



**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

**DECREE**  
**on**  
**Establishment and Activities of the**  
**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment**

- Pursuant to the Law on Government of Lao PDR, No. 02/NA, dated 6 May 2003
- Pursuant to the Decree of the President of Lao PDR, No. 107/PD, dated 30 June 2011 on the Structure of the apparatus, Appointment of the Prime Minister, Vice Prime Minister, and Cabinet of the Government of Lao PDR
- Based on the proposal of Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, No. 978/MONRE, dated 29 September 2011
- Based on proposal letter of deputy Minister of Home Affairs , No119/MOHA, dated 27 October 2011

**The Prime Minister**  
**Decrees:**

**Chapter I**  
**General Provisions**

**Article 1: Objectives**

This Decree determines the position, roles, powers and duties, organizational structure, principles and work methodology of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to be served as a legal instrument for the establishment and activities of the Ministry Natural Resources and Environment in order to manage, protect, restore and use the natural resources and environment in sustainable manner, contributing to the sustainable development and continuously growth of the economy and society of the nation.

**Article 2: Position and role**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in acronym “MONRE” is an apparatus of the Government which has a role as secretarial headquarter and directly responsible for the management of the environment, land, forests, water, air, biodiversity, and minerals, hereafter referred to “natural resources and environment”, including the management of natural disaster, climate change, meteorology and hydrology throughout the country.

## **Chapter II**

### **Duties and Powers**

#### **Article 3: Duties**

- 3.1 To research, develop and implement the directions, policy plans, Party resolutions, Constitution, laws, and resolutions of National Assembly, Presidential Ordinances and Decrees;
- 3.2 To research, draft and propose to the Government the amendments to the policies and strategic plans, laws, presidential ordinances and decrees and other regulations relating to the natural resources and environment, based on the real situation;
- 3.3 To research and develop policies, plans, resolutions of Government into detailed plans, programs and projects relating to natural resources and environment sectors; and be responsible for the effective implementation of such throughout the country;
- 3.4 To inspect, research, and resolve administrative disputes; attend and propose the competent organizations to resolve the disputes of civil and criminal nature relating to natural resources and environment throughout the country;
- 3.5 To survey and map, allocate the areas and classify the types for land use, lease or concession of land; elaborate the Master plan on land allocation at local, regional and national levels; establish a plan for land use and development by assigning the organizations and individuals to be responsible for management, protection, development, and use;
- 3.6 To research and decide on the transformation of land types, based on the potential and particularities of each area and locality; certify the results of land survey and land use, based on the real conditions of each period; research and decide on transformation the rights of land utilization and use and grant the rights to utilize and use of land;
- 3.7 To manage and conduct the survey and measurement for land registration, issue land title certificates, establish land map and land title map, grant the land lease and concession, inspect the land use, including land registration books, land evaluation and legal acts registration;

- 3.8 To establish and implement the integrated plans of water resources in Mekong basin area, cross-border river basins and major river tributaries basin (Nam Ngum, Nam theun-Nam Kading, Sebangfai, Sebanghieng, Sekong, and other natural river basin and others);
- 3.9 To develop and implement the 1995 Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin together with Mekong river riparian member countries in the research of policies, strategic plans, programs and development projects relating to water and water resources in Mekong basin in order to protect the environment, ecological system balance, social participation and development of cooperation with g Mekong river riparian member countries, donor countries and other organizations
- 3.10 To encourage, promote, educate, and create public awareness on environment quality and select friendly environmental technology; protect natural environment, natural resources, and ecological system in order to make them plentiful and make the city environment being standardized and “Green, Clean, and Beautiful”;
- 3.11 To control the pollution in the air, water, soil, noise, light, color and odor which are released from the emission sources and other public places; control chemical substance, hazardous materials, and solid wastes, including hazardous wastes throughout the country; control and authorize the import-export, transit, transportation, and utilization of hazardous wastes, toxic chemicals, and substances generating the pollution;
- 3.12 To survey and determine the areas for pollution control; establish plans, protect, prevent and deal with emergency events which impact environment and society, and natural disasters;
- 3.13 To review, confirm and approve the reports on environmental and social impact assessment of the investment projects before signing the concession agreements, agreements on mineral exploitation, processing and construction, and to monitor and inspect the implementation of environmental management plan, including the promotion of the participation of all stakeholders and people affected by investment projects in the access to such data and information;
- 3.14 To be a focal point for the implementation of strategy on climate change in conjunction with the strengthening of adaptation with climate change, reducing various impacts and green house releasing from decay and destruction of forests in order to increase the forest coverage to absorb carbonic gas, support the clean development mechanism projects;
- 3.15 To survey and establish the mineral geology maps with various scales, determine the mineral areas which are not yet exploited, restricted areas or areas for exploration bidding and mining areas;

