



Combating IUU Fishing Efforts in Lao PDR

Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and
Technology Integration in the Indo-Pacific

Regional Workshop on 17 – 19 March 2026

at Bangkok, Thailand

Division of Fisheries,
Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR

Presentation Outline



Current Situation

1. Background
2. Governing Freshwater Resources In Lao PDR



Key Actions

Implementation of national policy.



Technology Integration

Modernizing catch data and rapid response enforcement.



Implementation Challenges

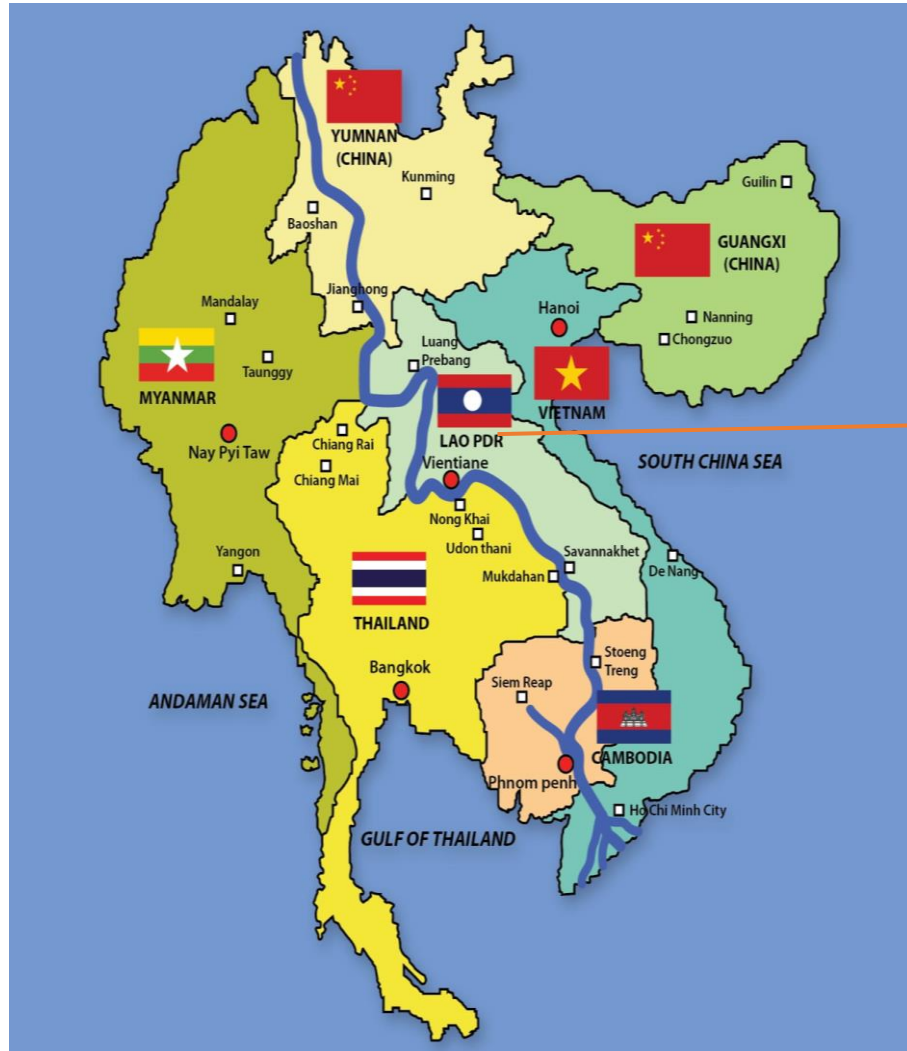
Navigating capacity limits and external environmental pressures.



