UNIVERSITÄT BERN

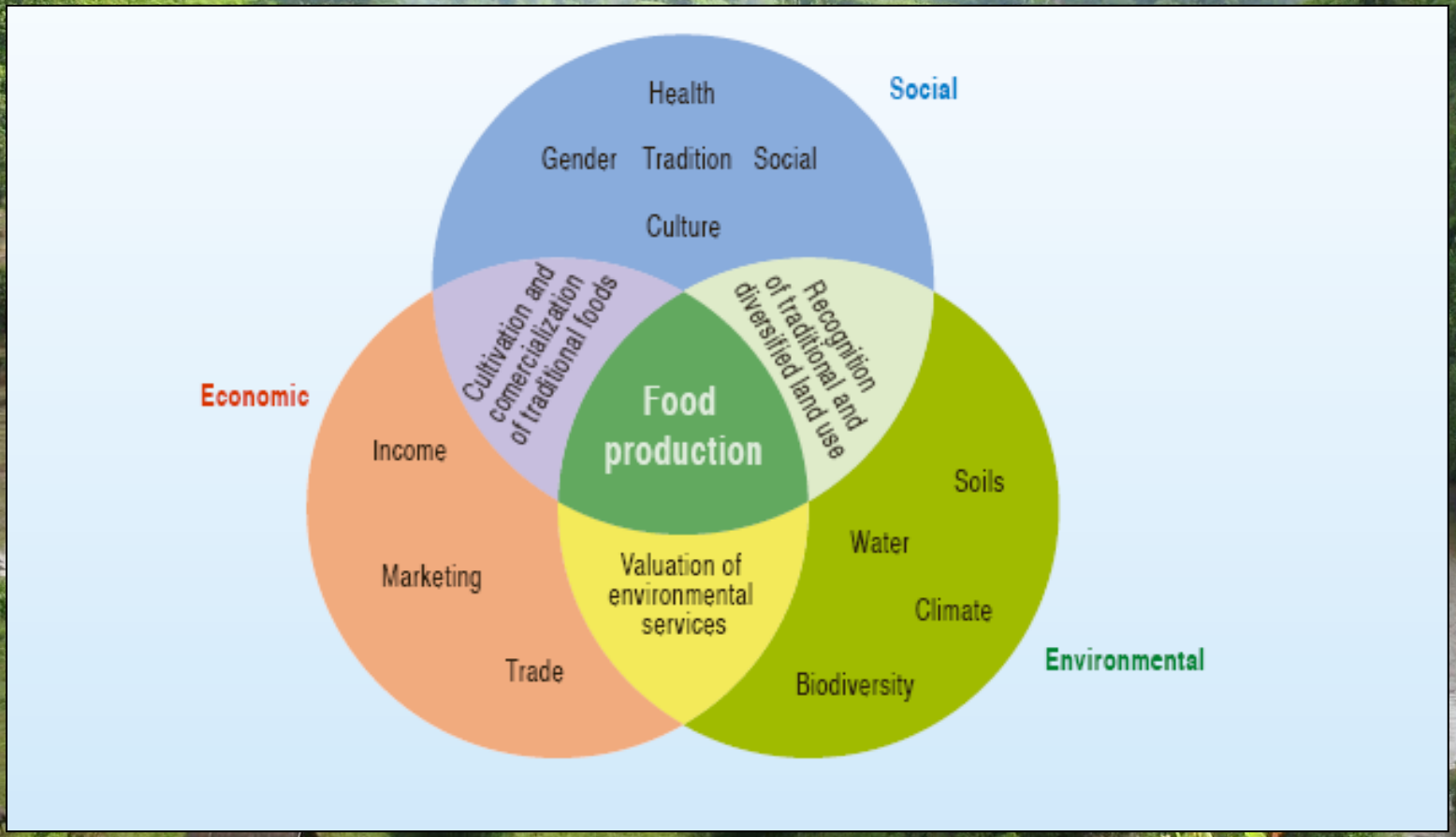
CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Putting data to work

