

**12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum
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**The Country Presentation on
3R and Circular Economy in Cambodia**

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1. Country profile

- Cambodia is situated in South-East Asia, shared boarder with Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam
- Capital City: Phnom Penh, and major cities: Sihanoukville, Siem Rap, Battambang
- Area: 181,035 Km2 with population of 17Million and GDP of USD 2,713 per capita (2024)
- Cambodia is a fast-growing economic country in Southeast Asia with 7% of annual growth in the last two decades and 6% after COVID-19
- Key sectors in Economy: Agriculture, Garment and manufacturing, tourism and construction
- Vision to reach an upper middle-income status by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050
- Total waste generation in the country: about 4 M tons/year, ~ 70% is collected and disposed to landfill
- Daily Waste generation per capita: 0.8-1.0Kg for urban areas and 0.5-0.8Kg for rural areas



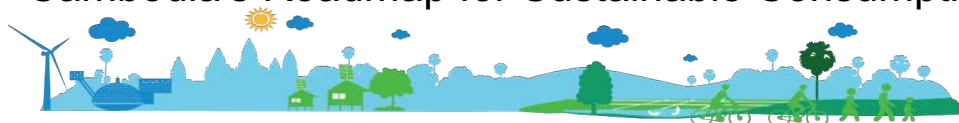
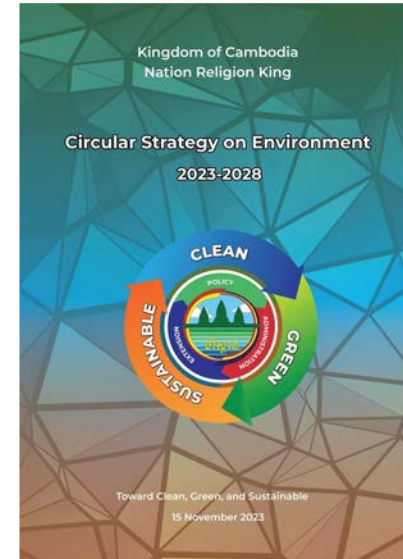
2. Initiatives/Achievements of 3R and CE

A. Legal framework

- Environment and Natural Resources Code erected in 2023
- Cambodia's Investment Law
- Sub-Decree 169 on Plastic Bag Management (2017)
- Sub-degree No.113 on urban waste management (2015).
- Sub-decree No. 235 on the management of sewage system and wastewater treatment (2017)

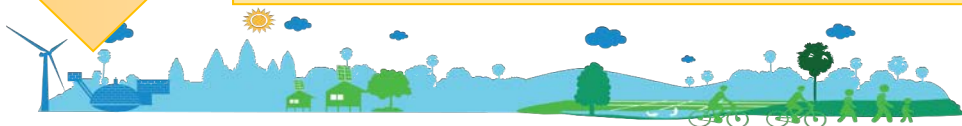
B. Policy Framework

- Pentagonal strategy, phase I, 2023-2028
- Long Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality 2050
- Circular Strategy on Environment, 2023-2028
- Economy Policy on Municipal Solid Waste Management 2020-2030 (2021).
- Cambodia Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Strategy and Action Plan for Industry and SME 2021-2030
- Policy on Urban Solid Waste Management 2020-2030 (2021) and Policy Matrix on Single Use Plastic (2022)
- Phnom Penh Sustainable City Plan 2018-2030 and sustainable strategic plan for 7 secondary cities
- Phnom Penh Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2035
- Cambodia Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2034
- Cambodia's Roadmap for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) 2022-2035



