



# LANCANG-MEKONG ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION STRATEGY AND ACTION FRAMEWORK 2023-2027



澜沧江－湄公河环境合作中心  
Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center



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## 1 ► BACKGROUND

The Lancang-Mekong River flows through China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Thus, drinking water from the same river, the Lancang-Mekong countries are closely interconnected. The countries are in a stage of rapid economic development with broad prospects of cooperation. The six countries had a total population of 1.699 billion by 2021, accounting for 21.58%<sup>1</sup> of the world's population, and a total GDP of \$15.99 trillion in 2020, accounting for 18.87%<sup>2</sup> of Asia's entire GDP. While the region's rapid economic growth is accompanied by severe sustainable development challenges, nearly 8 million people in the region were affected by natural disasters in 2019, and nearly 4000 of its species were endangered in 2021.<sup>3</sup>

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Lancang-Mekong countries have actively built a community of shared future of peace and prosperity and worked together to address the region's economic, social, and environmental challenges.

On March 23, 2016, the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting was held in Sanya, Hainan, China, marking the official launch of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism. The shared vision of Lancang-Mekong cooperation is contributing to the socio-economic development of regional countries and enhancing the well-being of their people, narrowing the development gap among countries, supporting the ASEAN Community building as well as advancing South-South cooperation and enhancing the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On November 28, 2017, the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center (LMEC) was officially established. Guided by "implementing outcomes, constructing cooperatively", LMEC is dedicated to promoting pragmatic environment cooperation and enhancing policy dialogue and exchanges in the Lancang-Mekong region. The six countries have adopted and implemented the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022* and achieved good outcomes.

This *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework 2023-2027* will identify the priority areas of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation in the next five years, set out the content and timeline of the cooperation, and provide annual work plans for the regional flagship project based on the development stage and environmental cooperation paths of the countries.

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1. Data from UN, <https://data.un.org>

2. Data from World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?view=chart>

3. Data from UNEP, <https://wesr.unep.org/downloader>



## 2► COOPERATION HISTORY AND PROGRESS

After years of development, Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation has made positive progress and achieved significant results and has been unanimously recognized by the Lancang-Mekong countries as an excellent example of regional environmental cooperation.

### 2.1 Cooperation History

Since the Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation was officially proposed in 2016, Lancang-Mekong countries have actively cooperated in ecological and environmental protection, continuously enhancing mutual trust and achieving fruitful results with deepening collaboration.

In March 2016, at the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting, China proposed the initiative that China wishes to work with Mekong countries to establish a Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation center to strengthen technical cooperation, personnel exchanges and information sharing, and promote green, coordinated and sustainable development in the sub-region.

In January 2018, the Second Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leader's Meeting proposed to formulate a Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and jointly implement projects under the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative to promote Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation, in order to address the common environmental challenges in the region and promote the achievement of the goals of environmental protection and sustainable development.

In March 2019, *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)* was officially adopted by the Lancang-Mekong countries, which identified nine specific directions for Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation, including dialogue and cooperation on environmental policies, environmental capacity building, ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, urban environmental governance, rural environmental governance, environmental friendly technology and environmental protection industry, environmental data and information management, and environmental education and public awareness.

In August 2020, the Third Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting issued the "Vientiane Declaration of the Third Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting", which stated to "encourage further regional green and sustainable development by implementing the Mekong-Lancang Environmental Cooperation Strategy and the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative, with a view to contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", "conduct all these pertinent activities among MLC countries with the support of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center" to strengthen practical environmental cooperation.



## 2► COOPERATION HISTORY AND PROGRESS

In June 2021, the Sixth Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Foreign Minister ' s Meeting officially adopted the " Joint Statement on Enhancing Sustainable Development Cooperation of the Lancang-Mekong Countries "; the Lancang-Mekong countries reached a consensus on sustainable development, commended the progress made in the Lancang-Mekong environmental protection cooperation, and agreed to accelerate the implementation of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative, and make full use of the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center.