Contributions of the academic sector

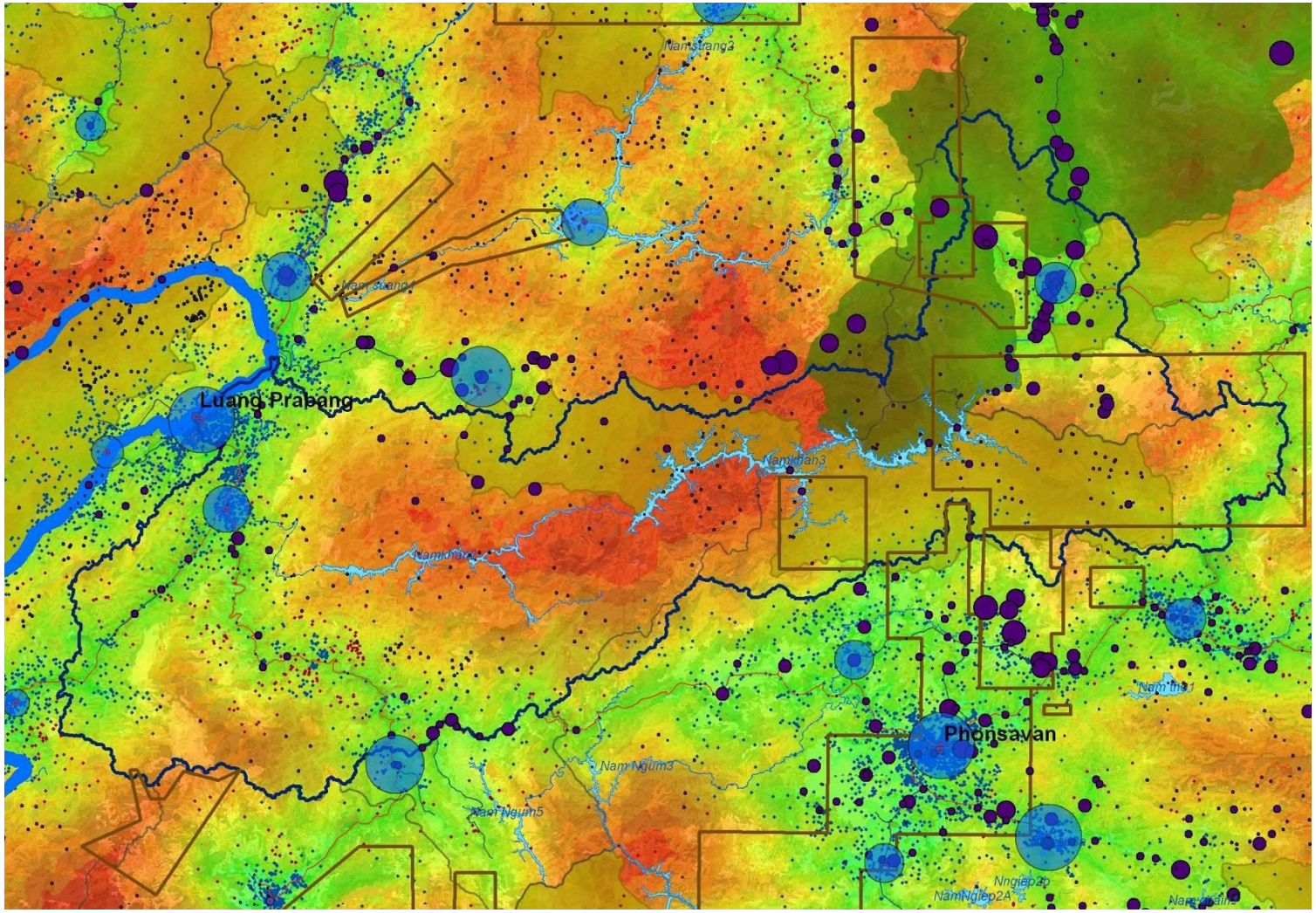
SuZeeYar Conference on Spatial Data Platforms
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, May 2016
Joan Bastide – CDE Country Representative

Sustainable development is challenged by the complexity of socio-ecological systems



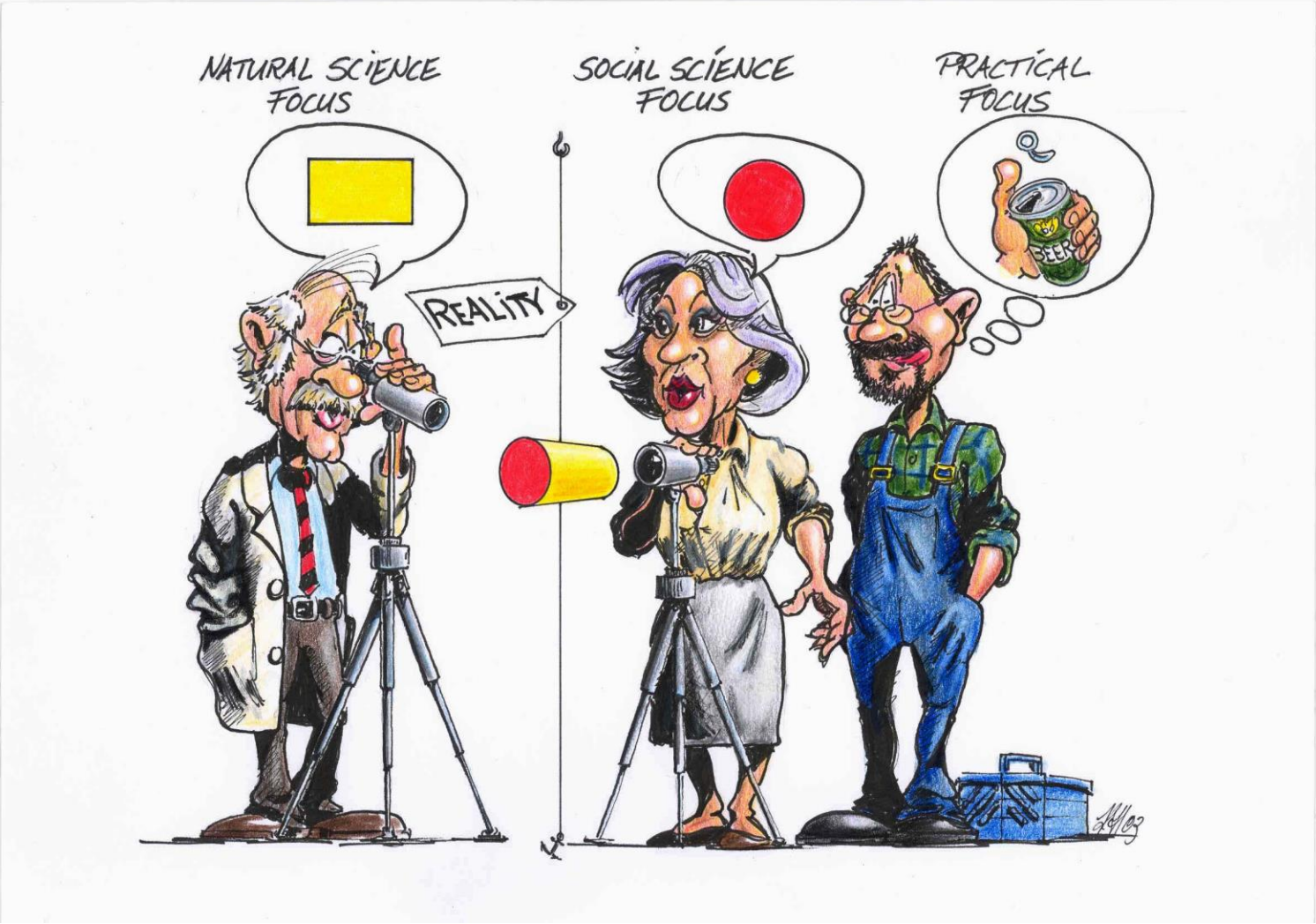
In the region, decision makers are challenged by the speed of changes and the fragmentation of development trajectories

UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

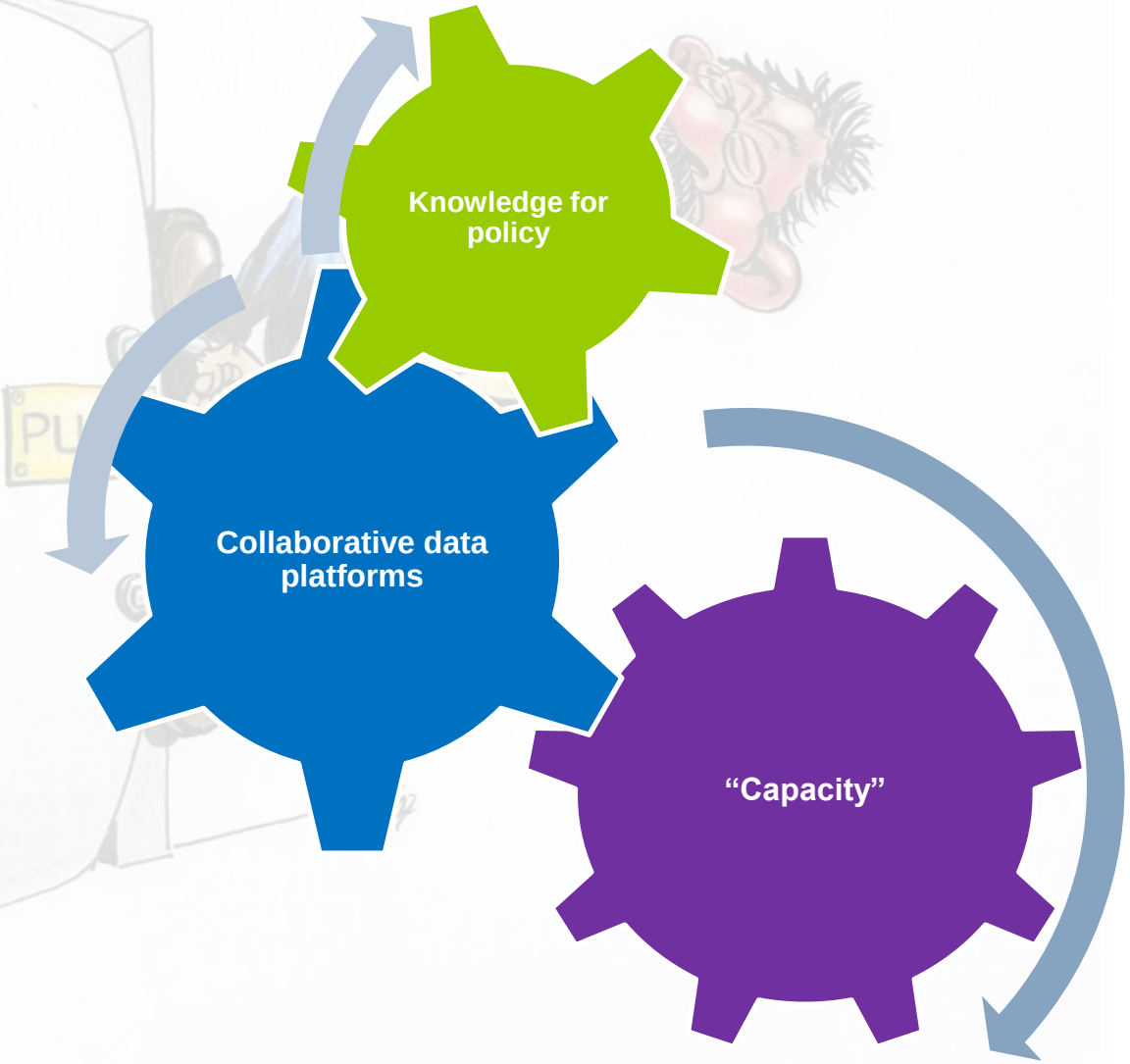


Inter disciplinarity needed to move beyond sectorial approaches and address complex issues

UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

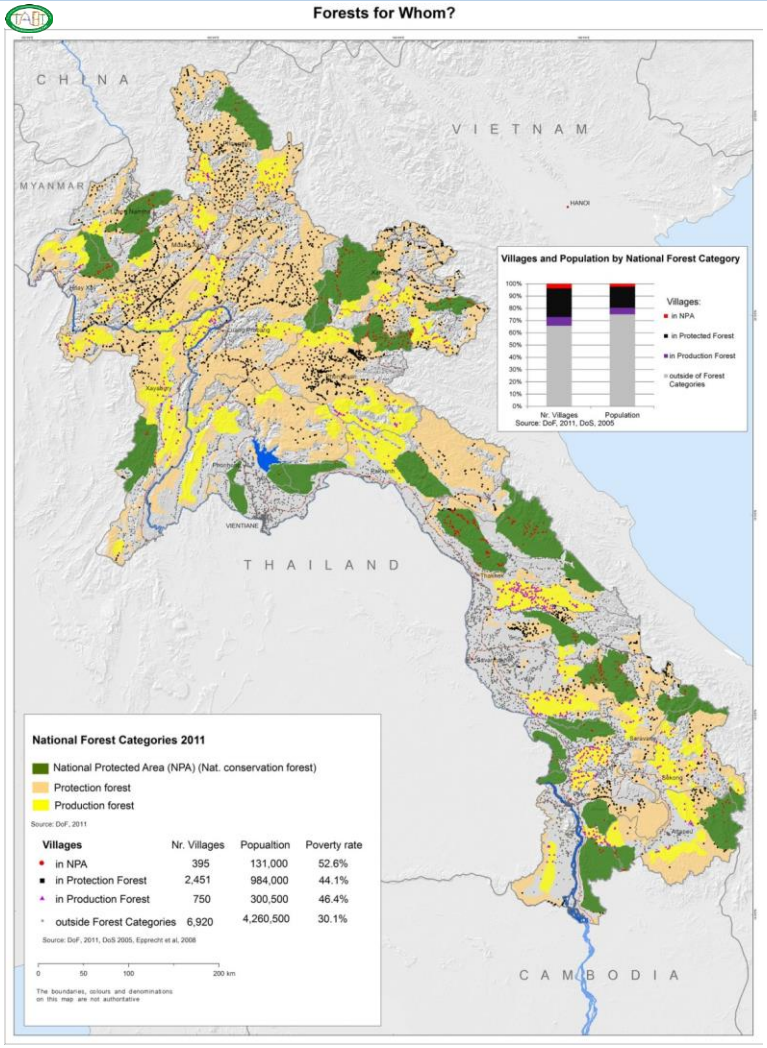


Data and evidence are critical for decision-making. But… better data/platforms do not automatically lead to better decisions



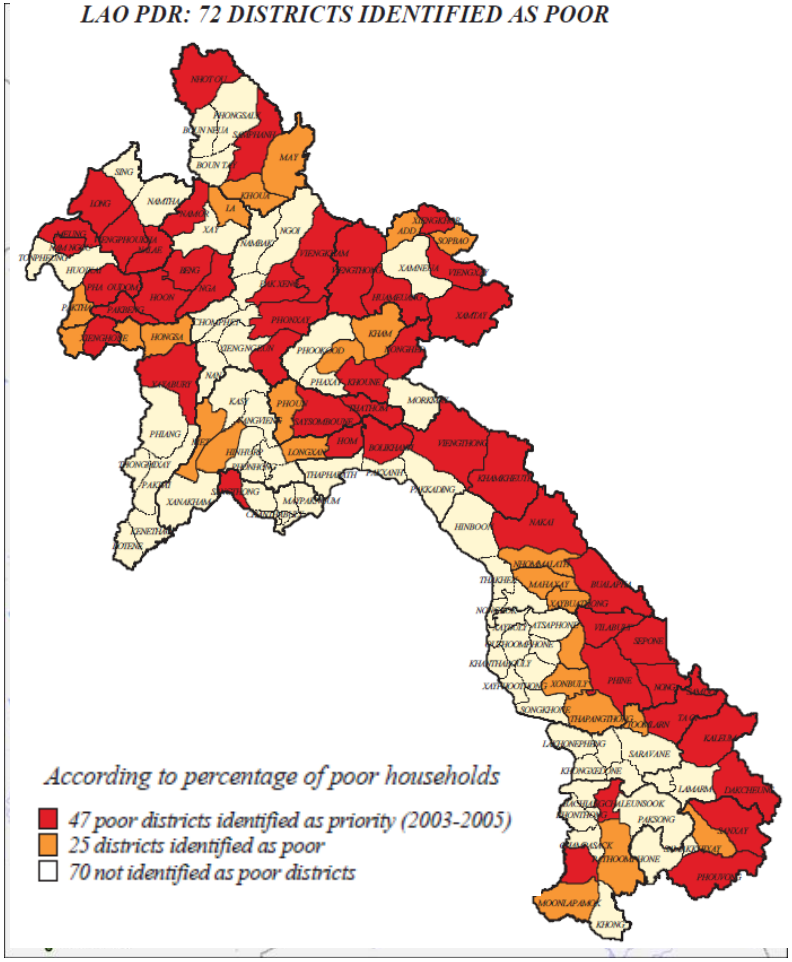
Asking the right questions for policy…
Ex: Consistency of spatial planning accros sectors?

