

MFAT Management Response to Review of the Community-Based Tourism for Sustainable Economic Development (CBTSED) Project, Lao PDR

Evaluation team members

Members of the evaluation team were:

Name	Role
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Key findings of the evaluation and lessons for MFAT

The key findings/conclusions of the evaluation were:

- The CBTSED Project was very successful. It responded appropriately to Lao PDR's development agenda, was backed by evidence that tourism could help drive development in remote rural areas and delivered an impressive array of outputs.
- There were mixed successes with regard to the lasting impacts of some infrastructure developments. Without the support and innovation of the private sector, the success of community-based tourism (CBT) only lasts while there is continued government support.
- The project could have been more relevant had it harnessed greater involvement of the private sector and focused on the aim of tourism sector growth (rather than just community-based tourism). Destination management could be a useful approach to achieve greater long-term benefit for Lao tourism sector.

Recommendations for MFAT

That any future investment by the New Zealand Aid Programme:

- builds on the well-established and constructed partnership of Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MICT) and MFAT;
- builds on commercial sustainability by encouraging private sector participation;
- leverages New Zealand's expertise in tourism; and
- takes a "destination management" approach.