

# **LUP Coordination Workshop in Huaphan Province**

## **Report**

**Sam Neua – 8 to 11 October 2012**



Executive summary.....	4
Introduction .....	5
Session 1- Consultation with Project Staff.....	6
1. Agenda and objectives.....	6
2. Goals and expected outcomes from Land Use Planning.....	6
3. Tools and methods for LUP implementation by different projects.....	8
4. Standards used by different projects.....	16
5. Conclusions on future LUP implementation and coordination.....	19
6. Synthesis of session 1 conclusions reported to sessions 4 & 5.....	19
Session 2 - Consultation with Villagers.....	21
1. Agenda and objectives.....	21
2. Discussion in plenary: villagers' Perceptions on Land Use Planning (LUP).....	21
3. Discussion in work groups: men and women points of view.....	22
4. Synthesis of session 2 conclusions reported to sessions 4 & 5.....	22
Session 3 Consultation with District Technicians .....	24
1. Agenda and objectives.....	24
2. Discussion in plenary: usefulness of LUP.....	24
3. Discussion in work groups: tools & methods for implementing LUP.....	25
4. Synthesis of session 3 conclusions reported to sessions 4 & 5.....	25
Session 4: Consultation with Senior District Staff.....	26
1. Agenda and objectives.....	26
2. Opening words by Mr. Phouvong Sisomhak, Chief of cabinet of Huaphan Governor's Office .....	26
3. Presentations from LUP stakeholders and discussion.....	27
4. Group discussions .....	28
5. Synthesis of session 4 conclusions reported to session 5 .....	28
Session 5: Consultation with District and Province Governors.....	31
1. Agenda and objectives.....	31
2. Opening speech by Mr. Vanxay Phengsouma, Deputy Governor of Huaphan Province.....	31
3. Presentation of syntheses from session 1 to 4 and discussion .....	32
4. Discussion on LUP coordination mechanisms.....	33
5. Closing remark by Chairman .....	36
Annex 1 : Example of coordination tool for LUP planning.....	37
Annex 2 : press release & publication Vientiane Times .....	41
1. Press release .....	41
2. Article in Vientiane Times .....	43

*The LUP coordination workshop in Province of Huaphan Province has been organized on the initiative of the Bamboo Sector Development Project, implemented by Gret in partnership with SNV, PAFO and DPI, and funded by the European Union (EU), the French Agency for Development (AFD), and the Fondation Ensemble (FE). The Bamboo Project supported the facilitation and reporting of the workshop. The costs of transportation, accommodation and DSA have been shared among the 7 projects participating to the workshop.*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province of Huaphan is implementing Land Use Planning (LUP) as a way to achieve national development goals such as reduction of rural poverty, investment in land and reduction of competition over land. Several projects are involved in LUP in Huaphan: the Bamboo Sector Development Project (GRET/SNV), the Northern Upland Integrated Rural Development Project (GIZ/NU-IRD), the project on Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF/SNV), The project on Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD-GIZ/KfW/WCS), Impacts of REDD (iREDD-IRD/NUOL-FoF), the Agricultural Land Allocation Programme (by PAFO) and the Micro-Land Use Planning Programme (by MONRE).

A four-day province level coordination workshop was held in Samneua, 8-11 October 2012, to coordinate the implementation of LUP between various Government agencies and development projects concerned. The 71 participants consisted of 20 village representatives from 10 villages from 6 districts, 19 district technicians, 14 project staff, 18 district decision makers from line agencies, 6 district governors, 2 heads of province agriculture and environment offices, the deputy governor and a representative from the National Assembly.

The process of the workshop consisted of a series of five successive meetings with separate stakeholder groups: villagers, district technicians, project staff, heads of district and province line agencies and district/province governors.

Villagers key concerns on LUP are to get clear village boundaries delineated to reduce competition over land. Clear village development plans and follow-up support after LUP are needed to actually improve agricultural practices. Village land committees should have more power to resolve conflicts over land. "Our biggest concern is to secure access to our agricultural and forest land for our livelihoods" said Mr. Viengphone Saenmany, village head of Xieng Khen village, Viengxay district.

The position of project and district technicians is that 80% of the methodologies used by the different projects are the same and that all stakeholders would benefit from setting clear common standards to avoid confusion and to improve the understanding and participation of villagers. To achieve this, much more training is needed for district staff, especially on (1) Developing a common format for socio-economic data collection, (2) Scenario-tools to incorporate socio-economic data and goals in land use planning, (3) Use of 3-D maps for increased participation of villagers in the planning process, (4) Using open source GIS software. It is also important to ensure that LUP work is done in locations where other projects can follow up with livelihood support.

In the final meeting with Province and District Governors, Mrs. Amphavone Lombounpheng, member of the National Assembly, stressed the importance of addressing land issues to respond to citizens' number one concern. Coordination of LUP implementation should concentrate on the district level, where the implementation takes place. To avoid confusion, there is a need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each implementing agency based on the principles, the rules and the laws that apply to each agency. Mr. Vaxay Phengsoumma, deputy governor of Huaphan Province and chairman of the meeting said that the roles of the agencies are already clear and standards already exist. They should just be well understood by everyone and interpreted in the same way. The standards in implementing the Government policies and laws should be applied in such a way that villagers can really understand and follow.

Finally, key issues of field implementation of LUP were summarized. Ensuring good quality of LUP by applying participatory methods and sharing common standards, building effective mechanisms for field coordination, and ensuring follow up activities after LUP will help achieving the Government's goal of poverty alleviation.

## INTRODUCTION

Several projects are involved in **Land Use Planning (LUP)** in Huaphan Province: the Bamboo Sector Development Project (GRET/SNV), the Northern Upland Integrated Rural Development Project (GIZ/NU-IRDP), the project on Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF/SNV), the project on Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD-GIZ/KfW/WCS), the research project on Impacts of REDD (iREDD-IRD/NUoL-FoF), the Agricultural Land Allocation Programme (by PAFO) and the Micro-Land Use Planning Programme (by MONRE).

Some of them already started to implement LUP, other will start soon. Each project has specific goals<sup>1</sup>: bamboo sector development, reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, poverty alleviation, conservation of biodiversity, micro-land use planning, forest and land allocation.

On the one hand, this profusion of LUP projects creates opportunities for synergies (learn from each other, help each other) between projects. On the other hand, there is a risk of overlapping (same villages), confusion (different methods and standards) and competition (for human resources, i.e. district staff involved).

At the initiative of the Bamboo Sector Development Project, all projects decided to contribute to a "LUP coordination workshop in Huaphan Province" that was organized under the patronage of the Province Governor, in Sam Neua, from 8th to 11th October 2012.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- To share experiences of LUP projects in Huaphan province,
- To seek complementarities between projects,
- To define mechanisms to:
  - improve coordination of LUP activities
  - improve the management of LUP data and outputs
  - ensure support to post-LUP activities (e.g. agricultural extension, land registration)
- To monitor the progresses of LUP in Huaphan province

The workshop was conceived as a bottom-up approach organized into of 5 sessions as presented in the table below. The 71 participants consisted of 20 village representatives from 10 villages from 6 districts, 19 district technicians from DAFO and DONRE, 14 project staff, 18 district decision makers from line agencies (DAFO/DONRE/DPI heads of office), 6 district governors, 2 heads of province agriculture and environment offices, the deputy governor and a representative from the National Assembly.

Date	Sessions	Participants (Total = 71 persons)
8 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Session 1:</b> Projects teams	14 projects staff
9 <sup>th</sup> October morning	<b>Session 2 :</b> Villagers	20 villagers
9 <sup>th</sup> October afternoon	<b>Session 3:</b> District Technicians	19 districts technicians (DAFO, DLMA)
10 <sup>th</sup> October morning	<b>Session 4:</b> Districts Heads	18 heads of office DAFO, DONRE, DPI
11 <sup>th</sup> October morning	<b>Session 5 :</b> Provincial Departments and District governors	Province Deputy Governor, 6 District Governors, Directors of PAFO, PONRE, Deputy National Assembly

<sup>1</sup> Most of the time with different activities involved (not only LUP activities).

## SESSION 1- CONSULTATION WITH PROJECT STAFF

### 1. Agenda and objectives

The objectives of the 1<sup>st</sup> session were (i) to share LUP projects experiences in Huaphan province, exchange about the methods and standards used by different institutions, (ii) to define mechanisms for improved coordination among LUP partners in the province, and (iii) to optimize resource use for follow-up activities after LUP based on the mechanisms defined during the workshop.

14 project staffs of 6 projects involved in land use planning (LUP) in Huaphan Province where represented : the Bamboo project / Gret Snv, the NuDP/Giz, LEAF/Snv, WCS Nam Et Phou Leuy, iREDD+/NUoL-Faculty of Forestry and IRD, the Agriculture allocation/PAFO, the Micro land use planning/PoNRE.

The session was held on Monday October 8, 2012, according to the following agenda:

Time	Activities	Participants
8:15-8:30	Introduction of participants	Bamboo Sector Project: Sara Melki, Bounyasit Saengmany and
8:30-9:00	1 - Introduction of the objectives	Sengphan Sayphounnie (GRET), Phetsakone Keophilavan (PAFO)
9:00-10:00	2 - Goals and expected outcomes from LUP	
10:00-10:15	Break	NU-IRDP: Sangthong Phatsalin and Kampaseuth Kongay (GIZ)
10:15-12:00	3 - Methods and tools: presentation + questions General discussion	LEAF: Joost Foppes (SNV), Bounpone Phomvongxay (PAFO)
12:00-13:30	Lunch	Micro Land Use Planning: Viengkhone Xayyasit (PoNRE)
13:45-15:45	4 - Standards: codes, color, agreements, maps, etc. General discussion	Agricultural Land Allocation : Somsay Khamsingthong (PAFO)
15:45-16:00	Break	iREDD: Jean-Christophe Castella
16:00-17:00	5 - Mechanisms for coordination	WCS: Jim Johnston

### 2. Goals and expected outcomes from Land Use Planning

Participants were distributed meta-cards to write answers to the two following questions:

- A. What is the importance of LUP for your project or organisation?
- B. What is the importance of LUP for villagers?

The following types of answers were generated:

1. LUP makes it possible for agricultural extension to be implemented
2. LUP allows villagers to use land in the correct way
3. Villagers will use land in the correct way and according to target
4. Villagers learn to plan their production better and in a more sustainable way
5. LUP helps villagers to improve their livelihood by better use of forest and land resources
6. LUP helps villagers to arrive at a shared vision on how to use and manage their land
7. LUP raises awareness of villagers on the importance of managing natural resources well
8. LUP helps villagers to avoid conflicts over land through solidarity

9. LUP leads to improved forest condition which ultimately reduces carbon emissions
10. LUP should make it easier for villagers to protect their access to forest and agricultural land
11. LUP helps villagers to know where to plant trees
12. LUP makes it easier to manage land tenure
13. LUP makes villagers become aware how much resources they have, how much can be used for agriculture and how much needs to be preserved for the environment
14. LUP contributes to the reduction of deforestation
15. LUP ensures sustainability of the conservation of biodiversity
16. LUP clarifies village boundaries and therefore reduces conflicts over land between villagers
17. LUP reduces conflicts over land
18. LUP reduces conflicts between villages
19. LUP contributes to economic development of the country and individual households through planned agricultural production
20. LUP gives benefits to households by securing land for future use
21. LUP facilitates good local management of natural resources
22. LUP makes it easier for the government to implement agricultural extension
23. LUP makes it easier to monitor and evaluate land use and agricultural production

During coffee break the team clustered these answers into 7 clusters:

<b>Importance of LUP for villagers and projects (ordered by number of answers)</b>	
To preserve forest and improve forest management	9-15
To change from natural (subsistence) farming to systematic farming for the market	1-5
For communities to see the positive aspects of communal management of their land	6-8
To resolve conflicts over land	16-18
To improve the monitoring of implementation and impact of government land policies	21-23
To reduce poverty of villagers, to have land certificates and to attract investors into land	19-20
To get villagers to understand & implement government regulations on land management better	

The participants then engaged a discussion based on their experiences with LUP implementation. Following are the main ideas that were exchanged during the discussion:

- PAFO has been implementing LUP for 15 years already with the objective of empowering people to manage their land better. If farmers cannot manage their land correctly, the state do not give them official land right. The government agencies issue land use certificates but if farmers do not use their allocated plots correctly, they will be taken back from the farmers.
- It is very important to explain clearly to farmers what the rules and regulations are for forest management in the three main types of forest once they are clearly delineated (conservation, protection, production forests). Basically we explain rights associated to each forest type.
- Thanks to LUP rural villagers better understand the government policies. Wherever LUP is not yet implemented, local people usually do not understand well government policies.
- Issuing land titles does not make sense in rural area, because the price of the land is so cheap that people cannot use it as collateral with the bank to get credit so that they can

improve the value of their land. It is a chicken and egg kind of problem: securing tenure first or developing the land first?

