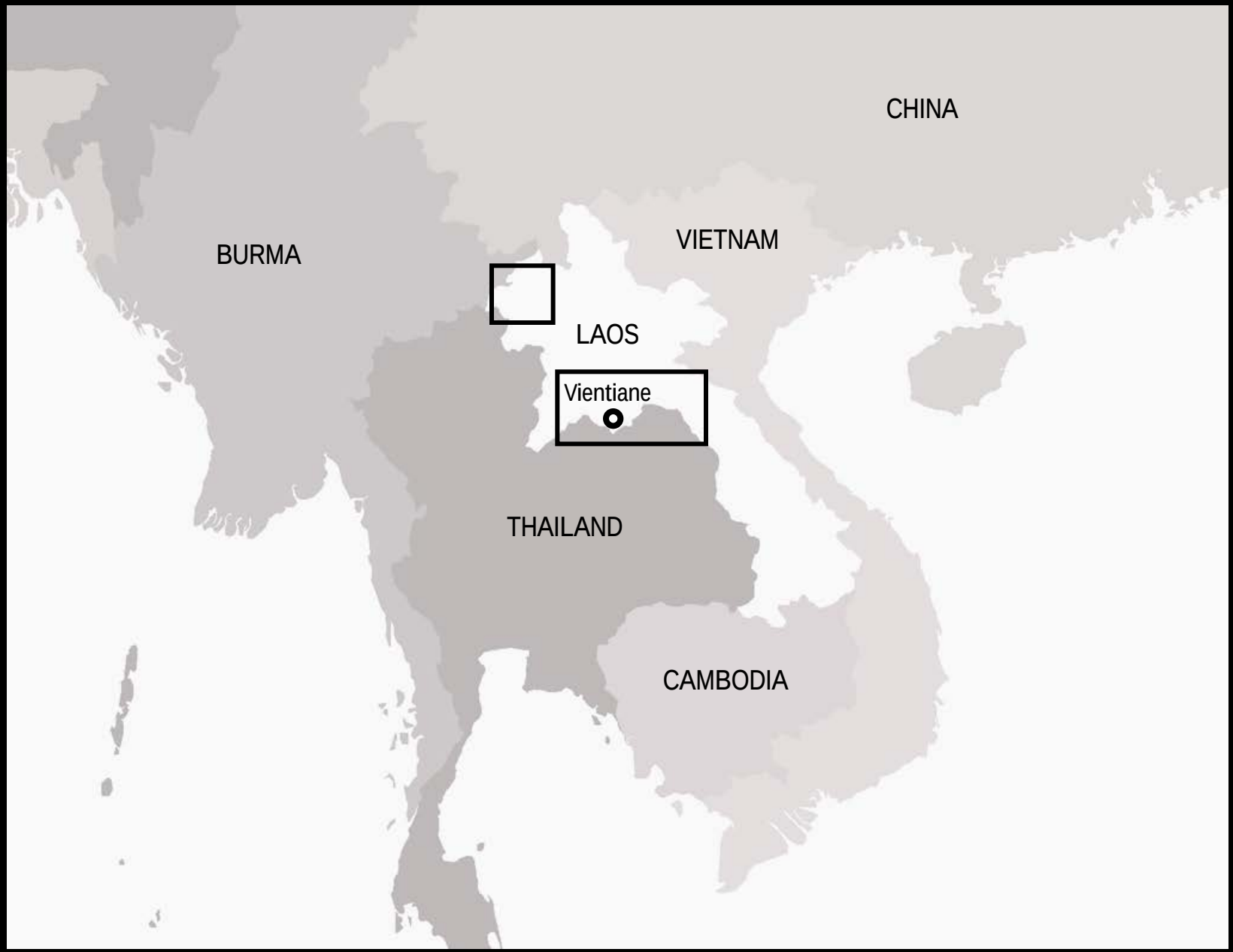
Building the politics machine

Tools for resolving the global land grab

Michael B. Dwyer
UC Berkeley
Energy & Resources Group

LDPI Conference
IDS Sussex
April 6-8, 2011

CHINA
VIETNAM
BURMA
LAOS
Vientiane
THAILAND
CAMBODIA


CHINA
VIETNAM
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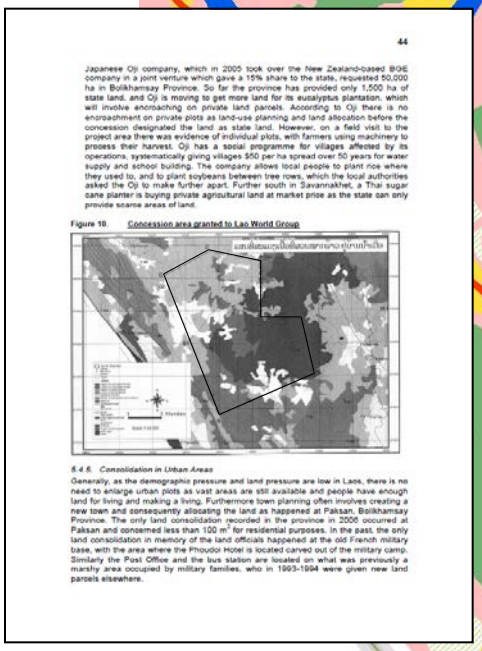
I. Structural biography

Coconut plantation to create thousands of jobs

December 2004



44

Japanese Oji company, which in 2005 took over the New Zealand-based BGE company in a joint venture which gave a 15% share to the state, requested 50,000 ha in Bolikhamsay Province. So far the province has provided only 1,500 ha of state land, and Oji is moving to get more land for its eucalyptus plantation, which will involve encroaching on private land parcels. According to Oji there is no encroachment on private plots as land-use planning and land allocation before the concession designated the land as state land. However, on a field visit to the project area there was evidence of individual plots, with farmers using machinery to process their harvest. Oji has a social programme for villages affected by its operations, systematically giving villages $50 per ha spread over 50 years for water supply and school building. The company allows local people to plant rice where they used to, and to plant soybeans between tree rows, which the local authorities asked the Oji to make further apart. Further south in Savannakhet, a Thai sugar cane planter is buying private agricultural land at market price as the state can only provide scarce areas of land.