- 3.16 To decide the granting of concession rights to mineral prospecting, exploration and economical and technical feasibility study for mineral geology; inspect, approve and certify the implementation of the exploration projects, economical and technical feasibility study and certify the results of various minerals analysis;
- 3.17 To conduct the survey, determine the areas and the measures on management, prevention, protection, development, restoration, and register forestry resources in the protected and reserved forest areas, including the prohibited forest areas, forest areas in which there are valuable, rare and endangered plantation and wildlife species; monitor and inspect the use of forests, forest exploitation, and collection of non-timber forest products, biodiversity, the use of forests and forest land utilities throughout the country;
- 3.18 To establish effective warning ahead system for flood, drought and natural disaster forecasting; improve and upgrade the meteorology stations network and hydrology, earthquake monitoring stations across the country;
- 3.19 To improve and create the readiness for the use of meteorology stations network for air navigation to serve the air communication activities; restore and improve the agro-meteorology stations network in order to ensure the programs on food security and production commercialization in the whole country;
- 3.20 To research, select the suitable options and technology in management, monitor and inspection of the use of natural resources and environment in sustainable manner, including the study and research of potential focus, relationship between the poverty and environment, and the reasonable use of natural resources, establish the regional natural resources and environment management areas (northern, central, and southern); establish the national laboratory to provide services for analyzing the environment quality, minerals, and others;
- 3.21 To manage, disseminate and provide data and information on natural resources and environment, including natural disaster and climate and analysis results for society;
- 3.22 To manage, build, train and upgrade, place the civil servants in suitable positions, both in quantity and quality, at the central and local levels accordingly to the vertical line system in its own sectors in order to ensure the requirement of the performance of political tasks, including the organizational activities, Party and personnel building activities, policy implementation, mass organizations activities, dissemination and training activities and others; research, improve and restructure the organizational apparatus, and determine the job positions in accordance with political tasks in each period of time;

- 3.23 To administer and manage the finance, State assets, secretary and organizational activities; be the central point of cooperation and facilitation for the overall organization and activities of the Ministry; establish the budget plan and financial and State assets management plans in accordance with the determined targets and relevant laws and regulations; collect the fees and service charges relating to natural resources and environment activities, including the management of natural disaster and climate change, metrology and hydrology and establish the plan on the creation of technical incomes to be used for its activities performance in accordance with the laws and regulations;
- 3.24 To inspect the development and implementation of policies, resolutions and orders of the Party, laws and regulations of the State; strictly implement the policies on the prevention and combating the corruption; be the central point of the study and deal with the claims and complaints, proposals of the Party members and civil servants and citizens in accordance with the rights, duties and responsibilities of the Ministry;
- 3.25 To establish, improve and manage the Fund for promotion and use in the management, protection and rehabilitation of natural resources and environment, including the natural disaster and climate change management activities;
- 3.26 To have contacts and cooperate with foreign countries and international organizations to challenge technical assistance and funds for the management and development of natural resources and environment activities, including natural disaster and climate change management activities, meteorology and hydrology activities in junction with the performance of obligations towards the international treaties, protocols and agreements whereof the Lao PDR is a Party;
- 3.27 To evaluate, consolidate and summarize the results of the implementation of political tasks of its own sectors and then, report to the Government and the Prime Minister in regular manner;
- 3.28 To perform other duties as specifically assigned and as provided in the Constitution and laws.