Guided by *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)*, Lancang-Mekong ecological and environmental cooperation has achieved positive progress, and the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative has become the flagship of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation. Centering on low-carbon sustainable infrastructure, Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation promotes the deepening and implementation of environmental policies in the region by primarily conducting demonstration projects.

### 2.2 Implementation Progress of *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)*

Based on the nine priority areas of the *Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy (2018-2022)*, the Lancang-Mekong countries cooperatively built the flagship project of the " Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative ", actively carried out a series of activities such as policy dialogue, demonstration cooperation, capacity building, and joint research, promoted the countries ' capacity building in the fields of climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation, and comprehensive environmental governance, and jointly promoted regional green, low-carbon, and sustainable development.

**(1) Roundtable dialogue and capacity building.** Under the "Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative" framework, more than 20 policy roundtable dialogues and capacity-building activities on regional sustainable development have been carried out, with more than 3,000 participants. With personnel from Lancang-Mekong countries' environmental, diplomatic, industrial, transportation, municipal, and other government departments, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, private sectors, financial institutions, and research institutions as well as the people from local communities in the region, environmental policy dialogues and exchanges on regional climate and environmental issues were continuously promoted, and high-quality regional development was collaboratively promoted. Meanwhile, focusing on the regional environmental hotspot issues and integrating the Lancang-Mekong countries ' needs for environmental governance, capacity-building and technical training activities in various areas (e.g., biodiversity conservation, climate change and low-carbon development, and comprehensive environmental governance) were carried out, mutual learning among Lancang-Mekong countries was promoted, and the level of comprehensive ecological and environmental management in the region was effectively improved.



## 2► COOPERATION HISTORY AND PROGRESS

**(2) Climate change adaptation and mitigation.** A series of dialogue activities such as "Lancang-Mekong Regional and Global Environmental Governance Roundtable Dialogue: Addressing Climate Change and Sustainable Infrastructure" and "Regional Climate Change and Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation Seminar" were held to strengthen exchanges and cooperation on climate change and low-carbon sustainable development in the Lancang-Mekong region, promote the development of a regional climate and environment cooperation network, build consensus on green development of regional industrial, transportation, energy, and other sectors, and enhance the participation and extensiveness of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation. Through joint research with the Lancang-Mekong countries' research institutions, private sectors, and international institutions on topics such as sustainable infrastructure construction, low-carbon investment and trade, low-carbon industrial parks, and sustainable energy, regional climate change and low-carbon development paths were explored and solutions for regional environmental policies mainstreaming and knowledge sharing were provided. A number of Low-Carbon projects were carried out to enhance Lancang-Mekong countries' ability to tackle climate change, and jointly promote regional low-carbon and sustainable development. The demonstration collaboration on Lancang-Mekong sustainable communities and low-carbon schools were launched, and a network of mangrove conservation communities with nature-based solutions was started building to promote community knowledge sharing and cooperation on climate adaptation.

**(3) Ecosystem management and biodiversity** Policy exchange activities such as "Lancang-Mekong Green Economic Development Belt: Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity and Sustainable Infrastructure" were organized to share and exchange views on the major topics such as ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable infrastructure construction. Joint research, including on sustainable infrastructure and biodiversity conservation as well as freshwater ecosystem management in the Lancang-Mekong region was carried out to explore the opportunities and challenges of the regional biodiversity conservation in depth and offer advice for sustainable development of the regional ecosystems. The project of Improving Ecosystem Management for Sustainable Livelihoods within the Framework of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation was implemented to promote the sustainable management of regional transboundary ecosystems and support regional biodiversity conservation, and specific demonstration projects were carried out.

**(4) Comprehensive environmental governance.** Policy exchange activities, such as "Lancang-Mekong Roundtable Dialogue on Water Environmental Management & Launching Ceremony of Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Yunnan Office" and "Lancang-Mekong Environmental Roundtable Dialogue on the Outlook for Strategic Environmental Assessment" were organized, and capacity-building activities on environmental impact assessment, water quality monitoring, industrial waste gas treatment, solid waste management, and chemical management were carried out to strengthen the exchange of regional environmental governance experience and pragmatically improve the level of sustainable environmental management and the Lancang-Mekong countries' capabilities in implementing the international environmental conventions. Demonstration cooperation projects such as the Nanta Provincial Middle School wastewater treatment project and the Nan'en Village domestic garbage collection and transportation project in Laos, the Baima City domestic wastewater treatment project in Cambodia, the regional atmospheric environment real-time automatic monitoring project, and the Lancang-Mekong environmental science joint laboratory project were implemented to play an exemplary role and promote the continuous improvement of the regional environment.



