

E-NEWSLETTER



LIWG MEMBER WORK

- MCC welcomed LIWG Secretariat's visit in Houaphan
- Online sharing event - CASE
- International Tea Day Event in Vientiane
- Working with Young Law Students from the Faculty of Law, NUoL
- LIFE in cooperation with Oxfam-IP 2 on participatory watershed management

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LIWG Member Work

- ▲ LIWG Annual General Meeting 2023
- ▲ The Community of Practice on Women Land Rights

Update on the PIASVC Project

- ▲ PIASVC Consultation Workshops in provincial level

Land Sub-sector Working Group

- ▲ 1st LSSWG Meeting of 2023

Readings:

- ▲ Recommended readings, publications and news on land and natural resources

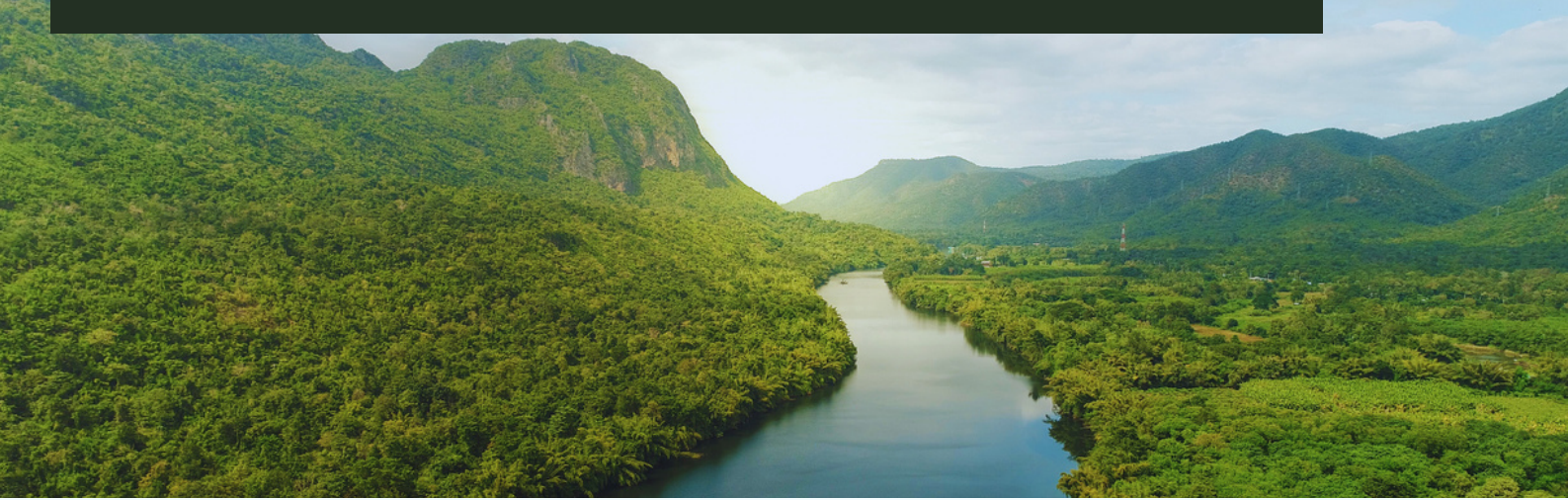


WHAT IN THE NEWS!

HIGHLIGHT UPDATE ON LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES IN LAOS

UPCOMING UPDATE AND EVENTS

FROM MAY - AUGUST 2023!



LIWG Member Work

MCC welcomed LIWG Secretariat's visit in Houaphan



Between March 14 and 17, 2023, the Land Information Working Group (LIWG) traveled to the field to work in Houaphan province. On this occasion, LIWG visited the project on strengthening village conflict mediation unit (VMC) that the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) supported to Najong Village, Xam Neua District, Houaphan Province on March 16, 2023, which was welcomed by the Department of Justice of Houaphan Province and project staff from MCC.

