

SNAPSHOT OF THE NAM OU RIVER BASIN PROFILE

WHAT

The 2017 Nam Ou River Basin Profile, supported by **Australia's Greater Mekong Water Resources Program**, was carried out by the Lao Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to document the physical, biological, and socio-economic characteristics of the basin in support of more informed and sustainable planning and development.

WHY



Provide a greater **understanding of the characteristics** of the basin and its sub-basins.



Enhance **knowledge and capacities** of Lao government officials in river basin planning and management.



Enable Lao government, private sector, and local communities to **better plan and manage water resources** for sustainable development.

WHERE

3
NORTHERN PROVINCES

17
DISTRICTS

11
TRIBUTARY RIVERS TO THE NAM OU

5KM
CORRIDOR ALONG NAM OU RIVER

1500
HOUSEHOLDS

75
VILLAGES

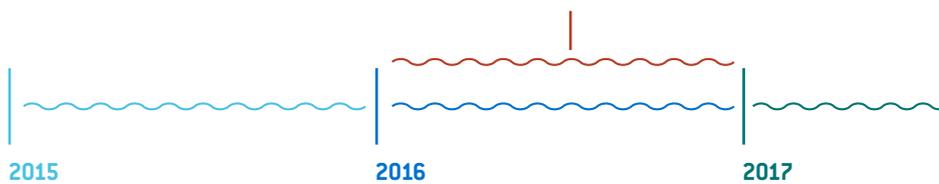
8
VILLAGES USED AS DETAILED CASE STUDIES

WHEN

Desktop research and development of tools and methodologies.

Stakeholders consultation, data analysis and drafting of the Profile.

Nam Ou River Basin Profile published in English and Lao.



WHO



DWR ~ Department of Water Resources

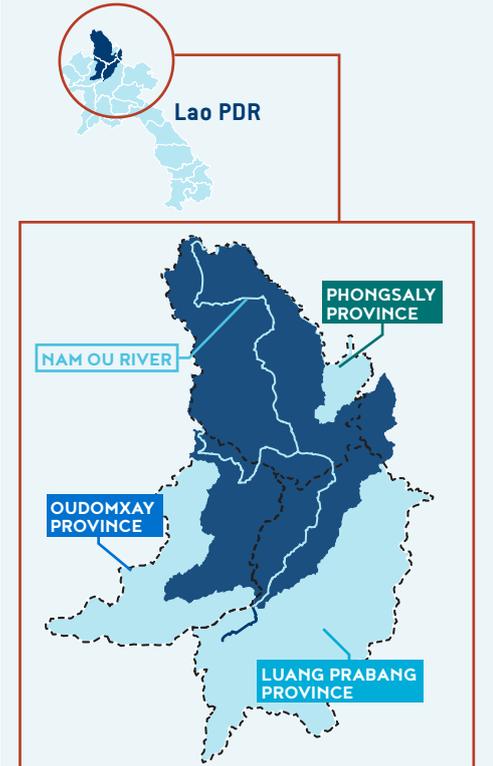
PONRE ~ Provincial Office for Natural Resources and Environment

DONRE ~ District Office for Natural Resources and Environment



Support provided by the **Australian and Japanese governments**.