## 3► COOPERATION OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

### 3.1 Cooperation Objectives

The Lancang-Mekong countries are in the stage of rapid industrialization and urbanization. The main environmental priority of the region is how to coordinate between economic development and environmental protection and promote regional sustainable development in the economy, society, and environment.

The cooperation objectives of this Lancang-Mekong Environment Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework are as follows:

- ( 1 ) To facilitate regional sustainable development and inclusive growth, jointly address global and regional environmental challenges, and promote the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the Lancang-Mekong countries;
- ( 2 ) To provide platforms for environment and development policy dialogue among Lancang-Mekong Countries and strengthen cooperation among stakeholders, such as local governments, environmental experts, and think tanks;
- ( 3 ) To pursue the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources <sup>4</sup>;
- ( 4 ) To enhance cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation, improve capacity to address climate change, and promote regional knowledge sharing on climate change;
- ( 5 ) To facilitate cooperation in urban and rural environmental governance in the Lancang-Mekong countries, promote environmentally friendly technical cooperation, and improve regional environmental management capacity; and
- ( 6 ) To promote knowledge sharing on sustainable infrastructure in the region and raise awareness of regional environmental issues.

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4. Article 1 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



## 3► COOPERATION OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

### 3.2 Cooperation Principles

*Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework 2023-2027* shall follow the cooperation principles prescribed in the "Sanya Declaration of the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting", "Phnom Penh Declaration of the Second Mekong -Lancang Cooperation Leaders' Meeting", "Vientiane Declaration of the Third Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting", and the "Joint Statement on Enhancing Sustainable Development Cooperation of the Lancang-Mekong Countries", champion the principles of consensus, equality, mutual consultation and coordination, voluntarism, joint contribution and shared benefits, and respect the United Nations Charter and international laws, as well as the domestic laws, regulations and procedures of each member country.

Therefore, Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation should:

- ( 1 ) Mutually respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with international law and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries;
- ( 2 ) Adhere to sustainability, ensure the stability of cooperation and fully consider the national conditions and development stages of the Lancang-Mekong countries. Cooperation projects should be agreed upon by the Lancang-Mekong countries through consultation, and any revision of the Strategy should be subject to the consensus of Lancang-Mekong countries;
- ( 3 ) Uphold the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, complement and coordinate with existing regional cooperation mechanisms, and be open to the participation and contribution of international and regional organizations, non-governmental organization, private sectors, and other institutions ; and
- ( 4 ) Support and contribute to peace, stability, sustainable development and prosperity of the sub-region and to strengthen mutual trust and understanding and join forces in addressing economic, social and environmental challenges faced by the sub-region to realize its enormous potentials for development.



## 4►PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

*Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework 2023-2027* is the principal document to guide the Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation. LMEC, as the primary implementing agency, will facilitate the implementation of the “Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative” and focus on building the Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green and Sustainable Infrastructure. Based on the goals of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation and the member countries’ needs for sustainable development, LMEC will promote policy dialogue, capacity building, thematic research, and demonstration cooperation with the priority areas as the main directions of cooperation. The specific priority areas of the cooperation are as follows:

### 4.1 Roundtable Dialogue and Capacity Building

Conduct dialogue and exchange in the field of environmental policy, exchange views on global and regional environmental issues, share experience and best practices, explore the challenges and opportunities of the regional ecological environment and sustainable development, and promote the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### 4.1.1 Roundtable Dialogue

Strengthen policy exchanges and cooperation through roundtable dialogues and other activities, and promote exchanges among governments, international organizations, research institutions, and private sectors in the Lancang-Mekong region. Main activities will include:

- ( 1 ) To hold Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation roundtable dialogues, carry out multi-level, multi-channel and partnership-based roundtable dialogue activities, and deepen the role of the roundtable dialogue as a platform for Lancang-Mekong environmental policy dialogue and pragmatic cooperation;
- ( 2 ) To carry out joint research on the Lancang-Mekong environmental policy and implementation systems, environmental law enforcement and network construction, and the Lancang-Mekong regional environmental cooperation outlook; and
- ( 3 ) To conduct regional cross-sectoral policy dialogues and multi-stakeholder dialogues involving governments, think tanks, academia and private/financial sectors, and local communities.