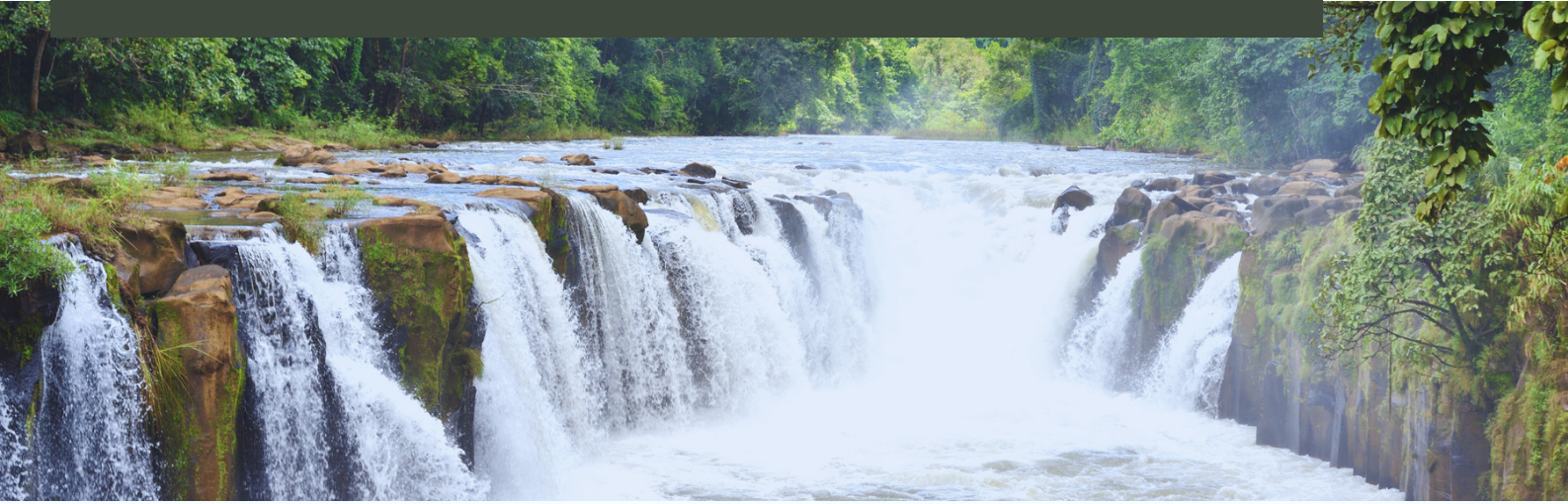
The purpose of this visit is to learn the implementation of the project by members at the local level in order to gain an understanding of the condition and results of the implementation of the project through visiting the target village of the project in Xam Neua District, Houaphan Province and to bring that lesson to share within the network.

There was also a story as an individual profile made during the visit. Please read the article at <https://bit.ly/43qO52i> (Lao version) and <https://bit.ly/45DzAdm> (English version). Also, there was a community profile made under the JSDF/WB and SDC funded Public Information and Awareness Services for Vulnerable Communities in Lao PDR (PIASVC) project as MCC is one of the PIASVC Sub-grantee organization working on awareness raising and legal counselling services enhancement. For more information, please read the story at <https://bit.ly/3os7oKO> (Lao) and <https://bit.ly/3WGu6L5> (Eng).

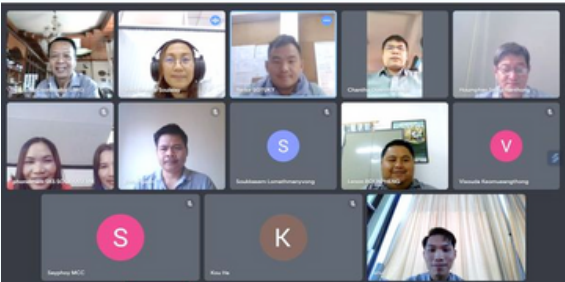


LIFE in cooperation with Oxfam-IP 2 on participatory watershed management

In cooperation with the Oxfam IP II project on integrated and participatory watershed management, LIFE currently develops a new training curriculum. The training curriculum will introduce the national and international laws related to sustainable water management as well as the obligations and rights of villagers and investors during water investment projects (such as dams or others). By June, the curriculum will be piloted with the 7 grantees under the IP II project and then will also be available for all other interested organisations.



Online sharing event - CASE



On the morning of March 29, 2023, the Land Information Working Group held an online sharing event as part of the Knowledge dissemination under the PIASVC project titled: "Participatory Village Forest Management", presented by Mr. Chantha Uanthavongsi, Director of Community Association for Salvation and Environment (CASE) which is one of the core members of LIWG and a PIASVC Sub-grantee organization.

