THAKHEK
port of visitors

LIVABLE TOURISM CITY

Grow Thakhek as a tourism destination by improving the town, capitalizing on historic cultural assets and locational advantages.
Supporting development objectives

- Increase Khammounane Province tourism numbers to 2.5 million by 2020 from current 530,000 tapping both the international and the domestic visitor markets

- Increase length of stay in Thakhek from current to 3 nights from current 1-2 nights

- Create opportunities to diversify local economy

- Conserve and enhance the value of the unique heritage and built environment in Thakhek as a catalyst for economic growth

- Invest in basic urban services, public space and environmental upgrading

- Part of heritage town corridor along Mekong River: Luang Prabang, Chiang Khan, Vientiane, Savanakhet, Pakse, Champasak Town, Stung Treng, Kratie, Kampong Cham etc.
ການສະໜັບສະໜູນຈຸດປະສົມຂອງການພັດທະນາ

- ອົ່ງຂໍ້ມູນມາແບບອ່ອງໄດ້ແບບໄດ້ແບນ 2.5 ເມືອງໃນປີ 2020 ພາລະການປະສົມນີ້ ມັກ 530,000 ບັນ ໂດຍຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອນສຳລັບການອ່ອງໄດ້ແບນໃນແຂວງຄວນນະເຂດກຽມລຸນ 2.5 ແມ່ນຄົນໃນປີ 2020 ທີ່ຈູກຈາກຈູກຈາກເປົ້ຍສາຍຄວນນະເຂດນັກທ່ອງທ່ຽວ ແລະນັກທ່ອງທ່ຽວສາກົນ

- ສ້າງໂອກາດໃນການກະຈາຍເສດຖະກິດທ້ອງຖິ່ນ

- ທ່ອງສ້າງໃນການກະຈາຍເສດຖະກິດທ້ອງຖິ່ນ

- ຕ່າງການໃຫ້ຕໍ່ມາຮັກສາແລະເພີ່ມມູນຄ່າຂອງມື່ດການເຕັມໃຫຍ່ຕາງເສດຖະກິດ.

- ເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ການອ່ອງໄດ້ແບນທີ່ຈູກຈາກເປົ້ຍສາຍຄວນນະເຂດກຽມລຸນ, ກະຕັມທີ່ຈາກແຕ່ໂອນ 1-2 ທີ່ແລະນັກທ່ອງທ່ຽວສາກົນ

- ອົງຈິງຈາກການບໍລິການພຽງຖານຂອງຄົນ, ກະຕັມຕ່າງໜ້າແລະຍົກລ Carlson ແລະສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈາກເປັນສ່ວນທີ່ຈا
Multi-layered and multi-cultural history

- **8th century** - original settlement Sikottabhong built on both sides of the Mekong River. *Spiritual centre* and a *busy trade route* located on the corridor between present day Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

- **1893 - 1946 colonial period** - bustling trade town with a population that was *85 percent Vietnamese and Sino-Lao*.

- **1949 - independence** - French left Laos.

- **1975 Establishment of the LPDR** - *massive exodus of the Chinese and Vietnamese*. Nationalized all land as well as many of previously foreign owned properties.

- **Now** - due to the limited development Thaheek town in the last few decades, many of the *city’s old buildings have been preserved* and also the *historic streetscape in the old town is largely intact*.
វិបត្តិអាលក និង អាណាដៃនការត្រូវតែ

• វត្តុវិទ្យាលេខ 8 - ស្តែងចម្លារចង់ក្លាហារកុងស្តែងមិនឈរឈុត។ បង្កើត
 អាមរាស់កុងនៃឯកុងខ្លួនឯងគ្នា និង បង្កើតរដ្ឋកុងខ្លួនឯង ដែលមានប្រសិទ្ធ
 ឈើ និង គ្រប់គ្រងត្រូវបានរៀបរាប់ ដើម្បីដោយការចុះ
 ប្រេី និង គ្រប់គ្រងក្នុងប្រយោគ។

• ឆ្នាំ 1893 - 1946 បង្កើតនំដីប្រតិបត្តិកុងស្តែងដំបូង - បង្កើតរដ្ឋកុង
 ផ្សេងទៀត និង មានអត្ថប្រយោជន៍ ប្រសិទ្ធ 85 ប្រាក់អំពីរបាន
 ក្រោយមកព្រះសាធារណ៍ ចេញពីប្រាំប្រឹក្សាព្រះសម្រាប់ ចេញពីក្រុងcerr
 ដើម្បីសម្រាប់រដ្ឋកុងខ្លួន។

