



Lao people's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Prime Minister' Office
Science Technology Environment Agency
NCSA Project

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THEMATIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

I. IMPLEMENTING ISSUES:

Project Management Team and Local Consultant met to review key contexts of three conventions: CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC in order to look through and list all major articles related to Lao PDR' obligation to be implemented under the 3 conventions and to study those key issues to be prepared for raising and comparing with the later Workshop on Identification of key contexts. Then, the Project Management Team met the 3 Technical Working Groups on 5th April 2005 at the Project Office in STEA in Vientiane. The objectives of this meeting were 1) to introduce the modified-tools and methodologies of NCSA Processes, 2) to prepare and plan the Workshop on identification of key contexts of three conventions (CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC) which will be organized on 20-22 April in Vientiane Province. There were 26 participants involved who were from many sectors of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Labor and Welfare, Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, University of Laos, National Mekong Regional Committee, Committee for Planning and Investment, Environment Research Institute and Environment Department of Science Technology Environment Agency. In this meeting, many issues were raised to discuss such as the process of organizing 20-22nd April Workshop, roles of facilitators and the criteria to be referred for identifying key contexts of the three conventions. By the end of this meeting, roles of facilitators and criteria for identifying key contexts were finalized. (See the details of criteria for identifying key contexts of three conventions on the ATTACHMENT 1)

After that, the Project Management team organized a 3 days Stakeholders Workshop on 20-22 April 2005 at Thalad in Vientiane Province. Its main objectives were to consult for identifying key contexts of three conventions (CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC), which are the urgent obligation that Lao PDR has to carry out. The number of participants was 40. Representatives from many sectors concerned at National Level and Provincial STEA Offices and Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Bolikhamxay, Bokeo, and Attapeu Province and Vientiane Municipality specially involved this Workshop. The participants spent much attention on selecting and identifying key contexts of three conventions. The methods of selection were as follow: In day 1, at least 10 or more key contexts of each convention were identified. In day 2, minimizing selected key contexts of each convention from 10 to a least 5 or more but must be under 10. In day 3, they had to remain 5 or fewer then each group presented the work results with reasonable point of view to each key context. However, the key contexts were selected or identified based on

the agreement within each group member. At the end, this Workshop was produced the useful outcomes which was very clear and they are urgent for Lao PDR to be carried out. (See the details of identified key contexts of three conventions in the ATTACHMENT 2)

Moreover, the Project Management team met 3 Technical Working Groups again at the Project Office in STEA in Vientiane on 2nd June 2005 (Totally 15 members). They would be facilitators to join the Project Team to conduct the three thematic assessments. Its main objectives of this meeting were to prepare key contexts of three conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD) and refine if necessary which received from previous Workshop. This Meeting also prepared and planned for the 2 Public Consultation Workshops on conducting three Thematic Assessments (CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD). This Meeting was very important and meaningful because it discussed many issues such as how to prepare and conduct the process of three thematic Assessments, to refresh roles of being facilitators and tools and methodologies of assessing of three thematic areas. The use of assessment matrix was discussed as well; particularly how to identify the criteria for giving score of capacity needs (prioritization issues). Finally, what to be referred for giving score was agreed and set up. From discussion, the participants deeply understood their key roles as facilitators during the three thematic assessments.

Again, the Project Management Team in cooperation with selected Technical Working Groups members organized 2 Public Consultation Workshops on conducting the National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment. The first Workshop was held between 7-10th, June 2005 at Thalad in Vientiane Province, which included 49 participants, which came from Provincial STEA Departments and Agriculture and Forestry Departments of all Northern Provinces, some Central provinces and relevant sectors at Central level.

The second Workshop was held on 14-17th June 2005 in Pakse, Champasak Province. The participants came from Provincial STEA Departments and Agriculture and Forestry Departments of all Southern and the remaining Central Provinces and relevant sectors of Champasack Province.

The main objectives of two Workshops were to conduct the three thematic assessments (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC). The results showed that, many capacity needs and constraints were identified and actions for removing those capacity constraints were identified as well in order to overcome the barriers for implementing urgent obligation of the Lao Government.

Then, the Project Management Team compiled the results from conducting 2 workshops on the three thematic assessments. These results will be prepared for the later analytical steps.

Regarding the tools for conducting three thematic assessments, it was not able to produce enough information needed and it was needed to develop. So the project management Team in cooperation with 3 TWG developed tools and methods to make it more useful and workable for identifying Capacity Needs and prioritizing issues under the 3 conventions and in-depth analysis of priority issues and identify cross-cutting issues as well. (See the updated matrix in the ATTACHMENT 3)

According to the results of conducting the three thematic assessments, they were quite useful and meaningful for the measures to remove their capacity constraints, but not for the capacity building. They were not quite clear or given specific actions for capacity building. The reasons were these:

- a) Tools and methodologies for identifying capacity needs were neither clear nor unclear. Why it was that, the title of “Column 6” was this “Measures to remove capacity constraints” or “Capacity Need” and when actions were identified, most of them were the measures to remove the capacity constraints rather than the action for capacity needs. On the other hand, the group members were a bit confused with and even could distinguish between the measures to remove capacity constraints and the actions for capacity building.
- b) The project team has not had specific knowledge or skills on the assessing of these conventions. Moreover, the participation along the processes of the project team was not yet usual. Substitution of facilitator or key TGW members was often made. Thus this resulted to the organizing of the workshop and the expected outputs as well.

