



POSSIBLE LAND IDENTIFICATION FOR SOCIAL LAND CONCESSION REGISTRATION

IN KBAL ROMEAS COMMUNE, SESAN DISTRICT,
STUNG TRENG PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

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Abstract

This research focuses on two main objectives: identifying suitable land for social land concession (SLC) registration in the identified lands of Kbal Romeas commune and determining their origins, as well as identifying the actors involved and their respective roles in the identified lands.

A research framework consisting of two main themes, namely land availability, origination, and actors and their leadership in possible land areas for SLC registration, was utilized. The study employed a purposive approach as a non-probability sampling method, and data were collected through group discussions (GD) and key informant interviews (KII). The collected data were analyzed using content analysis.

The research identified five proposed sites for social land concession in Kbal Romeas commune, located in Sesan district, Stung Treng province. Three of these sites are situated in Sre Sranok village (location 1, location 2, and location 3), one in Kbal Romeas Thmei village (location 4), and one in Krabei Chrum village. These proposed areas have different sources or origins, including forest areas, economic land concessions, and lands prepared by the Lower Sesan 2 (LS2) economic land concession.

The actors involved in land management and addressing land issues in the identified locations include citizens, community committees, village heads, Kbal Romeas Commune Administration, Sesan District Administration, Stung Treng Provincial Administration, and the Provincial Department of Agriculture. These actors have different roles assigned to them in different phases, such as before land relocation and during the land relocation phase.

This research provides valuable insights into the identification of suitable land for social land concession registration, understanding the origins of the identified lands, and identifying the actors involved and their roles in land management and protection. The findings contribute to the broader understanding of social land concession processes and land governance in Kbal Romeas commune.

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Abbreviation

CDRI	: Cambodia Development Resource Institute
DWG	: District Working Groups
ELC	: economic land concession
GD	: Group Discussions
IFAD	: (International Fund for Agriculture Development
IP	: Indigenous People
KII	: Key Informant Interview
LANGO	: Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations
LASED II	: Land Allocation for Social and Economic Development II
LMUPCC	: Land Management Urban Planning Construction and Cadastral
MAFF	: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
MLMUPC	: Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction
NGOF	: Non-Government Organization Forum
NSLCC	: National Social Land Concession Committee
ODC	: Open Development Cambodia
OHCHR	: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PLUAC	: Provincial Land Use and Allocation Committee
RGC	: The Royal Government of Cambodia
SLC	: Social Land Concession
STG-SA	: Stung Treng Sub-national authorities

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1. Introduction

1.1. Research Problems

In Cambodia, 80 percent of the population live in rural areas (World Bank, 2019). In 2004, 91% of the impoverished population resided in rural areas, and a majority of them relied on land and agriculture for their livelihoods (STAR KAMPUCHEA, n.d.). It was observed that over 10 percent of rural residents were landless, and a significant proportion cultivated less than 0.5 hectares of land (World Bank, 2019). According to CDRI, their survey sample found that 28 percent of participants were landless between 2004 and 2011, and 47 percent had less than half a hectare of land (CDRI, 2014; ODC, 2015).

The Royal Government of Cambodia has made significant efforts in distributing and allocating land for impoverished and landless families through the social land concession model. Various laws, policies, and frameworks have been established to support this initiative, including the 2001 Land Law and Sub-decree No. 19 on Social Land Concession (Open Development Cambodia, 2015).

The 2001 Land Law emphasizes that land concessions should serve social and economic purposes (Article 49). It also stipulates that a specific legal document is required for granting a land concession (Article 53). Additionally, land concessions can only be awarded on lands that are part of the state's private property (Article 58) (Royal Government of Cambodia, 2001).

Sub-decree No. 19 specifically outlines the mechanism for Social Land Concessions (SLC). SLCs are granted to land-poor and disabled soldiers, families displaced by public infrastructure development or impacted by natural disasters, demobilized soldiers, and disabled or deceased soldiers (Royal Government of Cambodia, 2003).