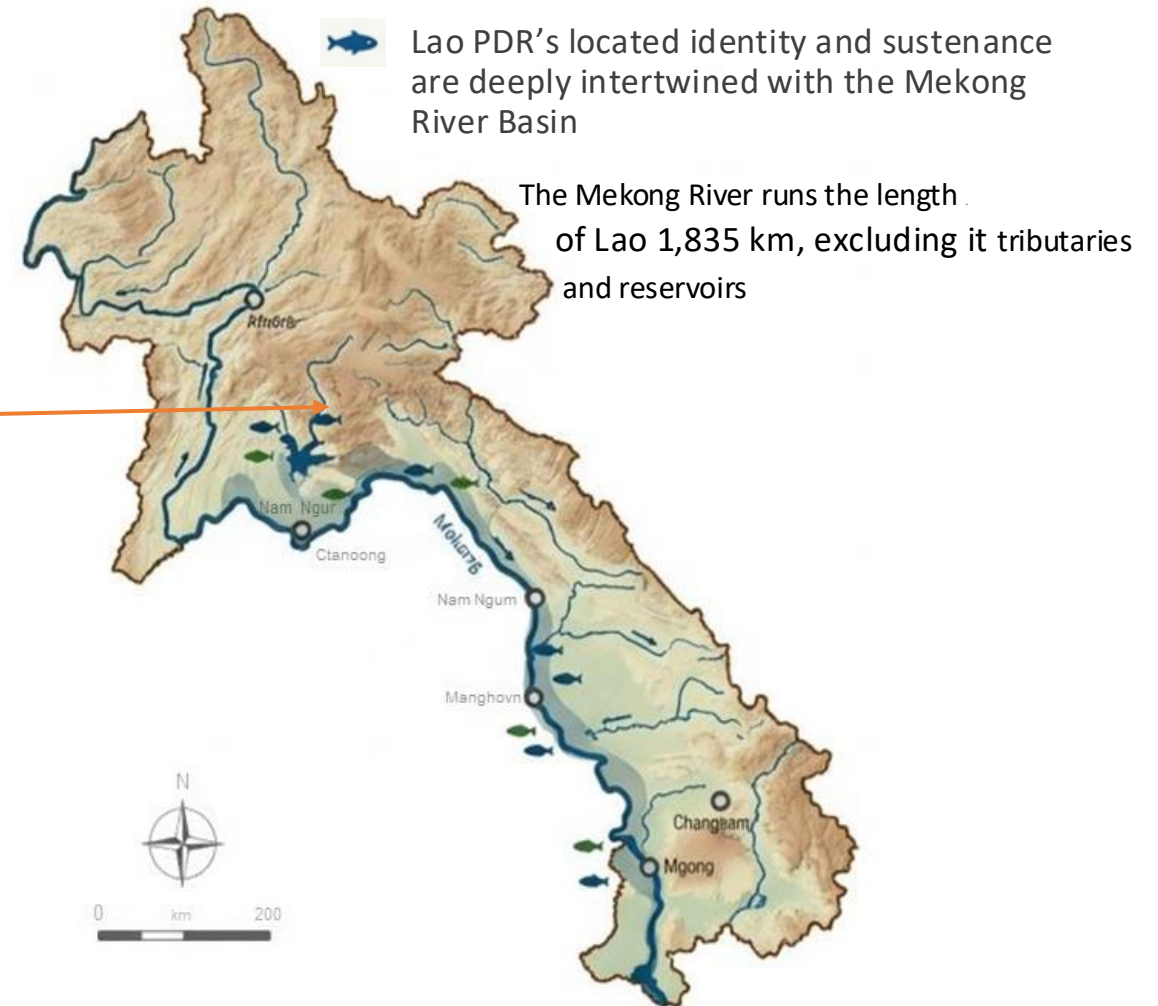
The Way Forward

Regional Cooperation.

1. Background



Map of Lao PDR and The Mekong River Basin





2. Governing Freshwater Resources In Lao PDR



Freshwater protein from the Mekong River, its tributaries, and reservoirs is the primary nutritional backbone of Lao PDR.



Driven by the Law on Aquatic Animals and Fisheries (Endorsed 2023).



Lao PDR IUU Definition strictly targets:

- Destructive fishing practices.
- Fishing during closed seasons (critical spawning periods from May to August).
- The trade of endangered or protected aquatic species.

3. Key Actions & Implementation



Strategic Alignment

Operations are intrinsically linked to the National Socio-Economic Development Plan, the Constitution, and the Green Agriculture Strategy.



Community Engagement

Establishing Community-Based Fisheries Management committee
To empower local stakeholders
As active monitors.



Law Enforcement

Imposing severe measures and publicly destroying illegal fishing gear, specifically targeting electrofishing tools, explosives, and fine-mesh nets.

