

## **Land Ownership in Cambodia: Background, Division, and Acquisition**

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### **Abstract**

An overview is provided of the background, division, and entitlement of ownership acquisition under the Cambodian property laws. The legal situation is complex, due to the collapse, reestablishment, and frequent subsequent cancellations and amendments of relevant laws and regulations governing property issues. These have outstripped understanding and capacity of a number of institutions and legal practitioners concerned, leading to competing claim disputes over ownership. As a result, when dealing with competing claim land disputes, compromise or reconciliation is often resorted to rather than interpreting and implementing clauses under the existing laws. Instead, the ideal would be legal precedents should be set to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the interpretation and implementation of legal clauses over division and entitlement of ownership acquisition in order to resolve competing claims and ensure justice to actual land possessors, and prevent future land disputes.

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