Through this sharing event, the participants learnt a concept about community-based village forest management and the procedures related to participatory land and forest land use planning, defining and demarcating different types of forests, writing village-level forest management plans, implementing village-level forest management plans, and monitoring the implementation of village-level forest management plans. Moreover, the participants exchanged ideas and asked questions which made an informative and helpful sharing event for other people who are implementing their project's activities in other areas.

International Tea Day Event in Vientiane

On 19 May 2023 in Vientiane Capital - The Lao Department of Agriculture (DoA) led the celebration of International Tea Day in Laos. This year, the three-day event aims to enhance the reputation of Lao tea as a high-quality product and establish a strong image of tea in Laos as well as encourage friendly competition and recognition among the local tea community. The tea fair gathered together farmers, producers, industry professionals, consumers, and other stakeholders from around the country. The event served to emphasise the importance of tea in the daily lives of Lao people and the potential it has to reduce poverty and create economic opportunities. Lao teas can be a source of environmental sustainability, economic development, and a way to build resilient communities. The Mekong Tea Project is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry / [Department of Agriculture](#) with funding support from the [AFD - Agence Française de Développement](#), GRET, LURAS / [HELVETAS Laos](#), Comité de coopération avec le Laos (CCL) and the [Lao Farmer Network](#).





Working with Young Law Students from the Faculty of Law, NUoL

Under LIFE’s Bread for the World Funding and support by UNDEF, the project will work with more than 120 students from the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences from 2022-24. In this period, the first 10 students were supported to collect data in their home villages but more than 50 were trained in soft skills and laws related to land and natural resources. Students in 2022 come from Houaphan, Oudomxay, Vientiane, Xiengkhuang, Bolikhamxay and Sekong provinces. In January-February 2023, the 10 students did legal awareness raising in their home villages.



In 2023, the project will support another 50 law students from all over Laos to work in their home villages so that in total more than 60 students will work in the villages. The project also started offering legal counselling to the villagers of the 20 selected villagers via internet and a phone hotline.

