



Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
for
“Land Release Based on
National Land Use Zoning (NLUZ) Baseline 2023”

National Land Commission Secretariat (NLCS)
2023

1. Scope

1.1. This SOP shall facilitate the National Land Commission Secretariat (NLCS) and relevant sectors for any form of land release based on the National Land Use Zoning (NLUZ) Baseline Report, 2023.

1.2. The SOP shall be enforced with effect from 1st October 2023 until the Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) is put in place.

1.3. However, while concurring with this SOP and ensuring land releases/uses as per NLUZ, the existing procedures for land releases as per prevailing Acts shall not be disrupted.

2. General Requirements

2.1. Fulfillment of existing land release criteria

2.2. Alignment with NLUZ Baseline Report 2023

- a. Land use permissibility
- b. Metadata
- c. 9 Macro, 23 Micro, and 23 Nano land use zones

3. Data Management

3.1. Sharing

- a. Datasets of Unzoned Areas (UA) as per NLUZ Baseline which constitutes roughly 35.07% shall be shared with the land Sector at the Local Government (LG).
- b. A complete zoned and buffer map from NLUZ Baseline 2023 database along with metadata shall be shared with the Land Management Division (LMD), LG land sector and relevant agencies.
- c. The datasets shall be shared and remain static references until Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) is put in place. However, if the concerned sectors update the respective land use data with NLUZ, the updated dataset shall be shared with the LMD for validation of the proposed land.
- d. All the datasets shall be shared and updated by an identified focal person(s) at NLCS.

3.2. Use

- a. To confirm any form of land use conflicts and determine right alienability for right sectors, the NLUZ Baseline 2023 shall be used until the first NLUZ edition is published.
- b. The confirmation of alienability and land releases based on NLUZ data shall be carried out parallel or in consonance, or fulfilling all the existing land release criteria.
- c. Any issues with LG pertaining to datasets and technical clarifications, NLCS (LMD & GID) shall assist on an instant basis.

4. Validation

4.1. Field Level (LG and Sectors)

- a. Upon receiving a proposal, the relevant Dzongkhag Land Sector/ LG shall review and validate through overlay analysis of the proposed state land use or activity against the NLUZ data.
- b. The ground truthing of NLUZ baseline data shall be carried out as and when required.

4.2. Central Level (NLCS & Sectors)

- a. Upon receipt of the proposal, the LMD shall validate the proposed state land with the NLUZ Baseline data.

5. Update

5.1. Thram and Geo DB

- a. The concerned division at the NLCS (HQ) shall update the changes to both Thram database and geodatabase as soon as the land release is accorded.
- b. The updated DB shall be shared with the NLUZ team (GID) including the discarded/ surrendered land data.

5.2. NLUZ Base DB

- a. The NLUZ team (GID) shall ensure the changes of all NLUZ base data after the land release approval is notified to the LG and concerned sectors.
- b. Any form of land release from LMD shall be communicated to NLUZ team (GID) and update the NLUZ base data for land use changes and ensure inclusion for the future NLUZ edition.

6. Links

https://www.nlcs.gov.bt/wp-content/uploads/NLUZ_BaselineReport_2023.pdf

Kindly follow the link to access the following documents:

- i. Listed land use permissibility
- ii. Metadata
- iii. NLUZ Baseline Report 2023