Figure 10. Concession area granted to Lao World Group

6.4.6. Consolidation in Urban Areas

Generally, as the demographic pressure and land pressure are low in Laos, there is no need to enlarge urban plots as vast areas are still available and people have enough land for living and making a living. Furthermore town planning often involves creating a new town and consequently allocating the land as happened at Paksan, Bolikhamsay Province. The only land consolidation recorded in the province in 2006 occurred at Paksan and concerned less than 100 m^2 for residential purposes. In the past, the only land consolidation in memory of the land officials happened at the old French military base, with the area where the Phoudoi Hotel is located carved out of the military camp. Similarly the Post Office and the bus station are located on what was previously a marshy area occupied by military families, who in 1993-1994 were given new land parcels elsewhere.

5 km

Unstocked forest
Grassland
Swidden
Rice paddy
Lower mixed deciduous
Lower dry evergreen forest
Upper dry evergreen forest

Laos delivers a summit to remember

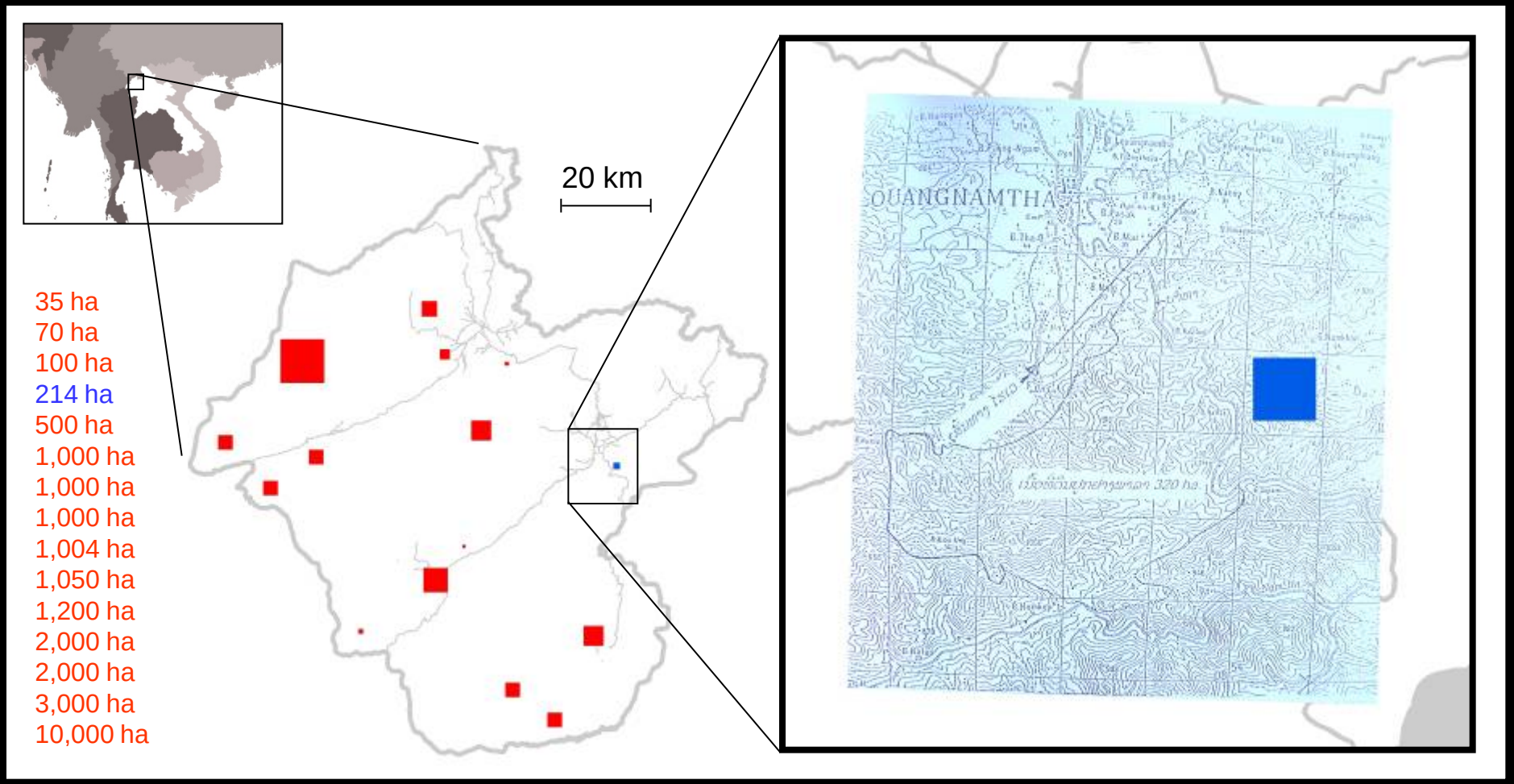
Rally begins: The ASEAN-India car rally flagging-off ceremony marks the official start of the race across the region, which will pass through Savannakhet next and then cross to Vietnam. The ceremony was held at the ITECC yesterday to celebrate the ASEAN Summit and was started by Lao Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachit and Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