- Monitoring, impact assessment of LUP is very limited because there is no budget available for this.

### 3. Tools and methods for LUP implementation by different projects

#### 3.1. Presentation by Mr. Viengkhone Xayyasit, PoNRE, on the Micro LUP program

Over the period from 25/03/2012 to 10/09/2012, the Micro LUP program led by PoNRE has been implemented in 414 villages of 516 villages in the districts of Viengthong (44), Huameuang (76), Samneua (109), Viengxay (103), Samtai (54) and Kouan (28). It still remains to be completed in 102 villages (Viengthong 25, Samtai 35 and Kouan 42). There was little consultation with villagers. The maps follow colour codes designed by MONRE.

The methodology consists of 10 steps, with 2,5 days for village field surveys (in grey).

N°	Steps	tools used	outputs	day	participants
1	Open ceremony and delineation of village boundary with sometimes village representatives	Paper A0, LCD projector, google earth, computer, GIS	Village boundaries delineation. Limits of land zones	0,5	Head of village, LWU, Youth Union, Polices, Lao front
2	Socio economic interview in village	template, word file	Livelihood analysis	0,5	Head of village, LWU, Youth Union, Polices, Lao front
3	Village Field visit n sometimes in sametime than step 1 and 2	GPS	GPS Point on different types of lands & village boundary	1 to 2	Villages representatives
4	Map and management plan	Camera, GIS	Map of village management plan	2,0	Technicians
5	Correct and improve the management plan	Computer	Write the land management plan	1,0	Technicians
6	Presentation to villagers at village level	LCD projector	Villagers acknowledge the management plan	0,5	All villagers did not join the presentation in all villages
7	Correct and improve the management plan	Computer	Validation of the plan by villagers	1,0	Technicians
8	Request of agreement letter to district governor	Document	Agreement letter	0,5	District Governor
9	Print the management plan	Paper...	document	1,0	Technicians of district, province and central
10	Closure ceremony at District level	LCD projector	Present result at district level	0,5	District governor, heads of related departments, technicians, heads of kumban

The *final LUP agreement* consists of 7 parts:

N°	Chapter title	Content
1	Letter of agreement from District Governor	Agreement on the village boundary with neighbouring villages and management and use plan of the village lands
2	Village map	Delineation of the village boundary with neighbouring villages
3	Current Land Use	Delineation of every type of land use today
4	Future Land Use Plan	Delineation of every type of land use planned
5	Regulation on Land and Forest protection	Regulation and prohibitions for each type of lands
6	Agreement of the committee creation at district and provincial level.	List of names and responsibilities of the committee.
7	Agreement letter for creation of the technical committee	List of names and responsibilities of the technicians.

The discussion about *strong and weak points* pointed out the following:

Strong points	Weak points
<p>Strong leadership from steering committee</p> <p>Enough staff allocated to do the work</p> <p>Modern tools were made available</p> <p>Sufficient budgets were made available</p> <p>Good cooperation between various agencies responsible for implementation</p>	<p>Budgets did not arrive on time</p> <p>Tools and vehicles were insufficient to do the job</p> <p>It was difficult to delineate village boundaries correctly, especially in cases where there were conflicts between villages</p>

- Village LUP are done one after the other up to step 4 then *data are consolidated for the whole kumban and finally for the whole district*. It usually takes between 5 to 10 days for the team to complete one kumban.
- The question was asked whether data from micro LUP (PoNRE) can be made available to PAFO. So far data are stored at the district level. Socio-economic data already collected are available. Data are collect but there is no time allocated to analyze them. They are not used for land use planning.
- During the opening ceremony and other steps of micro planning only villagers from the target village are involved. *Villagers from neighbouring villages are not invited*.
- There are still problems with inconsistency of village boundaries between projects. *PoNRE participant estimated that village boundaries they produce are 70% correct*. The reason for this inaccuracy is that in many villages local people do not know how to read maps and do not understand satellite images that are projected using LCD projectors.

### **3.2. Presentation by Mr. Sonexay Khamsingthong, PAFO, on the Agricultural Land Allocation Programme**

The *methodology consists of 8 steps*, of which 5 days consultation with villagers. The process also included field measurement of individual plots (10 days) and allocation of individual land use certificates to households (10 days).

N°	Steps	tools used	outputs	day	participants
1	Open ceremony	Paper A0, topo map, GPS	Villagers understand the objectives of the exercise	2,0	Head of village, LWU, Youth Union, Police, Lao Front
2	Delineation of village boundary	Topo map, transparent paper	Agreement on the village boundaries.	2,0	Head of village and neighbouring villages
3	Creation of the village land and forest committee		List of representatives of the committee (2 or 3 persons, heads of village)	1,0	Head of village
4	Land delineation and zoning	Topo map, transparent paper	Land zoning	1,0	Head of village
5	Paint the board map and write the land use and management plan document	Wooden board, paint...	Map on wooden board, management plan	1,0	Head of village
6	Print the land management plan and distribute to village and District	papers	Land management plan document	1,0	Head of related offices
7	Measure the land allocated to households	GPS, Decameter	Delineation of cultivated lands	15	Villagers
8	Allocation of land titles on agriculture land		Land titles on agriculture land	10	Head of related offices

The *land zoning document* consists of 5 parts:

N°	Chapter title	Content
1	Agreement on the land and forest management committee assigned by governor	List of the 7 members of the land allocation committee and their responsibilities
2	Agreement letter to protect natural resources and forests	Regulation to protect lands and forests, wildlife, fish and prohibitions
3	Note of delineation of the village boundary	Delineation of boundary and regulation for the 3 types of forests
4	Land and forest management plan	Delineation of each type of land and forest
5	Participants list	List and signatures of participants

The discussion about *strong and weak points* pointed out the following:

- Village boundaries are delineated based on topographic maps only. A sketch map is produced based on oral description of the boundaries (e.g. from this mountain to this river) by knowledgeable villagers. *Representatives from neighbouring villages are usually invited.*

- Only one GPS point is taken that corresponds to the location of the village settlement (no GPS point along the village boundary).
- *Temporary land use certificates* are issued by PAFO for a period of 3 years.
- Have not tried to consolidate maps from different district offices as they don't want to create confusion.

### 3.3. Presentation by Mr. Jean-Christophe Castella, on Participatory land Use Planning (PLUP) implementation by iREDD project

PLUP has been implemented in 32 villages of Viengkham district, Luang Prabang province in 2011, using this method. It takes 7 to 8 days to implement all steps up to the PLUP agreement. An adapted version of this method has been developed in Huaphan as part of a REDD+ research project to involve villagers in land use planning for low carbon emission. Villagers simulate strategies to increase the carbon value of the landscape while preserving their livelihood. The method was tested in 2012 in Sakok and Samsoom villages of Viengthong District.

The process applied in Viengkham District consists of 14 steps:

N°	Steps	tools used	outputs	day	participants
1	Opening ceremony - setting up the village land management committee	posters, paper board	village informed - VLMC	0,5	whole village, heads of DAFO, DoNRE, District Governor office, PLUP implementation team (district staff)
2	3D model buiding (team1)	card board, plaster band	village 3D model	1	2 PLUP implementation staff + 4villagers
3	Socio-economic data collection (team2 - 1,5 days)	focus group + individual questionnaires	household typology, socio-economic parameters for PLUP		2 or 3 district staff, 12 members of the VLMC, all village households
4	Village boundary delineation	3D model	village boundary on 3D model and GIS	0,5	members of VLMC, village head, representatives of neighboring villages, 2 district staff
5	PLUP Fiction role play	playing board and tools	enhanced understanding of planning by members of VLMC	1	12 members of VLMC and 2 facilitators (district staff)
6	GPS data collection	GPS device	village milestones / conflicting villages boundary points settled		1 representative of each of the two neighboring villages and
7	Mapping current land use	3D model, high resolution satellite image, topo-map	current land use map on 3D model and GIS	0,5	members of VLMC, village head, 2 district staff facilitators
8	Land zoning (+ 3D model painting)	3D model	land use plan on 3D model + GIS	1	members of VLMC, 2 district staff facilitators
9	Village action plan (team1)	paper board	development plan	1	6 members of VLMC and district facilitators
10	PLUP agreement (team2)	paper board, computer, printer	land management plan		6 members of VLMC and district facilitators

11	Village monograph	Computer	village data management and storage	1	2 district staffs
12	Zoning signs painting and posting in village territory	wood planks and paint	land use zone demarcation		villagers and members of the VLMC
13	Map painting on wooden board	wooden board, paints	PLUP map available for all villagers + painted 3D model		2 district staffs
14	Closing village meeting	posters, paper board, 3D model, PLUP agreement	presentation of all outputs and processes by members of VLMC	0,5	whole village, heads of DAFO, DoNRE, District Governor office, PLUP implementation team (district staff)

The *final PLUP agreement* includes detailed plans for agricultural and forestry activities and production targets.

(For more information about the method see <http://iapad.org/plup-handbook-2012.htm>).

The discussion about *strong and weak points* pointed out the following:

- An important element is the use of a 1x1 meter *3-dimensional village landscape model*. This map helps ensuring participation of villagers. All villagers (men and women) can easily understand this model and indicate locations of present land use. The method includes village boundary delineation with GPS.
- The method also includes a *land use scenario exercise, called 'PLUP-fiction'*. This allows villagers to think through the costs and benefits of various land use options, before agreeing on the most beneficial land use plan.

### 3.4. Presentation by Mr. Sangthong Phatsalin, about the PLUP experience of the Northern Upland Integrated Rural Development Project (GIZ/NU-IRDP)

A method similar to the one presented by the iREDD project uses a 3D landscape model to increase understanding of villagers. District staff plays a facilitation role to increase the understanding and participation of villagers in land use planning through PLUP-Fiction scenario explorations. More time (10 to 14 days) is allocated than for the previous method as the 6 districts staff involved (3 from DAFO and 3 from DoNRE) in the field work as still learning.

T	AM		PM	
	Team 1	Team 2	Team 1	Team 2
1	-Opening Meeting (tell the villager to prepare the signboard)			
2	Data collection:	Data collection:	Data collection:	Data collection:
	1. Socio-economic data	5. NTFPs data.	1. Socio-economic data	5. NTFPs data.
	2. Income of each HH	6. Trees using.	2. Income of each HH	6. Trees using.
	3. Use of agriculture land of each HH.	7. Wildlife information.	3. Use of agriculture land of each HH.	7. Wildlife information.
	4. Construction land of each HH.		4. Construction land of each HH.	