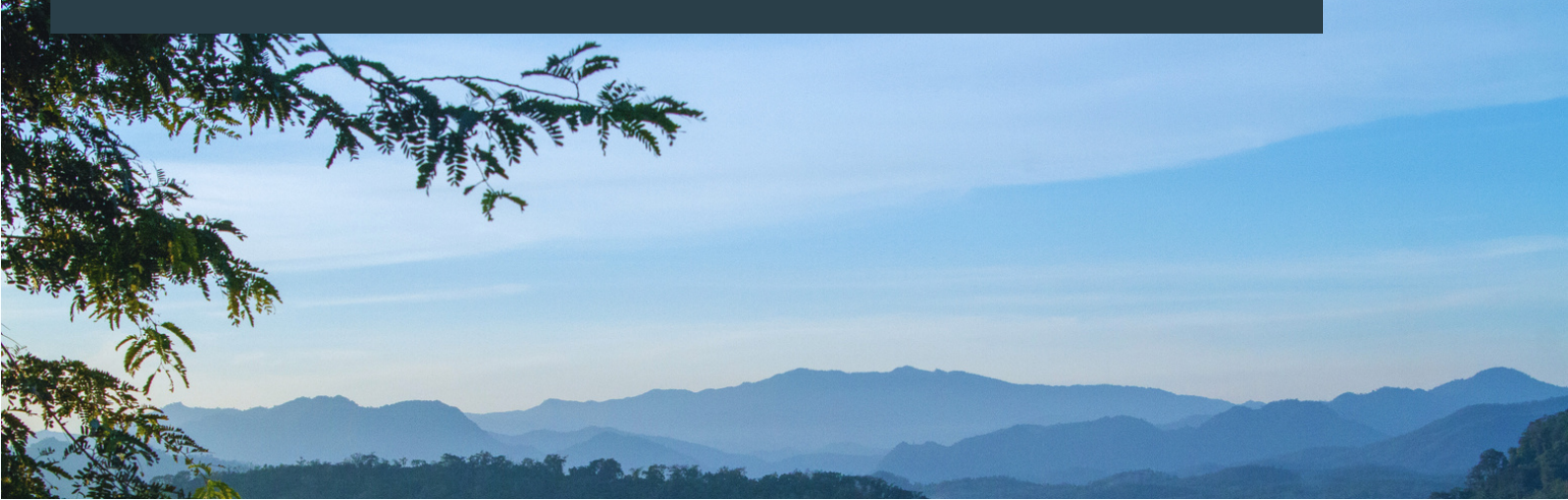
LIWG Meetings and Activities

The Community of Practice (CoP) on Women Land Rights

The CoP on Women Land Rights restarted to meet at the end of April. Members joining the CoP are Helvetas, ADWLE, MCC, Pavina/UNDP (ex-Oxfam), LBA and RECOFTC. The CoP has for plan to support Wolrd Renew in the implementation of the Women Land Rights awareness raising tools in Phongsaly in September 2023 with a monitoring field visit.

A new Community of Practice on Responsible Agriculture Investment

The new CoP on Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) has just been set-up. The CoP has started to work on the revision of the FPIC video developed by LIWG 7 years ago. Members in the CoP are the LIFE project, RECOFTC, WCS, WWF, GIZ (Vanida), SAEDA and PSNUA.



LIWG Annual General Meeting 2023

On Friday morning of 24 February 2023, LIWG held the Annual General Meeting 2023 to present important issues such as the new strategy of LIWG, work plan for 2023, communication work, update and exchange of lessons learnt from members, which was chaired by a steering committee of LIWG and the country director of the Helvetas Laos, and attended by directors, presidents and technical staff represented from the member organizations of LIWG, at the training center of the Lao Front for National Development. The event included updates of LIWG's and its members' activities of 2022. There were also presentations LIWG's new constitution and strategy as well as the highlight news of 2022.



Following the meeting, LIWG welcomed new 4 steering committee (SC) members. The new SC members are Mr. Edwin V. Payuan from RECOFTC, Mrs. Khankham DOUANGSILA from PSNUA, Ms. Innakhone VORACHAK from SAEDA, and Ms. Elizabeth Thipphavong from WWF-Laos. We would like to thank Mike Fennema and Anthony GUEGUEN for their long-years contribution to LIWG as SC members. However, they stepped down their roles. We still believe that they will contribute support to LIWG in some other ways.

Legal Calendar 2023 Taskforce

Legal Calendar 2023 Video Production

LIWG and the calendar taskforce have developed the legal calendar 2023 videos presenting each topic on the legal calendar 2023 with more easy-to-understanding contents in video display. The purpose of the video production is to be used as a communication tool and to disseminate information related to land, natural resources and the environment. In addition, the videos are translated into ethnic languages such as Kum Mu, Hmong and Akha for facilitators and trainers to use in training and dissemination of information and reach more people at the local level. See all videos at <https://bit.ly/3N8DCn4>





Update on the PIASVC Project

PIASVC Consultation Workshops in provincial level

In early 2023, there were 3 Consultation Meetings on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) representatives, Department of Land and HELVETAS Laos on the " Public Information and Awareness Services for Vulnerable Communities (PIASVC) in Lao PDR project. The meetings were organized in the sub-grantees' target provinces including GDA, ADWLE, PDDA, and LaoDHRRRA and SAEDA.

ToT on Legal Calendar 2023

Between January 18-20, 2023, LIWG in coordination with Helvetas Laos organized a training of trainer on "dissemination of the Legal Calendar 2023" for the PIASVC project, which was led by the expert training team from the LIFE project and participated by PIASVC sub-grantees organizations. This training focused on different topics from the legal calendar 2023. Moreover, the participants exchanged about situation and issues while implementing trainings at actual sites, studied the booklet and SMART planning. The most important thing was that the participants demonstrated a training with feedbacks from other participants and the trainers.



Refresher ToT on GEDSI

Between March 22-24, 2023, LIWG together with Helvetas Laos organized a training of trainer on "Gender Equality Diversity and Social Inclusion" for the PIASVC project, which was led by an expert in gender equality and social inclusion. This training focuses on participants understanding the concept and meaning of gender equality, diversity and social participation through activities and learning on various topics such as creating an understanding of gender diversity and the identity of diversity, diversity of power between oneself, others and different groups, gender and its consequences, gender equality and equity, social inclusion, GEDSI continuum and "Do No Harm, problem tree mapping and analysis of gender equality, diversity and social inclusion.





