Between 1960 and 1990, agriculture area in Thailand has doubled while the area of forest cover has reduced more than half. This trend, faced by all Southeast Asian nations, poses serious questions about land use allocation. People need to plan how to use their limited land. Various tools and knowledge have been developed to solve this problem and mapping has been recognized as a simple, easy and straightforward universal language for bringing together stakeholders.

The following are the steps for making a community map. This protocol is based on our experiences in the remote area in Northern Thailand including ethnic minority groups of Karen, Hmong, Lua and Northern Thai. This protocol can be adapted and developed for other situations in other areas depending on the objectives.

**Methodology of a participatory mapping to link local and expert knowledge**

1. GIS-based map:
   - DEM, River/Stream, Road, Village location, land use maps, etc.

2. Preliminary Land use map
   - Village
   - District office
   - Watershed network
   - Local governance unit

3. Participatory mapping process
   - GIS team and the communities within the watershed

4. Data assimilation (GIS technique)
   - Consultation with the communities and other key stakeholders

5. Output maps:
   - Landuse map, village boundary map, infrastructure map, forest types, etc.

The output maps will help local people to solve their problems related to conflicts associated with land use both within the village and among the villages. It can reduced misunderstanding and enable villagers to have common names for places and common terms for land use practice on the map. Moreover, this map can be used by the community, watershed networks and outsiders as a tool for land use management and as a reference.