

# Land Management and Decentralised Planning 3 (LMDP 3)

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

### Context

Laos plans to have shed its least-developed country status by 2024. Its high economic growth is due largely to the export of hydropower, mining, agriculture and forestry. However, the expansion of economic activities, for example large-scale plantation farming, is often accompanied by high deforestation rates or taking place at the expense of rural subsistence households who lose their access to land and other natural resources.

The various ministries responsible for land use and land management and the different levels of administration hold their individual mandates. Yet, these are often not clearly defined or overlapping in practise, leading to unclear responsibilities. To achieve goals such as reforestation, the creation of protected areas or improved infrastructure, empirical land-use data are of central importance. The same applies to solving land-use conflicts. Although government agencies are in a much more solid position than in the past, they are still not sufficiently able to make strategic use of existing land-use planning instruments.

From 2015 - 2019, GIZ provided support for 2 previous projects (LMDP 1+2) which aimed at improving land use and enhancing tenure security in Laos. The third project, Land Management and Decentralised Planning 3



Men group discussing on group work during project activity in Sayaboury Province.

Project Name	Land Management and Decentralised Planning 3 (LMDP 3)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Sayaboury/nationwide
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MoNRE) and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
Duration	October 2019 - December 2021

(LMDP 3), now focusses on enable nationwide land registration by strengthening the capacities of the involved stakeholders in applying the developed tools and procedures in land-use planning and land management.

### Objective

The responsible authorities in Laos are capable at all levels of using land-use planning instruments to manage natural resources and to solve and prevent conflicts over land and resources.

### Approach

The project aims to integrate the land related information systems (such as the information management system comprising existing land-use maps in Laos) and procedures (such as land-use planning) developed under the predecessor projects into the partner structures.

Therefore, a core feature of LMDP 3 is its increased focus on capacity building of the government staff through trainings and other capacity building measures to ensure that partners are able to apply the developed tools and improved procedures. To achieve this, the project is working on 3 levels:

Training courses are organized for Ministries and local authorities at provincial and district level to strengthen their technical expertise, digital skills and to elaborate their understanding of procedural issues. The content of the training courses includes formats on land management and land-use planning, as well as dealing with social and environmental risks.

At organisational level, the project supports efforts to apply procedures and instruments in the pilot province Sayaboury. In this context, specific needs of disadvantaged groups (ethnic minorities, women, very poor households) are taken into account in all conducted activities.

The project supports cooperation within the government apparatus in various ways, including overarching work groups which focus on analysing the lessons learned in training courses at the provincial and district levels. More than that, policy dialogue is taking place between the stakeholders on issues of good governance in land use. Special attention is being paid to minimum standards for the involvement of disadvantaged groups in land-use planning.



Woman villager sharing her opinion during project activity in a village in Sayaboury

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## Impact

During LMDP 1 and 2 the following results were achieved:

- Since 2015, 27317 land parcels have been registered and 22923 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. 2909 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 2000 villagers from 40 villages.

## 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. LMDP has involved rural communities, including women and ethnic groups in its target provinces towards improved planning and decision-making processes.

LMDP3 has an even stronger focus on gender. During its current phase the gender sensitivity of the existing land management tools is being reviewed in order to ensure that women are appropriately represented in development planning activities and that their land rights are protected. By doing so, the project promotes that benefits from national and local economic development reach all population groups, including women and disadvantaged groups.

### About GIZ Laos

GIZ, as part of German Development Cooperation, has been active in Laos since 1993 and is currently supporting numerous projects in 2 priority areas: a) sustainable economic development and b) rural development in poor regions. Moreover, GIZ Laos engages in good governance and participates in regional programmes, e.g., with the Mekong River Commission and ASEAN.

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