Land Sub-sector Working Group

1st LSSWG Meeting

On the 27 March 2023, the first meeting in 2023 of Land Sub-sector Working Group was organized and chaired by Mr. Virana Sonnasinh, Director General of Department of Land, MoNRE, and co-chaired by Mr. Kaspar Grossenbacher, Helvetas/LIWG, and Mr. Bernd Messerschmidt, GIZ. The meeting objectives were to updates and review on the implementation progress of Land Sub-Sector related targets in the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025), reports and recommendations from the Focal Groups of the LSSWG, updates from the Donor Community and from the Land Titling Project in Laos and exchange on upcoming topics and feedback from the LSSWG members. It was remarked that since land is an intersectoral issue, the LSSWG should be linked to the Sector Working Group on Natural Resources (SWG NRE) and contribute to the objectives of the 9th NSEDP. Exchange between the cooperation partners about implementation experiences and the achieved goals should be in the focus of the LSSWG.

Focal group on Responsible Agriculture Investment Meeting

Following with the first quarterly meeting on 19th December 2022, the Focal Group on Responsible Investment in Agriculture (FG-RAI Laos) had organized its second quarterly meeting on 7th April 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by DALaM (see Annex 3 for opening remarks from DALaM), and SAEDA under the facilitation and logistic support from SAEDA, TLI and LIWG team. It aimed at: 1) presenting the final version of the group's ToR; 2) updating the prioritized topics on RAI from the Sub-Sector Working Group (LSSWG) on 27th March; 3) present and discuss the preliminary results of the RAI enabling environment and land-based investor appraisal conducted by TLI project; and 4) updating RAI relevant activities implemented and supported by CSOs, INGOs, research institutes and development partners.

Partners

SUN CSA Friday Hangout on Legal Calendar to members

More than 20 member staff joined the SUN CSA Friday Hangout on 10 March 2023, to learn about tools to help people access important articles of laws related to their lives. The hangout was led by Mr. Vorasone Dengkayaphichith from the Land Information Exchange Group (LIWG). He shared the Legal Calendar a communication tool developed by LIWG that contains content from various legislations and policies in an easy-to-understand format so it can be a tool for disseminating information to local communities as well as a reference of legal guidelines to help communities manage land, forests, water, natural resources, and the environment sustainably.

Blog stories

15 Highlighted updates on Land and Natural Resources in 2022

Throughout the past year of 2022, there have been many stories that the prolonged pandemic of covid-19 throughout Laos and around the world has affected various events such as inflation, oil shortages, seasonal epidemics and others. However, there are many events and disputes regarding the issue of land and natural resources that are eye-catching in Laos throughout the past year, especially investment projects and land concessions for the development of many projects. We have summarized 15 news that we see as the dominant story or event that may have continued in previous years and also see that there are still many problems that have not been resolved and it is still a question that must be seen in 2022, what changes or progress will be related to land and living. Please see all news at <https://bit.ly/3ktglgl>

Obtaining the right to use land: Legal Calendar January - February 2023



For this topic, the focus is on obtaining land use rights for Lao citizens and foreigners, and how they can get land use rights. Therefore, this picture emphasizes that if Non-Lao citizens will be able to get the right to use land in 3 cases: lease or concession of land from the state, buying the right to use land allocated by the state and leasing land from Lao citizens.

Land Title Registration: Legal Calendar March - April 2023

In the 2021 legal calendar, the procedure for land registration has been introduced based on the Land Law No. 70/NA of 2019, Sections 99-101, so this year to continue to deepen the details of the procedure for registering and issuing land titles based on the legislation under the newly issued law, namely, Instruction on Land Title Registration No. 0500/MONRE, dated February 14, 2022.

- To show the process of land title registration and the details of each process, such as:
 - Systematic land title registration will be prepared as follows: informing the public - communication - appointing the owner and user of the land;
 - Land title registration according to the proposal is to submit a request for land title registration to the Office of Natural Resources and Environment where the land is located.

