	
9	UNFPA	





Annex:

Annex 1: The Final agenda

Day 1: Thursday 25th November 2021

Government session: concern departments under MoNRE and line ministries.

Time (ICT) 1330-1400	Theme Registration Technical officer, DPF, MoNRE and all participants
1400-1405	Objectives of the Meeting Mr. Nakhalin Vorasam Chief of Cooperation Section, DPF, MoNRE
1405-1415	Opening remarks Mr. Sounadeth Soukchaleun Deputy Director General of DPF, MoNRE
1415-1420	Welcoming remark Ms. Cecile Leroy EU Delegation to Lao PDR
1420-1425	Participant's introducing
1425-1435	Presentation of the project's background Mr. Nakhalin Vorasam Chief of Cooperation Section, DPF MoNRE
1435-1450	Photo session and Coffee break
1450-1500	Presentation: The contents of SCP Scoping Report, data need, work plan and the way forward Ms. Bounmany Soulideth Project Consultant
1500-1530	Brainstorming: Open floors for discussions
1530-1545	Wrap up and concluding remarks Mr. Sounadeth Soukchaleun Deputy Director General of DPF, MoNRE





Day 2: Friday 26th November 2021

Private sector session: concern private sectors, associations developing partner and INGOs.

Time (ICT) 1330-1400	Theme Registration Technical officer, DPF, MoNRE and all participants
1400-1405	Objectives of the Meeting Mr. Nakhalin Vorasam Chief of Cooperation Section, DPF, MoNRE
1405-1415	Opening remarks Mr. Sounadeth Soukchaleun Deputy Director General of DPF, MoNRE
1415-1420	Welcoming remark Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak UNEP Programme Management Officer, SWITCH-Asia RPAC
1420-1425	Participant's introducing
1425-1435	Presentation of the project's background Mr. Nakhalin Vorasam Chief of Cooperation Section, DPF MoNRE
1435-1450	Photo session and Coffee break
1450-1500	Presentation: The contents of SCP Scoping Report, data need, work plan and the way forward Ms. Bounmany Soulideth Project Consultant
1500-1530	Brainstorming: Open floors for discussions
1530-1545	Wrap up and concluding remarks Mr. Sounadeth Soukchaleun Deputy Director General of DPF, MoNRE







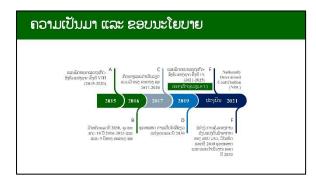
Annex 2: The Presentation of the project's background





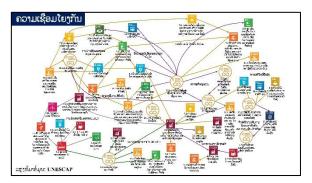












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For more information

Contact SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Funded by European Union

Implemented by United Nations Environment Programme, Asia and the Pacific Office

Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon

Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency
United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Project Manager
Regional Policy Advocacy Component
(SWITCH-Asia – the European Union funded programme)

Email: memon@un.org