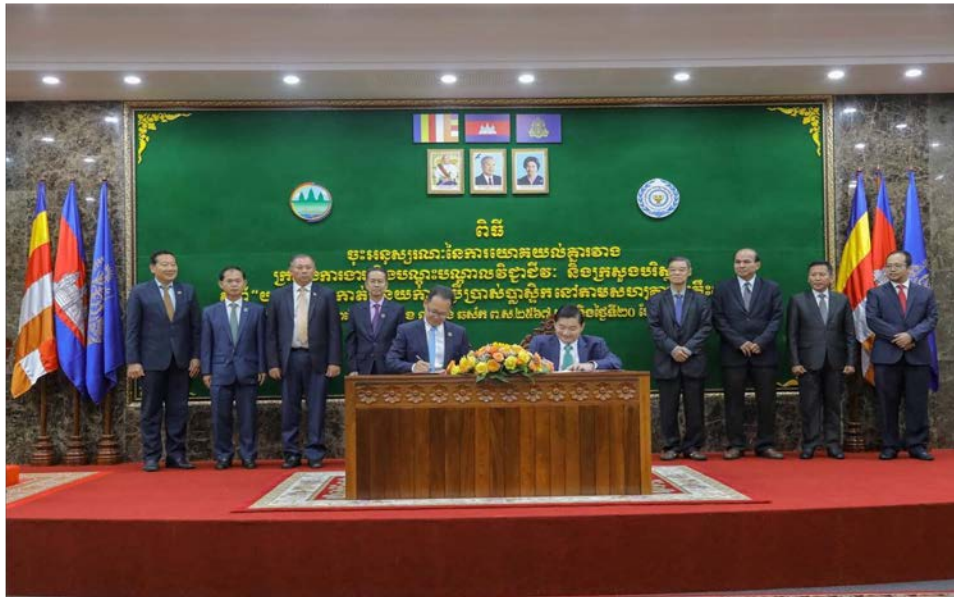
2. Initiatives/Achievements of 3R and CE

On-going implementation of Solid Waste Management Reform

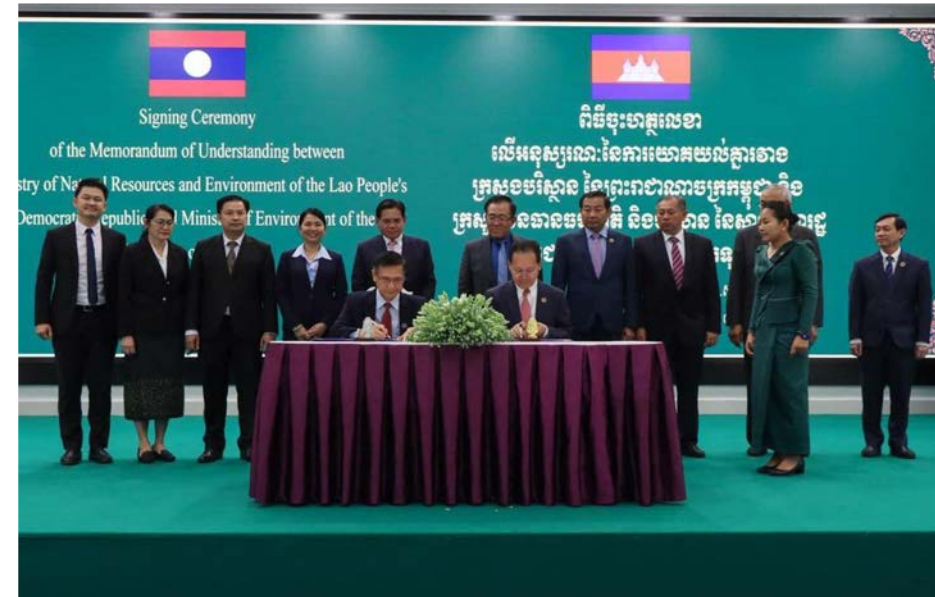


2. Initiatives/Achievements of 3R and CE

MoU between MoE and Ministries, Provincial Administrations, NGOs and relevant institutions on Reducing of Plastic Use Campaign under the theme “Today, I Do Not Use Plastic Bag”



MoU between Ministry of Environment of Cambodia and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of The Laos People’s Democratic Republic on Cooperation on Environment and Plastic Pollution Reduction along Mekong River, 12th September 2024.