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has implemented a social land concession program to redistribute land to land-poor families (CDRI, 2014; ODC, 2015). As of June 2010, a total of 2,595 families had received land through this program, and by the end of 2013, 31,000 households had been granted land (ODC, 2015). Among these households, 15,000 were impoverished civilians (ODC, 2015).

Between May 2016 and June 2019, the Land Allocation for Social and Economic Development II (LASED II) program granted 5,010 landless and land-poor families a total of 17,000 hectares of residential and agricultural land (World Bank, 2019). Additionally, as of

August 2019, 3,078 land titles had been distributed to 1,825 of these families (World Bank, 2019).

To contribute to the implementation of national policies and frameworks, MVi provides strategic support to indigenous and rural communities for land security (My Village, 2018). The project considers land ownership as a key strategy and objective (My Village, 2018).

As of May 2022, MVi has assisted 12 indigenous communities in registering their land ownership through a three-step process: IP identity, IP legal entity, and land ownership registration (My Village, 2022).

MVi has also planned to support the registration of social land concessions for rural people, particularly those who are impoverished or landless, to enable them to have ownership of their land resources (My Village, 2022).

During the project implementation, knowledge gaps were identified, including a lack of information on potential land for social land registration. To address these gaps and contribute to social land concession registration, a proposed research project titled "Assessment of Possible Land for Social Land Concession Registration" was conducted in Kbal Romeas commune, Stung Treng province, Cambodia. The research focus on two objectives as outlined in section 1.3.

1.2. Research Objectives

The research objectives are as follows:

- To identify suitable land for social land concession registration in the identified lands of Kbal Romeas commune and determine their origins.
- To identify the actors involved and their respective roles in the identified lands of Kbal Romeas commune.

1.3. Research Questions

1. How many areas of suitable land are available in Kbal Romeas commune for social land concession registration?
2. What are the sources of origin for the identified lands suitable for social land concession registration in Kbal Romeas commune?
3. Who are the actors involved in the different sources of origin for the identified land suitable for social land concession registration in Kbal Romeas commune?

1.4. Research Framework

The research framework consists of two main themes: land availability, origination and actors and their leadership in possible land areas for social land concession (SLC) registration.

a. Land Availability, Origination:

a.1. Land Availability: This aspect focuses on assessing the availability of land for SLC registration in the study area.

a.2 Source of Origins: This aspect explores the different sources of land origins for SLC registration, including:

- Canceled economic lands: Investigating lands that were previously designated for economic purposes but are now available for SLC registration.
- Illegally occupied land: Examining lands that have been unlawfully occupied and could potentially be used for SLC registration.
- Degraded forestland: Assessing forested areas that have been degraded and could be considered for SLC registration.

a.3 Land Use, Conflicts, and Plans: This aspect examines the current land use, existing conflicts, and any plans in place for the utilization of the identified possible lands.

