

## 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](mailto:Vered.Ehsani@unep.org) and [George.Mwaniki@unep.org](mailto:George.Mwaniki@unep.org).

<b>LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC</b>		
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	<b>CURRENT / PLANNED POLICIES &amp; PROGRAMMES</b>
GENERAL OVERVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Overall situation with respect to air quality in the country, including key air quality challenges:</b> 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</li> <li>● <b>Air quality monitoring system:</b> No</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>National Ambient air quality standards:</b> There are no ambient AQ standards</li> <li>● <b>National Air Quality Policy:</b> No</li> <li>● <b>Air Quality legislation / programmes:</b> There is no specific air pollution control law / legal framework for AQ management</li> <li>● <b>Other:</b></li> </ul>
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Industries that have the potential to impact air quality:</b> Some factories burn fuel oil; mining</li> <li>● 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</li> <li>● <b>GDP of country:</b> \$11 billion</li> <li>● <b>Industries' share of GDP:</b> 20%</li> <li>● <b>Electricity sources:</b> mostly from hydro; goal to increase share of coal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Emission regulations for industries:</b> There is a draft of Pollution Emission Standards</li> <li>● <b>Small installation's emissions regulated:</b> No</li> <li>● <b>Renewable energy investment promoted:</b> ???</li> <li>● <b>Energy efficiency incentives:</b> Energy Efficiency and Conservation program to decrease energy consumption across all sectors</li> <li>● <b>Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies:</b> No</li> <li>● <b>Actions to ensure compliance with regulations:</b> (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) ???</li> <li>● <b>Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industry:</b> ???</li> </ul>

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

**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.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/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.unep.org/pdf/Lao_EO_2012.PDF), [http://www.who.int/quantifying\\_ehimpacts/national/countryprofile/en/#I](http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/national/countryprofile/en/#I)

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