<b>3</b>	- Data analysis.	- Making 3D model.	- Data analysis.	- Making 3D model.
<b>4</b>	- Making 3D model.	- Making 3D model.	- Adding information in to the 3D model.	- Adding information in to the 3D model.
<b>5</b>	- Village boundary delineation.		- Village boundary delineation.	
<b>6</b>	- Collecting GPS points.	- PLUP Fiction role-play.	- Collecting GPS points.	- PLUP Fiction role-play
<b>7</b>	- Collecting GPS points.	- PLUP Fiction role-play.	- Collecting GPS points.	- PLUP Fiction role-play
<b>8</b>	- Identification of current land use.		- Land use plan.	
	- Drawing map in GIS and calculate the income of current land use.		- Drawing map in GIS.	
	- Report the result to the VLMC for current land use.		- Report the result to the VLMC.	
<b>9</b>	- Land use plan.		- Land use plan.	
	- Drawing map in GIS.		- Drawing map in GIS.	
	- Report the result to the VLMC		- Report the result to the VLMC.	
<b>10</b>	- Village land management planning.			
<b>11</b>	- Village action plan.	- Dividing the job for the VLMC.	- Village action plan.	- Dividing the job for the VLMC.
<b>12</b>	- Drawing map in to the signboard.	-Painting the 3D model	- Drawing map in to the signboard.	-Painting the 3D model
<b>13</b>	- Packing material.	- Preparing for the closing meeting.	-Train the VLMC to report to villagers	-Train the VLMC to report to villagers
<b>14</b>	Closing meeting			

The discussion about *strong and weak points* pointed out the following:

Strong points	Weak points
<p>Explicitly take into consideration biodiversity and carbon values of the landscape,</p> <p>Local people get ownership of the planning process,</p> <p>Actually use the socio economic data collected during the planning process.</p>	<p>Facilitation skills of district staff need to be developed so that they can collect data without getting local people bored,</p> <p>Districts staff have to get through a period of training to be involved in the process as the method is new,</p> <p>Technical problem to use Excel file to compute results. Excel file needs to be simplified.</p> <p>A recurring problem is the rapid turnover of district staff involved in PLUP. The loss of knowledgeable persons imposes almost continuous training of new staff.</p>

### 3.5. Presentation by Mr. Sengphanh Sayphoumy: Implementation of PLUP by the Bamboo Sector Development Project (GRET/SNV)

So far, GRET has supported implementation of LUP in 4 villages, it plans to do LUP in another 30 villages.

The methodology consists of 14 steps, quite similar to the iREDD and GIZ/NU-IRDP methodologies. 3-D model and PLUP-fiction are included. Land use scenarios are developed on the basis of discussions with specific groups of farmers with different livelihood targets (e.g. livestock owners, rice growers, NTFP collectors). Special attention is dedicated to bamboo management. The steps are :

N°	Steps	tools used	outputs	day	participants
1	3D model preparation	topo map	3D model	1.0	Youth Union and LWU
2	Open ceremony and creation of the Village Land Management Committee		Creation of VLMC	0.5	District Governor, DAFO DLMA, all villagers, heads of neighbouring villages
3	Delineation of village boundary	3D, Arcmap	Boundary of village in 3D, digital and agreement on the village boundary	0.5	2 representatives per neighbouring village
4	Socio-economic census	template, excel file	census of all households	1.0	all households
5	Definition of Land zones, and delineation of Current Land Use	3D, Arcmap	Current Land Use map ( <b>CLU</b> )	0.5	VLMC
6	Analyse of the village land use, history of activities, and typology of farmers	template	Farmers' typology	0.5	VLMC
7	Socio-economic analysis of crops, livestock, NTFP, plantations, biodiversity & carbon	excel file	Socio-economic indicators of village activities	1.0	VLMC
8	Discussion on agriculture and bamboo activities	3D model	Village Development Plan ( <b>VDP</b> )	1.0	VLMC
9	Discussion on forest for bamboo management and area for bamboo plantation	3D model	Delineation of the area	1.0	The whole village gathers for discussion and around the 3D model. All villagers and project foresters
10	PLUP fiction role play	board, socio economic indicators, calculators	Understanding on planning	1,0	VLMC
11	Participatory land use zoning	3D model, Arcmap, socio economic indicators,	Delineation of LUP	1.0	VLMC

VDP						
12	Village Forest Land management plan and VDP	3D delineation and VDP	Land use Plan ( <b>LUP</b> )	1.0	VLMC	
13	Mapping	3D model, arcmaps, board	maps: 3D model, digital and board			
14	Closing ceremony	Maps, LU Plan, VDP	Formalisation of the LU Plan, Maps	0.5	District Governor, DAFO DLMA, all villagers, neighbouring villages	

The *final document* also includes detailed targets for income raising activities in agriculture and forestry.

N°	Chapter title	Content
1	Agreement on the VLMC	List of the VLMC, approved by District Governor
2	Boundary delineation	Description of the village boundary, approved by all neighbouring villages, GPS points
3	Allocation of Land and Forest	Table with types of land use, situation of the area, name of the areas, surface
4	Land and Forest mManagement plan	Description of each area
5	Regulation to protect land and forest	Land and forest management, how to use, what is forbidden, sanctions (for each type of land)
6	Land and Forestry regulation	Law
7	Village regulation	
8	LUP map	Map
9	VDP	VDP

The discussion about *strong and weak points* pointed out the following:

Strong points	Weak points
Four persons : 2 DAFO + 2 DONRE were trained in Viengkham in 2011. There is no problem about the use of Excel files to generate village parameters for the land use planning process.	The main problem faced is also related to the rapid turnover of district staff. Trained people are assigned to other activities, leading to lost training investment.

### 3.6. Discussion

The main following ideas were exchanged during the discussion:

- GIZ staffs invited other projects to attend a training they will organize for district staff on PLUP fiction and 3D model during the coming week.
- PAFO staffs agreed that they are interested in exchanging information with other projects and learning from them. PAFO staff use old techniques, topographic map. Do not use modern equipments such as GIS and GPS. They would be interested in working with

modern technology to improve the quality of their outputs. But they lack equipments and experience. They depend very much on existing projects. So for now, they have to stick to the old methods.

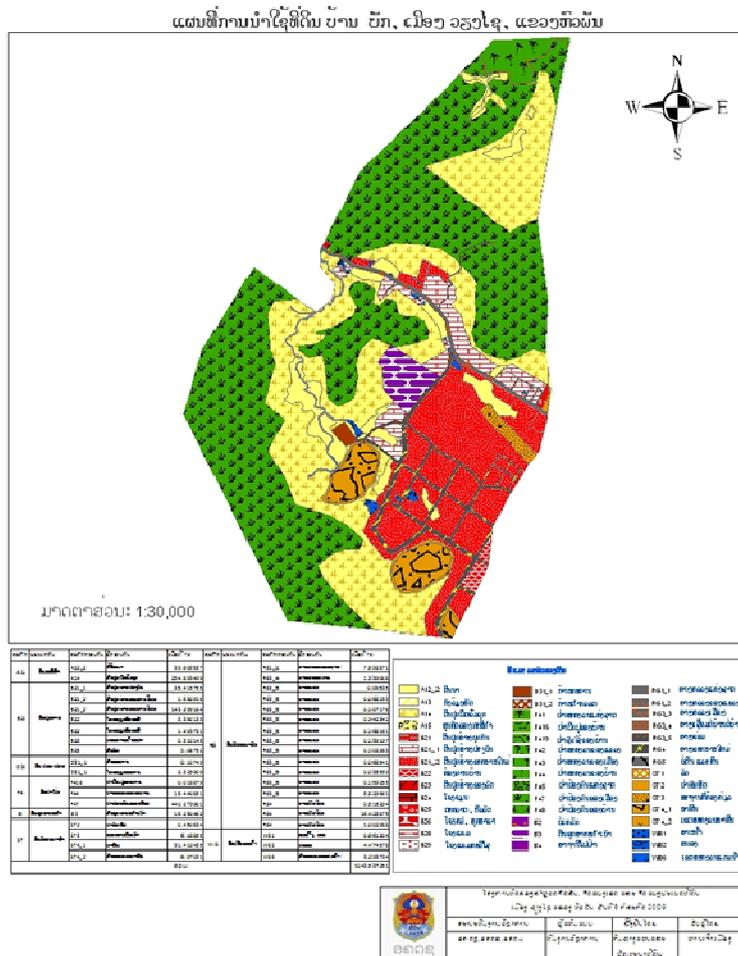
- DONRE staff do not analyse their socioeconomic data. They just fill the standard forms and questionnaires. They expect the data to be used to monitor livelihood changes, demography, etc. They collect data for development planning but do not know who will use the data. DoNRE representative acknowledges that there are errors in their village boundary mapping.
- It is difficult for other projects to use data/maps generated by DONRE as the quality is not sufficient for their purpose. Doing LUP in 5 villages within 3 days only is too rapid to do a good job. It may therefore be possible to improve DoNRE maps with the support of other projects. To achieve this, a single system of data collection and sharing would help a lot.
- Better coordination among projects would save time and money.

#### 4. Standards used by different projects

##### 4.1. PoNRE, Micro LUP program

DoNRE representative presented the technical standards used at the national level.

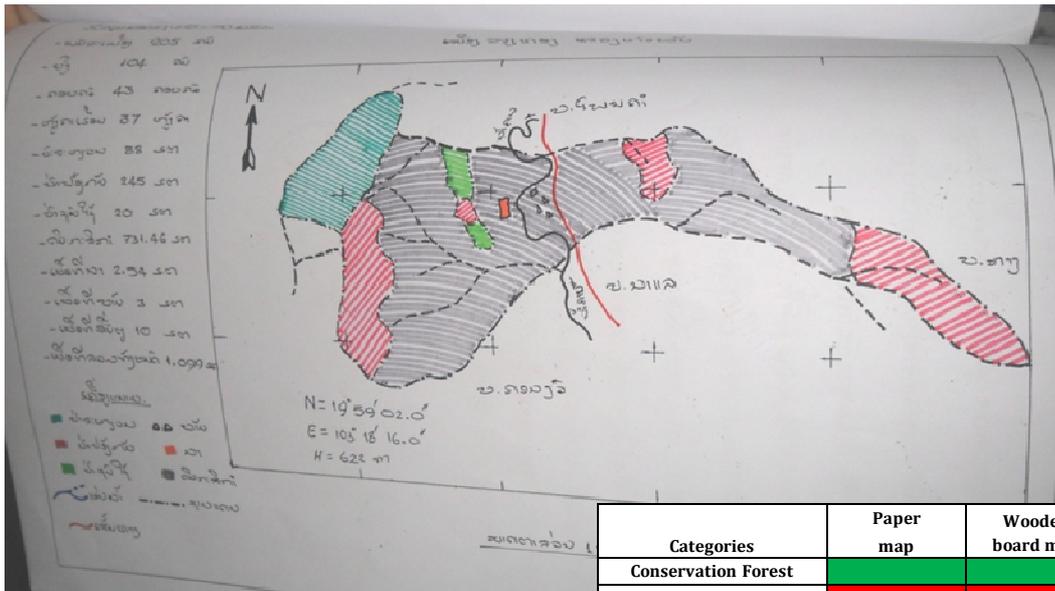
The codes and colours are used consistently by MoNRE and there is an agreement between MAF and MONRE to use the same standards.



#### 4.2. PAFO, Agricultural Land Allocation Programme

PAFO uses different colour that are easier to understand for local communities. For example red colour means 'forbidden' use. This is more intuitive, easier to manage with computers and to paint on wooden boards. The complex colour set and patterns used by DoNRE is almost impossible to reproduce on the maps painted on the wooden boards.

