



GMS Program Updates

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GMS Secretariat



2nd GMS Energy Transition Task Force

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Outline of Presentation



- I. GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF), 2023- 2025 and 2024-2026**
- II. GMS Program Initiatives and Plans in the GMS**
- III. Strategic Alignment: Sector Strategy Framework**

I. GMS Regional Investment Framework



RIF 2023-2025 was prepared through extensive consultative process and based on new criteria to ensure project readiness in terms of feasibility, implementation, financing, as well as alignment with GMS-2030.

The RIF 2025 comprises **111 projects** with a total estimated value of **\$11.7 billion**.

<https://www.greatermekong.org/g/regional-investment-framework-2023-2025>



Criteria for the New RIF

Minimum Criteria

- ✓ **basic identification** project criteria (title, ministry, outcome, outputs);
- ✓ **regional impact** or spillover effect;
- ✓ **supported by active sectors** of cooperation under the GMS program (e.g., Working Group);
- ✓ **aligned with GMS** regional and/or national and sector **strategies**;
- ✓ **meet minimum standards of project readiness** and project preparation such as having strong project ownership and a clear project sponsor and having stages of project preparation completed (feasibility study complete, possible source of financing identified, project is included in national investment plans).

Aspirational Criteria

- ✓ **multi-country** projects with **regional benefits**;
- ✓ support **spatial development** (ECD, city clusters);
- ✓ **private sector** participation;
- ✓ strong **gender** elements;
- ✓ **green projects**, or support the blue economy;
- ✓ target **poverty alleviation**/reduction;
- ✓ align with international principles for **quality infrastructure**;
- ✓ foster **digitalization**.



GMS Project Proposal Template

Section 1A: Project Profile	
Project Key Facts	Description
1. Project Title	
2. Project Sector <i>(Should be a sector of cooperation in the GMS Program)</i>	
3. Expected Year of Commencement	
4. Estimated Project Cost <i>(Describe the estimated project cost in US\$)</i>	
5. Anticipated Source of Project Funding /Financing <i>(can select more than one)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> development partner <input type="checkbox"/> government funded <input type="checkbox"/> PPP Investment <input type="checkbox"/> private sector investment Provide name and amount available:
6. Geographic Location <i>(Include country/countries and GMS Economic Corridor alignment)</i>	

Section 1B: Project Proponent	
7. Organization:	
8. Principal contact: <i>(Name and position)</i>	
9. Signature and Date:	
10. Working Group for GMS Institutional Arrangements: <i>(Project concept agreed through WG)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Working Group <input type="checkbox"/> Transport Working Group <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Working Group <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism Working Group <input type="checkbox"/> Environment Working Group <input type="checkbox"/> Health and HRD Working Group <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Development Working Group <i>(includes other multi-sector and BEZs)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Other sector without formal working group <i>(includes Transport and Trade Facilitation, ICT)</i> <i>(National Secretariat is focal)</i>



GMS Project Proposal Template

Section 2A: Project Description and Summary	Section 3: Additional Information on Project Readiness
<p>11. Provide a brief description of the project which includes: <i>(maximum 500 words)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Summary of the projectii. Key reasons for undertaking the projectiii. Project's expected outcomes, activities, and beneficiariesiv. How does the project align with GMS 2030 and/or other national, regional, or sector strategies?v. What type and level of collaboration is needed if it has regional or multi-country impact? <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 37px;"></div>	<p><i>Required to be complete for projects proposed for private sector or PPP investment.</i></p> <p>14. Describe any Business Case, Feasibility Study or Prefeasibility Study that has been undertaken? <i>(100 words)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Specify the type of study that has been undertaken and by whom and the date the study was completed.ii. Advise on economic impacts that have been defined.iii. If a Business Case or Feasibility Study has been undertaken provide Economic Internal Rates of Return along with a specification of the particular economic benefits. <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 139px;"></div>
<p>Section 2B: Project Selection Criteria <i>Projects must meet the 'minimum criteria' for inclusion in the RiF. Projects will also be considered based on meeting of 'aspirational criteria.'</i></p> <p>12. Describe how the proposed project meets the following Minimum Criteria <i>(maximum 300 words)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The project supports regional cooperation and integration.ii. The project is supported by an active Working Group or the GMS National Secretariat has an identified project sponsor.iii. The project aligns with GMS subregional and/or national and sector strategies and is included in national investment plans.iv. The project has some commitment of funding identified. <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 56px;"></div> <p>13. Select <u>one or more</u> of the Aspirational Criteria² which the project meets and <u>briefly describe</u> how it meets the criteria <i>(maximum 200 words)</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> aligns with standards for quality infrastructure<input type="checkbox"/> is a multi-country project with regional benefits<input type="checkbox"/> fosters digitalization<input type="checkbox"/> supports spatial development (economic corridors and/or city clusters)<input type="checkbox"/> has private sector participation<input type="checkbox"/> has a specific and targeted impact on the poor<input type="checkbox"/> has gender elements<input type="checkbox"/> is a green project or support the blue economy <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 63px;"></div>	

