



**Regional knowledge sharing and identification of opportunities for
enhanced reduction of Marine Plastics Debris
23 August 2023, Lao PDR**

Progress on Marine Plastic Pollution in Lao PDR

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- Country Overview
- Laos National Report on plastic pollution and marine plastic pollution
- Plastic waste management in Laos: Technical and Political aspects, current regulations/laws on plastic waste management



■ Country overview

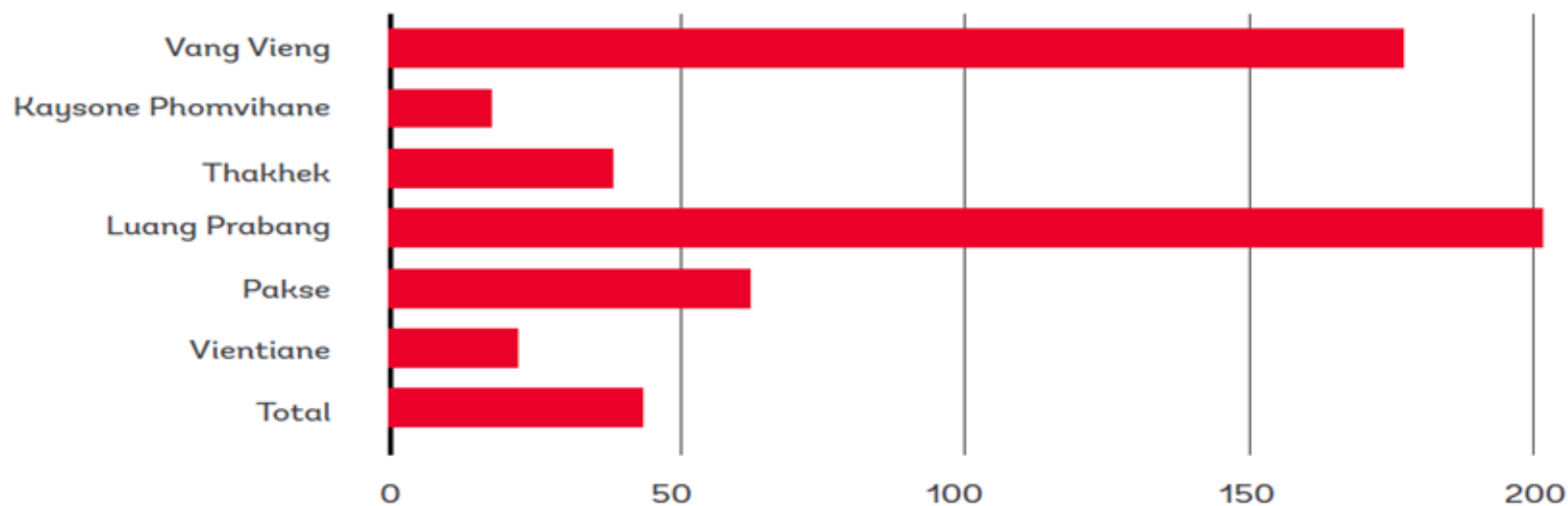
Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)

- Land linked Country in South-East Asia, Lower Mekong Region.
- Total area: 236,8000 km²
- Population 7.123.000 people (SOER Report 2021)
- Capital: Vientiane
- Mekong River: joined by 14 major tributaries during the course of it's 1993 km journey over Laos

■ The results of the study from the target cities are as follows:

- ▶ 77 registered plastic waste production facilities, with a production capacity of 51,000 tons per year;
- ▶ Hot spots or places of consumption that generate plastic waste near waterways: restaurants, bars, hotels, parks, markets,
- ▶ Hotspots or places of concern for plastic waste management: landfills, illegal dumping, landfills and waste transfer stations.

An overview of the number of hotspots from plastic consumption per 100,000 people



From the data in the table, it shows that cities that are tourist destinations have more plastic waste production than other big cities.

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Waste Import/Export	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Source
Import of plastic waste	1,256	1,181	3,909	7,881	<u>98,533</u>	UN Comtrade
Export of plastic waste	862	1,919	1,353	822	1,833	
Import of secondary plastic	5,092 (452)	452 (1,064)	1,064 (144)	143 (1,543)	1,543 (221)	Tax department, MOF (Department of Import/Export, MOIC)
Export of secondary plastic	4,537 (657)	657 (4,585)	4,585 (1,557)	1,557 (4,903)	4,903 (938)	

Information on the import and export of plastic waste and secondary materials

Exponential increase of import of plastic waste

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- Total of 60,053 tons of plastic generated in the target cities in 2020, **only 6.48% is recycled**
- 27.55% of plastic waste is landfilled
- 65.83% of plastic waste is uncollected: littered or burnt
- 10.17% of plastic waste enters waterways: canals, streams, rivers, etc.

2020, in tons/year	Vientiane	Pakse	Luang Prabang	Thakhek	Kaysone Phomvihane	Vang Vieng	Total
Total plastic waste generation	39,779	2,015	2,745	3,712	8,941	2,862	60,053
Recycling, energy recovery & RDF	3,461	115	60	110	89	60	3,895
Landfilling of plastic waste	9,757	699	2,164	753	2,642	530	16,544
Total uncollected plastic waste	26,512	1,197	510	2,845	6,196	2,270	39,530
Total plastic waste entering waterways	3,972	235	126	428	725	624	6,110
Retention in waterways	2,582	153	82	278	471	406	3,972
Direct beach and riverbanks littering	2	7	24	4	2	21	61
Total riverine plastic litter leaked from city (tons/year)	1,393	90	69	155	256	240	2,203

- Lao PDR does not have a strategy or specific legislation or regulation in the management of plastic waste, the existing legislation is still general and not specific; The roles and responsibilities of various parties are still unclear and overlap;
- The waste collection service is under-funded, inefficient and limited some towns and cities, non-standard waste treatment and the plastic waste management work is still limited in many aspects;
- No formal government-organized recycling program exists in the Lao PDR but there is an active recycling industry in some of the cities.
- While organic waste makes up approximately half of waste generated, there is no large-scale, centralized composting of municipal solid waste.

■ Plastic waste management challenges in Lao PDR:

- ▶ Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) management is using only “collecting and disposing” method
- ▶ Lack of waste sorting from the source
- ▶ Policy supporting the 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) is still not widely disseminated
- ▶ Waste collection service is low and some area to not have access to this service.
- ▶ Plastic waste is littered along riverbanks and road or burnt
- ▶ No waste separation, lack of equipment, lack of appropriate personnel for waste management and waste collection services
- ▶ No standard of waste landfill
- ▶ Discontinuing awareness raising and public participation was not enough
- ▶ Inadequate legislation and law enforcement, including monitoring
- ▶ Encouragement investment of private sector in waste disposal and management need to be done more for an effective way
- ▶ Etc.

Ways forwards for waste management



- Development of pollution control strategy
- Decree on waste disposal and management
- National action plan on plastic waste management, including specific regulation: under process
- Public awareness raising using 3Rs via a pilot project
- Etc.

Thank you very much