The ultimate objective is efficient management of good quality, safe aquatic animals while securing food supply.

Empowering the Frontlines of FCZs



✓ Over 1,000 Fish Conservation Zones

Massive scale successful establishment of FCZs in the county.

✓ Inter-Agency Patrolling

Active collaboration between village units, local police, and regional authorities for Coordinated for shared interests.

Stock Replenishment: GOV. Annual Fish Releasing initiatives to maintain biodiversity

Cultural Integration: The Power of Tradition

Religious Ordination of Waters

- ① Utilizing local beliefs and religious consecration ceremonies.
- ① Establishing sacred no-fishing zones based on traditional regulations.
- ① Achieving high compliance through cultural respect, effectively protecting aquatic Habitats, spawning ground and nursing ground.



4. Technology Integration



Digital Catch Documentation

Transitioning away from paper-based tracking toward centralized digital systems at target landing sites.



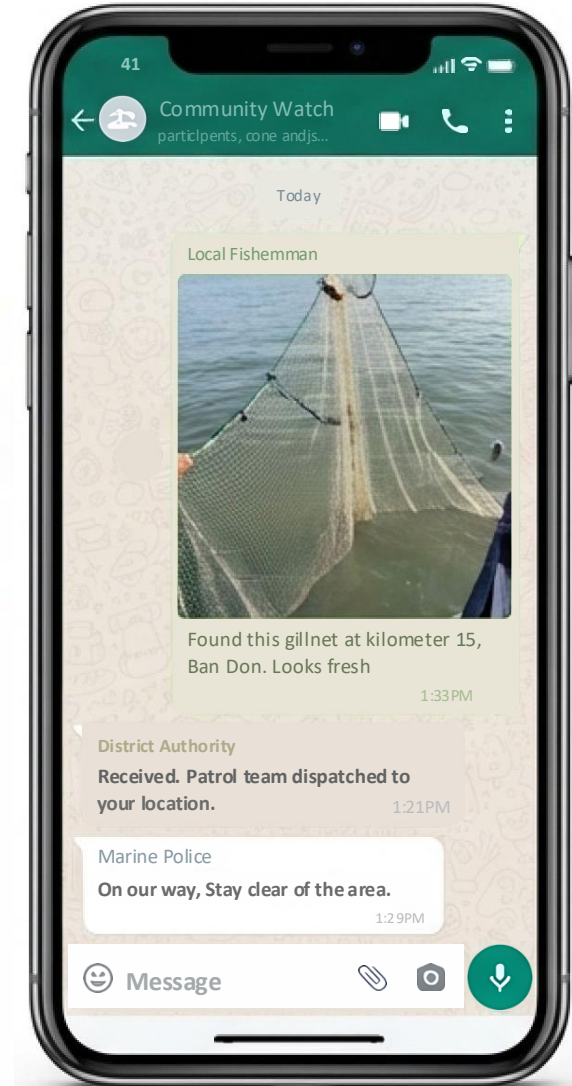
Social Media Monitoring

Empowering communities with patrol units by Training and social networks for real-time incident Reporting by using smart digital system.



GIS Integration

Deploying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to scientifically delineate Fish Conservation Zones (FCzs) and sanctuaries.



5. Challenges



Geographical Constraints

Extensive river borders make Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) difficult.



Technical Gaps

Limited technical knowledge regarding new technologies among local officers and fishers.



Infrastructure

Internet connectivity constraints in remote areas hinder the consistency of online reporting.



Financial Resources

Limited budget for the procurement of equipment and the long-term maintenance of database systems.



Law enforcement

Enforcement of the Law on Aquatic Animals and Fisheries remains insufficient, particularly among rural fishers and in areas with limited access to technology.

6. Way Forward



Law and regulations Dissemination

Aggressively expanding public awareness and enforcement of the Law on Aquatic Animals and Fisheries, fisheries regulations also expanding FCZs.



Digital Transformation

Fully upgrading fragmented databases into a singular, Centralized Digital Platform.



Capacity Building

Delivering focused technical training on emerging technologies for both fisheries and law enforcement officers.



Regional Collaboration

Deepening the active exchange of information and technology with partner countries across the Indo-Pacific region.



◆ Thank you for your kind attention. ◆



Q&A Session

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