ຂັ້ນຕອນການຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ:

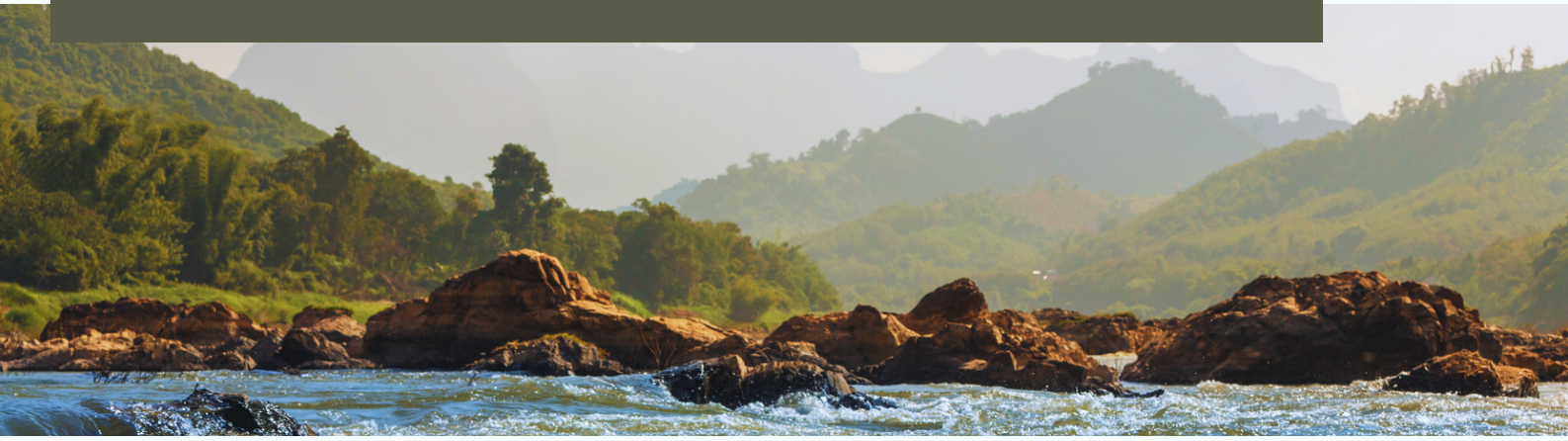
1. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
2. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
3. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
4. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
5. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
6. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
7. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
8. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
9. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
10. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
11. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
12. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
13. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
14. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
15. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
16. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
17. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
18. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
19. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
20. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
21. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
22. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
23. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
24. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
25. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
26. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
27. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
28. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
29. ຂໍອະນຸຍາດຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ
30. ຂຶ້ນທະບຽນ

ປີກາ (3) March 2023

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

ເມສາ (4) April 2023

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----



Recommended publications and knowledge websites

Land Use Planning of 18 provinces in Laos

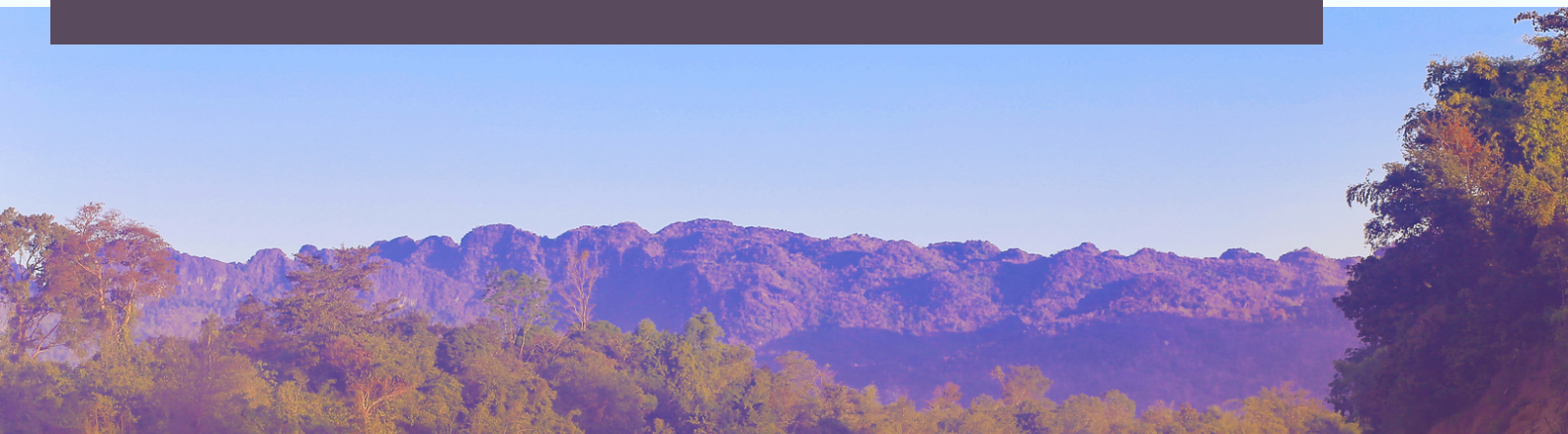
Recently, MONRE has published the land use planning of 18 provinces in Laos. Please follow the links listed below:

