

Philip Knight CV

Summary

I am a specialist in geographic information systems with an MSc in Applied GIS and a professional focus on the environmental and land tenure sectors in developing countries as well as corporate applications of GIS within the UK. I am currently Land Manager at Burapha Agro-Forestry a Lao Swedish forest plantation company. Prior to this I was a freelance consultant in Lao PDR for clients such as The FAO, WWF, The IFC and IUCN. These roles have afforded me extensive experience of land issues in the developing country context, and in Lao PDR in particular. I am a highly analytical and strategic thinker and I have experience both of working as part of a team and managing people – in my current role I head a team of nine staff. I am passionate about GIS and love the variety of technical challenges I encounter through this work.

Qualifications

- MSc, Applied Geographic Information Systems, University of the West of England
 - Awarded Distinction and Received the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence
 - Thesis resulted in co-author credit in two academic publications (PLOS Medicine, Malaria Journal)
- Diploma, Surveying Practice, College of Estate Management
- BSc, Marine Biology, University of Wales Swansea
- Summer School: Open Web Services and Web Map Applications, University of Girona

Professional Experience

Land Manager, Burapha Agroforestry

September 2018 – ongoing

In September 2018 I took a full-time position with Burapha Agroforestry as manager of the Land department with responsibility for all aspects of new land survey and acquisition. The role also includes responsibility for maintenance and development of the company GIS. This is a senior role within the company, and it has required extensive strategic and people management, budgeting and planning. Specifically, I am responsible for:

- Line manager for nine staff.
- Responsibility for an annual budget of over \$700,000 USD.
- Member of the senior management team reporting on land issues to investors and the board.

Achievements to-date: increased plantation area by over 50% (2190 hectares), with the largest annual increase in company history. This has been achieved by carrying out extensive and detailed surveys of land tenure (interviewing 400+ individual farmers and holding 25+ village meetings) and land cover (60+ drone flights with ground truth) in areas of deforested production forest. I am responsible for ensuring land acquisition is in line with the company's environmental and social policies, meeting IFC Performance Standards and FSC Certification. Within the context of Lao PDR this involves extensive government liaison and collaboration.

Other achievements include: the introduction of mobile data collection tools, the development of a company GIS database, certification of existing plantations and resolution of a number of outstanding land conflicts.

Freelance Geospatial Information Management Specialist

Nov. 2016 – Aug. 2018

In November 2016 I relocated with my family to Vientiane, Laos PDR. From 2016 to 2018 I developed the following freelance consultancies in the development and environment sectors:

- **Mekong River Commission** contracted under ECA: Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy. I provided a GIS analysis comparing the ecological impact of various hydropower

development scenarios.

- **WWF:** Greater Mekong Water Risk Filter Tool. I carried out an analysis of over 50 datasets for the Greater Mekong region to derive the data on water risk for the WWF's online Water Risk tool
- **FAO Laos:** CAWA project. I developed data collection tools and compiled a data portal for data relevant to RAMSAR wetlands in Laos. I carried out a GIS analysis of agricultural encroachment in wetlands. I also provided capacity building to FAO Laos staff and project partners including Lao government staff.
- **IFC, IUCN and the Natural Heritage Institute:** River Ecological Sensitivity Multi-Criteria Assessments. Working closely with a wetlands specialist I developed a methodology to classify river reaches for ecological sensitivity. I applied the method for a number of clients.
- **WWF Cambodia:** Eastern Plains Landscape Ecosystem Services Valuation. I provided cartographic services plus analyses on rates of deforestation, predicted land cover change due to economic land concessions and estimated flood extents.

Senior Consultant, ConsultingWhere Ltd.

Nov. 2013 – Oct. 2016

After completing my master's degree, I worked for a geospatial data consultancy, ConsultingWhere, providing advice to a range of global, national and local clients to improve geospatial data management processes and implement best practice. This involved in depth consultation, research and strategy development. I was also closely involved in a several cost benefit and economic value studies of national level spatial data initiatives.

Projects I led:

- **Action Against Hunger UK:** mapping information flows through the Global Nutrition Cluster to inform the development of an Information Management Toolkit.
- **Ordnance Survey:** researched and authored white paper on the role of location data in the integration of health and social care in the UK.
- **UNICEF Somalia:** contracted under Mannion Daniels: feasibility study and action plan for incorporating spatial data into the nascent Somali Health Management Information System.
- **Jisc:** developed detailed specification for re-rendering of UK academic sector's geospatial data portal.
- **South Downs National Park Authority:** maps audit of cultural heritage assets.
- **West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland Partnership:** strategic review of all GIS and related activities within the newly combined local authority.

Projects I contributed to:

- **GeoPlace:** carried out analysis, research, interviews and workshops for a comprehensive cost benefit analysis of the UK's national address database.
- **National Center for Statistics and Information (Oman):** series of structured stakeholder interviews to estimate the benefit of a proposed National Address Database.
- **Eurogeographics:** researched potential applications of new European mapping product and estimated economic value of data across a number of sectors.
- **Land Information New Zealand:** collated and evaluated case studies of successful Open Data applications in New Zealand.
- **New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage:** Spatial Strategy: collated and summarised the spatial strategies of international exemplar agencies for benchmarking.
- **Multinational Software Provider:** assessment of the maturity of the spatial data infrastructures of multiple countries.
- **Land Information New Zealand:** produced and presented a report on the use of open geospatial web services for interoperability.

- **Natural Resources Canada:** geospatial market research in Asia, Africa and South America

Head of Operations, International Medical Group

2010 – 2012

In 2010 I moved to Kampala, Uganda to work with the International Medical Group (IMG). Initially I assisted the CEO with developing business plans for joint ventures and in negotiations for a private equity deal. I rapidly accumulated responsibility and was promoted onto the board of management with responsibility for the operations department.

Technical Surveyor, BNP Paribas Real Estate

2005 – 2010

My role with BNP Paribas Real Estate (BNPPRE) was my first significant professional assignment. During my time with BNPPRE I completed a distance learning diploma in surveying and was part of the account management team for one of the firm's key clients.