--Photo Khamphan

II. Legibility inventory

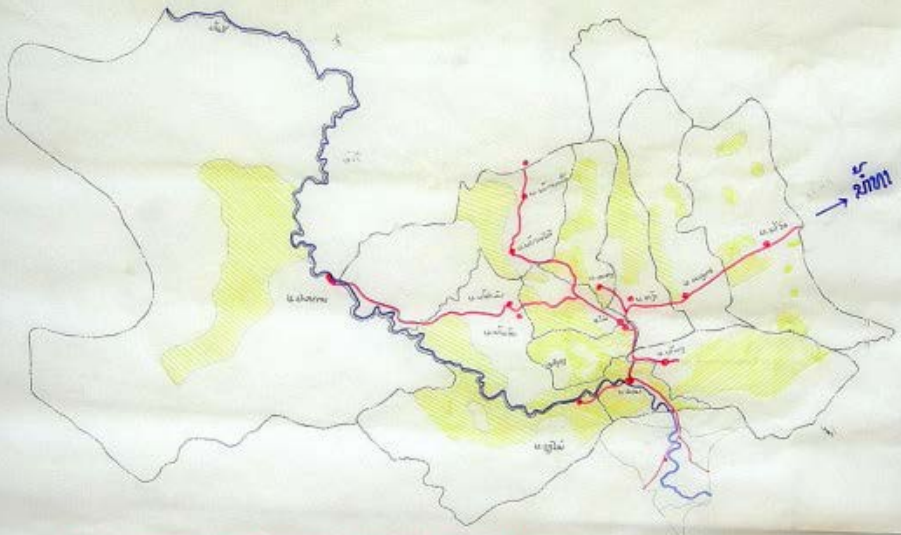
Approved land deal with map (provincial level)

Approved land deal, no map (provincial level)



III. Map genealogy

Zhen Hua Trading Company rubber planting promotion project target village land use map