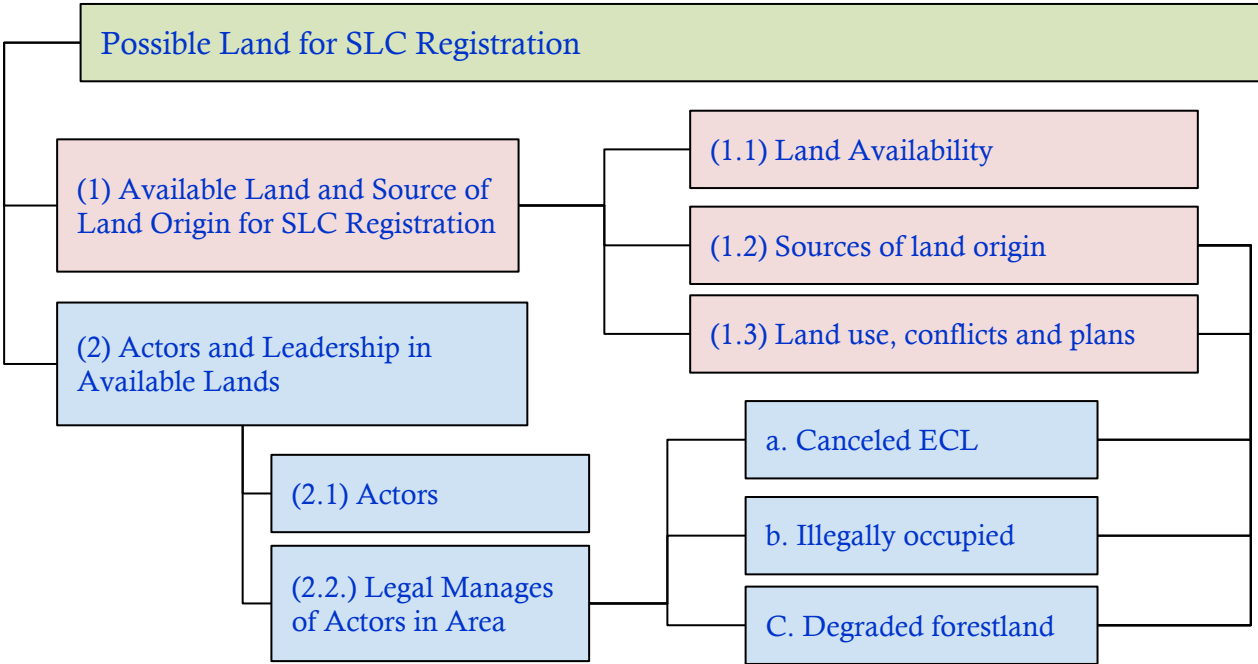
b. Actors and Their Leadership:

b.1 Actors with Legal Mandate: This aspect focuses on identifying actors who have the legal mandate to manage the land in the possible land sites for SLC registration.

b.2 Mandates of Actors: This aspect explores the specific roles and responsibilities of the identified actors in managing the lands in the possible land areas for SLC registration, as mentioned in (a1), (a2), and (a3) of the source of origins.

This research framework provides a structured approach to assessing the suitability of different land areas for SLC registration and understanding the roles of various actors involved in land management and leadership in the study area.

Figure 1: Research Framework



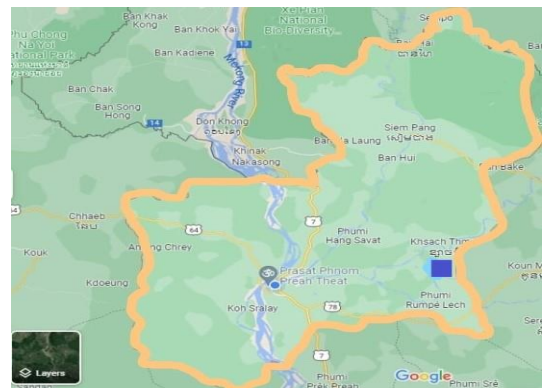
Source: Author, 2022

2. Research Methodology

3.1. Research sites

The research was conducted in Kbal Romeas commune, which is located in Sesan district, Stung Treng province. The commune is situated approximately 50 kilometers away from Stung Treng provincial town (Kbal Romeas Commune Council, 2022). Kbal Romeas commune consists of five villages, namely Chrob, Kbal Romeas Thmei, Kbal Romeas Chas, Krabei Chrum, and Sre Sranok (Kbal Romeas Commune Council, 2022). The population of the commune is comprised of 1735 families, totaling 7045 individuals, with 3359 females (Stung Treng Provincial Department of Planning, 2020).

Map 1: Research Sites



Source: Google Map, 2022

The selection of Kbal Romeas commune as the research site was based on several reasons. Firstly, the commune councilors expressed their interest in social land concession issues (Kbal Romeas Commune Chief, 2022). Additionally, Kbal Romeas commune is one of the research sites for the MVi project, which aims to improve land security and ownership for local communities and citizens (My Village, 2018). Lastly, there was a significant number of landless families in the commune. According to the report provided by the commune councilors, 53 families did not have land (Kbal Romeas Commune Council, 2022).

