

Systematic Registration of One Million Parcels in Five Years: Developing a Successful Modern Cadastre the Cambodian Way

Jouni ANTTONEN, Finland

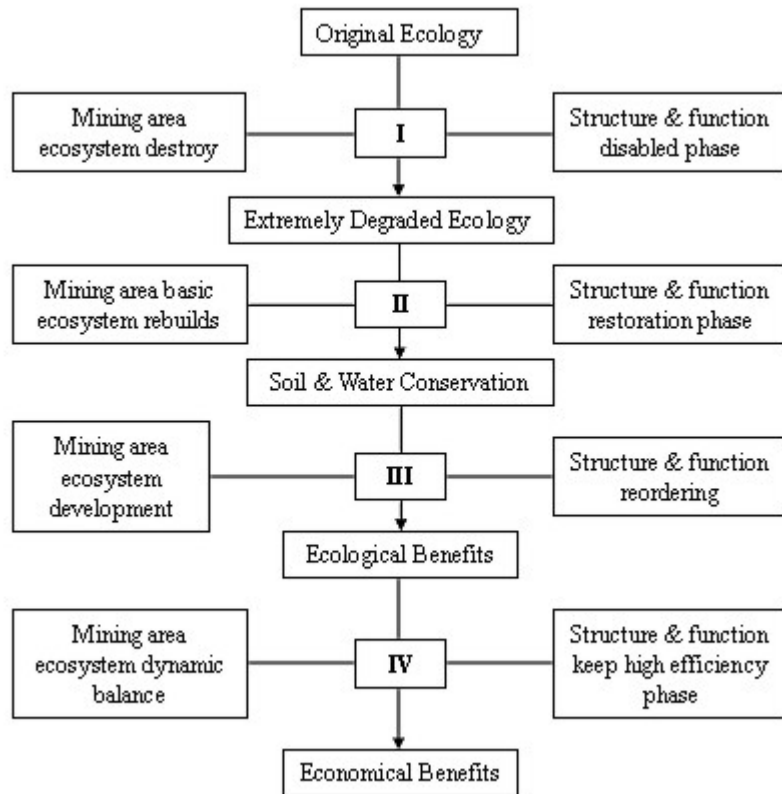
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SUMMARY

While most of the developing countries in South-East Asia still use old-fashioned paper-based manual approaches in their land administration systems, for one reason or another, Cambodia as one of the poorest countries in the region cannot afford to have an ineffective and inefficient manual cadastral system in the current rapid and dynamic development of the country. Therefore, the Statement on Land Policy of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia emphasises the importance of up-to-date land information systems in the successful implementation of all the key areas of the Land Policy, Land Administration, Land Management and Land Distribution.

To establish a successful modern cadastre, i.e. to provide security of tenure, be simple and clear, be easily accessible and provide current and reliable information at low cost, as defined by FIG, the Cambodian Cadastral Administration has adopted technically a relatively hi-tech digital approach, where modern technology including digital orthophotography, latest surveying technology, locally developed cadastral databases and GIS meeting the local needs and conditions are supporting both effective and efficient systematic first registration of land as well as the maintenance of a gradually developing modern digital multi-purpose cadastre, which can support the development of the whole Cambodian society with its covering land information. With the applied technical solutions developed locally step by step with Cambodia's international development partners and Cambodian professionals, combined with other local innovative approaches including effective information dissemination, transparent and open procedures, stakeholders' full participation, good governance measures, real team work and productivity-based land registration campaign with established quality control mechanisms, Cambodian Cadastral Administration managed to adjudicate and survey systematically more than one million land parcels and issue more than 800,000 land titles in five years 2002-2007 at the low cost of around 10 USD per parcel.

This paper looks back at the first five-years of the unique South-East Asian land administration success story called Land Management and Administration Project (LMAP), supported technically by Finland and Germany and financially by the World Bank and the Royal Government of Cambodia, as well as looks ahead at the future challenges of the Cambodian land sector for poverty reduction and socio-economic development of the country.



CONTACTS

Mr Jouni Anttonen
 Team Leader
 FM-International Oy FINNMAP / LMAP TA Finland
 Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and
 Construction, No 771-773
 Monivong Boulevard
 Phnom Penh
 CAMBODIA
 Tel.: +855 16 832878
 Email: jouni.anttonen@online.com.kh