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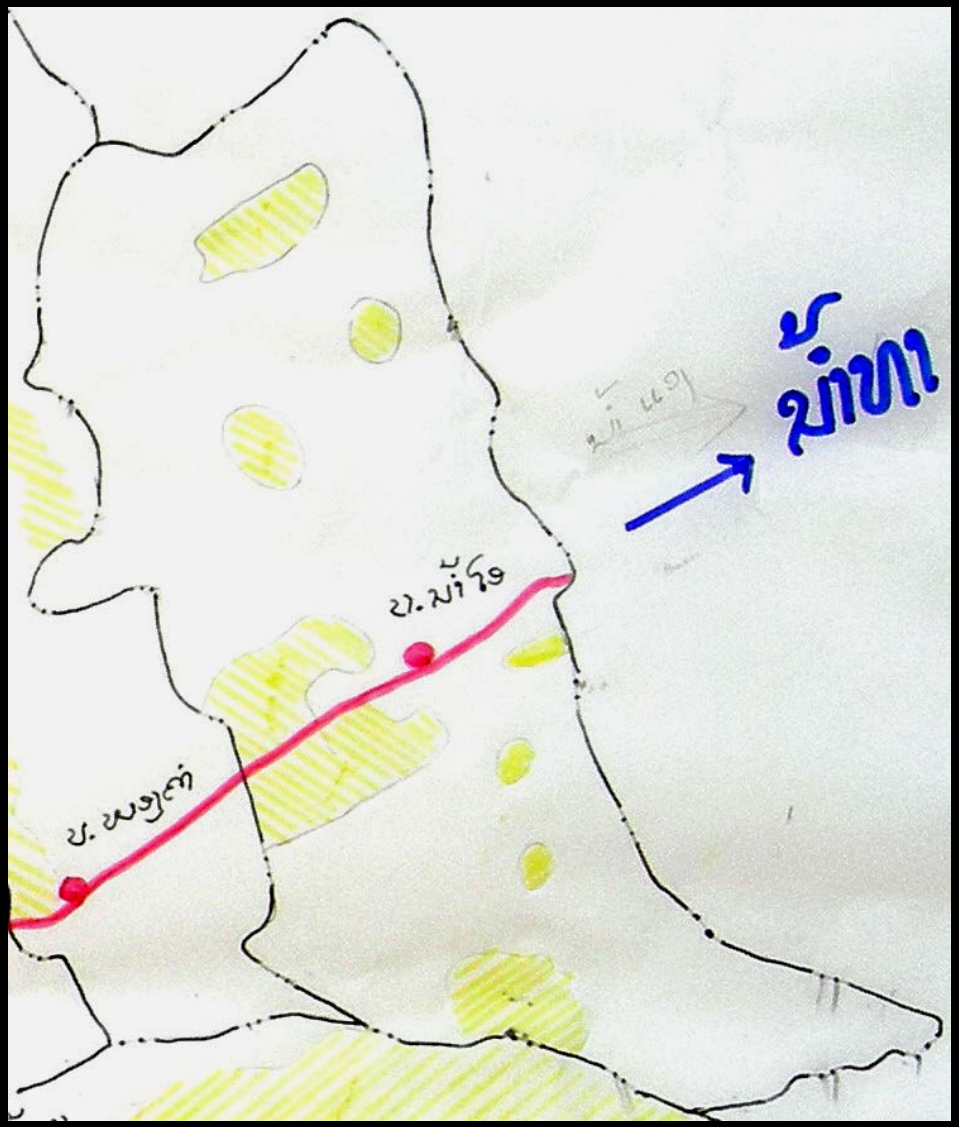
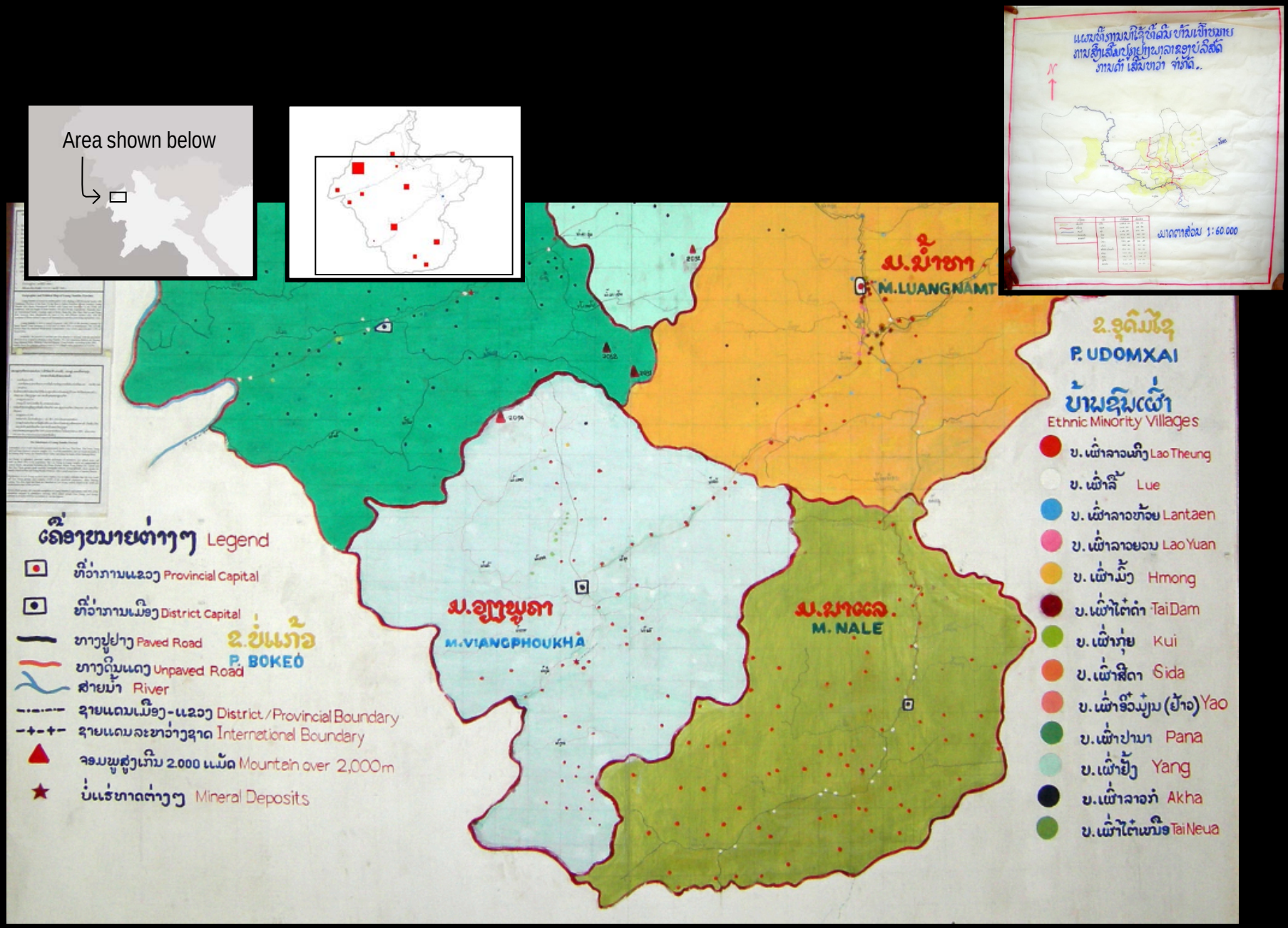