3.2. Research Tools

Two types of research tools were utilized in this study: participatory mapping and interview guides. Participatory mapping is a process that aims to establish a connection between land and communities by utilizing the universally understood language of cartography (International Fund for Agriculture Development [IFAD], 2019). In this research, participatory mapping was

Photo 1: Group Discussion in Krabei Chrum



employed to identify potential land areas for social land concession and to determine the various sources of land origins.

Interview guides, on the other hand, are tools that outline the main topics and questions to be covered during interviews (Bird, 2016). These guides were developed and utilized in this research to identify different types of possible land, as well as the actors and leaders involved in these potential land areas. The interview guides helped structure the interviews and ensured that relevant information was gathered from the participants.

3.3. Sampling

A non-probability approach, specifically a purposive approach, was utilized in this research. The purposive approach is a non-probability sampling method that involves the researcher's judgment in selecting members from the population to participate in the survey (ALCEMER, n.d). In total, 23 individuals participated in the research, including one leader from the Sesan LMUPCC office, two commune council members, two village heads, and 18 community committee members.

3.4. Data Collection

Two types of data were collected for this research: secondary data and primary data. Secondary data includes information on landless families, Sub-Decree No. 118 on State Land Management, the Social Land Concession Process, and the 2001 Land Law. These secondary data sources were collected from various sources, including online sources.

Primary data, on the other hand, was collected through group discussions and key informant interviews.

- Group Discussion (GD): Group discussion is a process where two or more individuals exchange information or ideas face-to-face in order to achieve a specific goal (Learning Home, n.d.). In this research, group discussions were conducted with two commune councils, two village heads, and 18 community committee members. The purpose of these group discussions was to discuss potential lands, different sources of land origins, and the roles of actors in managing the identified land areas.

Photo 2: Group Discussion in Kbal Romeas Thmei



- Key Informant Interview (KII): Key informant interviews are qualitative, in-depth interviews conducted with individuals who possess knowledge and understanding of the communities under study. These individuals can provide valuable information about community issues and offer recommendations for solutions (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, n.d.). In this research, key informant interviews were conducted with one commune chief and one representative from the Sesan District LMUCC office. The key informant interviews aimed to gather information about land use plans in the identified area and the procedures for converting them into social land concessions.

Photo 3: Interview with Kbal Romeas Commune Chief



3.5. Data Analysis

The Content Analysis Tool was utilized to analyze the collected data. Content analysis is a method used to identify and analyze themes or concepts within a dataset (Population Health Methods, n.d.). In this research, the tool was applied to analyze the data in line with the research objectives, specifically focusing on identifying different sources of land origin and understanding the roles and mandates of the actors involved in land management in the identified area.

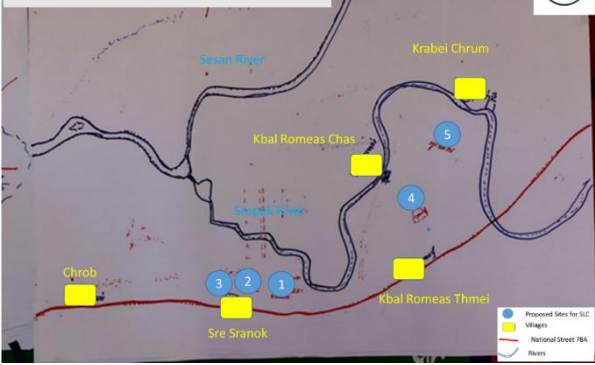
3. Research Finding and Discussion

3.1. Land Availability for SLC and Land Origination

3.1.1. Land Availability for Social Land Concession

Five sites for social land concession in Kbal Romeas commune, Sesan district, Stung Treng province have been proposed and identified. Three of these sites (location 1, location 2, and location 3) are situated in Sre Sranok village, while one site (location 4) is located in Kbal Romeas Thmei village. The remaining site is in Krabei Chrum village, as depicted in map 1

Map 2: Proposed Sites for SLCs in Kbal Romeas



(Group Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Council, 2022).

