Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as Decision Support Tool(s) to Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in Aquatic Resources Management in Lao PDR

Program: Waterloo-Laurier Joint Graduate Program in Geography | Department of Geography, | Faculty of Environmental Studies | University of Waterloo Canada | Supervisor: Prof. Bruce Mitchell

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Introduction

I am a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Geography, University of Waterloo, Canada (in the Waterloo-Laurier Graduate Program in Geography), beginning in September 1997.

In September 1996, I completed my Master in Environmental Studies degree at York University, Canada on "Rural development planning for the developing world". The title of my master’s dissertation is "Process-oriented rural development planning integrated with key elements of rationality" (Rahman 1996). This work, along with my past experience, study and research in the field, has been consistent with an emerging paradigm in which rural development planning is seen as a "process", based on a co-evolutionary world view. This view emphasizes the importance of incorporating indigenous knowledge of the rural communities about their local human ecology in the planning for rural resources management.