Scaling the landscapes: a methodology to support integrated sub-national spatial planning in Cambodia

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1. Introduction

- Context: rapid economic growth in a poor and relatively rural country
- Land use and land tenure in mutation:
  - Agricultural intensification
  - Urbanization
  - Industrialization
  - Privatization
- Spatial Planning has become crucial for the future
  - To promote economic efficiency
  - To ensure social justice
  - To promote environmental sustainability
  - To safeguard cultural identity

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**Battambang province**

Population: ± 1 Million habitants  
Area: ± 12,000 km²
2. Spatial Planning emerges in the governance landscape

- Decentralization and De-concentration Policy
  - Initiated in 2002
  - Vision to bring public services closer to citizens to stimulate participation and boot local development
  - Councils are elected at sub-national level to identify and implement development and investment plans
  - Spatial planning is a prerogative of these new elected sub-national councils

- Land Policy Framework
  - Redistribution of land management functions from central to sub-national levels (provincial ad district)
  - Foresees the development of an interlocking set of spatial master plan and land use plans
    - National, provincial, district and commune
3. Building the methodology

• Conceptual framework
  – Need to understand interactions between social and ecological processes at different levels
    • Micro level: context-specific approach sensitive to local agro-ecological and socio-political specificities
    • Macro-level: references to global societal and environmental processes

3. Building the methodology

• The approach:
  – Start from people perception to recognize farmers as key drivers for rural development
    • Identify the socio-economic diversity at household levels
    • Recognize the heterogeneity of land/labor allocations
    • Understand the endogenous management of natural resources management
  – Match the scale of land issues with the scale where planning rules should be best addressed
3. Building the methodology

• The principle of countervailing influence at play

3. Building the methodology

• Planning Procedure

  Situation analysis
  Define demographic and socio-economic development scenarios
  Identify Main Existing Land Use Systems
  Visioning the future
  Design future development strategies
  Define future spatial structure and land use
  Monitoring and Evaluation
3. Building the methodology

- Linking people’s perception about their territory with updated satellite
- Production of maps by the people with updated satellite imageries
  - Good semantic
  - Good spatial and temporal resolution
- Consultation are addressed at different levels with different scale and details.
- Local level consultation allows to comprehend land governance locally and address land conflicts
3. Building the methodology

Main Existing Land Use Units in Battambang

3. Building the methodology
4. Outline of a future integrated spatial planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>District (rural)</th>
<th>Municipality (urban district) / Commune (rural)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
<td>Provincial Spatial Planning Policy Framework</td>
<td>District spatial master plan</td>
<td>Commune (or municipality) land use plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope</strong></td>
<td>Evidence-based policy</td>
<td>Strategic spatial plan</td>
<td>Legally binding land use plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time horizon</strong></td>
<td>25 years</td>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rule</strong></td>
<td>Collective rule</td>
<td>Collective rule</td>
<td>Collective and operational rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main point addressed</strong></td>
<td>• Watershed management</td>
<td>• Common Pool Resources Management</td>
<td>Comprehensive guidelines for the use of open spaces, built-up area and allocation of physical, social infrastructures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Agriculture and irrigation development (primary canals)</td>
<td>• Transport system (secondary and tertiary axis)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Protection and development of tourism sites</td>
<td>• Irrigation development (secondary and tertiary canals)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Transport system (primary axis)</td>
<td>• Promotion of unique character</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Industrial development strategy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Functionality of urban centers</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Conclusions

- Towards spatially enabled sub-national governments
  - Participation is a cornerstone in the planning process
    - Public participation not only improves the results of planning but creates the necessary ownership of all stakeholders!
    - Successes of the implementation of the spatial plans will depend on how the people consulted during the planning process will benefit from it
  - Successful implementation of the plans will depend on their integration with sub-national development and investment plans!