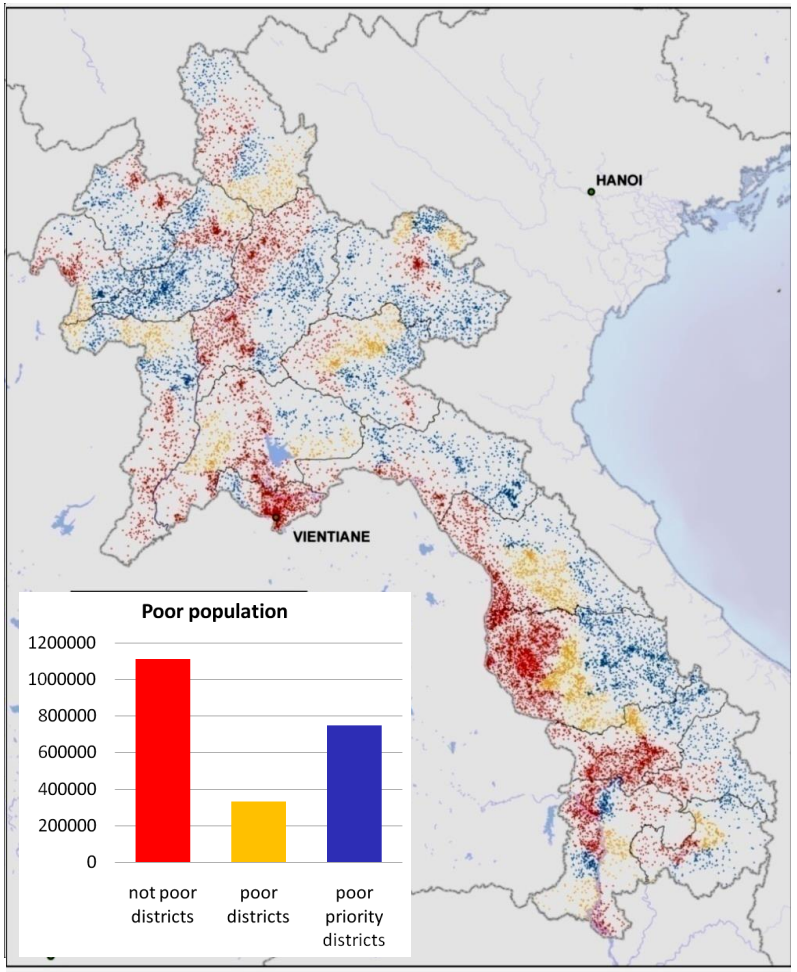
UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT



Asking the right questions for policy…
Ex: relevance of poverty targeting?

UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

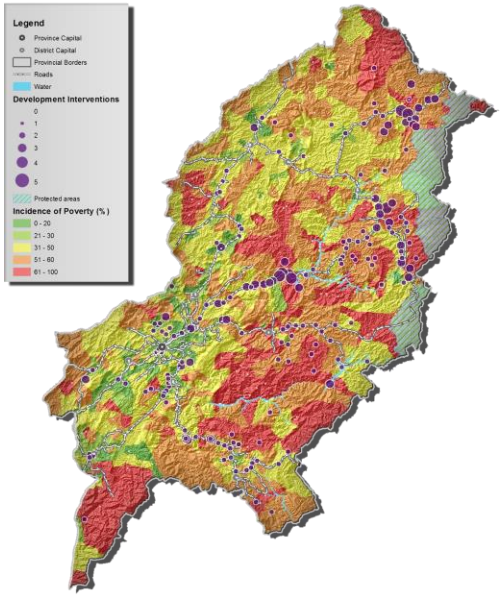




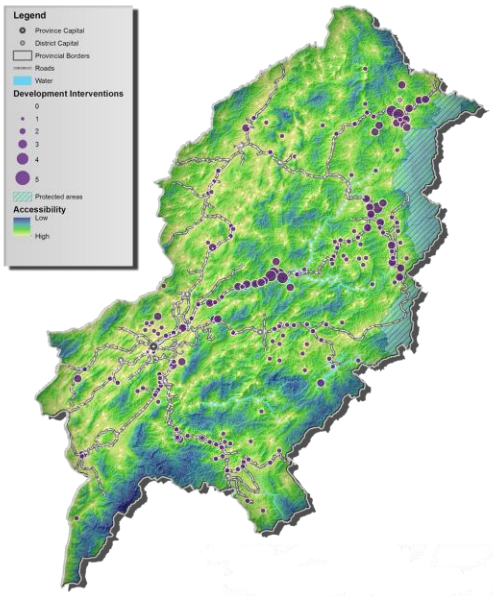
Asking the right questions for policy…
Ex: relevance of poverty targeting?

