

## Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

*This document presents, in original language, the inputs provided following the call for submissions to inform the global thematic event at the CFS 43<sup>rd</sup> session in October 2016. The following document provides an overview of those inputs: [CFS 2016/43/8- Experiences and Good Practices in the Use and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security \(VGGT\) - Summary and Key Elements](#)*

### S18. LAOS: Using the VGGT as inputs to develop Quality Criteria for Investment Monitoring

<b>Country(ies)/ Region(s)/ Organization/ Entity</b>	BMZ/GIZ Germany, Laos
<b>Contact person</b>	Ms. Khankeo Oupravanh, GIZ
<b>Brief description of the successful experience (location, geographical coverage, main actors/ activities, timeframe)</b>	<p>The VGGT was integrated in the indicator for the successful implementation of the “Quality Investment Promotion” component of the “Land Management and Decentralized Planning” (LMDP) Programme. The guidelines and principles of the VGGT were used as a basis to develop a framework to assess a selection of investment projects. This activity was conducted by the “Quality Investment Promotion” component of the “Land Management and Decentralized Planning” (LMDP) Programme, Laos.</p> <p>The VGGT inputs in the Quality Investment Criteria were: gender, participation, rule of law, access to land, and resolution of disputes (Under investment section: 12.5; 12.10; 12.11; 12.12; 12.14; and under 38 Principles of implementation: 4; 6; 7 and 10.</p> <p>Processes/main activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VGGT inputs in the Lao language were shared with counterparts at all levels (Ministry of Planning and Investment, provinces).</li> <li>• Other national (Lao Investment Law, Moratorium for Investment) and international guidelines (e.g. RAI) have been considered to be Quality Investment Criteria for monitoring.</li> <li>• A technical guide for implementing the VGGT in the area of “Agricultural Investment and Access to Land” was used as the basis for the development of the investment quality criteria.</li> <li>• Questionnaires have been jointly developed with counterparts and were used to assess the current level of compliance of 109 investment projects as a baseline.</li> <li>• Projects were assessed and investors were interviewed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities were consulted to give feedback regarding the investments in their area.</li> <li>• Investors and the Department of Planning and Investment of the province and district signed a MoU to improve the performance of the investment projects taking into account these criteria and feedback from the communities.</li> <li>• Days of exchange between investors and communities were conducted to create dialogue and agreements for improvement.</li> <li>• Investment forums were conducted for investment improvement for both investors and the government.</li> <li>• Investment projects were reassessed to measure improvements on a regular basis by the province and district.</li> </ul> <p>Main Actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Department of Investment Promotion (IPD), provincial and district planning department, Department of Industry and commerce and other relevant government sectors and local authorities.</li> <li>• Investors</li> <li>• Communities</li> <li>• LMDP</li> </ul> <p>Location: Huaphan, Sayabouri, Luang-Namtha and Khammouane</p> <p>Timeframe: The Investment monitoring process was conducted from June to November 2015 and performance was followed up regularly after three to six months and after one year.</p>
<p><b>Results obtained</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 109 investment projects have been assessed.</li> <li>• Findings from monitoring were discussed at provincial and district level.</li> <li>• 81 MoUs between investors and DPI were signed.</li> <li>• 11 days of exchange between investors and communities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key catalysts and factors that influenced the results</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criteria were accepted as they relate to the VGGT and national regulations.</li> <li>• Task of investment monitoring was the mandate of the government counterparts.</li> <li>• Communities and investors both benefit from the activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Constraints and challenges faced</b></p>	<p>As it was a new approach, close coaching and follow up were needed. Currently, it is piloted with 109 projects.</p>
<p><b>Good practices that helped to make the experience successful</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VGGT was integrated as the key indicator of the investment component to be implemented in the investment monitoring of the LMDP Programme.</li> <li>• Participatory approaches were implemented by inter-sectors and stakeholders.</li> <li>• Investors were more motivated to improve their performance as their projects were monitored</li> <li>• Villagers were more confident to address their concerns as they were involved in a systematic way to evaluate the investment</li> <li>• Government had improved tools to conduct monitoring</li> </ul>

<b>Quantitative aspects– estimate number of people, households and communities positively affected by the successful experience</b>	11 communities with participation from approximately 166 villagers.
<b>Link to additional information</b>	<a href="https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/31066.html">https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/31066.html</a>