VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS

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Problems of tenure and weak governance

Tenure rights not recognized

*Inequitable access*

*Discrimination*

*Forced eviction*

*State capture*

*Bribery*

*Limited capacity*

*Expensive and difficult procedures*

*No accountability or transparency*

*Contradictory laws and policies*

**INCREASING COMPETITION FOR NATURAL RESOURCES:**
- Population growth
- Urbanization
- Changing diets
- Demand for energy

**Governing institutions have not adapted to growing intensity of competition**
Development of the Voluntary Guidelines

CONSULTATIONS  
• 2009 – 2010

DRAFTING  
• 2011

NEGOTIATIONS  
• 2011 – 2012

ENDORSEMENT by CFS  
• 11 May 2012
The first global soft law instrument on tenure

Consensus on "internationally accepted practices" that already exist

Negotiated by governments; participation of civil society and private sector

A reference for improving the governance of land, fisheries and forest tenure
Contents of the Voluntary Guidelines
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

• **RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT** legitimate holders of tenure rights, and their rights.

• **SAFEGUARD** legitimate tenure rights against threats.

• **PROMOTE AND FACILITATE** the enjoyment of legitimate tenure rights.

• **PROVIDE** access to justice to deal with infringements.

• **PREVENT** tenure disputes, conflicts, and opportunities for corruption.
The Guidelines can be used …

...as a checklist to assess and improve existing strategies, policies, laws or systems
... to find guidance when the laws or practices of a country are not clear
....as a model for developing new strategies, policies, laws, agencies or services
...to create awareness and build support for tenure reform
They have provisions guiding governments how to approach improving tenure governance
Building on the consensus
FROM PRINCIPLES TO ACTIONS

COLLECTIVELY DESIGNING THE ROAD AHEAD

- Awareness raising
- Capacity development
- Country level focus
- Partnerships, cooperation and coordination (e.g. LPI).
- Monitoring and evaluation

ACTION
PRINCIPLES
Building on the consensus
RAISING AWARENESS

• European Regional workshops:
  - Kiev, Ukraine, 14 - 16 May 2013
  - Bucharest, Bulgaria, 27 Oct - 1 Nov 2013

• European Forestry Commission and other FAO Regional Forestry Commissions
Building on the consensus
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

GOVERNANCE OF TENURE TECHNICAL GUIDES

- GENDER
- FORESTRY
- INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT
- FISHERIES
- MORE TO COME

E-LEARNING PROGRAM

- SITUATION ASSESSMENT
- RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS
- DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- VALUATION & TAXATION
- TRANSPARENCY
- MARKETS & INVESTMENT
- AND OTHERS
Capacity Development tools

- Training module to strengthen tenure reform
- Institutionalizing & implementing community-based forest management
- Improving Governance of forest tenure
- Enhancing stakeholder participation
Building on the consensus
STRENGTHENING OF PARTNERSHIPS

- World Bank
- IFAD
- Other Bilateral donors
From Principles to Action
Coordination

INTEGRATE THE GUIDELINES TO EXISTING PROGRAMMES

UN-REDD
• Recognize customary tenure rights
• Share of benefits
• Clear allocation of carbon rights
• Sustainable forest management

GUIDELINES HELP INCREASE UNDERSTANDING ON TENURE DIMENSION OF REDD+ AND FRAME ACTIONS
Monitoring and Evaluation

Encouraging Country Assessments through Publications and e-learning courses

FAO Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance

Land Governance Assessment Framework
Conclusion

Strengthening the governance of forest tenure can significantly contribute to improved livelihoods, food security and poverty alleviation
FAO’s commitment

• Support country efforts to strengthen tenure systems
  – Developing effective forest policies and legislation
  – Strengthening community based forest management
  – Improving forest governance frameworks
INTEGRATE THE GUIDELINES TO EXISTING PROGRAMMES

More information

DOWNLOAD THE VGs
www.fao.org/nr/tenure

www.fao.org/forestry/tenure

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER
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