



# BURUNDI

## EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

### COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Since 2008, Burundi has been engaged in a land reform process to address the challenges of conflict prevention related to access to land (and other natural resources). Considered precarious and the source of many conflicts, the customary approach to land tenure is gradually being replaced by a decentralized land management system that places the country's 119 communes at the forefront of the reform.

In April 2010, the Government of Burundi adopted a land policy letter providing the main strategic directions of intervention. This led to the promulgation of a new land code in August 2011, which, among other innovations, introduces land certificates issued by communal land services and prohibits any allocation or transfer of public lands prior to the establishment of a land title. Inventory of state lands has become the prerequisite for the implementation of the new land legislation.

The reform process is increasingly helping to open up land services authorized by law to issue a "land certificate" after a participatory procedure involving the neighborhood concerned and local officials. It is expected that in the long run, the low cost required to obtain land certificates and the relative speed of the procedure will convince a large majority of Burundians to be under the legal protection of this certificate to enjoy a peaceful possession of their lands. Since August 2017, 50 municipalities (40 percent) had a land service.

Land tenure security is also part of the land reform in Burundi, through inventory of public lands and registration of the same.

<b>Name of the EULGP CI*</b>	Projet d'Amélioration de la Gestion et de la Gouvernance Foncière au Burundi
<b>Implementer</b>	GIZ Burundi
<b>Implementer partners</b>	State lands, registration of land rights, decentralization, legal framework, conflict resolution
<b>Target areas</b>	All public lands in Burundi
<b>Political entities involved</b>	Ministry of Transport, Public Works, Equipment and Spatial Planning and Ministry of Justice
<b>Budget</b>	EUR 6 370 000
<b>Length of the EULGP CI</b>	October 2014 – September 2018

### OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation (EULGP CI) is to contribute to the development of a land management favorable to the mitigation of the risks of interpersonal conflicts, access to land for vulnerable people, production and equitable economic development in Burundi.

The specific objectives are:

- Improve management and governance of state and private lands;
- Provide legal support for the state land registration process, and other aspects of land reform implementation;
- Support the preparation of a road map for a systematic national approach to land tenure security.

The EULGP CI in the current phase has seven communes as intervention areas for identification and delimitation (namely Rutovu, Bururi, Mugamba, Nyabitsinda, Matongo, Muhanga, Gatara) and five for demarcation and measurement (Bururi, Songa, Gitaramuka, Gihogazi and Mwumba).

## TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

By means of a Transversal Project, co-funded by the EU and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coordinates, supports and consolidates the implementation of the EU Land Governance Programme. The European Union Land Governance Programme funds 18 individual country-level projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, all of which address tenure issues, and are implemented alongside various partners, among which are government agencies, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations and private contractors. All project activities are carried out within the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and, in the African context, the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa (AU Declaration) and its Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G).

## STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The EULGP CI management team collaborates closely with the Ministry of Transport, Public Works, Equipment and Spatial Planning, which has the inventory of public lands in its missions, through the Directorate of Land Use Planning. Collaboration also involves the other ministries that deal with land.

The intervention strategy and the methodology combine technical strategy with different forms of communication. In addition to cadastral and land registration, the work also includes mediation where there are contentious cases concerning ownership and use. This approach gives a prominent role to information dissemination and awareness, as well as mediation in cases of conflict.

## OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The EULGP CI contributed to the development of favorable land management through:

- Inventory and demarcation of 1 552 public lands bounded and measured in five communes, with an area of 11 470 ha;
- A better knowledge of the governance of the lands at the disposal of all actors;
- The possibility for the ministry in charge of lands to engage in the issue of amount of land in relation to population growth and the massive return of refugees;
- Legal support and systematic mediation in cases of conflict and attempted conflict resolution: 386 identified conflicts of which 196 were mediated, 570 complex cases in 23 communes sent to the relevant ministry;
- Support to the implementation of the land reform (Ordinance on inventory procedures and registration decree). The EULGP CI has contributed to the development of these two application texts of the land code as well as their validation workshops. It also provided technical assistance on the decree on certified land rights;

- Capacity development for state agencies in the processes: 200 people from the Regional Planning board trained, 110 from the national cadaster, as well as hill reconnaissance commissions;
- Support to decentralized land management through a roadmap for systematic decentralized land management of private land. The EULGP CI subsidized communal land services in Mishiha, Kigamba and Nyabitsinda, on budgets developed in collaboration with communal accountants.



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FAO and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence