

*Contributing to sustainable development of the region from a social, economic and environmental perspective, by increasing public awareness, enabling individual analysis, improving information sharing, and informing public dialogue*



**OPEN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**  
AN EAST-WEST MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE PROJECT

## Background

In 2011 East-West Management Institute (EWMI) initiated Open Development (OD) Cambodia. This offered an innovative online platform for aggregating, organizing, and objectively presenting a wide range of information across landscapes and sectors to illuminate development trends, including land use. This platform is being expanded to cover the Mekong Region.

The Lower Mekong countries - Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are experiencing rapid development. This is transforming the economies of these countries and fundamentally changing both their environmental underpinnings and traditional social organization. This sometimes puts economic development at odds with communities as they lose access to customary resources. A primary challenge is to find balance between competing interests.

The scarcity of easily accessible development-related information serves to limit constructive public dialogue on plans and policies. Only a limited amount of available data reaches the public's attention, and is often difficult to access or systematically track. This also hampers analysis by policy makers and decision makers.

## Expected Outcomes

These include:

- an upscaled OD Mekong as a compelling platform for moderated crowd-sourced data sharing, resulting in expanded/improved data and research with increased appeal/usability for users – enabling better planning, legislation, investment, research and dialogue on development issues, and
- successful sharing of the OD model with other regional and country-level partners in order to contribute to transparent development across the region.

## For More Information:

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## Expected Outputs

These include:

- Platform enhancement – An upgraded and unified OD Mekong website platform will improve usability and offer timely and compelling data products to inform public dialogue on development issues.
- OD network expansion – A strengthened and expanded OD Network will include a Lao PDR and Thai partner and website, joining existing Cambodian, Myanmar and Vietnamese partners.
- Research capacity building – The improved research capacity of country OD network partners to document investment and value chains, and compile and objectively present resulting information and supporting data.
- Partnerships and collaboration – Partnerships with technical and academic groups and other stakeholders will be established and maintained to collaborate on data and information sharing.
- Promotion of the online platform – Active promotion of the online platform is key to its adoption by a wide range of stakeholders.

## Stakeholders

EWMI will be working with country-level partners – Open Development Cambodia, PanNature (Vietnam) and Phandeeyar (Myanmar) – which will share common branding but manage their own websites. EWMI-ODI will also identify Lao PDR and Thailand partners. International technical partners, such as Land Portal, World Resources Institute, and Inclusive Development International will also be engaged. It is expected that OD Mekong will provide a platform to increase public awareness, enabling individual analysis, improving data sharing, and informing dialogue.

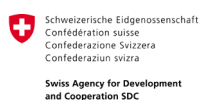
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