Painting colours is not a problem for micro land use planning as they do not produce LUP maps on wooden boards but in case there is not enough colours, it is proposed to write the code. PAFO representative discarded that option. As villagers do not understand the codes, we need to paint the full legend.

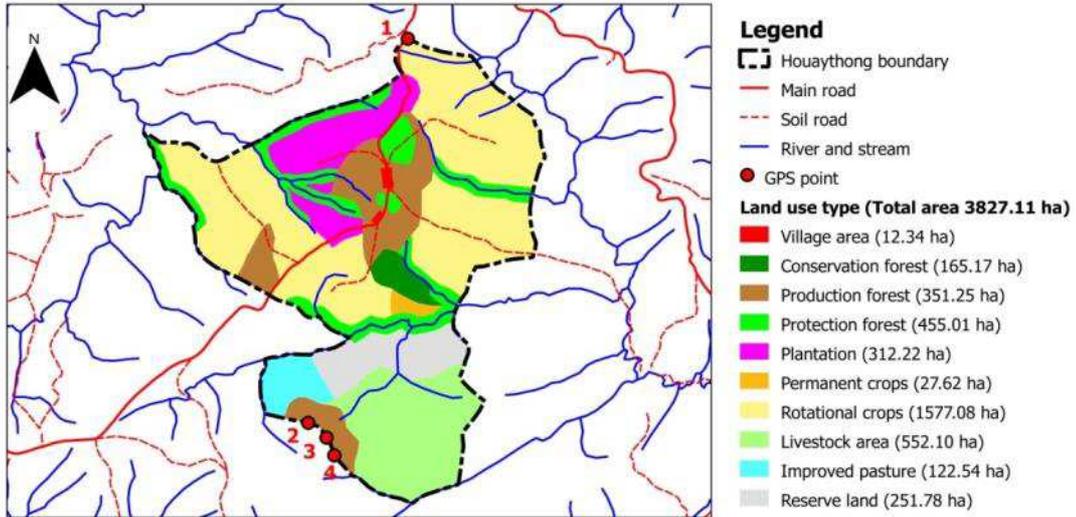


Categories	Paper map	Wooden board map
Conservation Forest	Green	Green
Protection Forest	Red	Red
Use Forest	Light Green	Light Green
Agriculture land	Grey	Grey
Low land paddy	Yellow	Yellow
Infrastructure land	△△△	△△△
Cimetry	●●●	●●●
Road	Red	Red
River	Blue	Blue
Village boundary	Black	Black

#### 4.3. iREDD project

I-REDD project did set colour codes before the standards were harmonized at the national level. It is not a problem to change to colour codes if we can agree on common standards.

### Houaythong land use planning map, Viengkham district, Luangprabang



#### 4.4. Northern Upland Integrated Rural Development Project (GIZ/NU-IRDP)

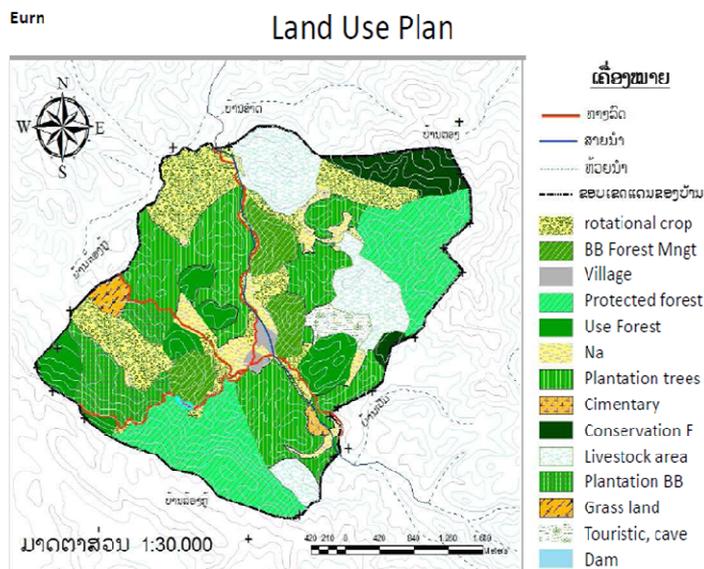
GIZ added that it is important that the same colours are used for all maps produced through LUP: 3D map, digital map and wooden board map.

Besides, there should be 4 maps in the final agreement:

- ✓ Village boundary + location in the district
- ✓ Terrain map
- ✓ Current land use
- ✓ Land use plan

#### 4.5. Bamboo Sector Development Project (GRET/SNV)

Bamboo project asked for colours specific to domesticated NTFP such as bamboo plantations.



GIS software use for LUP should also become a standard. Two software are currently used by the projects in Huaphan: QGIS or ArcMap. GIZ recommends to use QGIS. Besides its capacity to do all operations needed for LUP and its availability in Lao language, the main advantage of this open source software is that it is free. On the other hand, most of the ArcMap versions used by government agencies are illegal versions. Original copies are very expensive. However, with the adhesion of Laos the World Trade Organization in 2014, the illegal versions of the software will not be allowed anymore in the administration. It is therefore important to turn as soon as possible to QGIS to avoid being forced to do so in the next few years because of copyright issues.

## **5. Conclusions on future LUP implementation and coordination**

The main conclusions drawn at the end of the session were :

- The Micro PLUP data provide a good basis for LUP. However boundaries may have been 70% accurate due to time constraints. Where boundary data could be refined, PONRE would be happy to integrate new data in their database.
- Future LUP work should always be implemented with teams consisting of both DAFO and DONRE staff
- It is important to agree on a standard system for coding land use categories and map colouring. For the moment it is proposed to follow the coding system of MoNRE.
- Where possible, the 3D village landscape models will be used to ensure participation and understanding of villagers
- The PLUP-fiction scenarios should be included to ensure better understanding of villagers on the costs and benefits of various land use options
- Where possible, project should combine LUP training activities to ensure a standardized approach.
- Later this week, GIZ and NAFRI will organize a training workshop for Province and District Staff on the use of socioeconomic data for land use planning from 12-13 October, and a follow up workshop on building and using 3-D models, 14-15 October. Other projects are invited to support province and district staff to join these events.
- Projects should exchange information about their work plans (i.e. who is doing or planning to do LUP in which villages, when?) so that geographic coordination can be improved and duplication of efforts in the same villages can be avoided. A spreadsheet document was documented by the participants with such information. An extract is presented in Annex 1.
- A summary of these conclusions of the first day of this workshop will be prepared in Lao and English language, to be approved by province authorities (see below).

## **6. Synthesis of session 1 conclusions reported to sessions 4 & 5**

The following synthesis of conclusions of session 1 has been agreed and reported to the sessions 4 and 5.

### Synthesis of session 1, reported to sessions 4 & 5

The meeting first allowed participants to **build a common vision of LUP objectives and benefits for villages communities**. From there, they **exchanged information about their respective methods and tools, standards** used for land use maps, village boundary delineation, land management plans, land use plans, village development plans, etc. Each participant presented the **strengths and weaknesses** of respective LUP approaches, which opened to lively discussions about possible improvements of on-going practices through improved coordination among projects and institutions.

The **participants agreed to develop coordination mechanisms** as proposed below, subject to prior agreement of their respective hierarchy.

1. Micro land use planning implemented by PoNRE is generating consistent data with a large coverage as many villages and districts of the province are already done or will be done in the coming months (see list of target villages). Because of the limited time and resources available to field implementation the proposed approach faces some problems of accuracy in resulting maps and socio-economic data. Whenever possible, **there is a general agreement to revise/improve existing maps and data based on results from other LUP approaches**.
2. Other approaches, promoted by *the Bamboo project / Gret Sny, the NuDP/Giz, and iREDD+/NUoL-IRD*, may help improving LUP outputs by investing more time in engaging local communities in the LUP process through participatory tools such as **PLUP Fiction role-play** and **3D models**. However, as the approach may initially look complex to implement by inexperienced practitioners, **training programmes would be provided to all interested projects and institutions involved in the coordination**.
3. Another pathway to improve LUP practices would be to start from current practices of *PAFO's Agriculture allocation* programme with very limited equipments and resources and see how it can be gradually improved to reach the same standards as the other LUP projects actives in the province. **Specific workshops could be organized among partner institutions to explore options for stepwise improvement of LUP practices**.
4. A consensus should be easily reached about a number of technical standards that will facilitate data exchange, consolidation and storage. For example, **colour codes proposed by MoNRE have been already adopted by many projects** in the province and others are eager to align to this standard. Along the same line it was agreed that a **common open source GIS software, like QGIS, should be used by all projects** to ease the standardization of LUP outputs, facilitate data sharing and training exchanges between projects and institutions.
5. More technical workshops will be needed to harmonize the LUP approaches while meeting the specific needs of the projects. For example, **household questionnaires could be reviewed collectively to identify the questions that are common to several projects** and those that are specific. It would then be possible to agree about common standards that would facilitate data sharing, joint analysis of socio-economic changes, and monitoring of LUP impacts.
6. **Geographic coordination** will be improved through regular consultation to favour synergies and avoid duplication of efforts in the same villages. To ensure overall coordination at province and district levels, LUP activities should always be implemented by **teams combining staff from agriculture and forestry sections (PAFO/DAFO) working together with staff from the environment and natural resources units (PONRE/DONRE)**. Data should be shared and stored at both offices.

## SESSION 2 - CONSULTATION WITH VILLAGERS

### 1. Agenda and objectives

The objective of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session was to get feedback and ideas from villagers on expectations, methods and process, post PLUP, and usefulness of LUP from their perspective.

20 representatives of 10 villages having recently experienced LUP exercises, participated to the session: Ban Naheua, Ban Tong, Ban Xiengken, Ban Meuath & Ban Eurn, (Viengxay District), Ban Piengxay & Ban Napeung (Sobbao District), Ban Soblao (Houamuang District), Ban Muangkham (Samtay District), Ban Pounghay (Viengthong District).

The session was held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October AM, according to the following agenda:

Time	Objectives	Participants
8:15 – 8:30	Introduction participant	20 villagers (headmen and LWU) from 10 villages:
8:30- 8:45	Introduction about LUP workshop sequence	Tong: M. Bounloy, Mrs. Somphone
8:45- 9:00	1 Introduction about LUP concept & method	Naheua: M. Thongmany, Mrs. Maychanh
9:00-10:15	2 <u>Work groups</u> (1 men, 1 women) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expectations &amp; usefulness: benefits from LUP</li> <li>• Methods &amp; tools: understanding</li> <li>• Follow-up, PLUP implementation</li> <li>• Process: role as members of VLMC</li> </ul>	Eurn: M. Mayson, Mrs. Vongseng Muangkham: M. Monnam, Mrs Phouangvanh Xiengken: M. Viengphone, Mrs. Davone
10:15-10:30	Break	Meuath: M. Sonthong, Mrs. Yonsy Phiengxay: M. Vinphone, M. Phanxay, Mrs. Sing
10:30-12:00	3 <u>Plenary</u> : Summary of the 2 sub-groups and synthesis	Pounghay: Mrs. Lienvanh, M. Touy Soplao: M. Phone, Mrs. Noy Napeung: M. Mayphon, M. Phonkeo

### 2. Discussion in plenary: villagers' Perceptions on Land Use Planning (LUP)

Villagers were asked to list the projects that had implemented LUP in their village and the corresponding years. Then they were asked about the strong and weak points of each LUP approach they had experienced in their village. Village representatives intervened one after the other to express their views, then the round table discussions were synthesized as follows:

	Micro LUP (PoNRE)	Agric. Land Allocation (PAFO)	NU-IRD (GIZ)	Bamboo Sector (GRET)
<b>Duration</b>	1-2 days	2-3 days	10-14 days	8-10 days
<b>Strong points</b>	Villagers understand the satellite image projected with the LCD projector	Get temporary land use certificates	Enough time - 10 days is ok Good understanding of the process (village boundaries, land use planning) Clear responsibilities given to VLMC	Enough time Good understanding Share responsibilities between VLMC members

<b>Weak points</b>	Too fast Villagers do not really understand the process No participation No information on land regulation Would like to get land titles	Too fast, not precise Villagers cannot understand Missing communication with villagers	Do not understand GPS points, Would like to get individual land certificates	Do not allocate land to households Propose to project to issue document for HH Some conflict on village boundaries could not be solved
--------------------	--	--	---	--

### 3. Discussion in work groups: men and women points of view

Two group discussions were held, one with men and one with women.

