Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the

Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)

in the ASEAN Countries

What is the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Project?

Rivers play a vital role in sustaining life, supporting communities, and driving economies. The IRBM Project aims to protect these essential water systems across six ASEAN Member States. By improving river basin management, we can reduce pollution, secure freshwater flows, and prepare for climate change challenges.

IRBM Project Sites

This graphic is not drawn to scale and is provided for illustration purposes only.

Our Goal

To establish effective river basin management systems that keep rivers healthy, reduce pollution, and ensure enough clean water flows for people, nature, and livelihoods

Our Mission

We're working to strengthen how rivers are governed and managed by:

Reducing pollution from farms, factories, and other land-based activities

Protecting and conserving water flows for communities and ecosystems

Helping communities adapt to climate change through better planning and practices

How does the IRBM Project work?

We focus on four key areas to achieve the goal:

Understanding Our Rivers

We're conducting a thorough assessment to understand the current state of rivers and the challenges they face.

What's the result?

State of River Basin Reports that guide actions and decisions for better governance and management.

Strengthening River Management

We're putting policies and pilot projects in place to improve river governance and management.

What's included?

- **Pilot Projects:** Testing practical solutions for better river management, including feasibility studies, public consultations, and financial planning.
- **Better Policies and Tools:** Crafting strategies and action plans based on good practices, updated laws, and strengthened partnerships.

Building Knowledge and Skills

We're equipping communities, decision-makers, and experts with the knowledge and tools they need to care for rivers.

What's offered?

- Training programs on managing water resources effectively.
- Tools for monitoring water quality and progress.
- A platform for sharing knowledge and ideas.
- Opportunities to connect through forums, exchanges, and networking events.

Measuring Success

We're tracking our progress to ensure the project's impact is meaningful and sustainable.

How do we do this?

- Annual reviews to evaluate progress.
- Independent evaluations halfway through and at the end of the project.
- Documenting good practices and lessons learned for replication and scaling up.

Why does this matter?

Healthy rivers are the foundation of thriving communities, resilient ecosystems, and sustainable economies. Through the IRBM Project, ASEAN Member States are uniting to protect these vital resources, ensuring a better future for generations to come.

Project Information

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Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Executing Agency: Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Resource Facility

National Implementing Partners

Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

Ministry of Environment, Indonesia

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR

Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, Malaysia

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam

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Learn more about the IRBM Project