



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Peace – Independence – Democracy – Unity – Prosperity

Province of Khammouane

No. 424 / Governor

Khammouane, 18 November 2025

Decision

On the appointment of a Steering and Management Committee responsible for the implementation of the Hinboun Geopark, Khammouane Province

- Pursuant to the Law on Local Governance, as amended No. 78/NA dated 20 March 2025 on Local Governance (as amended);
- Pursuant to the notification of the Prime Minister's Office No. 393/PM dated 14 March 2023 regarding directions for the implementation of geopark actions in the Lao PDR.

The Governor of the Province hereby decides:

Article 1: Location and Organizational Structure

The Hinboun Geopark (hereinafter referred to as the “Hinboun Geopark Management Committee”), abbreviated as HBGMC (CGPHB/HBGPC), is an organizational unit under the Phouhinpoun National Park of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment of Khammouane Province (PAEO).

Its role is to serve as the secretariat and to ensure monitoring of the establishment of the Hinboun Geopark for the Vice-President of the Provincial Governance Committee, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment, other concerned Provincial Departments, the Department of Forestry, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, based on a sustainable management model in accordance with the criteria of the UNESCO Global Geopark.

Article 2: Appointment of the Steering and Management Committees of the Hinboun Geopark

1) *Steering Committee*

1. The Vice-President of the Provincial Governance Committee overseeing socio-cultural affairs, as Chairperson;
2. The Vice-President of the Khounkham District Governance Committee, as Vice-Chairperson;
3. The Vice-President of the Nakai District Governance Committee, as Vice-Chairperson;
4. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment, as Member;
5. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Education and Sports, as Member;
6. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, as Member;
7. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Industry and Commerce, as Member;
8. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Foreign Affairs, as Member;
9. The Chairperson of the Commune/Governance Committee (three communes within the geopark territory), as Member;
10. The Deputy Director of the District Office of Agriculture and Environment of Khounkham District, as Member;
11. The Deputy Director of the District Office of Agriculture and Environment of Nakai District, as Member.

Rights and Duties :

- Define the development strategy of the Hinboun Geopark;
- Encourage, supervise, guide, and advise the Technical Committee and the Secretariat in the regular implementation of actions included in the geopark management plan;
- Convene consultation meetings within the Steering Committee to share responsibilities in the detailed and clear preparation of each task for implementation;
- Review and propose to higher authorities the adoption of regulations, agreements, and technical recommendations related to geopark actions in the province;
- Participate in quarterly and annual research and consultation meetings with the Technical Management Committee and provide guidance for strategic planning of geopark development;
- Appoint personnel to the Hinboun Geopark Management Committee according to their level of responsibility;
- Verify, validate, and monitor the implementation of specified programs;
- Act as an advisory body providing support and guidance to the geopark governance structure.

2) *Hinboun Geopark Management Committee*

1. One person appointed by the Head of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment as Geopark Director;
2. One person appointed by the Head of the Provincial Department of Industry and Commerce as Technical Officer in charge of Geological Heritage;
3. One person appointed by the Head of the Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism as Technical Officer in charge of Tourism;
4. One person appointed by the Head of the Provincial Department of Education and Sports as Technical Officer in charge of Education;
5. One person appointed by the Head of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment as Technical Officer in charge of Environment;
6. One person appointed by the Head of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment as Technical Officer in charge of Agriculture, Land Management, and Rural Development.

Rights and Duties:

- Implement the geopark management strategy;
- Organize and coordinate human, technical, and financial resources with partners;
- Ensure planning, monitoring, and evaluation of implemented actions;
- Coordinate with all relevant stakeholders (local authorities, local actors, and communities) to facilitate the implementation of all geopark activities;
- Research, consult, and compile information on geosites and submit them to the government for review for potential inscription as a UNESCO Global Geopark;
- Prepare operational documents, reviewed by the Scientific Committee, to study and present the provincial geopark approved and designated by the government as a UNESCO Global Geopark;
- Maintain a list of names and contact details and coordinate geological activities with each committee member;
- Draft a development strategy and five-year, annual, and quarterly operational plans to ensure coherence across implementation periods;
- Organize regular monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual review and reporting meetings to the Steering Committee and seek guidance;
- Perform other rights and duties assigned by higher authorities.

3) Scientific Committee

Scientists or experts serving on the Scientific Committee may come from academic, private, or civil society backgrounds, including international experts residing in Laos. The establishment of the Scientific Committee falls under the responsibility of the Department of Forestry (DOF), in close coordination with the PAEO, which oversees the creation of the National Geoparks Commission.

Affiliated institutions include:

1. Faculty of Natural Sciences
2. Faculty of Social Sciences
3. Faculty of Forestry Sciences
4. Faculty of Environmental Sciences
5. Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
6. Faculty of Engineering
7. Faculty of Geology and Mining
8. Faculty of Agronomy
9. Recognized national or international independent experts and/or consultants

Rights and Duties:

- Provide technical support and advice to the Steering Committee and Management Committee in implementing geopark actions;
- Advise governance and management structures on conservation, research, and enhancement of geological and cultural heritage;
- Ensure scientific rigor;
- Review, update, and edit scientific survey data;
- Participate in surveys, compile scientific data to support geopark activities, and produce reports for the Steering and Technical Management Committees;
- Verify and validate scientific information;
- Attend annual and other meetings organized by the relevant Steering and Management Committees of the Hinboun Geopark;
- Coordinate with international organizations and relevant stakeholders to provide technical support for the implementation of the Hinboun Geopark.

4) Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is composed of:

1. Civil society organizations operating within the Hinboun Geopark area;
2. Operators representing economic units (guesthouses, tourism site operators, restaurants) and private sector entities within the Hinboun Geopark;
3. Agricultural and handicraft production groups within the Hinboun Geopark.

Rights and Duties:

- Provide advice, opinions, and proposals on various actions to the Provincial Steering Committee of the Hinboun Geopark;
- Participate in various activities of the Hinboun Geopark.

Article 3: Sources of Funding and Implementation

Funding sources for the implementation of the Hinboun Geopark project include:

1. State budget;
2. Funding from activities or projects implemented within the geopark area or neighboring areas that impact the geopark, such as the KARST project funded by French cooperation;
3. Contributions from individuals, legal entities, and public and private organizations, both national and international;
4. Other lawful funding sources in accordance with applicable regulations.

Article 4: Entry into Force

This Decision shall enter into force as of the date of its signature.

Governor of Khammouane Province

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