ม้ำหา

S = 2,456
S: 1896
S: 820
S: 624

Document room, District Agriculture & Forestry Office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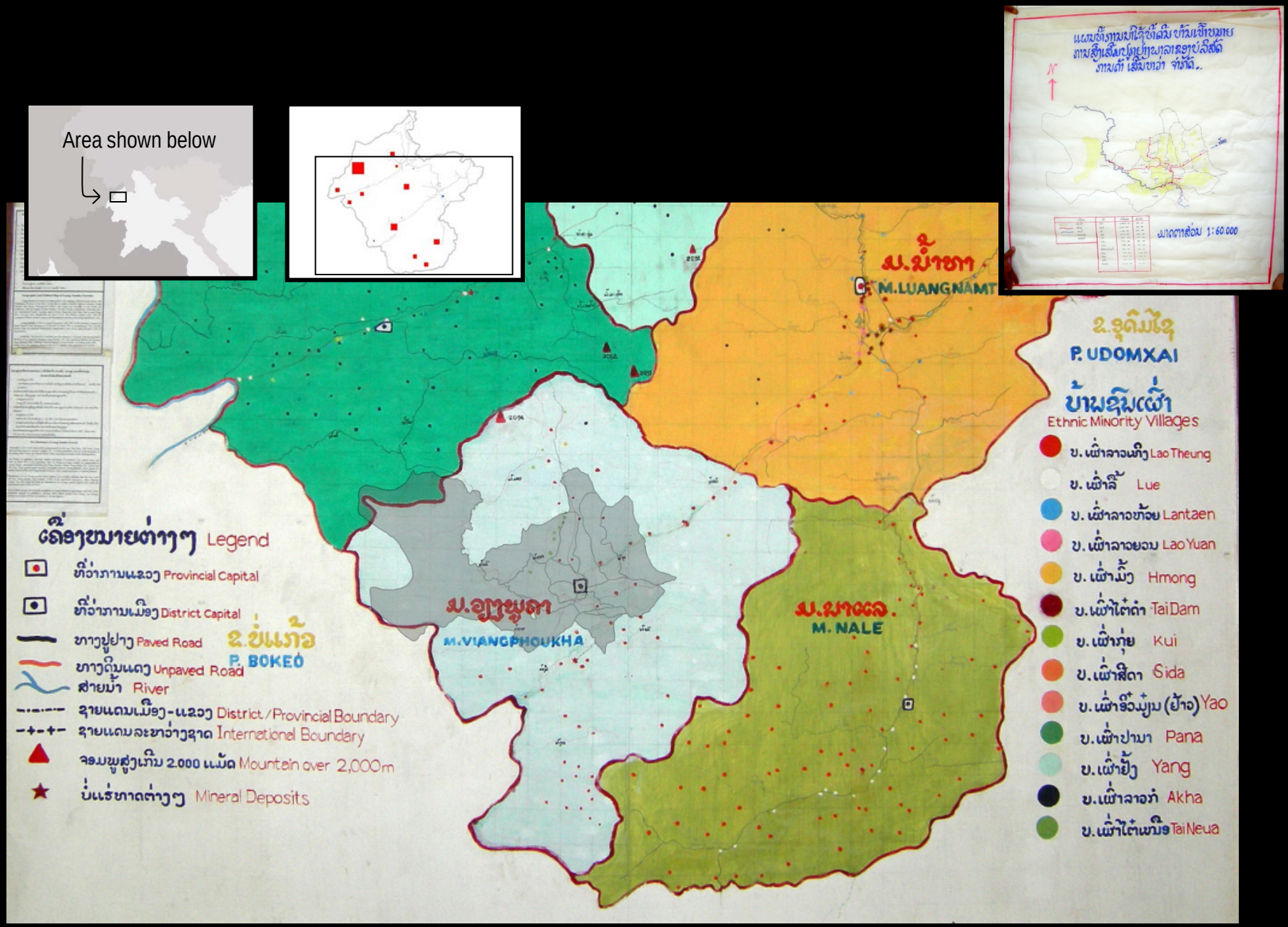
ມ.ນາແລ
M. NALE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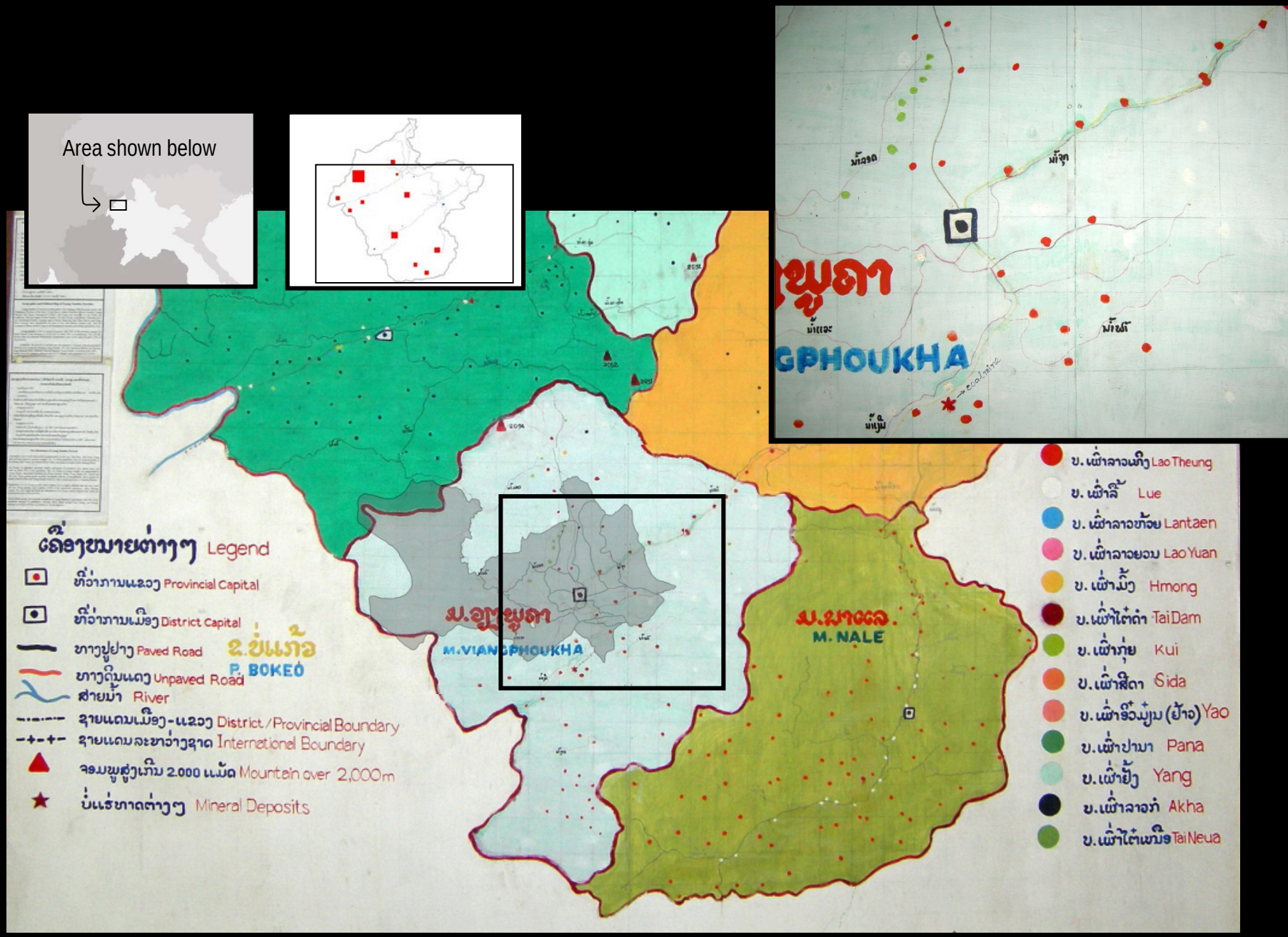
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GPHOUKHA
coalmine