## 4►PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

### 4.1.2 Capacity Building

Strengthen the "Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative: Capacity Building Partnership", carry out the environmental governance and leadership campaign, and enhance the sustainable development management capacity of the Lancang-Mekong countries. Main activities will include:

- ( 1 ) To carry out the environmental leadership campaign in the region and improve regional environmental planning and management capabilities through capacity-building activities;
- ( 2 ) To build the Lancang-Mekong environmental monitoring capacity-building network so as to improve the environmental monitoring and detection capacity; and
- ( 3 ) To strengthen cooperation with international organizations and cooperate in capacity-building projects with multi-stakeholder involvement.

### 4.2 Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services it provides, support all forms of life on Earth and underpin our human and planetary health and well-being, economic growth and sustainable development <sup>5</sup>. The Lancang-Mekong River Basin is one of the most bio-diverse regions globally, and the countries in the region will jointly promote cooperation in ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. Main activities will include:

- ( 1 ) To promote mainstreaming of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including through the integration of the multiple values of biodiversity into policies, regulations, planning processes, poverty reduction strategies and economic accounting, and strengthen cross-sectoral coordinating mechanisms on biodiversity <sup>5</sup>. And facilitate the Lancang-Mekong countries to implement the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)* and the *Kunming Declaration*;
- ( 2 ) To assess the health of aquatic ecosystems in the Lancang-Mekong region so as to provide a scientific basis for improving the management capacity of regional aquatic ecosystems;
- ( 3 ) To promote regional biodiversity value assessment, ecosystem service assessment, as well as environmental and social impact assessment of energy and infrastructure projects, conduct regional invasive species survey and monitoring, and enhance regional ecosystem service functions;
- ( 4 ) To promote the construction of transboundary nature reserves and ecological corridors, ensure the regular migration of species, and support the coordinated development of sustainable infrastructure and ecosystem protection in Lancang-Mekong countries;

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5. Kunming Declaration: Declaration from the High-Level Segment of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2020 (Part 1) under the theme: "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth"



## 4►PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

( 5 ) To implement joint research and demonstration projects on ecosystem protection and restoration as well as community livelihood improvement; and

( 6 ) To include the concepts of the value of nature-based solutions (NbS) for the ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation.

### 4.3 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

The Lancang-Mekong countries support the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* and its *Paris Agreement* and is guided by their principles, including the principle of the equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances. Taking climate change adaptation and mitigation as a priority areas of climate actions, South-South cooperation on climate change and synergies between environmental protection and sustainable development in the region shall be promoted, and concrete actions for climate change adaptation and mitigation should be facilitated.

#### 4.3.1 Climate Change Adaptation

The impact of climate change is intensifying, which has become one of the most severe challenges facing the Lancang-Mekong region and requires joint efforts and coordinated action of countries in climate change adaptation. Main activities will include:

( 1 ) To carry out research cooperation on enhancing Lancang-Mekong biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to climate change and establish a climate adaptation method and toolbox for the Lancang-Mekong countries;

( 2 ) To facilitate joint research and demonstration cooperation on Nature-based Solutions, build "Lancang-Mekong Nature-based Climate Solutions: Climate Adaptation Cooperation Network", and strengthen cooperation on climate resilient infrastructure and climate resilient cities in Lancang-Mekong countries;

( 3 ) To promote the development of regional good practice cases and guidelines for climate change adaptation and encourage the specific implementation of ecosystem-based climate change adaptation projects;

( 4 ) To cooperate in developing and implementing climate adaptation projects for low-carbon and green communities in the Lancang-Mekong countries;

( 5 ) To cooperate on climate adaptation and resilience, develop and implement regional green value chain and climate adaptation demonstration projects, and promote the establishment of regional low-carbon and green value chain partnerships; and



## 4►PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

( 6 ) To promote policies studies for climate change adaptation, and organize training to share experiences in climate change management and adaptation.