- **Phongsaly:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/4pfreeTJPpctmng>
- **Luangnamtha:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/7EQb8jpBZN9tMrP>
- **Bokeo:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/Q8TdCw9eftt6TJF>
- **Oudomxay:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/LeGffZicGbmH4KL>
- **Houaphan:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/HQ2P3NHRWkjtX8A>
- **Xiengkhouang:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/LNWCYWYgACnCXw8>
- **Xayabouly:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/TNqsBmbDf6R52gH>
- **Luangprabang:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/afTjBTAsCs72wLq>
- **Vientiane:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/Xtip4CCXyn2GacE>
- **Vientiane Capital:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/FKFbNmCXXAaH8eg>
- **Xaysomboun:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/3nsnSq2tSeEf2tD>
- **Bolikhamxay:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/ngwaiLHbzFWcrD>
- **Khammouan:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/MYYxXSCzYB6J9SX>
- **Savannakhet:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/r9yCq87MEkojStc>
- **Salavan:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/d6R8YbPLfbMaGAa>
- **Champasack:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/Wyy9tbQyro9BLAD>
- **Sekong:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/qbDwcKadKSQIWrc>
- **Attapue:** <https://g-drive.gov.la/index.php/s/A4ry3gKqranRPPM>

What's in the news!

Land Grab Incident in Samnaxay district, Attapue province

Recently, there has been a report of land grab incident of a coffee farmer family in southern part of Laos, Attapue province. The report alleged that a Chinese company has encroached upon land used by villagers to cultivate coffee and cassava, in a protected plateau forest area. It has been under the investigation of relevant authorities to take appropriate action; however, it was admitted that forest land management is a complex issue for the local government. The invasion of villagers' production land is a serious issue. It is important that the district authorities take swift action to investigate the incident and protect the rights of the villagers. See the full article at <https://bit.ly/447BQYN>.



The Lao Front for National Development urged the government to reduce the impacts from development projects