Acknowledgments

U.S.

- University of California: Energy & Resources Group; Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management; Department of Geography
- Andrew R. Mellon Foundation & the Social Science Research Council
- National Science Foundation, Geography and Regional Science Division
- University of California, Pacific Rim Research Program
- University of California, Center for Southeast Asian Studies

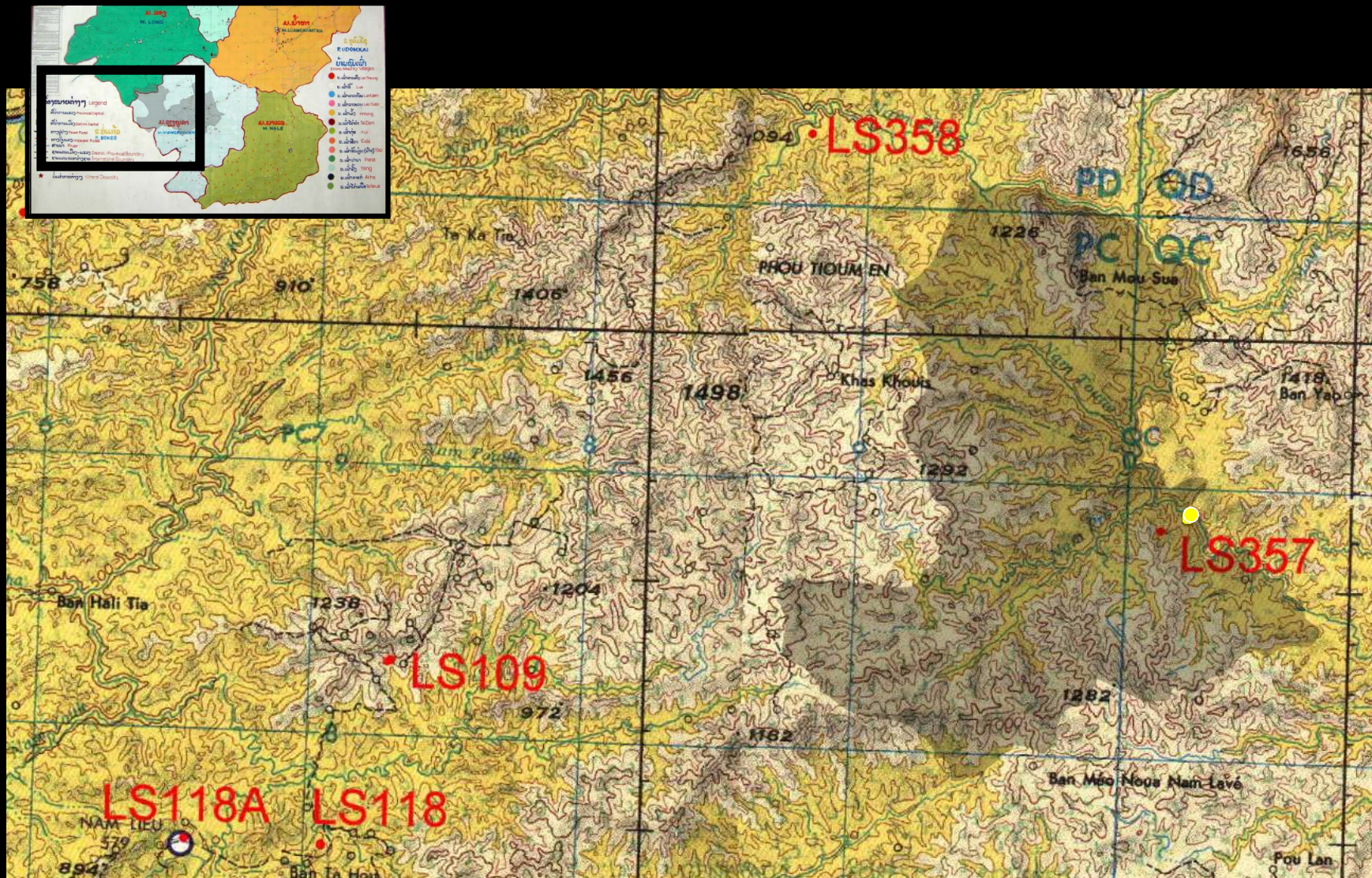
Laos

- National University of Laos, Centre for Environment and Development Studies
- Lao National Land Management Authority
- Land Issues Working Group, INGO Network

China

Laos?