Participants were asked to respond to the following questions using meta-cards:

- What are the benefits of LUP for your communities?
- How do villagers understand LUP?
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Village Land Use Management Committee (VLMC)

There was not much difference between men and women responses. The main outputs of the work groups are summarized in the next section.

### 4. Synthesis of session 2 conclusions reported to sessions 4 & 5

A synthesis of conclusions of session 2 has been agreed at the end of the session (see below).

This statement was presented during the session 4 and 5 of the “LUP coordination workshop in Huaphan province”, which were held on October 10 and 11, 2012.

## Synthesis of session 2, reported to sessions 4 & 5

### What are the benefits of LUP for communities?

1. Clear delineation of village area boundaries
2. Reduction of conflicts over land between villages
3. Clear rules on using land and forest
4. The main expectation is that it will protect the rights of villagers to use their land forever.

### How villagers understand LUP ?

The strong points are:

1. They understand the process of LUP and are able to implement land use planning
2. They know clearly what areas can be used for agricultural production
3. They understand the policies of the Government on land use planning
4. They know how to manage land and forest resources in a sustainable way

The weak points are:

1. The implementation of the latest LUP exercise (Micro Land Use Planning) was much too fast, only 1-2 days per village is not enough.
2. Villagers do not understand what the outcome was. In some cases, the area assigned for agricultural production is not sufficient for the amount of households in the village. This forces some households to go back to shifting cultivation (in order to secure their rice supply).

### Roles and Responsibilities of the Village Land Use Management Committee (VLMC)

The strong points are:

1. When there are conflicts over land, the VLMC could support to resolve them, but the real decision-maker is the village head
2. When villagers do not follow the agreed regulations on land use, the VLMC can call a meeting to improve villager's understanding

The weak points are:

1. There are no meetings called to discuss land use issues by the VLMC
2. The VLMC has no authority, no power to decide in the case of land use conflicts, we would like them VLMC to be given full powers in this matter, not the village headman
3. We would like to have more training on conflict resolution and more support for VLMC in general

## SESSION 3 CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT TECHNICIANS

### 1. Agenda and objectives

The objective of the 3<sup>rd</sup> session was to receive feedback and suggestions from district technicians. the expected benefits from LUP for villagers, ii. the LUP methods used, iii. the activities post-LUP.

19 technicians of DAFO and DLMA (= DoNRE) from 6 districts participated to the session: Sopbao District, Viengxay District, Sam Neua District, Houamuang District, Samtay District, Viengthong District.

The session was held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October PM, according to the following agenda:

Time	Objectives	Participants (#19 + facilitators)
13:30-13:45	Introduction of participants	19 District technicians involved in LUP in 6 districts :
13:45-14:00	Intro about LUP workshop sequence	<b>Sopbao:</b> M.Bounna Phommixay, DLMA M. Thaviphone Sihan, DAFO, M. Ong Thiplaphone DAFO, M. Teung, DLMA, M. Khamhouang Douangphaonxay, DLMA;
14:00-15:00	Usefulness of LUP and use of LUP including feedback from villagers (session 2)	<b>Viengxay:</b> Ms. Khitlakhone Kheuanachit, DLMA, Ms. Souklaphone Bounmany, DLMA, Ms. Lieng Thiphasone, DLMA, M. Khamphet Bounphavone, DAFO, M. Khamthong Phonmavong, DAFO, M. Southevan Lophengsy, DAFO, M. Khamphia Hiengpanya, DAFO;
15:00 -15:15	Introduction about LUP concept & method – summary of session 1	<b>Samneua:</b> M. Chaynoy Kongsengchit, DLMA, M. Sonthavan Thebvongxay, DLMA
15:15-15:30	Break	<b>Houamuang:</b> M. La Phomvilay, DLMA, M. Viengphone, DAFO
15:30-16:30	Group discussions (1) village boundaries, (2) current land use, (3) land use planning, (4) village development plan, (5) post-LUP activities	<b>Samtay:</b> M. Somsak Phompanya, DLMA
16:30-17:30	Plenary Report from the groups and synthesis	<b>Viengthong:</b> M. Saysanit Kanyathong, DAFO, M. Natthida Hakthiphavong, DLMA

### 2. Discussion in plenary: usefulness of LUP

The first discussion has been focused on the usefulness of LUP, i.e. what is LUP useful for? Technician answered using meta-card, which were read and pasted on a board. The different ideas expressed by the technicians were then re-arranged into a limited number of categories. The resulting categories were quite similar to those identified during the first session.

Importance of LUP for villagers and projects (ordered by number of answers)
To preserve forest and natural resources
To promote systematic farming for the market (new technical knowledge)
For communities to see the positive aspects of communal management of their land, and understand & implement government regulations on land management better
To resolve conflicts over land and have clear boundaries
To improve the monitoring of implementation and impact of government land policies
To reduce poverty of villagers and promote economic development

### 3. Discussion in work groups: tools & methods for implementing LUP

The objective was to open the discussion among technicians so that they could reflect on their LUP practices. The technicians were divided in 5 work groups of 4/5 participants and were asked to give their ideas and suggestions about “good practices and tools” to produce:

- a village boundary
- a current land use - CLU - map
- a land use plan - LUP - map
- a village development plan
- an agreement on land use and management

After 15 minutes, each group presented their reflexions and held a discussion on the different tools and methods. Most of them expressed their interest in learning more about the use of the socio-economic data for land use planning and the use of 3D maps, and expressed a need for training.

### 4. Synthesis of session 3 conclusions reported to sessions 4 & 5

A synthesis of conclusions of session 3 has been agreed at the end of the session.

The statement was presented during the sessions 4 and 5 of the “LUP coordination workshop in Huaphan province”, which were held on October 10 and 11, 2012.

#### Synthesis of session 3, reported to sessions 4 & 5

##### **80% of methodologies used are similar**

The position of project and district technicians is that 80% of the methodologies used by the different projects are the same and that all stakeholders would benefit from setting clear common standards to avoid confusion and to improve the understanding and participation of villagers.

##### **Training needed**

To achieve this, much more training is needed for district staff, especially on:

- (1) Developing a common format for socio-economic data collection,
- (2) Scenario-tools to incorporate socio-economic data and goals in land use planning,
- (3) Use of 3-D maps for increased participation of villagers in the planning process,
- (4) Using open source GIS software.

##### **Link LUP with livelihood support**

It is also important to ensure that LUP work is done in locations where other projects can follow up with livelihood support.

## SESSION 4: CONSULTATION WITH SENIOR DISTRICT STAFF

### 1. Agenda and objectives

The objectives of the 4<sup>th</sup> session were to discuss: i. feed-backs from farmers and technicians, ii. how villagers can get permanent land rights/titles, iii. how to improve follow-up implementation of village development plans after LUP, iv. how to improve coordination.

30 persons participated to the session, including 15 heads of DAFO, DoNRE and DPI from 6 districts (Sopbao District, Viengxay District, Sam Neua District, Houamuang District, Samtay District, Viengthong District), representatives of the project staff (session 1), farmers (session 2) and technicians (session 3). The session was chaired by Mr. Phouvong Sisomhak, Chief of cabinet of Houaphan Governor's Office.

The session was held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 1M, according to the following agenda:

Time	Objectives	Participants (#30)
8:15-8:30	1. Opening ceremony by Chairman	<b>Chairman:</b> Mr. Phouvong Sisomhak, Chief of Cabinet, Province Governor's Office
8:30-9:00	Introduction of participants Intro about LUP workshop sequence	<b>Director or deputy director of DAFO</b> M. Amphay Phoummanolat, Viengxay
9:00-10:00	2. Presentation of feedback from projects (session 1), villagers (session 2), and technicians (session 3), Discussion on proposals formulated by projects team, villagers and technicians	M. Bounthon Bounmixay, Viengthong M. Thonghak Boualapha, Houamuang M. Mayla Phimmakone, Samtay Mrs. Chanphone Xagnaboun, Sopbao <b>Director or deputy director of DoNRE</b> M. Metta Nanthavong, Huamuang M. Kouankeo Theb Inthavong, Samtay
10:00-10:15	Break	M. Vanxay Soulivong, Sopbao M. Singha Ounlasy, Viengxay
10:15-11:45	3. Group discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can villagers get permanent land rights/titles?</li> <li>How to improve follow-up implementation of village development plans after LUP?</li> <li>How to improve coordination?</li> </ul>	M. Phimpheet Dakham, Viengthong <b>Director or deputy director of DPI</b> M. Boun Om Phomnivanh, Viengxay M. Sengchanh Phengbounma, Sopbao M. Onta Phanhpaset, Samtay M. Phouvong Phengkhamvanxay, Viengxay M. Thongkham Gnienmalom
11:45-12:00	4. Summary of conclusions discussed in plenary	<b>Director of NEPL NPA</b> M. Bounphanh Phompanya, <b>Representatives of villagers:</b> M. Viengphone Saenmany, village head of Xieng Khen village, Mrs Nonsy, head LWU, Mouat village <b>Representatives of DAFO DoNRE technicians:</b> M. Sayasit Kanyathi, DAFO Viengthong, M. Natthida Hakthiphavong, DoNRE Viengthong <b>Projects staff (#9)</b>

### 2. Opening words by Mr. Phouvong Sisomhak, Chief of cabinet of Huaphan Governor's Office

Mr. Phouvong Sisomhak, Chief of Cabinet of the Province Governor's Office opened the session. He shared his experiences and ideas on LUP in Huaphan Province.

*"If we do not pay attention to LUP, we risk to lose our land and forests. Luckily we have many projects coming to help us in this.*

*We need to develop good standards for the implementation of LUP. I would like to see more coordination and sharing of resources between projects. It is important that LUP is followed up with extension activities to realize our targets for livelihood development of rural communities.*

*So I am happy to see that you are discussing how to resolve the technicalities of the process of implementing LUP. To improve the quality of data collected and maps and plans produced. We have many problems in the development of our rural communities, please take care to help resolve these issues in your work. Do not run away from these issues but try to deal with them. I wish you strength and commitment to a successful outcome of this useful meeting."*

### **3. Presentations from LUP stakeholders and discussion**

After the process of the workshop had been summarized, the statement prepared by project staff during the first session was read by Mr. Petsakhone, followed by the speech of villagers' representative, Mr. Viengphone, who presented the outputs of session 2. The findings of session 3 with district technicians were presented by Mr. Nathida from Viengthong district DoNRE.

After the 3 presentations, participants engaged a discussion:

#### **i. Management of protected areas**

Mr. Houmphan (NPA director) raised the issue of land use zoning in NPA Nam Et - Phou Loey. There are problems wherever villagers claim a lot of land for agriculture, which should be conserved as forest for nature conservation. Mr. Khampaseuth (GIZ) mentioned the importance of delineating core zones, limited use (buffer) zones and corridors for wildlife. Mr. Houmphan agreed but stressed the need for villagers to know the rules, to understand and to comply with the NPA regulations. A participant then mentioned that in many cases people have already reserved land in or around the NPA and asked how they can still claim their land. Mr. Phouvong concluded that these national protected areas are decided by decision makers looking at maps in Vientiane, but we need to fine-tune at village level.