### 4.3.2 Climate Change Mitigation

To promote climate change mitigation actions and low emission development, the Lancang-Mekong countries adhere to the principle and targets set out in the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* and its *Paris Agreement* as well as the institutional arrangement for Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and implement the respective NDC. Main activities will include:

( 1 ) To promote the integration of climate mitigation action into national sustainable development planning, national strategies and actions plans and advocate bio-economy, circular economy and green economy, low-carbon and sustainable styles of production and life;

( 2 ) To facilitate synergies between climate change response and environmental quality improvement in the region, especially capacity building and cooperation in areas including urban climate change response and environmental quality improvement, green freight, and emergency monitoring;

( 3 ) To promote cooperation in building low-carbon and green industrial parks, encourage exchanges and experience sharing in low-carbon technology, energy conservation, carbon credit and environmental protection, develop relevant policy and technology application tools for the Lancang-Mekong countries, and explore regional low-carbon development paths;

( 4 ) To promote the capacity building and exchanges regarding renewable energy technology in the fields of energy storage, grid integration of renewable energy, and green transportation, including vehicles using electric, biofuels, and hydrogen gas ; and

( 5 ) To carry out multi-stakeholder exchanges and cooperation and promote research on climate investment and financing standards and systems for sustainable infrastructure.

### 4.4 Environmental Quality Improvement

The Lancang-Mekong countries will strengthen cooperation in urban and rural environmental management in areas such as air pollution, water pollution, and solid waste to promote regional environmental quality improvement.

#### 4.4.1 Air Quality Improvement

Promote the exchange and cooperation on the Lancang-Mekong countries' policy frameworks of air pollution control and improve the quality of the regional air environment. Main activities will include:



## 4►PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

- ( 1 ) To conduct exchanges on air pollution control policies and air quality improvement best practices in the Lancang-Mekong countries and promote cooperation on air pollutant monitoring methods, air quality standards and technical guidelines development;
- ( 2 ) To carry out experience sharing on monitoring and treatment of urban vehicle exhaust, stationary source emissions, industry site emission and biomass incineration pollution; promote knowledge sharing and cooperation via online air quality data accessibility on urban air quality improvement in the region; and
- ( 3 ) To carry out capacity-building and research on air quality improvement, including monitoring and assessment, satellite monitoring, data analysis and control measures for air pollution.

### 4.4.2 Water Quality Improvement

Promote cooperation in improving the water quality in the Lancang-Mekong countries. Main activities will include:

- ( 1 ) To promote improvement of the water environment quality in Lancang-Mekong cities, including groundwater and surface water pollution prevention and control such as domestic wastewater management, decentralized wastewater treatment and industrial wastewater management, and promote an integrated urban water environment governance and management model; and policy and technical cooperation on water quality monitoring ;
- ( 2 ) To carry out experience sharing and technical exchanges of rural domestic wastewater treatment; and
- ( 3 ) To carry out experience sharing and technical exchanges in industrial wastewater standards, water quality assessment, pollution source control, and technical guidelines, etc.



## 4►PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

### 4.4.3 Integrated Solid Waste Management

Strengthen the Lancang-Mekong countries' cooperation in the comprehensive management of plastic waste and persevere in reducing the impact of land-based plastic waste on the river and marine environment. Main activities will include:

( 1 ) To promote circular economy and carry out comprehensive management practices of industrial, commercial and domestic waste, including plastics, hazardous waste, and e-waste, improve management awareness, and promote their recycling together with discussions on promotion of alternatives to plastic where possible; and

( 2 ) To organize relevant activities such as scientific research, technical exchanges, waste management innovation, public awareness raising campaigns, and good practice sharing and conduct joint research on plastic (including microplastic) pollution and impacts, monitoring methods, and land-based pollution control.