#### **Article 4. Scope of Powers**

- 4.1 To propose to the Government the amendments, draft or cancel the laws, presidential ordinances and decrees, Prime Minister's Decrees relating to natural resources and environment activities, including management of natural disaster and climate change; meteorology and hydrology;

- 4.2 To issue decisions, orders, notices and instructions on macro- management, protection, restoration and use natural resources and environment, including management on natural disaster, climate change, meteorology, and hydrology;
- 4.3 To propose or temporary or permanently suspend or withdraw the business licenses on services, use, rights of use, rights of utilization, leases or concession of natural resources and environment;
- 4.4 To provide technical services on natural resources and environment, including the management of natural disaster and climate change, meteorology and hydrology;
- 4.5 To reward and implement appropriate policies to organizations, individuals, legal entities that have outstanding activities and contribute into the management, protection and rehabilitation of natural resources and environment; warn and use of other measures as provided by the laws to such organizations, individuals, legal entities that that caused negative effects or damage to natural resources and environment;
- 4.6 To propose or decide on the establishment, restructure of cancel the organizational apparatus under its own responsibility on the basis of an unanimous agreement with the competent authorities, both at central and local levels;
- 4.7 To propose or decide on appointment, placement, removal of positions, upgrade, reward, implement of disciplinary measures and implement other policies to the employees who are under its responsibilities;
- 4.8 To hire the consultants, employees by contracts, or temporary labor, including volunteers both national and foreign, to assist the technical activities through the funds of the projects as deemed necessary;
- 4.9 To participate in the meetings of all levels, both national and international; negotiate and sign the treaties, protocols and memorandum of understanding with foreign countries and international organizations relating to natural resources and environment, including management of natural disaster, climate changes, meteorology, and hydrology as assigned by the Government;
- 4.10 To propose to access or withdraw from being the Party or member of relevant international treaties, conventions or agreements as deemed appropriated;
- 4.11 To perform other duties as specifically assigned and as provided in the Constitution and laws.

## **Chapter III**

### **Organizational Structure**

#### **Article 5: Organizational Structure**

- 5.1 Structure at Central level includes:
1. Cabinet;
  2. Department of Organization and Personnel;
  3. Department of Inspection;
  4. Department of Planning and Cooperation;
  5. Department of Land Allocation and Development;
  6. Department of Land Management;
  7. Department of Water Resources;
  8. Department of Environment Quality Promotion;
  9. Department of Pollution Control;
  10. Department of Forestry Resources Management;
  11. Department of Geology and Minerals;
  12. Department of Meteorology and Hydrology;
  13. Department of National Disaster and Climate Change Management;
  14. Department of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment;
  15. Institute for Natural Resources and Environment Research;
  16. Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat;
  17. Natural Resources and Environment Data and Information Center.
- 5.2 Structures at local levels include:
1. Provincial, City Divisions of Natural Resources and Environment;
  2. District, Municipality Offices of Natural Resources and Environment.

The Provincial, City Divisions, District, Municipality Offices of Natural Resources and Environment and Working Groups at local levels are under the direction and guidance and management of the local administrative authorities in political activities; and under the direction and guidance and management of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in technical activities.