#### **ii. Understanding of villagers and data quality**

Mr. Viengphone, village head of Ban Xieng Khen in Viengxay District, said that he has seen the satellite images used for mapping but he prefers to use 3D maps: "it is easier for us all to understand".

Mr. Maila from DAFO Namtai then reported about a case of misunderstanding of the terms used by district staff to introduce land regulation to villagers. "Often villagers confuse concepts, we talk about *"pa palit"* as production forest, they think it is land for *"khet palit kasikam"* agricultural production". Mr. Petsakhone from PAFO responded that the problem reported also depends on the understanding of our officers, not only on the villagers. We used to have 5 categories of forest, now we only have 3 categories, people misunderstand often. We need to understand and explain clearly.

Mr. Sangthong from GIZ said that despite good understanding by villagers, they tend to systematically under-report their livestock numbers and even their labour force, as they are afraid of taxation. So it is difficult to base development plans on such faulty data. Enough time should be dedicated to develop trust between district staff doing PLUP and villages communities.

### **iii. Land development after LUP**

Mr. Phouvong asked participants to take a view over the next 5-10 years. There should be enough agricultural land for every household. But when it comes to land titles we need to be precise. Once the agricultural area is established, extension officers should help villagers to improve the productivity of that area so they do not need to expand their area all the time. What villagers really want is to have permanent land titles, so they can invest in their land. Mr. Bounethone from Viengthong DAFO added that models for more intensive agriculture should be promoted as the way out. "We can intensify livestock, so we need less land, and we can intensify crops". Mr. Singha from Viengxay DAFO then stressed the importance of addressing the issue of conflicts between villages before LUP follow-up activities are undertaken.

## **4. Group discussions**

Based on the issues prioritized by villagers and discussions held with LUP stakeholders, the senior district staff were asked to reflect on the three following questions:

- i. How can we accelerate the process from zoning to the issuing of land certificates. How can we overcome the bottlenecks that stop us from doing that?
- ii. We have clear land use plans, but nobody follows up with any extension support, how can we improve?
- iii. How to improve the standardization and coordination of LUP approaches and sharing of data between projects and government offices so that villagers do not get confused?

Discussions were held in three groups, each group focusing on one of the three questions. The outcomes are summarized below.

## **5. Synthesis of session 4 conclusions reported to session 5**

A synthesis of conclusions of session 4 has been agreed at the end of the session (see below)

This statement was presented during the sessions 5 of the "LUP coordination workshop in Huaphan province", which was held on October 11, 2012.

### Synthesis of session 4, reported to session 5

The participants discussed the **problems that can emerge from poor coordination as reported by the three groups of stakeholders**: project staffs, villagers and district technicians (DAFO, DONRE staffs). For example, different outputs can be produced by different projects working in the same village, which creates confusion for all stakeholders, especially the village community.

Participants agreed that there is a need to rationalize LUP approaches through harmonization of the standards and methods and better coordination.

They further reflected on **three issues that were brought forward by the farmers' representative**:

- i. how to build on land use planning to secure land rights for villagers ?
- ii. how to support villagers to maximize the benefits of their land use plan ?
- iii. how to improve LUP coordination so as to increase the understanding of villagers and avoid confusion?

Three work groups addressed these top priority topics for coordination and reported as follows:

#### **Building on land use planning to secure land rights for villagers over rotational crops**

In response to the pressing request of villagers, two land tenure rights were envisioned: temporary land use certificates and communal land titling. Farmers' preference would go for individual land certificates but under the current land law such documents cannot be issued for land under rotational agriculture.

Temporary land use certificates can be issued by DAFO based on detailed survey of all plots in the village for a period of three years. Registered land user have to show that they are actually using and developing their allocated plots, which requires regular surveys from DAFO agents. This option requires a large initial investment in human and financial resources to conduct the detailed survey of individual plots. Moreover, it has to be repeated regularly (i.e. every year, or up to once every three year) so that the temporary land certificate can be extended.

Communal land titling may allow to title an agricultural zone managed under a rotational cultivation system so as to prevent potential land grabbing from outsiders. The problem with this option is that an agreement is required at the central level of the government to authorize the issuance of communal land titles. Moreover, villagers are not so interested so far as they do not know well this option and its value to secure their tenure rights.

The LUP coordination group in Huaphan Province should organize a technical workshop to investigate these issues and design solutions to overcome existing institutional obstacles.

...

#### **Supporting villagers in maximizing the benefits of their land use plan**

Once LUP is done, implementing the village development plan requires capital for investment in land improvement. The lack of dedicated funds and support to extension agents are a key constraints to implementation of the land use plan as agreed during the planning process.

Moreover, misunderstandings may arise due to the use of technical words in the LUP agreements. It is suggested that simple layman words are used during the planning process and in the documents produced so as to avoid misinterpretation by local villagers.

Market issues are also often constraining the implementation of the land use plans. Irregular prices, the absence of price guaranty and limited access to market outlets put innovative farmers at risk when implementing the village development plan.

The LUP coordination group in Huaphan Province should organize a workshop to investigate these issues in more detail and explore possible solutions with agricultural extension projects active in the province.

#### **Improving LUP coordination so as to increase the understanding of villagers and avoid confusion**

Improved coordination among LUP projects could be organized through complementary mechanisms:

- Sharing work plans of each project to improve geographic coordination,
- Improving data management, data storage in both DAFO and DONRE, and data sharing among all partners in the coordination group,
- Standardization of the forms and questionnaires used for socio-economic data collection by different projects

To reach these coordination objectives, **focal points should be clearly identified in the different line agencies at provincial level for strategic planning and at district level for operational planning.**

## SESSION 5: CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT AND PROVINCE GOVERNORS

### 1. Agenda and objectives

The objectives of the 5<sup>th</sup> session were to discuss: i. feed-backs from farmers and technicians, ii. how villagers can get permanent land rights/titles, iii. how to improve follow-up implementation of village development plans after LUP, iv. how to improve coordination.

27 persons participated to the session, including 6 governors or deputy governors of districts (Sopbao District, Viengxay District, Sam Neua District, Houamuang District, Samtay District, Viengthong District), directors or deputy directors of provincial line agencies (PoNRE, PAFO, Nam Et Phou Loey NPA), representatives of the project staff (session 1), farmers (session 2) and technicians (session 3). Mrs. Amphaivone Lombounpheng, Deputy of the National Assembly for Houaphan Province, also participated. The session was chaired by Mr. Vanxay Phengsouma, Deputy Governor of Huaphan Province.

The session was held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October AM, according to the following agenda:

Time	Objectives	Participants (#27)
8:15-8:30	1. Opening speech by Chairman	<b>Chairman</b> , Mr. Vanxay Phengsouma, Deputy Governor of Huaphan
8:30-8:45	Introduction of participants	<b>Deputy of the National Assembly:</b> Mrs. Amphaivone Lombounpheng
8:45-9:00	Intro about PLUP workshop sequence	<b>Districts Governors or Deputies of 6 districts:</b> Mrs. Phieng Kanyaphim, Governor Samneua, M. Khamphone Phanvongxay, Governor Houamuang, M. Chanphone Phengphommy, Governor Samtay, M. Phanthong Phetxaysomphanh, Governor Sopbao, M. Khamhom Myxay, Deputy Governor Viengxay, M. Khamphay Phommysone, Deputy Governor Viengthong.
9:00-10:00	2. Presentation of synthesis session 1 to 4 General discussion	<b>Director or deputy director provincial line agencies</b> M. Houangsy Keophomma, Deputy director PoNRE Huaphan
10:00-10:15	Break	M. Kim Thoummala, Deputy director PAFO Huaphan M. Soukkhaseum, Director of the Department of agricultural extension and cooperatives, PAFO
10:15-11:15	3. Discussion and recommendation on keys issues	M. Houmphan Phompanya, Director of Nam Et – Phou Loey NPA
11:15-11:30	Synthesis and conclusion	<b>Representatives of villagers:</b> M. Viengphone Saenmany, village head of Xieng Khen village, Mrs Nonsy, head LWU, Mouat village <b>Representatives of DAFO - DoNRE technicians:</b> M. Sayasit Kanyathi, DAFO Viengthong, M. Natthida Hakthiphavong, DoNRE Viengthong <b>Representatives of senior district staff:</b> M. Singha Ounlasy, Deputy director DoNRE Viengxay M. Phetsakon Keophilavanh, Deputy head of forestry section, PAFO
11:30-12:00	4. Closing remark by Chairman	<b>Projects staff: (#9)</b>

### 2. Opening speech by Mr. Vanxay Phengsouma, Deputy Governor of Huaphan Province

*“Huaphan Province is very rich in bamboo resources. We have so many different bamboo species; we can eat fresh bamboo shoots all year round. This resource has many potential for development.*

*Since 2005, SNV and GRET are helping us to develop this resource. We have already set aside 2,000 ha to be preserved as bamboo production areas, where bamboo will be produced in a sustainable manner. We also lifted tax barriers and adjusted quota to facilitate exports of bamboo products.*

*So in this light, I believe that the topic of land use planning is very important. The PAFO/DAFO are responsible for parts of the work, so is PONRE. There are many projects that work in our province on rural development, it is important that they coordinate well and that we follow all the existing rules and regulations that our state has put in place.*

*Yesterday I joined a meeting on the land tax. In many countries, land is an important source of tax income. But in Lao the income from land tax is falling. In developed countries, every square meter has an owner, they all pay tax. We need to consider all these elements.*

*I wish you a fruitful meeting, thank you."*

### **3. Presentation of syntheses from session 1 to 4 and discussion**

After the process of the workshop had been summarized, Mr. Phetsakhone presented the findings of session 1: meeting with project staff. Mr. Viengphone, village head of Xieng Pen village, Viengxay province, summarized the findings of session 2: meeting with village representatives. The findings of session 3 with district technicians were presented by Mr. Nathida from Viengthong district DoNRE. Mr. Singha Ounlasy, Deputy Director of DONRE in Viengxay District, summarized the findings of the session 4: consultation with senior district staff (see texts of the summary conclusions of sessions 1 to 4 above).

