

Air Quality Policies

This document is based on research that UNEP conducted in 2015, in response to Resolution 7 of the UNEA 1. It describes country-level policies that impact air quality. Triple question marks (???) indicate that information for the section couldn't be found.

Please review the information, and provide feedback. A Word version of the template can be provided upon request. Corrections and comments can be emailed to Vered.Ehsani@unep.org and George.Mwaniki@unep.org.

| LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC | | |
|---|--|---|
| GOALS | CURRENT STATUS | CURRENT / PLANNED POLICIES & PROGRAMMES |
| GENERAL OVERVIEW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall situation with respect to air quality in the country, including key air quality challenges: PM10 and SO2 are problem pollutants in Vientiane, although air quality is generally good in the country given the low level of industrialisation and motorisation; Mainly an agricultural country (agriculture employs 80% of labour force), although this is rapidly changing; Most industries are small establishments ● Air quality monitoring system: No | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Ambient air quality standards: There are no ambient AQ standards ● National Air Quality Policy: No ● Air Quality legislation / programmes: There is no specific air pollution control law / legal framework for AQ management ● Other: |
| REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Industries that have the potential to impact air quality: Some factories burn fuel oil; mining ● Lao doesn't have a large number of large industries; industrial air pollution is managed by Science Technology and Environment Agency; some monitoring of stack emissions being conducted ● GDP of country: \$11 billion ● Industries' share of GDP: 20% ● Electricity sources: mostly from hydro; goal to increase share of coal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emission regulations for industries: There is a draft of Pollution Emission Standards ● Small installation's emissions regulated: No ● Renewable energy investment promoted: ??? ● Energy efficiency incentives: Energy Efficiency and Conservation program to decrease energy consumption across all sectors ● Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies: No ● Actions to ensure compliance with regulations: (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) ??? ● Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industry: ??? |

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| <p>REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key transport-related air quality challenges: unpaved roads (only 14% paved); use of 2-stroke vehicles; few public transport vehicles; no emission standards; high Sulphur levels ● Most vehicles in Vientiane municipality; Traffic density relatively low ● Very low number of public transport vehicles; buses only available in the capital, and no public bus services in other cities; 3-wheeled tuk-tuks are used instead, although most are 2-stroke (more polluting than 4-stroke) ● 78% of vehicles are motorcycles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vehicle emission limit: None legislated ● Fuel Sulphur content: : 2,500 ppm ● Restriction on used car importation: None ● Actions to expand, improve and promote public transport and mass transit: Vientiane is researching a Master Plan on Comprehensive Urban Transport ● Actions to promote non-motorized transport: (ex: include sidewalks and bike lanes in new road projects, car-free areas etc) ??? ● Other transport-related actions: |
| <p>REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF AGRICULTURAL / MUNICIPAL WASTE (OUTDOOR)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor, open burning: Open dumping and burning common practices; slash-and-burn agriculture common | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legal framework: No waste management regulations, although references to waste management included in environmentally-related laws but these aren't effectively implemented or enforced ● Actions to prevent open burning of municipal waste and / or agricultural waste: ??? |
| <p>REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF BIOMASS (INDOOR)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominant fuels used for cooking and space heating: >95% use solid fuel ● Impact: 2,600 deaths/year from indoor air pollution (<100 for outdoor air pollution) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indoor air pollution regulated: No ● Promotion of non-grid / grid electrification: 88% electrification rate ● Promotion of cleaner cooking fuels and clean cook stoves: ??? ● Other actions to reduce indoor biomass burning, or to reduce its emissions: ??? |

Secondary Sources used in the research: *Country Synthesis Report on Urban Air Quality Management: Lao PDR. Asian Development Bank and the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities, 2006.*, <http://www.slideshare.net/energyforall/laos-rural-electrification>, http://www.eria.org/RPR_FY2012_No.19_chapter_10.pdf, http://www.unep.org/ietc/Portals/136/Events/ISWM%20GPWM%20Asia%20Pacific%20Workshop/Lao_PDR_Mapping_and_Needs_Assessment.pdf, http://www.unep.org/pdf/Lao_EO_2012.PDF, http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/national/countryprofile/en/#I