I. GMS Regional Investment Framework



Total Cost Estimate (\$ million) of RIF 2023-2025 Projects, by Type and by Sector

Sector	Technical Assistance (TA)	Investment	TA & Investment	TOTAL
Transport	35.16	5,266.24		5,301.40
Energy	.50	189.00		189.50
Agriculture	79.80	2,095.65	75.00	2,250.45
Environment	129.04		246.25	375.29
Health & Other HRD		228.99	309	537.99
Urban Development		1,390.00		1,390.00
Other Multisector/BEZ		550.06		550.06
Tourism	54.83	833.90	140.90	1029.63
TTF	.50			0.50
ICT	.15	15.00	10.00	25.15
TOTAL	299.97	10,568.84	781.15	11,649.96

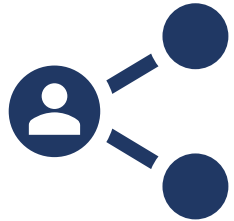
I. GMS Regional Investment Framework



Total Cost Estimate (\$ million) of RIF 2023-2025 Projects, by Country and by Sector

Sector	Cambodia	PRC	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Thailand	Viet Nam	Regional	TOTAL
Transport	451.50	2,653.41	1,694.57		501.92			5,301.40
Energy			0.50	99.00	90.00			189.50
Agriculture	5.00	2,011.65	142.70	90.00	1.10			2,250.45
Environment	110.00	246.25	2.47	3.00	3.21	10.36		375.29
Health & Other HRD	36.12	496.87	5.00					537.99
Urban Development		1,373.00	17.00					1,390.00
Other Multisector/BEZ		550.06						550.06
Tourism		357.60	91.50	1.30	0.30	355.10	223.83	1,029.63
TTF					0.50			0.50
ICT	10.00		0.15	15.00				25.15
TOTAL	612.62	7,688.84	1,953.89	208.30	597.03	365.46	223.83	11,650

RIF 2023-2025 has some imbalance in the country and sector share of projects



GMS Secretariat has disseminated RIF 2023-2025 and held **discussions with development partners**



PPP Training delivered in May 2023 to help strengthen PPP projects for the RIF



Private sector roundtable on regional tourism projects (October 2023) and for other specific projects and sectors (2024)



RIF 2024- 2026 is a work in progress

- Some project proposals need clarification
- Requesting line ministries should coordinate with GMS National Secretariats for missing information
- GMS Secretariat and National Secretariats are discussing to further align RIF with national priorities and country programming strategy with ADB
- GMS Secretariat will continue to work towards endorsement of GMS RIF 2024-2026 before the end of the year

I. GMS Regional Investment Framework



Proposed Energy Projects in RIF 2024-2026

	Type (Investment or TA)	Project Title	Year of Commencement	Country	Cost Estimate (\$ M)	Potential Funding Source
1	Investment & TA	<p>Study on the 500 kV Line Grid Harmonization for Three Countries: Laos-Thailand-Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Substation Laos (Existing 500kV line) • Lak 25 Substation Laos – Ban Hat Substation (New construction 500kV line 50 km) • Ban Hat Substation – Stung Treng Substation (Existing 500kV line) 	2024	Lao PDR Thailand Cambodia	70.0	<p>Development Partner -60 .0 (For new facilities construction)</p> <p>Lao PDR - 4.0 (for FS study and ESIA)</p> <p>Thailand - 2.0 (for study and ESIA)</p> <p>Cambodia - 4.0 (for study and ESIA)</p>
2	Investment & TA	<p>Study on HVDC back-to-back 500 kV Namor Substation to Interconnection Grid: China-Laos-Viet Nam in Northern part</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban Na Substation Yunnan – Namor Substation Laos-Sonla Substation Viet Nam 	2024	Lao PDR PRC Viet Nam	250.0	<p>Development Partner - 230.0 (For New facilities construction)</p> <p>Lao PDR - 10.0 (for FS study and ESIA)</p> <p>PRC - 5.0 (for study and ESIA)</p>
3	Investment	230kV Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei Transmission Line	2024-2026	Myanmar	99.0	Development Partner