Following is a transcript of the discussions:

#### **▪ Mr. Kin Phommala, Deputy Director PAFO, Huaphan Province**

*"About the use of GIS programs, it is important to establish who will be the users and it would be good if we all use the same program. We all use the maps of 1:50.000.*

*Secondly, about the use of the 3-D models, I support this, because I have seen it is very useful for the villagers to participate in the land use planning work. Often we see that our officers and villagers cannot really implement the work well because they did not understand the maps well, they did not read the regulations and handbooks well. Too often it comes to the village headman to do all the work and other villagers do not participate enough. These 3-D models avoid such weaknesses in implementation.*

*I want to raise another challenge, sometimes we assign an area as protected forest, but people do not really follow the plan. How to deal with this?*

*We, the PAFO, used to be the single agency dealing with LUP. Now we share this responsibility with other agencies. We need to ensure good cooperation and good quality of work. It is very important to have a strong steering committee in each district to ensure this coordination between implementing agencies.*

*We have done this type work already for 9 years, but it is never properly evaluated or followed up. Often I find that the original documents are getting lost, this is another problem we should address.*

*I appreciate the syntheses about the lessons learned presented today, especially the comments of Mr. Singha (session 4). We are still facing a shortage of equipment for implementing the work. I hope that the projects will assist us in this."*

#### **▪ Mr. Khampay, Deputy Governor, Viengthong District.**

*"I am happy to learn about the findings of this workshop. There are many things that we need to still do between the four projects that work in our district. Especially in the field of livelihood*

*development I hope that the projects will not only collect data but will also implement activities that will improve the livelihoods of villagers. There are 10 out of 95 villages in our district that fall inside the NPA, we are trying to develop alternative livelihoods for them.*

*But we have many challenges, the landscape, the lack of arable land creates many conflicts between households about land. People reserve land for their relatives but others have no land, they want to use that land, how to do?*

*Remote communities do not have land certificates, they cannot borrow money from the bank. We need more land certificates, rather than all this land use zoning, could the projects please consider?*

*The other challenge is the bamboo. We have a lot of bamboo, especially inside the NPA. We want the project to help us make more economic use of this resource. Our villagers can do this work, if you train them. Thank you."*

▪ **Mr Khamphone, Deputy Governor, Houamuang District.**

*"We also have quite a lot of bamboo, let's say in half of the kumbans in our district. We also have part of our area under the NPA. We allowed a Chinese company to come and make dried bamboo-shoots. We welcome the GIZ project to come and work in the kumbans we agreed to start the work. For the implementation, I agree with all the things proposed in this meeting.*

*I just worry that the villagers do not understand much about all this work yet. Like during the micro-LUP, 2-3 days per village was not really enough to create a good understanding. Also our district staff do not really understand fully. Also the projects do not really make it clear how much budget they could invest in each village for development.*

*The way of working with budgets, distribution of assets like cars, computers, etc. is not clear. We have seen many projects doing the same thing, but who follows up? We just had the micro-LUP, what is going to happen after?*

*In our area, there are many Hmong communities, they still do not understand fully the targets of the Government policy, we need to do more work with them."*

▪ **M. Phanthong Phetxaysomphanh, Governor, Sobbao District**

*"In our district, some villages still need to use upland for rice production. We need to explain to them how to produce according to our land regulations. The most urgent issue is to develop good examples, pilots, of improved agricultural practices.*

*As to our officers, they are also lacking knowledge, they may not know well how to create good maps. We have different land uses in different villages, so we should adapt the plans to the local situation. But we have not really established detailed plans for the agricultural development in each village.*

*In our district we started to grow soybeans, later maize came, now people promote mak kao. We still do not know how to produce these crops sustainably, what will be the future market for them?"*

#### **4. Discussion on LUP coordination mechanisms**

After the coffee break, participants were asked to propose concrete mechanisms to improve coordination as there is a common agreement that better coordination is needed. The discussion was organized around the two following questions:

- i. How could we improve coordination between line departments, at province and at district level?
- ii. What are the priorities topics that the coordination should address? From previous consultations, two issues have been identified as priorities:

- How can we follow up after LUP with livelihood improvement?
- How can we accelerate the issuing of land certificates to individual households after LUP?

Participants were asked if they would agree with these priorities and/or if they would like to propose additional ones.

- **M. Soukkhaseum, Director of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives, PAFO**

*"I am very happy to hear all these comments. Our program is supported by the Government, to implement livelihoods improvement by reducing shifting cultivation through improved land use planning. One of the projects supporting us is SNV/GRET on bamboo sector. All these projects should contribute to the eradication of shifting cultivation. We issue certificates to kumbans when they have eradicated shifting cultivation like in kumban Nasa, Viengxay, etc.*

*What I want to propose is that we agree with the proposal on using various tools and equipment. As to the development of handbooks and manuals, especially forms for collecting/recording data, we should try to have one standard and train everybody on the use of it to be the same among all projects. We have in fact already good manuals but now we have many departments getting involved in the implementation, so how to coordinate?*

*I propose that the most important thing is to plan activities together and come to a good management of forest and bamboo resources. In villages where we already collect data, we should have some "model families" who focus on raising buffaloes and cattle. We need plans that are agreed by the district governor. From our side, we are happy to collaborate with everybody, according to our duty.*

*I also agree that we should focus on issuing land use certificates to individual households. So they will feel more responsible for looking after their land. We want to work with GIZ, but they work with MONRE now. Still we hope they will support us with equipment."*

- **Mrs. Phieng Kanyaphim, Governor, Samneua District**

*"I want to propose that we should all clearly understand the existing regulatory system. If we understand, villagers can also understand. Secondly, we should allocate land to individual households. We need to get our officers to be trained better. Sometimes the data collected in the past were not correct, we need to do it again, with a GPS to make sure it is done properly and villagers can agree and understand."*

- **M. Khamhom Myxay, Deputy Governor, Viengxay District**

*"We have done the micro-PLUP, but now the projects like GIZ and SNV will come and they need to clarify the land use further with the villagers. I think it is important to foster ownership of communities over their land."*

- **M. Chanphone Phengphommy, Governor, Samtay District**

*"I agree with the idea that extension should follow LUP. This is the only way to make sure villagers see real benefits in their livelihoods. So we need more extension, more training to develop better agricultural practices. We are the implementing agency, LUP should be a vehicle guiding our implementation at village level. The plan needs to be good and the implementation needs to be good. You cannot use the same plan in every district."*

- **M. Houangsy Keophomma, Deputy director PoNRE Huaphan**

*"I agree that we should coordinate closely between all the projects on LUP and on allocating land use certificates. We just completed the micro-PLUP in the 5 poorest districts. It is important to make the villagers understand that these projects are somehow related.*

*About the issuing of temporary certificates, we have been doing for many years, but it is not working fine. People still practice shifting cultivation even after we give them certificates. They want to sell land but they have no good certificates?*

*As to bamboo management, it is not a big problem, the bamboo forest is already there, we just need to keep it there, it grows by itself?"*

- **M. Viengphone Saenmany, village head of Xieng Khen Village in Viengxay District**

*"Villagers do not have any funds to use land allocated to them, so sometimes they need to continue doing agriculture in the old way."*

- **Mr. Khampaseuth Kongay, GIS expert with GIZ**

*"All this work needs good maps, so if we plan any extension work later it will be based on the maps we produce during LUP. I would like to provide more information about the GIS software we use. Everybody is using ArcGIS, but we should also consider using QGIS. ArcGIS is expensive. QGIS is free and it has Lao Language menus, so it is more suitable to use for district staff. All the ArcGIS software installed on district and province computers are actually unlicensed (illegal) copies. It costs USD15,000 per license, there is no way we can afford that. In two years from now, Lao PDR will join the World Trade Organization, we will get stricter laws on using illegal software, so we need to start preparing for the Government to use systems that are sustainable and not costly."*

- **Mrs. Amphavone Lombounpheng, member of the National Assembly**

*"I want to add that the various agencies that work on land issues that villagers are struggling with, should have sufficient budget to help resolve these issues. What is really the role of each agency and how can we make this clearer? We should have close cooperation guided directly by the district governor. The district knows the people and the problems better than the province. So I think that the focus of the coordination should be on district level.*

*We need extension activities also to be re-examined. Yes, we extend all these agricultural activities but villagers are still as poor as before. Is it really necessary to raise this land tax? People see no benefit coming from this. We need to find ways to give incentives to villagers to take care of their land, increase productivity first and then they will be more eager to pay tax on more productive land. Villagers know their land well."*

About LUP coordination mechanisms, the Chairman asked project leaders to share their views about how to improve.

- **Mr. Joost Foppes, Technical advisor of the LEAP project**

*"I would like to suggest that the work of LUP and the work of livelihood development and sustainable management of resources should be coordinated well. On district level, if one project is going to support LUP, they should preferably work in the same locations where other projects are planning to support follow-up projects."*

- **Mr. Jean-Francois Kibler, GRET coordinator of the Bamboo sector project in Huaphan**

*“It is very good that we talk about coordination. I am very happy to hear all the proposals by the participants of this meeting. As you proposed we need first of all good coordination mechanism at district level. Secondly we also need some strategic coordination at province level. It is important that LUP work can be followed up by extension support from other projects.”*

### **5. Closing remark by Chairman**

*“Having heard all your comments and proposals, I am happy to see that all of you are trying hard to think about how we can develop the livelihoods of the people of Huaphan province.*

*I want the experts to understand that we already have committees for looking after the coordination of all our activities. As Mr. Soukkaseum (Director of the Department of agricultural extension and cooperatives of PAFO) said, we already cooperate all the time between the government agencies. All of your projects have steering committees that have the duty to coordinate between implementing agencies.*

*Standards already exist, they are described in the law. We should make sure we understand them well and apply the same interpretation of the standards. We should apply standards in the implementation of the Government policy in a way that villagers can really understand and follow.*

*We should give priority on giving land certificates to individual households. But in many villages people do not yet have a clear concept or the means to develop individual land by themselves. So the focus should be on extension of alternative livelihoods, on improved agricultural techniques.*

*In other countries, land is managed much more tightly. We have not yet reached that stage.*

*The most important is that we listen carefully to the issues raised by villagers and that we try to resolve them.*

*I am grateful to the experts for the care they express towards our province. I thank the district governors for joining this workshop, I wish all of you good health, and please work hard to help us develop our province.”*



**ANNEX 1 : EXAMPLE OF COORDINATION TOOL FOR LUP PLANNING****Planning of LUP in Houaphan Province (extract Viengxay district)**

20XX LUP done    
 20XX LUP Planned    
 X target village, LUP not planned yet

District	Kumban	village	MONRE	PAFO	Bamboo project	NuDP	LEAF	iREDD	CLiPAD
Viengxay	Thatsaban	Bak	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Thatsaban	Peun	2011-12						
Viengxay	Thatsaban	Eun	2011-12	2011	2012				
Viengxay	Thatsaban	Nakay	2011-12						
Viengxay	Thatsaban	Viengxay	2011-12						
Viengxay	Thatsaban	Phouxay	2011-12						
Viengxay	Thatsaban	Longkhou	2011-12						
Viengxay	Xiengmen	Bopha	2011-12						
Viengxay	Xiengmen	Poungnakhao	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Xiengmen	Nakhao	2011-12						
Viengxay	Xiengmen	Xiengmen	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Xiengmen	Kho	2011-12						
Viengxay	Xiengmen	Nasan	2011-12						
Viengxay	Xiengmen	Nahia	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bankang	Danphao	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bankang	Bo	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bankang	Kangthat	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Bankang	Kangmouang	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Bankang	Kangmoung	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Namxang	Phounsan	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Namxang	Chaifay	2011-12	2011-12					
Viengxay	Namxang	Kengpoun	2011-12	2011-12					
Viengxay	Namxang	Phiengxay	2011-12	2011-12					
Viengxay	Namxang	Phounkang	2011-12	2011-12					
Viengxay	Namxang	Phounmeua	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Namxang	Phongxang	2011-12	2011-12					
Viengxay	Naheua	Hindam	2011-12						
Viengxay	Banphoun	Phiengkhyay	2011-12						
Viengxay	Banphoun	Phiengkeun	2011-12						
Viengxay	Banphoun	Deuy	2011-12						
Viengxay	Banphoun	Phounmay	2011-12		2012				
Viengxay	Banphoun	Xieng	2011-12						
Viengxay	Banphoun	Phoumkao	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Banphoun	Som	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bansoy	Kieng	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bansoy	Soy	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bansoy	Danxay	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bansoy	Dan	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Bansoy	Then	2011-12		X				
Viengxay	Bansoy	Nafoung	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bansoy	Na Ngoua	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bansoy	Naho	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bansoy	Nayang	2011-12						
Viengxay	Bansoy	Ngeuv	2011-12						
Viengxay	Banchat	Natam	2011-12						
Viengxay	Banchat	Yai	2011-12						
Viengxay	Banchat	Heuv	2011-12						