However, the identification of capacity needs under the three conventions needs to be an additionally exercise in the later step.

II. OUTCOMES OF THIS PROCESS:

- 1) The Project Management Team was able to identify the criteria for identifying key contexts of three conventions. (See the attachment 1)
- 2) The key contexts of three conventions were also identified to be prepared for conducting the assessment of three conventions.
- 3) Tools and Methodologies for assessing the National Capacity Needs under the three conventions (CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) were developed to make it more useful and workable.
- 4) Main constraints and measures to remove those constraints were identified.

ATTACHMENT 1

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING KEY CONTEXTS OF THREE CONVENTIONS

THESE ARE THE TITLES OF LAO GVERNMENT'S DOCUMENT TO BE REFERENCED FOR IDENTIFYING THE KEY CONTEXTS OF EACH CONVENTION AND PRIORITIZATION OF CAPACITY NEEDS UNDER THE THREE CONVENTIONS AS WELL:

- 1. Socio-economic Development Strategy to 2020-2010 and 5 Years Socio-economic Development Plan Vol. V (2001-2005)**
- 2. Legislations on Natural Resources Management (Environment, Water, Land and Forestry)**
- 3. National Strategy on Poverty Eradication.**
- 4. National Environment Strategy to 2020 and Action Plan to 2010.**
- 5. National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and Action Plan to 2010.**
- 6. National Forestry Strategy to 2020.**
- 7. Education Strategy and Environment Awareness to 2020 and Action Plan to 2006-2010.**

ATTACHMENT 2
KEY CONTEXTS OF EACH CONVENTION
(BCD, UNCCD, UNFCCC)

ARTICLES		
CBD	UNCCD	UNFCCC
<p>Art: 6. General Measures for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (C&SU).</p> <p>6.1 Develop national strategies, plan or programmes for the C&SU of BD that shall reflect the convention measures relevant to the contracting party.</p> <p>6.2 Integrate C&SU of BD into relevant sectoral Plans.</p>	<p>Article: 5 Obligations of Affected Country Parties.</p> <p>5.a Give due priority to combine the desertification and mitigation the effect of drought, and allocate adequate resources in accordance with their circumstances and capabilities.</p> <p>5.b Establish strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.</p> <p>5.e Provide an enabling environment by strengthening, as appropriate relevant existing legislation and, when they do not exist, enacting new laws and establishing long-term policies as action programmes.</p> <p>9.1 Carry out their obligations pursuant to article 5, affected developing country Parties and any other affected country Parties in the framework of its regional implementation annex or, otherwise, that has notified the Permanent Secretariat in writing of its intention to prepare a national action programme, shall, as appropriate, prepare, make public and implement national action programmes, utilizing and building, to the extent possible, on existing relevant successful plans and programmes. And subregional and regional action programmes, as the central element of strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Such programmes shall be updated</p>	<p>Art: The Commitments.</p> <p>4.1.c Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol in all relevant sectors, including the energy, transports, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management sects.</p>

	through a continuing participatory process on the basis of lessons from field action, as well as the results of research. The preparation of national action programmes shall be closely interlinked with other efforts to formulate national policies for sustainable development.	
<p>Art: 7. Identification and monitoring.</p> <p>7.1,2 Identify and monitor key (Keystone) components of BD important for its C&SU, paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation and those which offer the greatest potential for SU.</p> <p>7.4 Maintain databases for the above identification and monitoring.</p>	<p>Art: 19. Capacity Building Education and Public Awareness.</p> <p>19.b Strengthening training and research capacity at the national level in the field of desertification and drought.</p> <p>19.d Fostering the use and dissemination of knowledge and know-how and practices of local people in technical cooperation programmes, wherever suitable.</p> <p>5.d promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of non-governmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.</p>	<p>4.1 g promote and cooperate in scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data achieves related to the climate system and intended to the further the understanding and to reduce or eliminate the remaining uncertainties regarding the causes, effects, magnitude and timing of climate change and the economic and social consequences of various response strategies.</p>
<p>Art: 8 In-situ Conservation.</p> <p>8.1 Establish a system of Pas.</p> <p>8.5 Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to Pas with a view to furthering the protection of these areas.</p> <p>8.6 Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystem and promote the recovery of threatened species through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies.</p> <p>8.8 Prevent the introduction of control or eradicated those alien species which threaten ecosystems, or species.</p>		<p>4.1 Promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness related to climate change and encourage the widest participation in this process, including those non-governmental organizations.</p>

ATTACHMENT 3

UPDATED TOOLS FOR IDENTIFYING THE CAPACITY NEEDS UNDER THE THREE CONVENTIONS:

<i>Descriptive Assessment of Baseline Situation</i>			<i>Capacity Constraints 4</i>	<i>Root Cause of Capacity Constraints 5</i>	<i>Measures to remove Capacity Constraints 6</i>	<i>Capacity Need 7</i>	<i>Prioritization of Capacity Needs</i>				
<i>Convention Requirement 1</i>	<i>Measures Implemented 2</i>	<i>Effectiveness of Measures have been Implemented 3</i>					<i>Important to Lao PDR 8</i>	<i>Level of need to increase capacity 9</i>	<i>Overall Score 10</i>	<i>Priority of Articles 11</i>	<i>Priority of Conventions 12</i>
			<i>I. National System Level</i>								
			<i>II. Institutional Level</i>								
			<i>III. Individual Level</i>								

