Area Physical Framework

A Tool to Enhance Land Governance, Promote Land Tenure Security & Sustainable Development in Lao PDR
APF is a Land Governance Tool for local authorities. It provides an overview and guide for the use and allocation of land resources based on policy determined by the area landscape characteristics. It serves as a foundation and basis for all other development plans and strategies of government. It also specifies access, tenurial and ownership rights to land.

APF as a tool provides a systematic, logical & participatory ways of allocating and managing land by analyzing the landscape and determining it’s optimal use. It elicits participation & involvement of multiple stakeholders in formulating the following:

1. A physical framework map that clearly delineates five (5) zones
2. A set of policies prescribing use and restrictions for each zone, including access, tenural and ownership rights.
3. An analysis of area strengths, potentials and suitability
4. An analysis of land issues and problems in specified areas
5. General recommendations for strategic use, development and conservation of areas to promote growth and sustainable development.

The APF provides a single map with five (5) zones. The zones are sector-neutral. This means they can be used and applied by any sector agency for their planning, monitoring and program activities.

The zones are:
1. Protected Core Zone
2. Restricted Use Zone
3. Controlled Use Zone
4. Traditional Use Zone
5. Multiple-Use Zone

APF’s single map allows and helps local authorities and government planners do the following:

1. Allocate land for production and conservation purposes
2. Identifies areas which have high potentials for future economic growth and development
3. Identifies & prioritizes suitable areas for attracting private investments
4. Identifies areas which have problems and land conflicts that need solutions
5. Provides a general framework or overview and strategic vision of the future landscape and development of the area.

Areas for Envt Conservation
- Which areas should we conserve where wildlife, forest and natural resources are abundant and to be preserved for future generations?

Areas for Agric Production
- Which areas should we enhance agriculture production and which types of products could be promoted?

Areas for Poverty Eradication
- Where are the areas with extreme poverty and how should they be supported?

Areas for Private Investment
- In which areas should we prioritize to develop and promote for domestic & foreign private investors?

Areas for Public Infrastructure
- Where are the public infrastructure? Where and what should we further construct and develop to ensure local socio-economic development?

Areas with Land Issues & Conflicts
- What are the land conflicts existing and what policies or solutions should we provide to ensure land tenure security and protect land rights?

Plan for Rural-Urban Integration
- Where are the growth centers and how could we interlink both rural and urban economies?

Areas for ODA & Support
- Which areas and populations should we promote and secure foreign assistance and development aid?

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APF in 7 Simple Steps

1. Organization & Planning
2. Production of GIS-Based APF Maps
3. Participatory Area-Based Workshops
4. Field Validation
5. Analysis & Revision
6. Stakeholder Consultation & Review
7. APF Finalization, Approval & Rollout

A cooperation project implemented by the Ministry of Planning & Investment and GIZ with support from German Development Cooperation

GIZ Land Program
July 2017
The 5 APF Zones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APF Zone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Attributes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CORE ZONE</strong></td>
<td>AREA of MAXIMUM PROTECTION</td>
<td>Highest Elevation: 1,000 meters &amp; above. Very steep slope: greater than 35 degrees. High density vegetation/forest cover.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESTRICTED ZONE</strong></td>
<td>BUFFER ZONE - Generally surrounding the core zone where limited and consumptive activities are allowed. Inside these zones are wildlife and critical watersheds.</td>
<td>High Elevation: 700m – 1,000m. Steep slope: 30 – 35 degrees. High density vegetation/forest cover.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONTROLLED USE ZONE</strong></td>
<td>This zone allows controlled forest extraction, like the collection of NTFP. Logging &amp; mining in this zone is discouraged but may be allowed with strict controls. Some form of agroforestry may be practiced.</td>
<td>Moderate Elevation: 500m – 700m. Moderate slope: 15 – 30 degrees. Medium density vegetation/forest cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRADITIONAL USE ZONE</strong></td>
<td>This zone is where communal lands are usually located where land is used by communities for their upland agriculture and livestock raising. Some forms of commercial agriculture and plantation are done here.</td>
<td>Low to Moderate Elevation: 350 – 500m. Low to moderate slope: 5 – 15 degrees. Low vegetation/forest coverage.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MULTIPLE USE ZONE</strong></td>
<td>This zone is usually settled and used for different purposes such as farming, grazing and pastures, industry, settlement, commercial activities, and infrastructure development.</td>
<td>Low elevation: less than 350m. Flat slope: 0 – 5 degrees. Zero to very low vegetation/forest coverage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXCEPTIONS & EXEMPTIONS**

The APF recognizes the status quo rights of existing users and settled populations in all the zones. Indigenous and ethnic groups and villages are exempted from the APF zonal policies and their land rights shall be fully protected under the APF. Buffer areas of riverbanks and roads are also considered and their use shall be guided by policies pertaining to these types of areas. Special Economic Zones that were established prior to APF are also exempt. Future SEZs shall be established based on the APF Policy Framework. Other exemptions may be allowed by government as needed subject to Lao laws.
One Map for All Sectors

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