

“The role of the LIWG is to provide a networking and information hub by acting as a bridge and community of practice to create synergies across land tenure security-related activities of its members.”

ABOUT THE LIWG

The Land Information Working Group (LIWG) is a civil society network that was set up in 2007. The LIWG consists mostly of international and local civil society organization staff and other individuals working on land issues in Lao PDR. The group has over 80 Core Members representing nearly 40 organizations, and over 180 individual Supporting Members. The LIWG activities are implemented through the LIWG Secretariat which is overseen by the Committee, elected from among the member organizations.

The group was established so that its members could inform one another about land matters, especially in view of increasing land related foreign direct investment (FDI) projects and concerns over the negative impacts on the livelihoods of rural communities, as well as to develop common initiatives to address some of these issues. The LIWG does this by cooperating with a wide variety of stakeholders: civil society, Government, Development Partners, private sector, and, importantly, the communities themselves.

How LIWG works?

The LIWG has member organisations and independent consultants working on land related matters across Laos who are willing to engage actively in LIWG activities. Specific task forces or working groups are established to address specific issues in order to develop strategies and a unified approach, where possible.



The Land Information Working Group

- Interested in becoming an LIWG member?
- Want to learn more about our activities?
- Have questions about land issues?
- Want to report land related activities near your?



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Land Information Working Group

**Working towards greater
community control over land,
forests and natural resources**



WHY THE LIWG?

The Lao PDR still has a relatively broad and rich range of natural resources. Over the last 10 years foreign investment, supported by local actors, in industries such as mining, hydropower and plantation sectors, making use of these resources has increased rapidly. There is a growing competing interest over land, water and forests between large-scale investors and rural, often poor, communities relying on the same natural resources for their livelihoods and food security. Exploitation of land and natural resources in order to boost economic growth creates a potential for local communities to have improved access to services, expansion of local employment opportunities, spread of environmentally sound practices, and more equitable participation in the development process.

However, there are growing concerns that land issues impact negatively on livelihoods of marginalized groups. Smallholders may be pushed aside by concessionaires. There is a risk of increasing outflow of young people from rural to urban areas, reduced wildlife and forest products, and a consequent erosion of natural capital, human resources and cultural identity, creating a path towards an unsustainable extractive economy.

"We promote and implement a strong network and community of practice on land matters among LIWG members in order to influence decision making, policy development and implementation."

Objectives and Goal:

CONNECTING

Build connections and trust, develop spaces and channels of communication, share knowledge for dialogue and engagement in land governance issues.

ENGAGING

Promote policy dialogue among multiple stakeholders to improve land tenure security.

MOBILISING

Mainstream grass-roots implementation of land rights through mobilisation of members and other stakeholders.

GOAL

Promote and maintain strong Community of Practices and regular exchanges among members on land matters in order to better influence on policy.

VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision: Communities have access to secure and equitable land tenure through fair and inclusive policies and their implementation, allowing for transparency and informed decision-making on land governance for sustainability.

Mission: Support and facilitate CSOs and development partners to work, and influence discussions, on land issues, and promote cooperation between stakeholders through dialogue and engagement on land governance research, policy and practice.