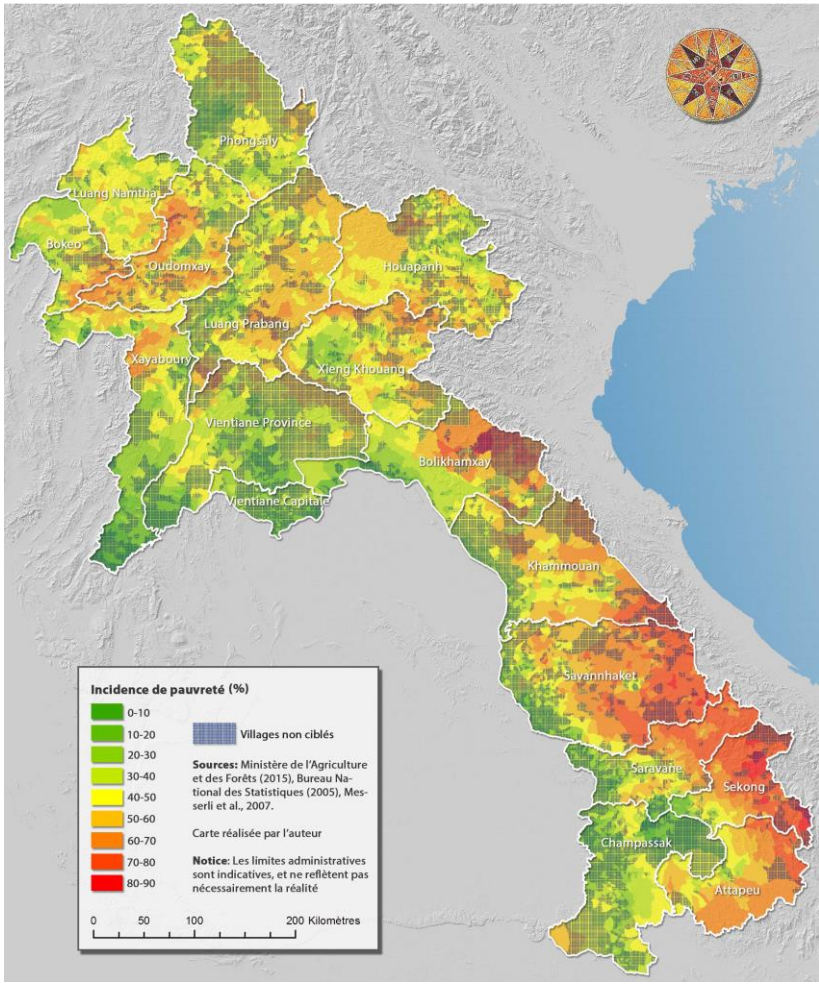
UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Development interventions and incidence of poverty in Luang Prabang Province



Development interventions and accessibility in Luang Prabang Province

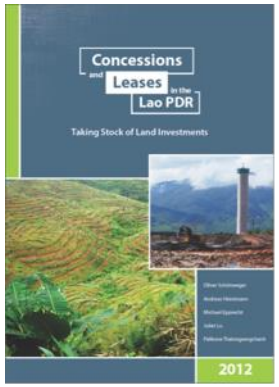




Integrating technology and processes for knowledge production : unpacking the issue of large scale land concessions

UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

National Inventory



What is the big picture?
Contextualization

Spatial data platforms

Crowd Sourcing Approaches

From local realities (national observatories)

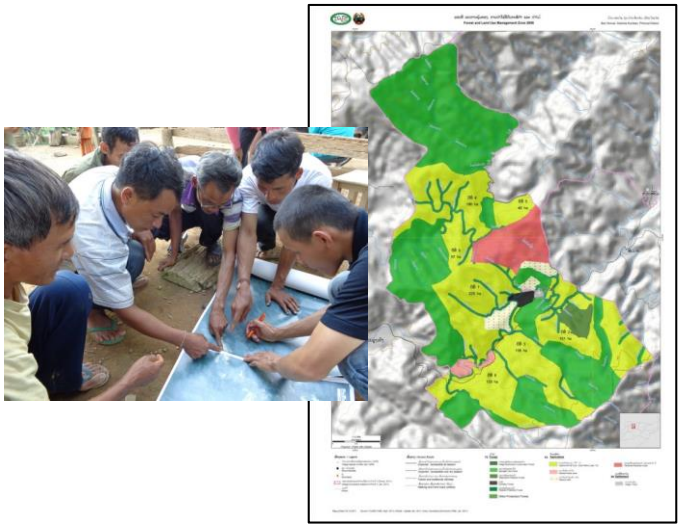
To global debates (Land Matrix; GLP; VGGLT)

Case Studies & research

Understanding impacts and patterns

Integrating technology and processes for knowledge production: Putting shifting cultivation on the map

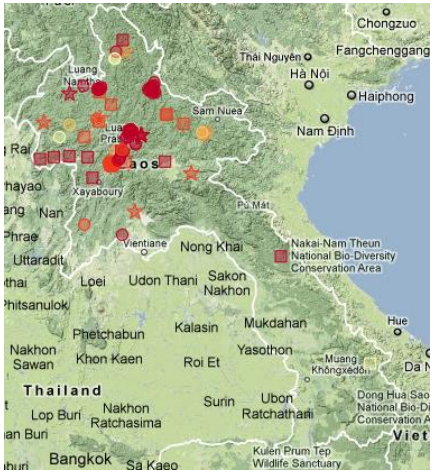
UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT



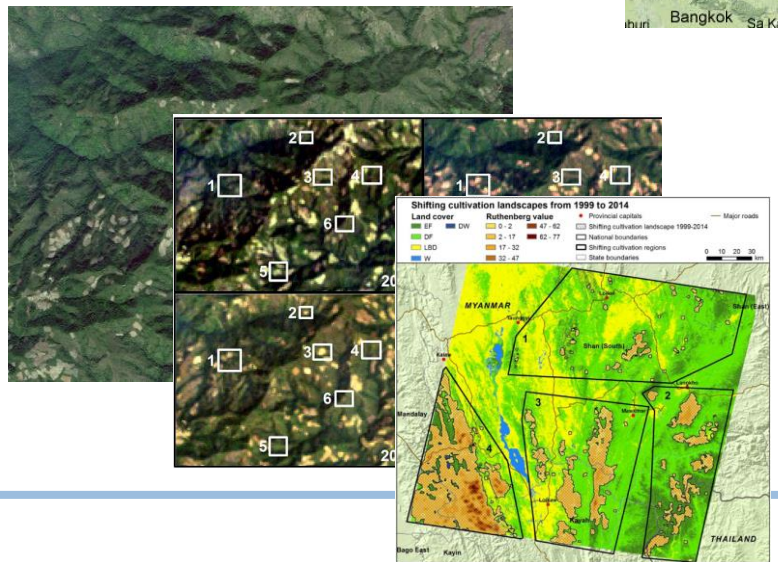
Design & test processes

Integrate data and knowledge

Source of knowledge? Unpacking discourse



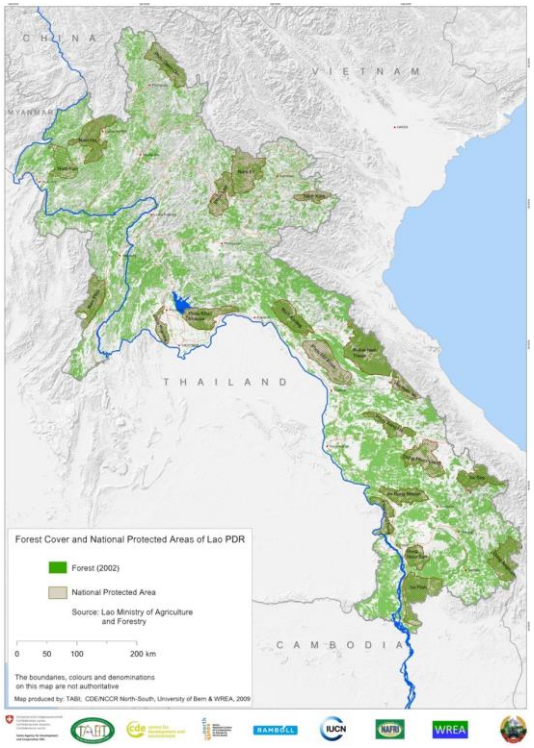
Develop data analysis



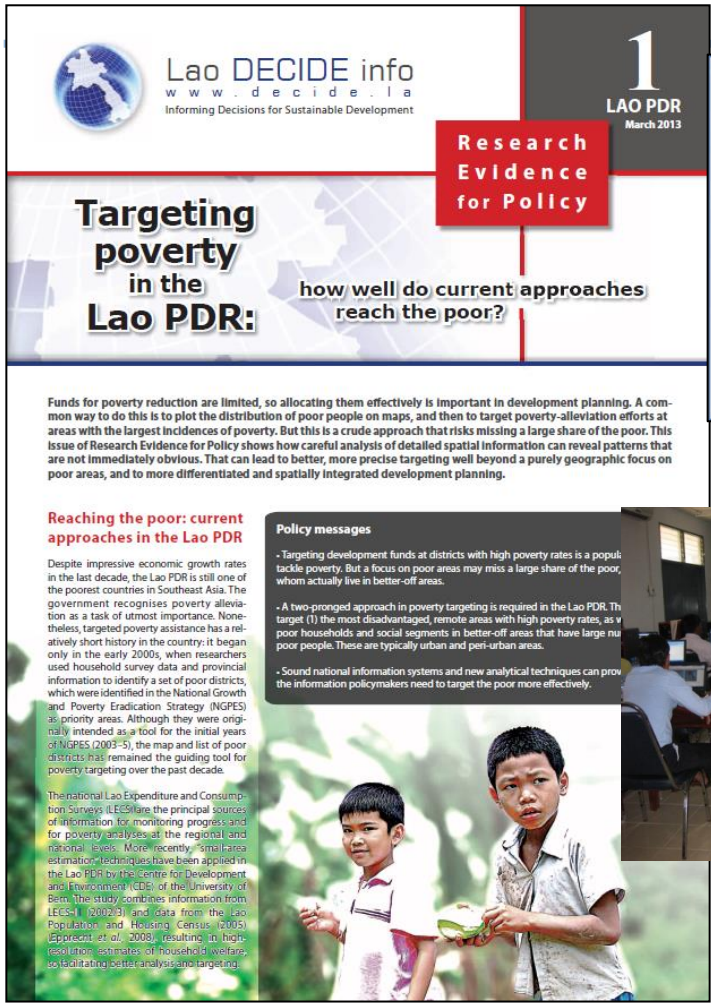
Understand local contexts

Highlighting different claims and perspectives across actors, scales and sectors. Understanding the meaning of data

UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT



Fostering science-policy-development dialogues


Lao DECIDE info
www.decide.la
Informing Decisions for Sustainable Development

1
LAO PDR
March 2013

Research Evidence for Policy

Targeting poverty in the Lao PDR:

how well do current approaches reach the poor?

Funds for poverty reduction are limited, so allocating them effectively is important in development planning. A common way to do this is to plot the distribution of poor people on maps, and then to target poverty-alleviation efforts at areas with the largest incidences of poverty. But this is a crude approach that risks missing a large share of the poor. This issue of Research Evidence for Policy shows how careful analysis of detailed spatial information can reveal patterns that are not immediately obvious. That can lead to better, more precise targeting well beyond a purely geographic focus on poor areas, and to more differentiated and spatially integrated development planning.