GoogleEarth imagery, November 2008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Khas Khouis
Ban Yao
LS357
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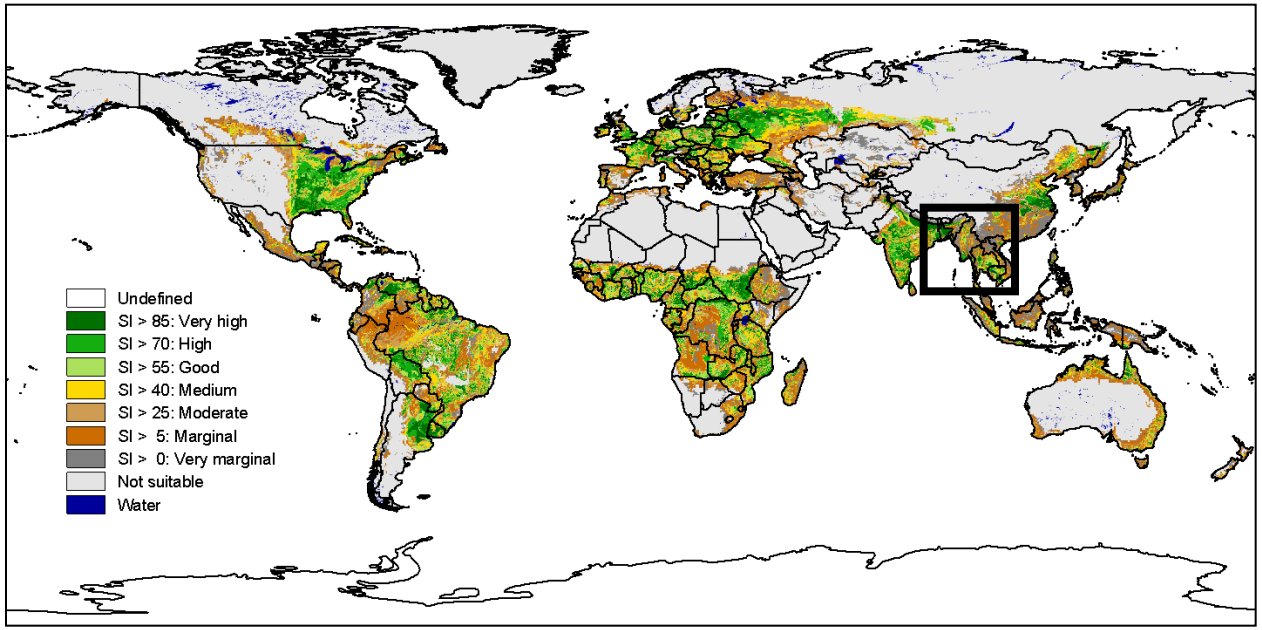
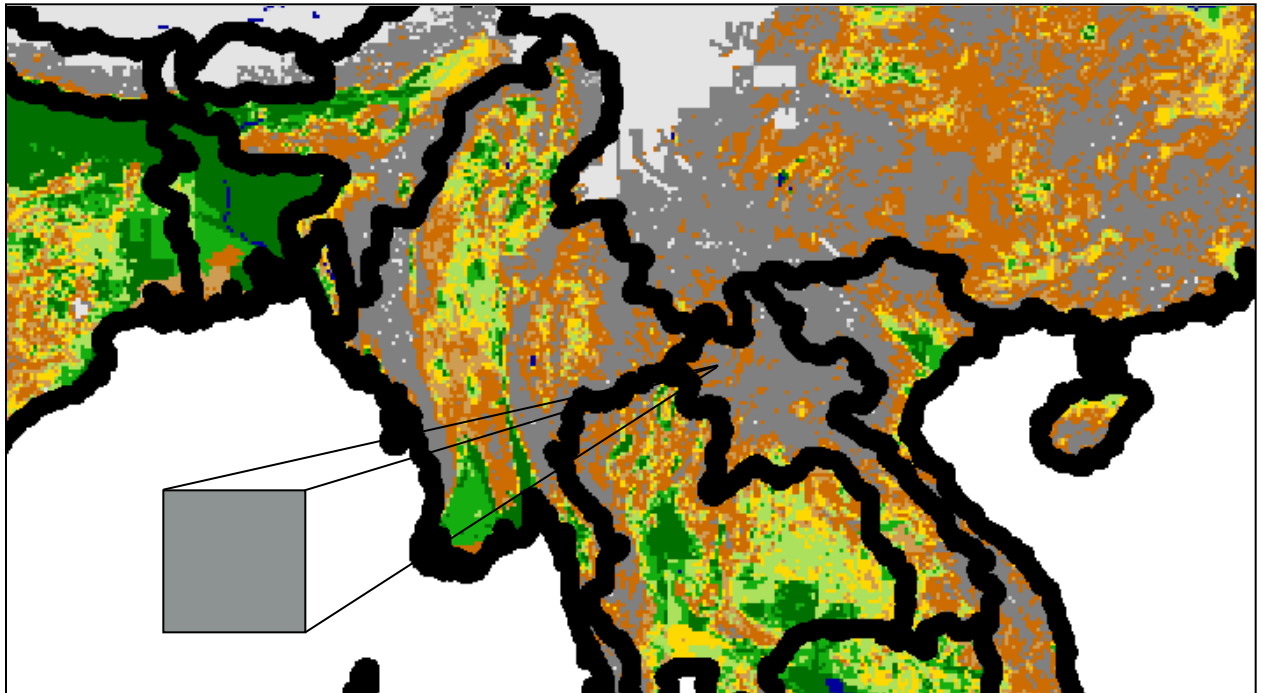
LS118A
LS118
NAM LIEU
Ban Ta Hou
Ban Méo Noua Nam Lavé
Pou Lan
1094
1656
1226
758
910
1406
1456
1498
1418
1292
1204
1238
972
1282
1162
894