The first site covers an area of 100 hectares and is designated for agricultural purposes. The second site in Sre Sranok village also covers 100 hectares and is intended for agricultural use. The third site (location 3) in Sre Sranok village spans 25 hectares and is designated for residential purposes. The estimated size of the fourth site (location 4) in Kbal Romeas Thmei village is around 800 hectares, which is considered suitable for social land concession formation. However, only 200 hectares of the available land in that area have been planned for social land concession, while the rest of the land is reserved for the commune's land reserve (Group Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Council, 2022). It should be noted that the village heads and community committee have suggested that all 800 hectares of possible land be utilized for social land concession (Discussion with Village Authorities and Community Committee in Kbal Romeas Thmei, 2022).

The fifth area (location 5) comprises approximately 1600 hectares of land, as estimated by the village heads and community committee in Kbal Romeas village. These lands are available for social land concession and are intended for various purposes, including supporting landless families and facilitating development activities (Group Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Council, 2022). While the Kbal Romeas commune chief has confirmed that only 200 hectares of the identified land were planned for social land concession, the group discussion with village authorities and the community committee has agreed that around 800 hectares of land should be allocated for social land concession to benefit future generations in their village.

3.1.2. Land Origination in Proposed Land for SLC

The proposed areas for social land concession have different sources or origins, including forest areas, economic land concessions, and lands prepared by the Lower Sesan 2 (LS2) economic land concession. The sources and origins are further explained based on the specific locations.

The first site, covering 100 hectares in Sre Sranok village, is located within a canceled economic land concession previously held by Un-Inter Trading and Development Group in Cambodia (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022). This economic land concession was licensed by the Royal Government of Cambodia on December 10, 2009, for a total area of 7,000 hectares (NGOF, 2017). However, it was later revoked by the government due to the company's violation of the contract and failure to comply with Cambodian laws (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022; NGOF, 2017). The prime minister's directive was to convert all revoked economic land concessions into social concessions for the benefit of the poor (NGOF, 2017). Approximately 60% of location 1 is currently covered with degraded forests (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilor, 2022; Field Observation, 2022). Based on the verification of the location with the economic land concession boundary on the map, location 1 falls within the canceled economic land concession area.

The second site, also covering 100 hectares in Sre Sranok village, is characterized by degraded forests. This area has been designated and prepared for agricultural purposes under the social land concession program. Similar to location 1, this area is also situated within the canceled economic land concession previously held by Un-Inter Trading and Development Group (Observation, 2022; Discussion with Commune Councilors, 2022). Based on the



Photo 4: Site 1 for Social Land Concession in Sre Sranok village

verification of the location with the economic land concession boundary on the map, location 2 falls within the canceled economic land concession area, which is under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF).

The third location in Sre Sranok village has been designated and prepared for residential land. This area is situated within the land set aside for the Lower Sesan 2 hydropower dam

compensation project. The forests in this location have been cleared during the resettlement process of displaced individuals affected by the Lower Sesan 2 hydropower dam. The fourth site, located in Kbal Romeas village, covers an area of 800 hectares and is characterized by degraded forests.

The fifth site (location 5) consists of degraded forests that were previously cleared by a few individuals from Stung Treng town. However, the degraded lands in this location have been reclaimed (Discussion with Krabei Chrum Village Heads and Community Leaders, 2022). Both location 4 and location 5 are currently within the canceled economic land concessions and fall under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF).

3.1.3. Land Uses and Conflicts in Proposed Land for SLC

The identified lands, as mentioned above, have been utilized for various purposes. In the case of site 1, the economic land concession (ELC) was granted, and the company began operations by planting rubber trees. However, the rubber plantation failed due to poor land quality (Discussion with Commune Councilors, 2022).

After the cancellation of the ELC, the area where location 1 is situated was converted into a social land concession for landless families. In February 2022, the land plots in site 1 were divided and distributed among 100 families who had separated from their parent families in Sre Sranok village following the resettlement due to the LS2 hydropower dam project. The land distribution followed a rolling approach to minimize and manage conflicts. Each of the 100 families received one hectare of agricultural land, and some of them have already started planting rice in 2022 (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022).