#### **Article 6 Personnel Structure**

- 6.1 The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has one Minister who is approved by General Meeting of the National Assembly, appointed, reshuffled or dismissed by President of the Republic on the proposal of the Government. The Minister is responsible before the Government and the Prime Minister for the achievement and deficiency in the implementation of the Party policy, and laws and regulations of the State, the powers and duties of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as provided in Article 3 and 4 of this Decree. In the

event that the Minister is in a mission in remote places or busy he/she has to assign in writing any of the Deputy Minister to act on his/her behalf;

- 6.2. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is comprised of the Deputy Ministers, Director of Cabinet, Directors General of the Departments, a certain number of Directors of the Department-equivalent Institutes and Centers who are appointed, reshuffled and dismissed by the Prime Minister on the proposal of the Minister with the approval from the Central Party Organization Committee.
- 6.3 The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is also comprised of the Deputy Directors General, Deputy Directors of the Department-equivalent Institutes and Centers who are appointed, reshuffled and dismissed by the Minister on the proposal of the Director General of the Department of Organization and Personnel and Departments concerned with the approval from the Central Party Organization Committee.

The Directors and Deputy Directors of the divisions within the Cabinet, Departments, Department-equivalent Institutes and Centers are appointed, reshuffled and dismissed by the Minister on the proposal of the Department concerned with the consent of the Department of Organization and Personnel.

- 6.4 At the Provincial, City levels, there are Directors and Deputy Directors of the Divisions of Natural Resources and Environment who are appointed, reshuffled and dismissed by the Minister with the consent of the Governors of the provinces or Vientiane Capital.

The *Heads and Deputy Heads of Sectors* within the Provincial, City Divisions of Natural Resources and Environment are appointed, reshuffled and dismissed by the Minister with the consent of the Governors of the provinces or Vientiane Capital.

- 6.5 At the District, Municipality levels, there are Heads of District, municipality Offices are appointed, reshuffled and dismissed by the Minister on basis of an unanimous agreement of the administrative authorities of the districts, municipalities, provinces, Vientiane Capital.

The Deputy Heads of District, municipality Offices are appointed, reshuffled and dismissed by the Governors of the provinces or Capital on the proposal of the Governors of Districts or municipalities with the consent of the Minister;

- 6.6 The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is also comprised of Heads of *Sectors* and working groups and a certain number of technician assistants at central and local levels at deemed appropriated.



## **Chapter IV**

### **Principles and Work Methodology**

#### **Article 7. Principles**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment carry out its activities, based on the principles of central democracy, group decision and one single leader; promotes the creative/inventive initiatives of the employees and civil servants in order to contribute into management and development of its own sectors; clearly divide the activities and responsibilities among the working groups together with assignment of rights in a certain and reasonable way for the resolution of problems within its own responsibility.

#### **Article 8. Work Methodologies**

- 8.1 Work, based on the detailed plans, programs and projects, work resolution with focus points and targets in each period of time; closely coordinate with domestic and foreign organizations and all sectors concerned, both at central and local levels;
- 8.2 Work in conjunction with the monitoring, inspecting, encouraging, lesson learning, evaluating work performance , and regularly reporting and proposing;
- 8.3 Implement monthly, quarterly, six months or annual meetings and regularly report to higher levels and Government.

## **Chapter V**

### **Final Provisions**

#### **Article 9. Budget and Seal**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has its own budget and seal for its official activities performance.

#### **Article 10. Development**

Assign the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to define the roles, scope of the powers and duties and to determine the organizational structure of the Cabinet, departments, institutes, Centers, including the provincial, Capital Divisions of

Natural Resources and Environment, and District and municipality Offices of Natural Resources and Environment as provided in Article 5 of this Decree.

**Article 11. Implementation**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Government Office, line Ministries, Ministry-equivalent organizations and local administrative authorities throughout the countries shall recognize and strictly implement this Decree.

**Article 12. Effectiveness**

This Decree takes effect from the date of signature and replaces the Decree on the Establishment and Activities of the Water Resources and Environment Agency, No. 149/PM dated 10 May 2007 and the Decree on the Establishment and Activities of National Land Management Authority, No. 67/PM dated 18 May 2004.

The Prime Minister,

(Signature & Seal)

Thongsing thammabong