• ឆ្នាំ 1949 - វិធីបង្កើតប្រតិបត្តិភ្នំ

• ឆ្នាំ 1975 ស្រែត្តិសាលារ.ប.ស.ន. បង្កើតរដ្ឋប្រឹក្សាព្រះសាធារណ៍ និង
 ព្រះសាធារណ៍ ដែល គ្រប់គ្រងនូវអត្ថប្រយោជន៍ ថ្មីប្រសិទ្ធ មាន
 ប្រការក្លាយជាប្រតិបត្តិភ្នំ ដើម្បីប្រការក្លាយជាប្រតិបត្តិភ្នំ។

• ប្រការប្រការ វិធីបង្កើតប្រតិបត្តិភ្នំ ដែលបានប្រការក្លាយជាប្រតិបត្តិភ្នំ
 នៅក្នុងសាធារណ៍ដំបូង ប្រការពីថ្មីនៃប្រតិបត្តិភ្នំ ដើម្បីប្រការ
 ក្លាយជាប្រតិបត្តិភ្នំ ដើម្បីប្រការក្លាយជាប្រតិបត្តិភ្នំ។
Thakhek Old Town: unique historical assets
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sunset view
Thakhek Old Town - unique historical assets

- Old Cargo Landing
- Old Town Square
- Drainage Channel

- Sunset view
- Port, historic connection to Thailand
- Historic streetscape completely intact
- Main junction: Four corner buildings intact
- Waterfront and public square with uninterrupted view and historic properties
- Old well
- Foundation stone, temple & naga steps
- Sunset view
Suggested project components

**Hardware**

1. Widening *riverside promenade* from port to creek as an uninterrupted footpath and create additional lower level plateau vendors and F&B outlets.

2. Upgrading of *public square* to create uniform public space with look and feel that is respectful to the historic character of the Old Town.

3. Renovation and re-purposing 500 sqm historic *Old Post & Telecommunication Office* into multipurpose Tourism Information Centre.

4. *Place branding, wayfinding and interpretive signage system* of heritage trails in Thakhek Old Town that show the different historic layers and unique multicultural history of old town.

**Software**

1. *Zoning plan and management structure* for the promenade, with a clear allocation of public and private space and a fair system for concessions.


3. *Public awareness campaign* to incentivize owners, operators and tenants of heritage buildings to upgrade and maintain their properties with respect to the historic streetscape of the old town.
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Three sections

Section A: steps

Section B&C lower plateau, with intermittent one metre wide steps every 50 metres

Two alternatives for Old Town Square Section:

A. Keeping toilet block building and have 2 meter wide steps at either end.
B. Demolish toilet block and create grand 5 metre wide staircase all the way down to the water level (like Naga steps)
Section A: steps for exercise and to allow for viewing of boat races
• Built up with layers of river sand and geotextile, with a gabion matress on top (river rocks held in place with wire netting)

• Form a 5m wide earth step in the riverbank as a paved plateau for cafes/restaurants/vendors 2 metres below street level, accessible by set of 1 metre wide steps at 20 metre intervals

• Plateau is sufficiently high to prevent seasonal flooding. In the rare event of extreme flooding, people can lift their furniture and equipment up to the road
trees/shading/exercise equipment/

widened uninterrupted footpath at street level
restaurants & cafes

at lower plateau
integrate design with existing structures, Naga steps and viewing platform
upgrade and integrate toilet block in coherent heritage design or alternatively demolish and replace with grand staircase to the water
playful design to reflect town heritage and enhance recreational value
integrate design with existing structures

practical & appropriate street lighting solutions
designated parking areas at both ends to allow for pedestrian and cycle friendly environment.
Revised traffic flow

Figure 18: Proposed revised traffic directions in the Thakhek Old Town Core Area

hardware component

upgrading public square

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sunset view
honour the square as a commemorative and sacred place
tree planting to provide shade

upgrade street furniture and fountain
/replace pavement
/pedestrianize square
/tree planting
/upgrade street furniture
/extend to pavement
/create connection with waterfront promenade
renovate and re-use old post office into multipurpose tourism information centre
Old Town Square located along main road in core heritage zone
strategically located
overlooking unique
intact historic streetscape
rare façade and architectural details
500 sqm currently vacant with scope to improve lay-out and building efficiency
tourism info counter/
displays/
heritage centre/
coffee shop/

pop-up exhibition/
retail space/
hardware

place branding, wayfinding & interpretive signage system of heritage trails

Hardware component 4
heritage trails tailored for different target groups printed & on-line
zoning plan and management structure for the promenade, with a clear allocation of public and private space and a fair system for concessions.
Update inventory of heritage buildings in Thakhek Town
Assessment and designation of significance
Historical records
Capacity building for management
public awareness campaign to incentivize owners, operators and tenants of heritage buildings to upgrade and maintain their properties with respect to the historic streetscape.
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