### 4.5 Knowledge Sharing and Awareness Raising

Build the Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green and Sustainable Infrastructure, support the regional countries and various stakeholders to build capacity enhancement and collaboration networks, and provide comprehensive solutions for green, low-carbon, and sustainable infrastructure. Main activities will include:

( 1 ) To promote the sharing of good practices on regional transportation and ecosystems, energy and climate, green industrial parks and circular economy, natural capital and green finance, nature-based solutions etc., relying on the Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green and Sustainable Infrastructure;

( 2 ) To encourage the open sharing and exchange of cutting-edge research and knowledge products for regional sustainable development and jointly explore effective green and low-carbon development paths; and

( 3 ) To carry out community cooperation and organize youth forums, community forums, and volunteer activities, raise public awareness of Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation, protect the rights and interests of vulnerable groups, including women and children, and the elderly, and facilitate the public of the LMC to conduct exchanges and improve awareness in the areas of ecology, environment and climate change.



## 5► IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

### 5.1 Institutional Arrangement

( 1 ) Lancang-Mekong environmental authorities from the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will provide guidance and support for the implementation of this strategy and action framework;

( 2 ) The environmental authorities of the Lancang-Mekong countries are the designated official focal points for this strategy and action framework; and

( 3 ) LMEC will be responsible for the routine contacts in implementing this strategy and action framework and will organize activities in the priority areas for cooperation together with relevant institutions from the Lancang-Mekong countries.

### 5.2 Cooperation Forms

The Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation will be mainly conducted in the form of multilateral cooperation, while bilateral cooperation in specific areas will also be carried out as appropriate. The primary forms of cooperation include seminars, training programs, exchanges, demonstrations, pilot projects and joint research.

Regional and national development agencies, governments and relevant agencies of other countries, international organizations, and private sector will be encouraged to support and participate in the Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation. Local agencies and organizations in the Lancang-Mekong countries will also be encouraged to join in Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation to expand the cooperation both in breadth and in depth.

### 5.3 Funding Support

Funding resources and support for implementing this strategy and action framework will include but not limited to:

( 1 ) Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Fund;

( 2 ) Funding provided by the Chinese government;

( 3 ) Funding support from international organizations, partners and third countries;

( 4 ) Funding support from other national and regional organizations;



## 5► IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

( 5 ) Funding support from private sectors; and

( 6 ) Funding and in-kind support from the Lancang-Mekong countries.

The above-mentioned funding will be used to support the implementation of this Strategy and Action Framework as well as other activities in the environment field agreed upon by the Lancang-Mekong countries.

### 5.4 Review and Evaluation

The Lancang-Mekong countries will jointly carry out relevant assessment procedures for the implementation of this Strategy and Action Framework. The assessment will combine self-assessment and public review based on the implementation of the specific activities included in this strategy and action framework. The evaluation report will provide a reference for future Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation and for the stakeholders.