2. Initiatives/Achievements of 3R and CE

On-going Plastic Campaigns

“**Today, I Do Not Use Plastic Bag**” started from Sep 2023 to Dec 2024: engaged more than 10 million people across all walk of life in the country in stopping using plastic bags and clean up plastic waste from public areas, Tonle Sap lake and all water sources.



2. Initiatives/Achievements of 3R and CE

On-going campaign to clean Cambodia

“Clean Cambodia Khmer Can Do” Get involved 4.97 million people all across of life to do cleaning and collect garbage in their vicinities for at least 15 minutes every Saturday.

«កម្ពុជាស្អាត_ខ្មែរធ្វើបាន»
អ្នកចូលរួមសរុប ៤,៩៧លាន អង្គ/នាក់
ចាប់ផ្តើមថ្ងៃទី១៥ ឧសភា ២០២៤ រហូត ថ្ងៃទី២៤ ធ្នូ ២០២៤
អ្នកចូលរួម
ថ្ងៃទី២៤ ខែធ្នូ ឆ្នាំ២០២៤
១៨ ៨០១ អង្គ/នាក់

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ស្រីសម្បទា ១១៣ អង្គ
លោកគ្រូ អ្នកគ្រូ ៤៩៣ នាក់
មន្ត្រីរាជការ ៤៥៩ នាក់

23

The infographic features a map of Cambodia with lines connecting various regions to a central graphic of a hand holding a recycling symbol. It includes a thumbs-up icon and the number 23.



2. Initiatives/Achievements of 3R and CE

- Clean Cambodia, No solid Waste and Plastic waste along National Roads in 2025
- National Committee on solid waste management (inter-ministerial and provincial level) to steering from the upstream to downstream of management
- Promote waste separation at the sources (Waste Bank)
- Reduce plastic production, consumption, and disposal
- Promote plastic waste recycling in Cambodia
- Promote plastic alternatives.

Most common alternative products on the market include:

- ☐ Straws made from paper, starch, or bamboo
- ☐ Bags made from paper or bioplastic
- ☐ Food containers made from plant by product (such as sugarcane bagas and areca leaf)
- ☐ Plastic bag charge at supermarket and mart.



3. Challenges

- Increasing solid waste generation in cities and district centers create more burden and more attention by gov't Limited capacity, technology, infrastructure and resources for sound wastes handling and landfills management,
- Limited investment entities in waste management and recycling with promoting eco-friendly technology and practices by private public participations
- The private sector concession model is not working effectively to deliver the quality of services demanded by the public
- Limited awareness and participation in waste reduction, separation, and handling, resulting in some wastes are mismanaged and non-recycled
- Organic waste is dominant but little turning into resource
- Approximately one million ton of plastic waste per year
- 210 landfills (majority are open, 10 controlled; and one sanitary landfill).



4. Way forward

- Continue the implementation of the Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028 toward Clean, Green, and Sustainable (*Under the public campaigns 1. “Today, I do not use the plastic bag”, 2. “Clean Cambodia, Khmer can do” 3. Clean national roads- no plastic, 4. Green bud- plant trees*)
- Mobilize resources for institutional strengthening, capacity building, and piloting waste separation programs at sources for sub-national levels and enhance 3Rs promotion and citizen awareness and participation.
- Finalizing and implementation of new regulation for single-use plastic management and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) with voluntarily under Environment and Natural Resources Code. Enhance solid waste management including, policy matrix on reducing plastics use and biodegradable plastic/plastic alternatives
- Introduce “No plastic zone initiatives” into tourism sectors, particularly recreation areas, resorts, etc.
- Promote the implementation smart cities competition, and other eco-friendly activities
- Take measures to encourage major industries relying on single-use plastic to develop easily recyclable product designs and piloting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme to see the opportunities and challenges for further implementations
- Promote investment in wastes treatment, recycling, and landfills and plastic credits implementation and recommendations for Cambodia.
- To Promote investment in wastes treatment, recycling, and landfills.



Thank you!

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