



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Peace – Independence – Democracy – Unity and Prosperity

PRIME MINISTER

No. 001/PM
Vientiane Capital, 12 January 2026

DECREE

**On the appointment of a National Commission for the implementation of
Geoparks in the Lao PDR**

- Pursuant to the Law on the Government of the Lao PDR, revised version No. 03/National Assembly dated 16 November 2021;
- Pursuant to the proposal letter of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment No. 2635/MAE dated 10 December 2025.

The Prime Minister hereby decides:

Article 1: Establishment of a National Commission for Geoparks in the Lao PDR

To appoint a National Commission for the implementation of Geoparks in the Lao PDR, composed as detailed below:

1) *Steering Committee of the National Commission*

1. H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Environment – **Chairperson**;
2. H.E. the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Environment – **Permanent Vice-Chairperson**;
3. H.E. the Vice-Minister of Industry and Commerce – **Member**;
4. H.E. the Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism – **Member**;
5. H.E. the Vice-Minister of Education and Sports – **Member**;
6. H.E. the Vice-Minister of Public Security – **Member**;
7. H.E. the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs – **Member**;
8. H.E. the Vice-Minister of National Defense – **Member**;
9. H.E. the Vice-President of the Provincial Governance (territory proposed for designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark) – **Member**.

Article 2: Rights and Duties of the Steering Committee of the National Commission

The Steering Committee of the National Commission shall have the following rights and duties:

- To lead, supervise, and regularly support the implementation of Geoparks actions in the Lao PDR;
- To review and submit for approval by higher authorities all regulations, technical recommendations, and agreements related to geopark actions in the Lao PDR;
- To regularly report to the Government on the implementation of Geoparks actions in the Lao PDR.

Article 3: Composition of the Technical Committee of the National Commission

The Technical Committee of the National Commission shall be composed as follows:

1. The Director of the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – **Chairperson**;
2. The Deputy Director of the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – **Permanent Deputy Chairperson**;
3. The Deputy Director of the Department of Geology and Minerals, Ministry of Industry and Commerce – **Member**;
4. The Deputy Director of the Department of Science Management, Ministry of Education and Sports – **Member**;
5. The Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Education and Sports – **Member**;
6. The Deputy Director of the Department of Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Tourism – **Member**;
7. The Deputy Director of the Department of Land Use Planning and Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – **Member**;
8. The Deputy Director of the Department of Tourism Development, Ministry of Culture and Tourism – **Member**;
9. The Deputy Director of the Institute for Agricultural, Forestry and Rural Development Research – **Member**;
10. The Deputy Director of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – **Member**;
11. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment (territory proposed as a UNESCO Global Geopark prefiguration area) – **Member**;
12. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism (territory proposed as a UNESCO Global Geopark prefiguration area) – **Member**;
13. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Industry and Commerce (territory proposed as a UNESCO Global Geopark prefiguration area) – **Member**;
14. The Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Education and Sports (territory proposed as a UNESCO Global Geopark prefiguration area) – **Member**.

Article 4: Rights and Duties of the Technical Committee of the National Commission

The Technical Committee shall have the following rights and duties:

- To research and compile information on geosites in the Lao PDR with the potential to be designated as UNESCO Global Geopark sites, and to submit such information to the Government for consideration and approval;
- To prepare documentation and propose geoparks in the Lao PDR approved by the Government for submission as UNESCO Global Geopark candidacies;
- To plan activity programs for the implementation of Geopark actions;
- To periodically report to the Steering Committee on progress made in implementing Geopark projects.

Article 5: Composition of the Scientific Committee of the National Commission

The Scientific Committee shall be composed of:

1. Faculty of Natural Sciences, National University of Laos;
2. Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Laos;
3. Faculty of Forestry Sciences, National University of Laos;
4. Faculty of Environmental Sciences, National University of Laos;
5. Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, National University of Laos;
6. Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos;
7. National Academy of Politics and Public Administration;
8. Groups of experts, scientists, and external academic institutions.

Article 6: Rights and Duties of the Scientific Committee of the National Commission

The Scientific Committee shall have the following rights and duties:

- To support the Steering Committee in implementing Geopark actions in the Lao PDR;
- To conduct studies and surveys, collect samples, compile and analyze scientific data to support Geopark development in the Lao PDR;
- To attend annual meetings and other meetings organized by the Commission and Sub-Commissions;
- To coordinate with international organizations and relevant stakeholders to provide technical support for the implementation of Geopark actions in the Lao PDR.

Article 7: Designation of the Secretariat of the National Commission

The following Secretariat members are appointed to support the Committees:

1. The Deputy Director of the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – Head;
2. The Head of the Division of Protected Area Management, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – Deputy Head;
3. The Head of the Division of Planning and Cooperation, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – Member;
4. The Head of the Division of Forest Fire Prevention and Investigation, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – Member;

5. The Head of the Division of Geological Studies and Museums, Department of Geology and Minerals, Ministry of Industry and Commerce – Member;
6. The Deputy Head of the Division of Administration, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – Member;
7. The Deputy Head of the Division of Archaeology, Department of Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Tourism – Member;
8. The Deputy Head of the Secretariat Office of the Lao National Commission for UNESCO, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Education and Sports – Member;
9. The Deputy Head of the Division of Survey, Design, and Allocation of Tourism Resources, Department of Tourism Development, Ministry of Culture and Tourism – Member;
10. The Deputy Head of the Division of Protected Area Management, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – Member.

Article 8: Rights and Duties of the Secretariat of the National Commission

The Secretariat shall have the following rights and duties:

- To prepare and disseminate documents, directives, and recommendations of the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee regarding the implementation of geopark actions in the Lao PDR for ordinary and extraordinary meetings;
- To collect and summarize agenda proposals from the committees in order to convene ordinary meetings and propose extraordinary meetings;
- To prepare reports on the results of activity implementation and financial management in order to obtain guidance from higher committees on future activities and budgets;
- To collect and maintain lists of names and contact details and regularly coordinate with each committee involved in geopark implementation;
- To coordinate with relevant stakeholders to facilitate all tasks related to geopark implementation in the Lao PDR, including document processing for expert and scientific research activities.

Article 9: Meetings

- Ordinary meetings shall be held at least twice per year, in June and December, or on dates determined by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee;
- Extraordinary meetings shall be held upon the proposal of at least three members of the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee.

All meetings may be held in a hybrid format combining in-person and remote participation through online systems. The Secretariat shall prepare meetings, issue invitations, and record meeting minutes.

Each ordinary and extraordinary meeting shall produce official minutes including decisions taken and agreed future actions, as well as concurring and/or dissenting opinions of members of the Steering Committee, Technical Committee, and Scientific Committee.

Article 10: Sources of Funding

Funding sources for the implementation of geopark projects in the Lao PDR include:

1. State budget;
2. Funding from activities or projects implemented within the geopark or neighboring areas that have an impact on the geopark area;
3. Contributions from individuals, legal entities, and public and private organizations, national and international;
4. Other lawful funding sources in accordance with the law.

Article 11

The Geopark Implementation Committee of the Lao PDR shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of this Decree in order to achieve satisfactory results.

Article 12

All ministries, organizations, local authorities, and relevant stakeholders are required to recognize, cooperate, and jointly implement the above-mentioned tasks in order to achieve satisfactory results.

Article 13: Entry into Force

This Decree shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

Prime Minister

SONEXAY SYPHANDONE