## 6► ACTION PLAN

Priority Areas	Actions	Activities	Schedule
Priority Area 1: Roundtable Dialogue and Capacity Building	Action 1: Roundtable Dialogue	Activity 1-1: Roundtable dialogue on green, low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure knowledge sharing to exchange views on global and regional hot environmental issues	Once a year
		Activity 1-2: Seminars on and regional core environmental issues	Once a year
		Activity 1-3: Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation working group meeting	Once a year
	Action 2: Capacity Building	Activity 2-1: Carrying out the Lancang-Mekong environmental governance leadership campaign	2023-2027
		Activity 2-2: Organizing capacity-building activities for Lancang-Mekong environmental technical officers	2023-2027
		Activity 2-3: Organizing capacity-building projects with multi-stakeholder involvement to improve the regional countries' environmental protection awareness and capacity	2023-2027
Priority Area 2: Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity Conservation	Action 1: Roundtable Dialogue	Activity 1-1: Roundtable dialogue on Lancang-Mekong ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation	2023-2027
	Action 2: Joint Research	Activity 2-1: Researching on synergies between sustainable infrastructure and ecosystem protection in the Lancang-Mekong region	2023-2027
	Action 3: Demonstration Cooperation	Activity 3-1: Promoting the project of ecosystem protection, restoration, and community livelihood improvement demonstration in the Lancang-Mekong region	2023-2027
		Activity 3-2: Advancing demonstration cooperation on ecological remote sensing monitoring in Lancang-Mekong countries	2023-2027
Priority Area 3: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	Action 1: Roundtable Dialogue	Activity 1-1: Promoting international symposium on climate change and low-carbon and sustainable infrastructure in the Lancang-Mekong countries	2023-2027
		Activity 1-2: Conducting thematic dialogues on climate investment and financing for the private sectors	2023-2027
		Activity 1-3: Promoting activities to enhance youth leadership in response to climate change under the Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative	2023-2027
	Action 2: Joint Research	Activity 2-1: Developing a Lancang-Mekong climate adaptation policies and technology application toolkit	2023-2027
		Activity 2-2: Researching on case studies and pathways towards sustainable infrastructure and innovative reduction of emissions in the Lancang-Mekong region	2023-2027
	Action 3: Demonstration Cooperation	Activity 3-1: Promoting cooperation in the construction of Lancang-Mekong low-carbon industrial park demonstration zone	2023-2027
		Activity 3-2: Promoting the demonstration project of Lancang-Mekong climate adaptive communities	2023-2027

## 6► ACTION PLAN

Priority Areas	Actions	Activities	Schedule
Priority Area 4: Environmental Quality Improvement	Action 1: Capacity Building	Activity 1-1: Carrying out technical capacities buildings on air pollution control policies, air pollution monitoring and data analysis, remote sensing of air pollution, impact assessment of air pollution and related control measures in Lancang-Mekong countries	2023-2027
		Activity 1-2: Implementing experience sharing and technical exchange on domestic wastewater treatment, water quality monitoring, modeling, remote sensing, data analysis, and control measures in Lancang-Mekong countries	2023-2027
		Activity 1-3: Promoting improvement of plastic waste management capacity in Lancang-Mekong countries	2023-2027
		Activity 1-4: Promoting improvement of environmental management capacity of chemicals in Lancang-Mekong countries	2023-2027
	Action 2: Joint Research	Activity 2-1: Researching on Lancang-Mekong domestic waste and plastic (including microplastic) pollution control	2023-2027
		Activity 2-2: Promoting the research on air quality assessment and air pollution control	2023-2027
		Activity 2-3: Research and dialogue on biomass combustion control and governance	2023-2027
	Action 3: Demonstration Cooperation	Activity 3-1: Promoting the demonstration project of urban atmospheric environment monitoring in Lancang-Mekong countries, including air quality monitoring, assessment of air pollution sources and control measures, air quality standards and technical guidelines development	2023-2027
		Activity 3-2: Promoting demonstration cooperation in water environment treatment technology and equipment in typical areas in the Lancang-Mekong region, including water quality monitoring, assessment of water pollution sources and control measures, water quality standards and technical guidelines development.	2023-2027
		Activity 3-3: Promoting demonstration cooperation in circular economy in the Lancang-Mekong region	2023-2027
Priority Area 5: Knowledge Sharing and Awareness Raising	Action 1: The Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green, and Sustainable Infrastructure	Activity 1-2: Building the Lancang-Mekong Knowledge Hub for Low-Carbon, Green, and Sustainable Infrastructure	2023-2027 initiated in 2021
		Activity 1-2: Carrying out frontier research on sustainable development and open sharing and exchange of knowledge products in the Lancang-Mekong region	2023-2027
	Action 2: Capacity Building	Activity 2-1: Promoting the improvement of knowledge sharing capacity for Lancang-Mekong sustainable development	2023-2027
		Activity 2-2: Promoting environmental protection awareness activities for youth	2023-2027



## Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Strategy and Action Framework 2023-2027

### Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center

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ADD: 5 Houyingfang Hutong, Xicheng District, Beijing, 100035, P.R. China  
TEL: +86-10-82268221  
FAX: +86-10-82200579  
EMAIL: [li.xia@fecomee.org.cn](mailto:li.xia@fecomee.org.cn)  
WEB: <http://www.lmec.org.cn>