Proposed Energy Projects in RIF 2024-2026

	Type (Investment or TA)	Project Title	Year of Commencement	Country	Cost Estimate (\$ M)	Potential Funding Source
4	TA	Biofuel from Waste Banana Peels	2024	Myanmar	1.0	Development Partner
5	TA	Hydrogen from Water by Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting	2024	Myanmar	2.0	Development Partner
6	TA	Renewable Energy Control Center and Virtual Power Plant (VPP)*	No information	Thailand	No information	
7	TA	Virtual Power Plant*	No information	Thailand	No information	

**No template proposal or enough information to assess if project meets minimum and aspirational criteria.*



- ❑ **25th GMS Ministerial Conference (MC-25)** hosted by Lao PDR in December 2022
 - **Endorsed at MC-25**
 - GMS Gender Strategy
 - Results Framework for GMS-2030
 - Digital Economy Cooperation Initiative
 - Regional Investment Framework (RIF) 2025
 - **Other Initiatives Noted at MC-25**
 - Deepening Development Partners' Engagement in the GMS
 - GMS Knowledge Network
 - Establishing the Task Force on Trade and Investment
 - GMS Strategy 2030 Results Framework

- ❑ **New Initiatives**
 - Deepening Private Sector Participation in the GMS Program
 - Strengthening Local Government Engagement in the GMS
 - Digital Strategy for the GMS Program
 - GMS Special Economic Zones (SEZs)
 - Preparation of Sector Strategy Framework

- ❑ **26th GMS Ministerial Conference (MC-25)** on 15 December 2023, hosted by Myanmar

- ❑ **8th GMS Summit of Leaders** in 2024, hosted by PRC



GMS Recent and New Initiatives

Digital Transformation and Digitalization Action Plan for the GMS Program

Deepening Development Partners' Engagement in the GMS Program

GMS Results Framework

GMS Gender Strategy

Knowledge Generation — GMS Knowledge Network

Labor Mobility and Safe Migration

Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in the GMS Program

Strengthening Local Governments' Engagement with GMS Program

Special Economic Zones and Border Economic Zones in the GMS

GMS Innovation Strategy for Development 2030



GMS 2030 Implementation: Strategic alignment for stronger results



- ❑ The GMS Secretariat is seeking feedback from all sector WGs on a proposed Sector Strategy Framework (SSF)
- ❑ This will facilitate development of the respective sector strategies
- ❑ New SSF will align better with GMS-2030



In the context of energy sector, this will require

- ❑ **Synchronization of time spans.** New Energy Sector Strategic Framework could be prepared in time to be highlighted by GMS Leaders' Summit in 2024 and go till 2030.
- ❑ **Cascading and aligning the GMS Program results framework (RF) of energy sector** with the GMS-2030 RF, endorsed by 25th GMS MC in Lao PDR in 2022.



Supporting programmatic strategic alignment

The **Sector Strategy Framework** is envisaged as a flexible template that improves alignment and:

- provides consistency across sectors
- can be customized to specific sector needs.

Energy sector, for example, is more deeply engaged in 4 of the 6 cross-cutting innovative areas of the GMS-2030:

- Digital revolution
- Enhanced spatial approach
- Dialogue, knowledge sharing, and capacity building
- Private sector solutions
- GMS as an open platform. Cooperation across other regional cooperation and integration initiatives, especially the ASEAN
- Results Monitoring

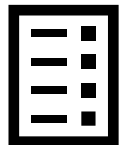
Energy sector is also relatively more strongly aligned with GMS-2030 priorities of digitalization, private sector, gender mainstreaming and environment sustainability.



Sector Strategy Framework (SSF): Outline of Core Elements



- The proposed SSF will provide core elements of sector strategy common across the GMS program.



- Each GMS sector will build its own unique programs and plans on this core.



Proposed Table of Contents:

- I. **Introduction:** provides context, need and justification of the new strategy.
- II. **Situation analysis:** overview and assessment of where things stand, i.e., SWOT analysis.
- III. **Stakeholder inputs in formulation process:** inclusivity, transparency, ownership
- IV. **Strategic priorities:** vision, mission and strategic thrusts of the strategy. Linkages with GMS-2030, national plans and other development frameworks. Cross-cutting themes (also aligned to GMS-2030). Assumptions and risks, with strategies for mitigating risks.
- V. **Implementation aspects:** Institutional, HR and financing plans
- VI. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Results framework/Theory of change
- VII. **Communications and dissemination strategy** for raising awareness



Thank you!