



GREATER MEKONG
SUBREGION
**CORE ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAM**



GMS Core Environment Program (CEP)

Highlights and Future Outlook

Shifting regional context



ADB

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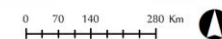
- Greater regional integration and collaboration through new initiatives (ASEAN Economic Community and other regional programs)
- New global and regional commitments and priorities (SDGs, NDCs, CBD targets)
- Shift of focus with emphasis on:
 - Inclusive Green growth
 - Low carbon and climate resilient development
 - Investing in natural capital
 - Sustainable financing

GMS Collaboration on Environment through CEP



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- Regional program led by GMS Working Group on Environment and supported by ADB
- GMS Economic Cooperation Program provides the framework
- Long term program initiated in 2005, currently in its second phase
- TA committed amount:
 - Phase 1: \$ 29.86 million
 - Phase 2: \$ 22.68 million



Boundaries are not necessarily authoritative.



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Highlights of CEP Achievements



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- CEP has made significant contributions to sustainable development in the GMS:
 - Stimulated regional collaboration/dialogue
 - Provided extensive knowledge services
 - Leveraged ‘green’ investments

Highlights of CEP Achievements (i)

- Upstream policy and planning support to build environmental management capacity
 1. Promoting the toolkit of SEA, multi-criteria spatial planning, ecosystem valuation for integrated development planning
 2. Policy engagement – NESAP in CAM, PCS in Lao PDR, provincial land use plans in VIE, Lao PDR
 3. Long term institutional capacity development through safeguards support in MYA
 4. Land Use change modeling network built in the GMS

Improved environmental monitoring



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- Strengthened country capacity to conduct national/provincial Environmental Performance Assessment –
- GMS/national statistics and GIS data/maps key part of CEP online information services
- Industrial pollution modelling for three countries

Climate Change Diagnostics and Response



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- Piloted fuel efficiency measures for ‘green’ freight in three countries
- Established a climate change adaption knowledge network
- Assessed the potential for climate risk financing for rural communities
- Developed analytical framework and training programs for assessing rural climate change vulnerability



Integrating natural capital/biodiversity at a landscape level

- Biodiversity conservation corridors scaled up
- Supported establishment of New protected areas
- Contributed in Livelihood development – revolving funds, community training, eco-villages
- Local participation in conservation – patrolling, land use planning, reforestation

Lessons

- Several internal and external reviews have provided important insight that led to program consolidation and strategic re-alignment:
 - Stronger alignment with GMS Economic Cooperation Program and Regional Investment Framework
 - Implement focused and demand-driven project portfolio that builds on CEP's comparative advantage and core competencies
 - Adopt efficient and flexible implementation arrangement
 - Enhance decentralized implementation of projects
 - Strengthen project readiness and absorption capacity
 - Develop diversified and blended funding structure in context of new funding opportunities



Positioning the GMS CEP vis-a-vis broader Regional Imperatives

- Common messages from ongoing work on the MTR of GMS Strategic Framework Review, ADB's 2030 Framework, ASEAN Economic Blueprint to 2025, and country development strategies (e.g., Thailand 4.0)
 - Emphasis on cross border and regional public goods
 - Development of sustainable infrastructure (including 'green infrastructure') – the RIF provides a key frame of reference
 - Focus on alignment with meeting human needs
 - Building institutional readiness/capacity to mobilize climate finance
 - Catalyzing private sector engagement

CEP Future Outlook

A ‘Services’ Model

Potential services include

- regional information and knowledge hub
- technical advisory service on environmental management, including addressing transboundary issues
- mobilize resources from emerging climate financing
- program/project development and management support
- strategic collaboration with countries and development partners

GMS Environment Project Development Facility



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- Fill the project readiness gap by providing comprehensive services at all stages of program cycle
- Provide project preparatory support to access new funding opportunities
 - Undertake monitoring and assessments to support project formulation
 - Package project concepts to meet funding criteria
 - Strengthen reporting capacity meet financing institutions' requirement
- Act as interface between countries and financing institutions including private sector
- Support bundling and scaling-up of projects for greater impact
- Act as a conduit between action researchers/ practitioners and investment decision makers



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Thank You!

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