

Abstract

SESSION 2:

Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

WORKSHOP 2.1:

Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

Integrated River Basin Management Approach to Water Use and Supply Management in the Sedone River Basin, Lao PDR

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Lao PDR's experience on the implementation of the Sedone Integrated Riverbasin Management Project (SIRBMP) demonstrates that Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) is not just a concept or practice that is restricted to large rivers and institutions with abundant resources. It can be employed at the ground level to address the practical needs of the villages in sub-basin areas, within their available capacities, both human and financial.

The implementation of the SIRBMP started at the basin-level in Sedone involving the three provinces of Saravanne, Sekong and Champasack. A riverbasin governance was established including: 1) an institutional mechanism with representation from the Provinces of Saravanne, Sekong and Champasack; 2) a State of the Riverbasin Profile; and 3) the Sedone Basin Management Plan. On-the-ground activities including waste management were also implemented covering 12 selected villages in the three provinces.

Guided by these experiences at the basin level, a more localized management has been initiated in Houay Champi sub-basin. The steps undertaken in the basin level (Provincial level) were applied on a smaller scale in the process of designing and implementing the project at the District and Village levels, bringing IRBM down to the grassroots level.

From both the basin and sub-basin implementation, several lessons have been derived including the following:

- The systematic process of setting up the IRBM needs to be participatory and adaptive. It takes time and continual effort on the part of IRBM managers and implementers to engage stakeholders in the process as the implementers themselves are also learning the process. Progress can be made in the short-term by engaging those stakeholders that are ready to act, and, over time, expanding the breadth, understanding and capacity of all stakeholders.
- Livelihood projects, such as establishing a village fund for alternative livelihoods, not only benefits households socially and economically, it also enhances their understanding of the advantages derived from restoring and safeguarding their community's principal resources, the rivers and the forests.

This presentation will discuss some of these learnings, the process of implementation as well as the results and scaling up initiatives.



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About Phousavanh Fongkhamdeng:

Mr. Phousavanh FONGKHAMDENG (or Lan) holds a degree in Environmental Science from the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEDS), National University of Laos. He is Deputy Director of Administration-Planning Division under the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Lao PDR. His experience in IWRM implementation includes water resources planning and management at the national, regional, river basin and sub-basin levels; contributing to development of national water resources strategy and action plan, water resources law and related legislation development; and national and international cooperation affairs for IWRM with different development partners and donors. Mr. Phousavanh has been posted as project manager for several related IWRM projects in Lao PDR. He has been designated as national coordinator for ASEAN working group on water resources management under ASEAN cooperation, national steering committee member for Global Water Partnership-Southeast Asia (GWP-SEA), and national steering committee member for AguaJaring Network SEA for IWRM capacity development. Internationally, he gained extensive experience in joining the on-the-job training on partnership development in sustainable water management at the global headquarter office of UNDP Cap-Net in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2014 and was junior riparian professional in the Mekong River Commission Secretariat in 2009. He is sociable, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, works well with a team, and loves to travel and study.