The commune councilors submitted a request to the provincial governor, and it received the green light from the Sesan District Administration (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022). The Director of the Sesan District Land Unit confirmed that the request for social land concession has been approved by the Stung Treng Provincial Governor (Interview with Sesan District Land Unit Director, 2022). To obtain legal recognition, the Kbal Romeas commune chief plans to submit the request to the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) for approval, following the agreed principles set by the authorities.

“Each of the 100 families who separated from their parent families would receive two hectares of land for agricultural purposes and an additional plot measuring 20 meters wide and 50 meters long for residential purposes.”

In order to accommodate the landless families in Sre Sranok villages, the authorities have designated site 2 and site 3 for their use. Each family would be allocated two hectares of agricultural land and residential land.

For site 2, the land plots were divided in February 2022 with assistance from officials of the Sesan District Unit. The plots were then distributed among 100 families who had separated from their parent families. It is important to note that each of the 100 families who received agricultural land in location 1 also received an additional one hectare of agricultural land in location 2 (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilor, 2022).

To facilitate the land distribution process, a land distribution committee was formed in Kbal Romeas, consisting of the village head, deputy village heads, and community leaders (Discussion with Commune Councilors, 2022). They played crucial roles in coordinating the allocation of land for the 100 families. The criteria for land allocation included:

- Families who have separated from their parent families after getting married.
- Families who possess valid family books.
- Individuals in the village who got married to people from other villages and currently reside in those villages.
- Individuals from other villages who got married to people in the village and now reside in the village.
- People whose lands were affected by the Lower Sesan 2 hydropower dam project.
- New families who have recently separated from their parents following the intervention of the LS2 dam project (Discussion with Commune Councilors, 2022).

The location 3, designated as a social land concession (SLC) in Sre Sranok village, Kbal Romeas commune, is intended for residential land for landless families. This location was chosen due to its proximity to existing residents. The site is situated in an area where compensation was prepared for communities affected by the LS2 project. Some portions of the prepared lands from the LS2 project are available, and the Kbal Romeas commune administration and Sesan district administration have agreed to convert that area for landless families. The area has been divided into plots and demarcated. The residential plots have been distributed among the 100 families mentioned earlier, with each family receiving a plot measuring 20 meters wide and 50 meters long. It has been confirmed that these families have settled and constructed their houses on the allocated land (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022).

As for location 4, which consists of 800 hectares of land in Kbal Romeas Thmei village, it is also a possible site for a social land concession. Twenty families have recently separated from their parent families after the LS2 compensation (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilor, 2022). These families are encouraged to obtain two hectares of agricultural land and a plot measuring 20 meters wide and 50 meters long for residential purposes. The commune councilors aim to allocate approximately 200 hectares of the land for a social land concession in the second semester of 2022, while the remaining land will be reserved for other purposes. The official request for the SLC has not yet been made, but it is planned for this year, 2022 (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022).

Location 5, situated in Krabei Chrum village, covers an area of approximately 1500 hectares (Discussion with Krabei Chrum Village Head and Community Leaders, 2022). Of this land, the commune councilors plan to convert 200 hectares into a social land concession in 2022, while the Village Heads and community leaders have requested up to 1500 hectares. The land will be allocated and distributed to:

- ✚ Families whose land was flooded by the Lower Sesan 2 project and who have not received any compensation.
- ✚ Families whose land and residential areas are located near rivers that are at high risk of river bank erosion.

The land in location 5 has been cleared by people from Stung Treng province and has been returned to the communities in Sre Sranok village. The project was disseminated in January 2022 (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022).

3.2. Actors and Leadership in Proposed Land for SLC

3.2.1. Actors in Identified Lands

Before Land Reallocation: The actors involved in land management, particularly in addressing land issues in the identified locations, including location 5, are citizens, community committees, village heads in Krabei Chrum and Kbal Romeas Thmei villages, Kbal Romeas Commune Administration, Sesan District Administration, Stung Treng Provincial Administration, and the Provincial Department of Agriculture (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022).