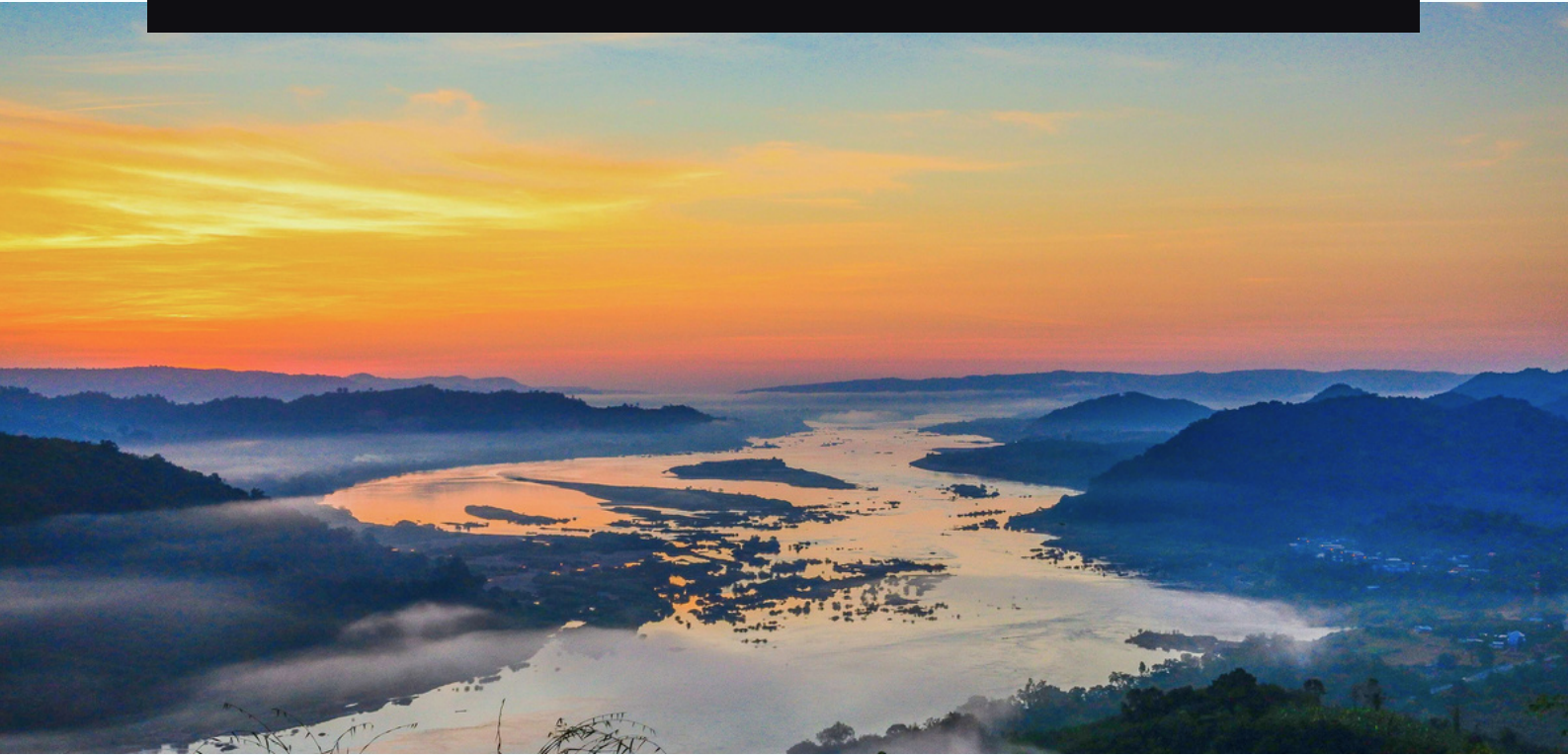
Mr. Siprachan Nanthavongsa, Vice President of Lao Front for National Development urged the government to urgently solve many problems that the people are suffering from and have been affected by various state and private projects such as experimental mining of iron ore and other minerals in many provinces that have caused extensive environmental and social impacts. In addition, there are electric power projects such as hydroelectric dams that have affected a small number of people who have not yet received compensation and land allocation to restore the lives and livelihood of a number of people who have not yet been resolved. Article by Radio Free Asia, at <https://bit.ly/3GP49Bv>

Laos-China Railway Yet to Compensate Over 1,000 Families

Recently, the Laotian Times has reported that there are more than 1,000 families displaced during the six-year construction period of the Laos-China Railway still waiting for compensation from the company. A total of 1,018 families of 6,855 families are expecting compensation of over LAK 200 billion, or around USD 11 million, for the construction of the railway in four provinces of Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, and the capital of Vientiane. The Lao government will provide over LAK 465 billion in compensation to those who have been affected by the Laos-China railway project. See the article at by the Laotian Times at <https://bit.ly/3J0ISsb>.

WCS, Ministry Plan to Further Strengthen Protection of Xe Champhone Wetlands

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment organized a meeting earlier this month to strengthen wildlife protection in the areas of Xe Champhone Wetlands in Savannakhet. During the meeting, the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment reported on the steps to create the management plan and presented the draft Xe Champhone Ramsar Management Plan and the draft decree on wetlands. Key protection issues were also addressed including the delineation of control use zone versus total protection zone, monitoring the quality and quantity of water; detailed plan to improve the community's livelihoods, with a particular focus on land use plan in order to prevent encroachment in Xe Champhone Wetlands and the amount of water in the basin area of Xe Champhone Wetlands. Read full article at <https://bit.ly/3J15SjQ>.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES (MAY – AUGUST 2023)

- PIASVC Update on upcoming MoU and Sub-grantees' project implementations
- LIWG online sharing event
- Legal Calendar 2024 Taskforce
- LIWG Core Members' Meeting 2023
- LSSWG Meeting of 2023

Thank you for reading our newsletter!



