



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Priority Tourism-Related Investment Project: Fact Sheet



Project Concept: Ecologne at Konglor Cave

Location: Konglor Village, Hinboun District,
9 Khammouane

Estimated Start-up Cost: US\$ 150,000



Site Description and Context: The proposed site is less than a 5-hour drive from Vientiane in Khammouane Province's Konglor Village near the increasingly popular Konglor Cave, which welcomed some 10,000 visitors in 2009. The location is easily accessed from the tourism loop that takes in the Provincial Capital Thakaek on Route 13, Mahaxay on Route 12, and the Konglor gateway at Khoun Kham Village (Ban Na Hin) and Lak Sao on Route 8 to the Nam Phao – Cau Treo immigration checkpoint with Vietnam (75,182 arrivals in 2009). International tourist arrivals to the province climbed 73% from 98,906 in 2006 to 170,597 in 2009, 76,434 of who crossed into Thakaek from Nakhon Phanom, Thailand.

Konglor Village is the staging area for the boat ride on the Hinboun River through the 7.5-km Konglor Cave, which is actually a giant tunnel 30-90 meters wide and up to 100 meters high. Konglor Village is easily accessed by a new paved road from Khoun Kham Village or via boat up the Hinboun River from Napouk Village. Other nearby attractions and activities include trekking trails and the Nam Nyaeng, Nam Thieng and Kee Caves.

As part of a program to improve visitor facilities in EWEC, the ADB-financed GMS Sustainable Tourism Development Project has been active at the Konglor Cave area since 2003 by providing training for local villagers who now possess good skill levels, providing water supply, installing sanitation facilities, developing walking trails with signs, and assisting the private sector in developing and marketing the site and devising a management plan that includes local villagers.

The Lao National Tourism Administration and Khammouane Provincial Tourism Department are allocating between 0.5-1 hectare of land within the site plan to develop an eco-lodge to accommodate the rapidly growing number of tourists visiting the area. Expressions of interest from private-sector investors are welcome.

Incentives Available: Negotiable long-term (30 year) land-lease at favorable rates, reduced or exemptions from import duties and work-permits for a limited number of foreign managers. Tourism is one of the Lao Government's priority sectors for private-sector investment, and this site is classified as an area with limited economic infrastructure. Therefore, investments are eligible for a profit tax exemption for up to 7 years and low tax rate of 10% thereafter. For further information on the Lao PDR's Investment Law and incentives, visit the Department of Domestic and Foreign Investment's website at www.invest.laopdr.org.

Contact Information

Mr. Thyaviphet Oula
 Deputy-Director General
 Department of Planning and Cooperation
 Lao National Tourism Administration
thaviphet@yahoo.com

Mr. Rik Ponne
 International Team Leader
 GMS Sustainable Tourism Development Project in Lao PDR
rikponne@gmail.com