Reclassification of Identified Lands: The groups involved in the reclassification of identified lands include the Stung Treng Provincial State Land Management Committee, Councils for Land Policy, and the Council of Ministers (RGC, 2005).

Social Land Concession Phase: Several actors are involved in the social land concession process, including citizens, community committees, Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, Sesan Technical Working Groups, Stung Treng Provincial Use and Allocation Committee, and the National Social Land Concession Committee (ODC & OHCHR, 2015).

- Citizens and community committees: The citizens and community committees in Krabei Chrum have actively participated and patrolled to protect the land in location 5, and they need to continue their efforts to safeguard the land. Similarly, the citizens and community committees in Kbal Romeas Thmei villages must protect their land in location 4 as well (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022).
- Sub-national authorities: The sub-national authorities, specifically the Kbal Romeas Commune Administration, have collaborated with citizens and community committees to address land issues in location 5 and have worked together to protect the land in location 4 (Discussion with Kbal Romeas Commune Councilors, 2022).

3.2.2. Legal Mandates in Proposed Land for SLC

The actors involved in managing and protecting the land have different roles assigned to them in different phases.

a. Before the land relocation phase:

- ❖ *Citizens/Community Committee*: These groups, including Indigenous Women Group, Indigenous Youth Group, and Community Fishery Committee, participate in cracking down on forest clearance activities in location 5. They also participate in social land concession activities in locations 1, 2, and 3, allocating and distributing lands to 100 landless families.
- ❖ *Village Heads*: The village authorities, such as Sre Sranok Village Head, Kbal Romeas Thmei Village Head, and Krabei Chrum Village Head, participate in cracking down on illegal land encroachment in location 5. They also participate in land plot division and distribution in locations 1 and 2.
- ❖ *Kbal Romeas Commune Councils*: The commune councilors participate in addressing illegal forest logging and land encroachments in location 5.

- ❖ *Stung Treng Sub-national authorities (STG-SA)*: This group, formed in 2014, includes Stung Treng Provincial Administration, Stung Teng Land Urbanization, Construction and Cadastral, STG DoRD, PD of Women Affair, Ming Department, Stung Treng FA and FiA, district governors, and commune councilors. Their roles include addressing forest and land encroachment, building capacities for citizens, and organizing public forums to address land and natural resource management issues. They can help address illegal forestry activities in location 5.
- ❖ Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (MAFF): The identified locations are located on parts of cancelled economic land concessions under the control and authority of MAFF. These areas are state public land that needs to be converted to state private land through approval to process social land concession.

b. Land Relocation Phase:

- ❖ Provincial State Land Management: This group creates panels and reviews requests for land allocation.
- ❖ Council for Land Policy: They review requests, provide recommendations, and draft sub-decrees on land relocation.
- ❖ Council of Ministers: They play a role in the land relocation phase.

c. Social Land Concession Phase:

- ❖ Citizens/Community Committee: They have the obligation to prepare local social land concession plans and submit them to the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction (MLMUPC) for approval
- ❖ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): They initiate and prepare local social land concession plans and submit them to commune councils for review. CSOs play a role defined by the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO).
- ❖ Kbal Romeas Commune Councils: Their roles include reviewing social land concession plans and submitting them to District Working Groups for review and verification. They also participate in land classification and division in locations 1, 2, and 3.
- ❖ District Working Groups (DWG): Chaired by the district governor, DWG consists of the District Unit, the chief of District Office of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction, the Chief of District Agriculture Unit, and commune

chiefs. DWG reviews Social Land Concession Plans before submission to the Provincial Land Use and Allocation Committee.

- ❖ Provincial Land Use and Allocation Committee (PLUAC): Led by the Provincial Government, PLUAC includes various provincial departments. They review and approve the Social Land Concession Plans and inform the approval to the National Social Land Concession Committee.
- ❖ National Social Land Concession Committee (NSLCC): This committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the Social Land Concession Plans.