“Suitability for rain-fed cereals (high level of inputs)” (Fischer et al. 2002, plate 31)

- Undefined
- SI > 85: Very high
- SI > 70: High
- SI > 55: Good
- SI > 40: Medium
- SI > 25: Moderate
- SI > 5: Marginal
- SI > 0: Very marginal
- Not suitable
- Water





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ຫ້ວງ
ຫ້ວ
ຫ້ວ
ຫ້ວ
GPHOUKHA
coal mine

2-province total approved
~58,000 ha

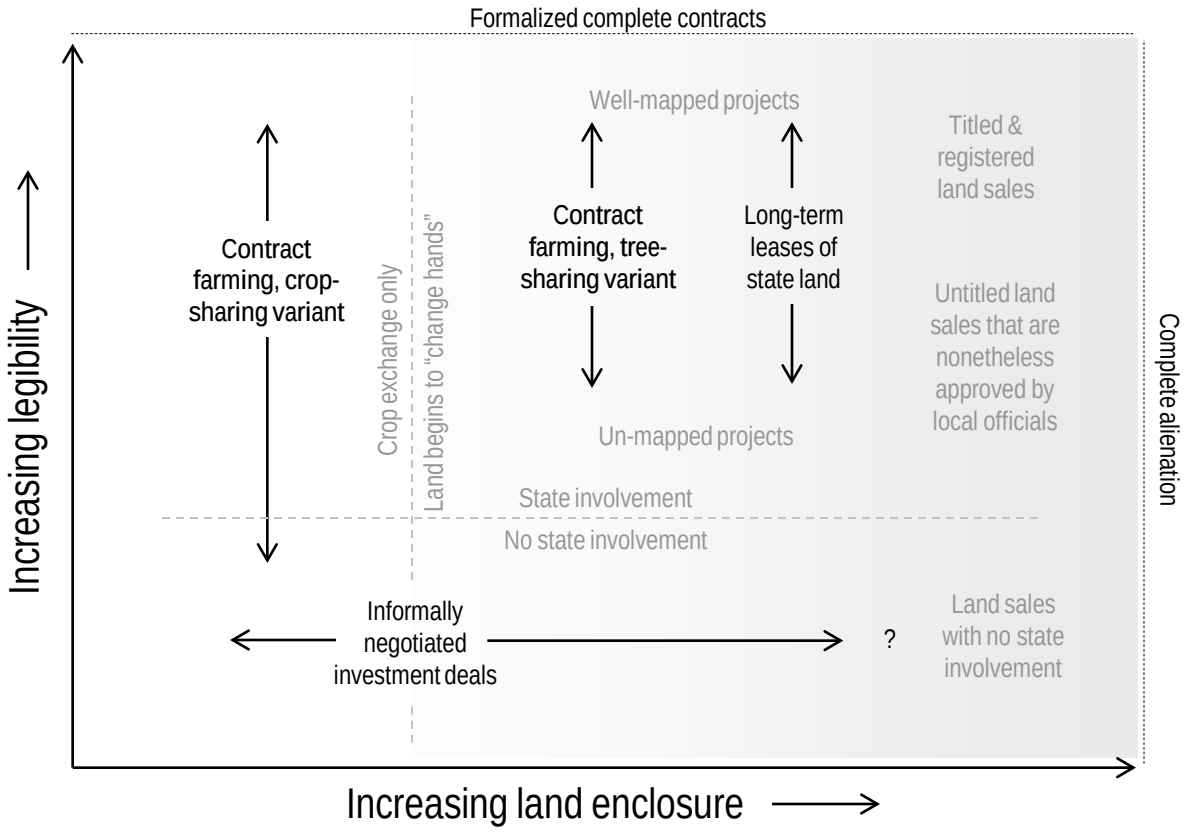
Areas BELOW 800 masl

Areas ABOVE 1,000 masl

10,000 ha

1,000 ha

3,000 ha


Formalized complete contracts
Increasing legibility
Increasing land enclosure
Complete alienation
Well-mapped projects
Titled & registered land sales
Contract farming, crop-sharing variant
Crop exchange only
Land begins to "change hands"
Contract farming, tree-sharing variant
Long-term leases of state land
Untitled land sales that are nonetheless approved by local officials
Un-mapped projects
State involvement
No state involvement
Informally negotiated investment deals
?
Land sales with no state involvement