



# Land Management and Decentralised Planning 3 (LMDP 3)

## Contributing to land rights and inclusive development for the rural population in Laos

### Context

In Laos, various ministries and the affiliated agencies are responsible for land use and land management. However, their mandates are often not clearly defined and may overlap in practical execution. This leads to an unclear distribution of responsibilities, which can result in the mismanagement of natural resources. Moreover, empirical land use data is often lacking, yet extremely important for solving land conflicts and applying sustainable land management principles in practice. Although there have been improvements in recent years, government agencies require further support in capacity development to strategically implement existing land use planning instruments and methods.

From 2015 to 2019, a variety of tools to improve land use planning processes were developed as part of the previous project phases. These include the digital cadastre for land registration Lao Land Registration System (LaoLandReg), the Land Use Information System LUIS, and the Area Physical Framework (APF). Since 2020, the current project phase focusses on the institutionalisation and further technical expansion of these tools.



Drone flying used for land use planning activities in Sayaboury Province.  
Photo: © GIZ/Bart Verweij

<b>Project Title</b>	Land Management and Decentralised Planning 3 (LMDP 3)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Leading executing agency</b>	Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
<b>Project Region</b>	Lao PDR
<b>Duration</b>	October 2019 to December 2024

### Objective

At all levels, the responsible authorities in Laos are capable of using land use planning instruments to manage natural resources, as well as to solve and prevent conflicts over land and resources.

### Approach

LMDP has three core features:

- Support coordination in the land sector and the development of guidelines to implement responsible land policy.
- Institutionalisation of capacity building measures into government authorities and academic institutions to strengthen long-term technical expertise, digital skills and understanding of procedural issues in land administration.
- Technical guidance to improve and scale up the digital cadastre for land registration and the Land Use Information System (LUIS).

## Impact

During LMDP 1 and 2 the following results were achieved:

- Since 2015, there have been 27,317 land parcels registered and 22,923 land titles have been issued. 70% of private land parcels are registered in the name of women only or married couples.
- 94 Village Land Use and Agriculture Management Plans have been completed. 2,909 villagers have been trained on contract farming arrangements.
- 116 land investment projects have been advised on aligning with the national investment law and international guidelines.
- 6 district level spatial plans (called 'Area Physical Frameworks') have been drawn up, with input from more than 2,000 villagers from 40 villages.

During LMDP 3 the following achievements were reached so far:

- The new version of the digital land cadastre system LaoLandReg was successfully tested in Vientiane and will be used for nation-wide rollout with support from the World Bank and KfW.
- Responsible institutions for land use planning have access to LUIS including more than 500 land use plans from across the country.
- The provincial socio-economic development plans are using spatial plans from the provinces Houaphan and Sayabouri as reference.
- More than 140 governmental staff have been trained on the use of spatial planning tools like GIS, UAV-drones and as trainers for land management tools.



Meeting with Provincial Department on Investment (DPI) in Sayabouri Province on harmonisation of the Provincial Social Economic Development Plan (PSEDP) and the Provincial Land Allocation Plan (PLAP). Photo: © GIZ/Bart Verweij

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## Gender and Land Management

In rural areas, particularly women face structural disadvantages when it comes to access to land and land rights.

In the previous phases of LMDP, the project cooperated with government partners to produce several tools to improve land use and land governance in Laos. During the piloting and implementation in the target provinces, the project involved rural communities, including women and ethnic groups, in all planning activities and decision-making processes.

During its current phase, the project puts on more efforts in ensuring that women and men have access to and benefit equally from the project implementation. As part of Institutional Capacity Development, trainings of trainers have been conducted on technical land management tools which serve as a continuation of farmer capacity building processes. Moreover, each of those technical trainings is accompanied by a gender training after its completion to systematically strengthen government staff, assigned to be multipliers (master trainers) or training managers.

This ensure a deeper understanding within the multipliers for gender sensitivity in the developed land management tools and enables them to pass on this knowledge in future trainings and workshops conducted by them.

### About GIZ Laos

GIZ, as part of German Development Cooperation, has been active in Laos since 1993, mainly on behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and its donors and development partners. Currently, GIZ is implementing numerous projects in three core areas: a) rural development, b) conservation of nature and natural resources and c) sustainable economic development.

Please visit [www.giz.de/laos](http://www.giz.de/laos) for further information.

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On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and  
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