3.2.3. Land Conversion for Social Land Concession

The 2001 Land Law has confirmed that land concessions can be granted on state public lands (Article 58). Social land concessions need to be registered with MLMUC (Article 53) (RGC, 2001). Social land concessions can be initiated at the local or national levels. LSLCs can be initiated by citizens or CSOs, while national SLCs can be initiated by ministries or the government (Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC], 2001). Sites 1, 2, 4, and 5, which were part of canceled economic land concessions, were classified as state public lands that need to be converted to state private lands in order to form social land concessions (RGC, 2005).

The sub-decree on State Land Management outlines the procedure for converting state public land to state private land (Article 14 and 15) as follows:

- ❖ Requests should be submitted to the relevant Provincial State Land Management office, indicating the affected lands and reasons.
- ❖ After receiving the request for 30 days, the head of the Provincial/Municipal State Land Management Committee shall designate a panel consisting of technical departments to review and make recommendations on the request.
- ❖ The panel will complete the review within 45 days after being designated.
- ❖ The Provincial State Land Management Committee may approve one or more extensions.
- ❖ The panels shall publicly post the request for reallocation for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Within 30 days after the review, the Provincial State Land Management Committee provides a commendation to the Council for Land Policy for further review.
- ❖ After review, the Council for Land Policy shall review the reports of the Provincial State Land Management Committee, along with their recommendations and reports,

and provide a recommendation, including a draft sub-decree on land reallocation, to the minister of councils.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

4.1. Conclusion

In conclusion, the five locations in Kbal Romeas commune have been identified as potential areas for social land concession formation. Four of these locations (location 1, location 2, location 4, and location 5) were originally part of Economic Land Concessions, while one site (location 3) was prepared by Lower Sesan 2 for affected people. These lands are classified as state public lands under the authority of MAFF. Land plot division and distribution for landless families have been carried out in three locations (location 1, location 2, and location 3) without following the necessary steps for social land concession. However, two locations (location 4 and location 5) will be converted into social land concessions for landless families. To proceed with the SLC in these four locations, the areas need to be converted from state public land to state private land.

The actors involved in social economic land concessions include citizens, community committees, village heads, sub-national authorities, the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery, the Provincial State Land Management Committee, the Council for Land Policy, the Council of Ministers, civil society organizations, and various committees and departments at the provincial and national levels. These actors have different roles in addressing land issues, reviewing requests, and approving land reallocation. The land conversion process involves submitting requests, conducting reviews, and obtaining approval from relevant authorities. Overall, these actors play a crucial role in managing and allocating land for social economic land concessions.

4.2. Recommendation

To proceed with the social land concession, several actions need to be taken as follows:

- ✦ Take measures to prevent and crack down on illegal forest logging in location 5, requiring collaboration between the community committee and authorities.
- ✦ Convert these lands, which are currently classified as state public lands, to state private lands in order to proceed with the social land concession.
- ✦ Submit the SLC application to MLMUC for approval through the village head, commune administration, district administration, and provincial administration.

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Annexes

Annex 1: Question Guides

For Group Discussion (FGD)

1. How many areas of land in Kbal Romeas commune are available for social land concession registration? Where are they?
2. How large of land is available for social land registration in Kbal Romeas commune?
3. What sources of origins of land in the identified areas do you identify such as ECL cancelation, degraded forestlands, ..etc.?
4. Who has used the lands in identified areas? How long have they been using these lands in the identified areas? What were the purposes of used lands? Who are they? Where do they come from? Does CC have plans to use the land in the identified area?
5. Who has the legal mandate to manage identified lands?

For Key Informant Interview (KII): commune councilor

1. What does your department plan to use the land under your mandate in identify area?
2. Commune council plans to convert the land under your mandate into social land concession, what should to be done?

Annex 2: Map

The information on the participatory map include

- The boundaries of possible land for SLC
- Different types of land and origins in possible land for SLC
- Conflicts and ownership of lands in possible land for SLC
- Mandatory of actors in different types of areas in possible land for SLC
- Land use and land use purposes in possible land for SLC
- The future plans for land use and different types of lands for SLC.