Viengxay	Banchat	Chat	2011-12					
Viengxay	Banchat	Vieng	2011-12					
Viengxay	Banchat	Sang	2011-12					
Viengxay	Phonthong	Vangxeng	2011-12		X	2011		
Viengxay	Phonthong	Kalun	2011-12		X	2011		
Viengxay	Phonthong	Xiengken	2011-12			2012		
Viengxay	Phonthong	Phonethong	2011-12		2012	2011		
Viengxay	Phonthong	Tong	2011-12	2011-12		2012		
Viengxay	Phonthong	Phienglieng	2011-12			2012		
Viengxay	Phonthong	Longlao	2011-12			2012		
Viengxay	Phonthong	Man	2011-12			2012		
Viengxay	Sonphet	Chakhieng	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Houy Gna	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Samphanxay	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Mouang Nga	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Hanhlong	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Phoumouat	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Napoung	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Moungliat	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Vanghay	2011-12					
Viengxay	Sonphet	Nathen	2011-12		X			
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	Nachong	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	Longkan	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	Mouangpane	2011-12		X			
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	Napho	2011-12		2012			
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	Mouat	2011-12		2012			
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	Ta En	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	Loun	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	HouyMouang	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpanh	Fat	2011-12		2012			
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Namouang	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Homphanh	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Nasa	2011-12		X			
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Naloung	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Pok	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Poung	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Sat	2011-12		X			
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Naheng	2011-12					
Viengxay	Mouangpoua	Mouangpoua	2011-12					
Viengxay	Long Ang	Angkhouan	2011-12					
Viengxay	Long Ang	Phiengkha	2011-12					
Viengxay	Long Ang	Phiengchia	2011-12					
Viengxay	Long Ang	Angsang	2011-12					
Viengxay	Long Ang	Anglang	2011-12					
Viengxay	Xienglouang	Xiengloung	2011-12		X			
Viengxay	Xienglouang	Naloung	2011-12					
Viengxay	Xienglouang	Namone	2011-12		X			
Viengxay	Xienglouang	Phonexay	2011-12					
Viengxay	Xienglouang	Namouang	2011-12					
Viengxay	Xienglouang	Xiengxy	2011-12					
Viengxay	Xienglouang	Navit	2011-12		X			
Viengxay	Namgna	Khamnang	2011-12					
Viengxay	Namgna	Phong Nga	2011-12					
Viengxay	Namgna	Nahoua	2011-12					
Viengxay	Namgna	Naham	2011-12					
Viengxay	Namgna	Namane	2011-12					

## Planning of LUP in Houaphan Province (extract Sobbao district)

20XX LUP done    
 20XX LUP Planned    
 X target village, LUP not planned yet

District	Kumban	village	MONRE	PAFO	Bamboo project	NuDP	LEAF	iREDD	CliPAD
Sobao	Sobsao	Sobhao							
Sobao	Sobsao	Sobvang							
Sobao	Sobsao	Na On							
Sobao	Sobsao	Haosen							
Sobao	Sobsao	Phonxay							
Sobao	Sobsao	Naka							
Sobao	Sobsao	Naphieng							
Sobao	Sobsao	Naxon			X				
Sobao	Sobsao	Nakhahao							
Sobao	Sobsao	Namheng							
Sobao	Sobsao	Houaytong							
Sobao	Sobsao	Nayom		2011-12	X				
Sobao	Sobsao	Phonxay							
Sobao	Sobsao	Naxang							
Sobao	Sobsao	Kanghao							
Sobao	Sobsao	Naphonsouk			X				
Sobao	Sobsao	Napham							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Mouangdung							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Phiengpheung							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Tat		2011-12					
Sobao	Mouanghang	Nakhahoung							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Nakhoune			X				
Sobao	Mouanghang	Danhang							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Namay			X				
Sobao	Mouanghang	Khangkat		2011-12					
Sobao	Mouanghang	Naseua							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Phieng Ngai							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Talang							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Vienghang			X				
Sobao	Mouanghang	Na Ngeua							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Mouanghang							
Sobao	Mouanghang	Phonhang							
Sobao	Sobao	Longhom		2011-12	X				
Sobao	Sobao	Pong			X				
Sobao	Sobao	Phongbao			X				
Sobao	Sobao	Napung			2012				
Sobao	Sobao	Na			2012				
Sobao	Sobao	Phiengxay			2012				
Sobao	Sobao	Sobbao							
Sobao	Sobao	Bo			X				
Sobao	Sobao	Bone			X				
Sobao	Sobao	Pounghom		2011-12					
Sobao	Sobao	Hatsan							
Sobao	Sobao	Mouanghom			X				
Sobao	Sobao	Danhom			X				
Sobao	Moouanglong	Long Ngeun							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Nambong							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Na Ngone							

LUP Coordination Workshop in Huaphan Province - 8 to 11 October 2012

Sobao	Moouanglong	Sobpoung							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Hoouaykhoun							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Mouanglong							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Khomsy							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Kanglong							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Napan							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Nasoun							
Sobao	Moouanglong	Kongkhoun							
Sobao	Pahang	Pakhomnoy							
Sobao	Pahang	Pakhompét							
Sobao	Pahang	Mouang							
Sobao	Pahang	Pung							
Sobao	Pahang	Houayhieng							
Sobao	Pahang	Longtong							
Sobao	Pahang	Pahang							
Sobao	Pahang	Houaypa							
Sobao	Pahang	Phalong							
Sobao	Pahang	Pakhom Ngay							
Sobao	Pahang	Nam Teub							
Sobao	Pahang	Houay Nheune							

## **ANNEX 2 : PRESS RELEASE & PUBLICATION VIENTIANE TIMES**

### **1. Press release**

#### **LUP Coordination Workshop in Huaphan Province**

The Province of Huaphan is implementing Land Use Planning (LUP) as a way to achieve national development goals such as reduction of rural poverty, investment in land and reduction of competition over land.

Several projects are involved in LUP in Huaphan: the Bamboo Sector Development Project (GRET/SNV), the Northern Upland Integrated Rural Development Project (GIZ/NU-IRDP), the project on Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF/SNV), The project on Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD-GIZ/KfW/WCS), Impacts of REDD (iREDD-IRD/NUOL-FoF), the Agricultural Land Allocation Programme (by PAFO) and the Micro-Land Use Planning Programme (by MONRE).

A four-day province level coordination workshop was held in Samneua, 8-11 October 2012, to coordinate the implementation of LUP between various Government agencies and development projects concerned.

The 71 participants consisted of 20 village representatives from 10 villages from 6 districts, 19 district technicians, 14 project staff, 18 district decision makers from line agencies, 6 district governors, 2 heads of province agriculture and environment offices, the deputy governor and a representative from the National Assembly.

The process of the workshop consisted of a series of five successive meetings with separate stakeholder groups: villagers, district technicians, project staff, heads of district and province line agencies and district/province governors.

Mr. Viengphone Saenmany, village head of Xieng Khen village, Viengxay district, presented the main outcomes of the meeting with village representatives. He explained that the key concerns of villagers on LUP are to get clear village boundaries delineated to reduce competition over land. Clear village development plans and follow-up support after LUP are needed to actually improve agricultural practices. Village land committees should have more power to resolve conflicts over land.

"Our biggest concern is to secure access to our agricultural and forest land for our livelihoods" he said.

Mr. Phetsakhone Keophilavanh, deputy director of the Province Forestry Section summarized the outcomes of the discussion with project and district technicians. He said that 80% of the methodologies used by the different projects are the same and that all stakeholders would benefit from setting clear common standards to avoid confusion and to improve the

understanding and participation of villagers. To achieve this, much more training is needed for district staff, especially on (1) Developing a common format for socio-economic data collection, (2) Scenario-tools to incorporate socio-economic data and goals in land use planning, (3) Use of 3-D maps for increased participation of villagers in the planning process, (4) Using open source GIS software. It is also important to ensure that LUP work is done in locations where other projects can follow up with livelihood support.

In the final meeting with Province and District Governors, Madame Amphaivone Lombounpheng, member of the National Assembly said:

"You are working on a very important issue. Everywhere I go to consult with our citizens, land issues are the number one concern raised in meetings. Secondly, I think that coordination of implementation should concentrate on the district level, where the implementation takes place. Thirdly, to avoid confusion, we need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each implementing agency based on the principles, the rules and the laws that apply to each agency".

Mr. Vanxay Phengsoumma, deputy governor of Huaphan Province and chairman of the meeting said that the roles of the agencies are already clear and standards already exist. They should just be well understood by everyone and interpreted in the same way. The standards in implementing the Government policies and laws should be applied in such a way that villagers can really understand and follow.

"The most important is that we listen carefully to the issues raised by villagers and that we try to resolve them", he said.

Finally, Mr. Jean Francois Kibler, GRET Coordinator for the Bamboo Sector Development Project, summarized the outcomes of the workshop. Key issues of field implementation of LUP have been addressed: ensuring good quality of LUP by applying participatory methods and sharing common standards, building effective mechanisms for field coordination, and ensuring follow up activities after LUP.

"This is a good start. We identified key coordination issues to be addressed for making LUP achieve Government's goal of poverty alleviation", he said.

*Press release written by:*

*Joost Foppes, Jean-Christophe Castella, Sara Melki and Jean-François Kibler*

## 2. Article in Vientiane Times

2 | Wednesday October 17, 2012

### Home news

# Huaphan kicks off land use planning project

**Times Reporters**

Huaphan province is embarking on a Land Use Planning project in a bid to achieve national development goals, including the reduction of rural poverty, investment in land, and reduction of competition over land.

A four-day provincial level coordination workshop was held in Xamneua district from October 8-11 to coordinate the implementation of the Land Use Planning project between the various government agencies and development projects concerned.

According to a press release from the workshop, the 71 participants consisted of 20 village representatives from 10 villages in six districts, 19 district technicians, 14 project staff, 18 district decision makers from line agencies, six district governors, two heads of provincial agriculture and environment offices, the provincial deputy governor and a representative from the National Assembly. The workshop consisted of a series of five successive meetings with separate stakeholder groups: villagers, district technicians, project staff, heads of district and provincial line agencies, and district/province governors.

Xiengkhen village Head from Viengxay district, Mr Viengphone Saenmany, presented the main outcomes of the meeting with village representatives.

He explained that the key concerns of villagers about the project are for clear village boundaries to be delineated to reduce competition over land. Clear village development plans and follow-up support after the project are needed to actually improve agricultural practices. Village land committees should have more power to resolve conflicts over land.

"Our biggest concern is to secure access to agricultural and forest land for our livelihoods," Mr Viengphone said.

Deputy Director of the provincial Forestry Section, Mr Phetsakhone Keophilavanh, summarised the outcomes of discussions with project and district technicians.

He said 80 percent of the methodologies used by the different projects are the same and that all stakeholders would benefit from setting clear common standards to avoid confusion and to improve the understanding and participation of villagers.

To achieve this, much more training is needed for district staff, especially on developing a common format for socio-economic data collection and goals to be incorporated into land use planning.

In the final meeting with province and district governors, National Assembly member Ms Amphavone Lombounpheng said "You are working on a very important issue."

"Everywhere I go to consult with our citizens, land issues are the number one concern raised in meetings."

Deputy Governor of Huaphan province and Chairman of the meeting, Mr Vanxay Phengsoumma, said the roles of the agencies are already clear and standards already exist. They should be fully understood by everyone and interpreted in the same way.

The standards in implementing government policies and laws should be applied in such a way that villagers can really understand and follow them.

"The most important thing is that we listen carefully to the issues raised by villagers and that we try to resolve them," he said.



 **Bamboo Sector Development Project**  
**Houaphan Province**



**Coordination:** Sara Melki (Gret), Bounyasith Saengmany (Gret), Phetsakone Keophilavan (PAFO)

**Facilitation:** Jean-Christophe Castella (consultant Gret), Sangthong Phatsalin (Giz), Sengphan Sayphounnie (Gret)

**Reporting:** Jean-Christophe Castella and Jean-François Kibler (Gret), based on notes from Joost Foppes (SNV), Sara Melki and own notes