MAP OF THE NAM OU RIVER BASIN



KEY FACTS OF THE NAM OU BASIN

404,094
POPULATION

10TH
LARGEST BASIN IN LAO PDR

5,554 HA
OF WATER BODIES

5%
OF THE BASIN LOCATED IN VIETNAM

156
SPECIES OF FISH

A CASCADE OF 7 LARGE HYDROPOWER DAMS

NAM OU RIVER BASIN PROFILE

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

PHONGSALY PROVINCE

Chanpheng Chandavong, 29, Technical Officer, DONRE, Samphan District



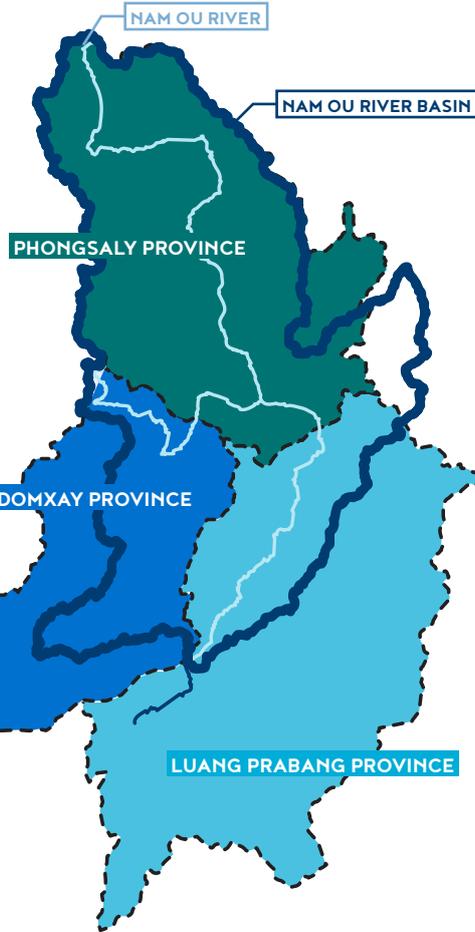
Mrs Chanpheng has been working as a Technical Officer at Samphan District Office for Natural Resources and Environment for nine years. "By participating in the project, I have learnt how important the Nam Ou River is for the livelihood of so many people. The Profile has given me in-depth information about the characteristics of the river basin". She added "another important experience was learning from other team members and sharing knowledge with others. It allowed me to put new skills immediately into practice".

OUDOMXAY PROVINCE

Khampai Vannasy, 42, Acting Head of Office, DONRE, La District



Mr Khampai, who has been working at Muang La District Office for Natural Resources and Environment for 8 years, participated in household interviews for the first time in his career. He learnt about data collection methodology and further applied these skills to collect data for three other tributaries in his district to support planning and decision-making. "By participating in this project, it enhanced my understanding of the importance of ecosystems and biodiversity, especially fish, which is critical for planning and management of the basin". He noted that floods have occurred more frequently in his district, partly due to changes in land use and other competing activities within the river basin. "For these reasons, I think the Nam Ou Profile provides important data to inform decision making. I have shared my experience working on the Profile with other colleagues and highlighted its significance for the sustainable development of this important river basin".



LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE

Souliyan Phomadith, 38, Head of Inspection Unit, DONRE, Nambak District



Mr Souliyan has been working with Nambak District Office for Natural Resources and Environment since 2008, and was part of the interview and data collection team in seven villages in Ngoy and Nambak districts. He noted that "the Profile is a good source of data. I learnt about what would be impacted and what would still be sustained depending on what development takes place. Also, I learnt about the livelihoods of the people, and the socio-economic conditions and needs of the villagers in the area". Mr Souliyan also learnt about effective interview techniques which he sees as useful for the future, noting "I already applied this technique for an Environmental Impact Assessment for a rubber plantation. This helped me to analyse the positive and negative aspects of the plantation".

VIENTIANE CAPITAL

Inthanongxay Heuangbundhit, 29, Technical Officer, DWR, MONRE



Mr Inthanongxay, working with the Department of Water Resources since 2013, was a team member for developing the Nam Ou Profile, responsible for mapping, zoning and management of both the survey and case study teams. As part of the Profile core management team, he conducted surveys in ten villages and participated in eight case studies. He was proud to be part of the project as he was able to gain new knowledge. He noted "the Project allowed me to learn new coordination skills which I was able to use when implementing many other projects afterwards. I also learnt how to design survey questions and improved my interviewing skills. These are very useful skills that can be adjusted and replicated for other river basins surveys. In addition, I was able to put my geographic information system expertise into practice throughout the development of the Profile".

VIENTIANE CAPITAL

Sounipha Xayakeo, 28, Technical Officer, DWR, MONRE



Ms Sounipha, working with the Department of Water Resources, participated in the Nam Ou River Basin Profile by conducting 300 household surveys across 15 villages. Participating in her first field trip, she learnt how to communicate with villagers, and how to apply survey techniques. "The Nam Ou River Basin Profile is the first Profile developed in Lao PDR, and I can see how it can be replicated in other river basins. I think it is a useful source of information for many stakeholders including government and private sector for planning and development purposes, and to sustain the livelihood of the villagers living along the River".

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