Reaching the poor: current approaches in the Lao PDR

Despite impressive economic growth rates in the last decade, the Lao PDR is still one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. The government recognises poverty alleviation as a task of utmost importance. Nonetheless, targeted poverty assistance has a relatively short history in the country: it began only in the early 2000s, when researchers used household survey data and provincial information to identify a set of poor districts, which were identified in the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) as priority areas. Although they were originally intended as a tool for the initial years of NGPES (2003–5), the map and list of poor districts has remained the guiding tool for poverty targeting over the past decade.

The national Lao Expenditure and Consumption Surveys (LECS) are the principal sources of information for monitoring progress and for poverty analyses at the regional and national levels. More recently, 'small-area estimation' techniques have been applied in the Lao PDR by the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern. The study combines information from LECS-I (2002/3) and data from the Lao Population and Housing Census (2005) (Epprecht *et al.*, 2008), resulting in high-resolution estimates of household welfare, so facilitating better analysis and targeting.

Policy messages

- Targeting development funds at districts with high poverty rates is a popul tackle poverty. But a focus on poor areas may miss a large share of the poor, whom actually live in better-off areas.
- A two-pronged approach in poverty targeting is required in the Lao PDR. Th target (1) the most disadvantaged, remote areas with high poverty rates, as w poor households and social segments in better-off areas that have large nu poor people. These are typically urban and peri-urban areas.
- Sound national information systems and new analytical techniques can prov the information policymakers need to target the poor more effectively.

ກອງປະຊຸມລາຍງານ
ຜົນຂອງການເກັບກຳຂໍ້ມູນການສຳປະທານ ແລະ ການເຊົ່າທີ່ດິນ ໃນ ສ.ປ.ປ.ລາວ
ວັນທີ 23 ມັງກອນ 2013, ໂຮງແຮມລາວພລາຊາ, ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ
Launching Workshop of the National Land Concession and Lease Report
23 January 2013, Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane
Implemented by: giz

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Prime Minister

No 13 /PM

Vientiane Capital City, dated 11 June 2012

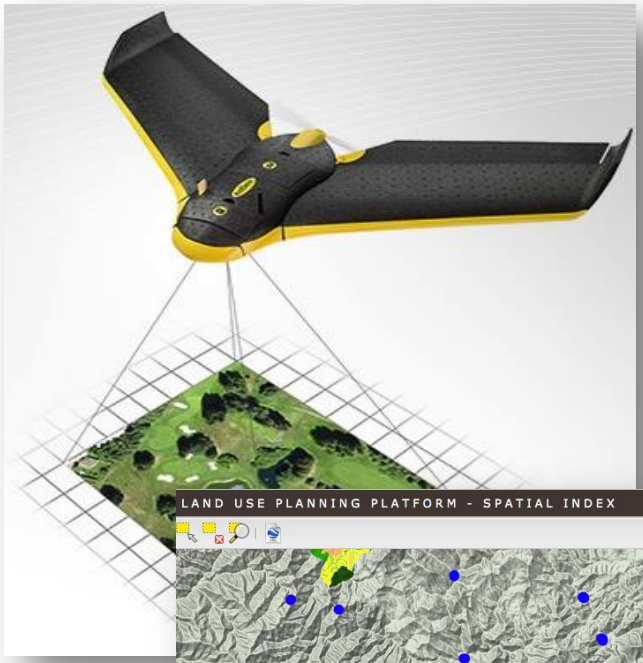
Order

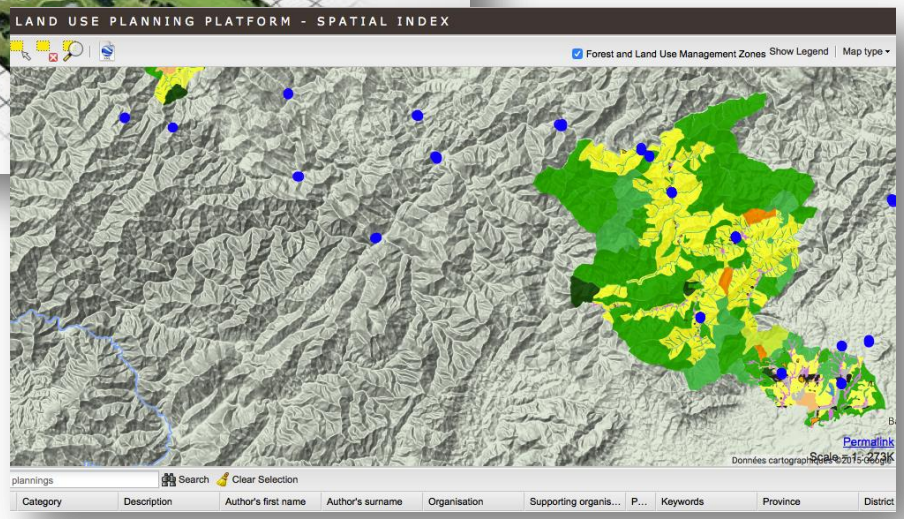
On: Cessation of Consideration and Permission for New Investment Projects for Mineral Exploration and Plantations of Rubber Tree and Eucalyptus Nation-wide

To: - All the Ministers and Presidents of Equivalent Authorities.
- The Major of Vientiane Capital City and all Provincial Governors throughout the country.

Fostering technical/social innovations

UNIVERSITÄT BERN
CDE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT





The academic sector in OneMap Myanmar?