

Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

This document presents, in original language, the inputs provided following the call for submissions to inform the global thematic event at the CFS 43rd session in October 2016. The following document provides an overview of those inputs: [CFS 2016/43/8- Experiences and Good Practices in the Use and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security \(VGGT\) - Summary and Key Elements](#)

S5. MALAWI: Communities in Traditional Authority Maganga use VGGT to negotiate for access to fishing zone

Country(ies)/ Region(s)/ Organization/ Entity	Malawi/Africa/Landnet Malawi/CSO
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Brief description of the successful experience (including location, geographical coverage, main actors, main activities, timeframe)	<p>Background</p> <p>In July 2014, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development adopted and launched the VGGT in Malawi. Since then, the Civil society led by Landnet Malawi has promoted the use of VGGT at national and local level to influence policy and best practices on responsible land governance. At district level, Landnet Malawi has conducted training workshops for CSOs on the use of the VGGT, awareness workshops for government officials and a community meeting with relevant leadership structures and grassroots. The training was designed to start with the assessment of the local situation where participants outcrop issues which communities are facing before the training was adapted to teach the principles of VGGT through the application of real evidence from cases shared by participants. At the end of the workshop participants were equipped with the knowledge of VGGT and were drawing action plans to follow up on the cases that needed intervention. These workshops were carried out in six districts and shared good lessons from one community in Salima where the application of the VGGT helped to solve a conflict between communities and private investors on the Malele Island.</p> <p>Case study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happened <p>In 2012, the department of wild life gave a developer concession to lease land to construct a lodge along lake Malawi at Malele Island</p>

	<p>in Chief Maganga’s area without consulting the chief and his communities. The developer constructed a tourist lodge called blue zebra Island and forbade the communities from stepping onto the island. The communities have a long history of using the Island as a fishing ground and this affected their source of livelihood as their point of access to the lake was denied and whoever was found was either beaten or arrested by police.</p> <p><u>Landnet intervention with use of the VGGT</u></p> <p>The issue was shared during the workshop with CSOs on VGGT which chief Maganga also attended. Landnet followed up with community meeting with leaders on the VGGT and their tenure rights and encouraged the community to be united and engage in dialogue. Landnet, with support from ILC, also organised media awareness campaigns for the community where the community interfaced with journalists who reported the issue on public radio to call for the attention of policy makers. The Local CSO network in Salima led by NICE¹ followed up and empowered the community further to engage important main actors such as the District Commissioner, the director of Parks and Wildlife, and the developers in dialogue to negotiate for a space on the Island for fishing farmers. The community, through their local network Maganga citizen forum engaged and presented their issues to the government through the local assembly. After a series of discussions in December 2015, the developers accepted and allowed the communities to use part of the Island as their fishing ground.</p>
Location	Malele Island in Traditional Authority Maganga Salima, Malawi
Geographical coverage	The Island is estimated by be of 10sqKm (not exact)
Main actors	Investors, Government officials represented by the District Commissioner, Director of Wildlife and Parks, Maganga Community Citizen Forum, Chief Maganga, Civil Society Organisations,
Main activities	Training local CSOs on the use of VGGT; community awareness meeting with fishing communities on the VGGT; media awareness campaigns on tenure rights; and mediation forums
Timeframe	March 2015-December 2015
Results obtained	Enhanced understanding of local CSOs on VGGT Built capacity of local chiefs and community leadership structures on VGGT to help them engage with relevant actors on the challenges they were facing

¹ NICE= National Initiative for Civic Education

<p>Key catalysts and factors that influenced the results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshops on VGGT for CSOs • CSOs supported community with learned messages on VGGT • Community awareness meeting that incorporated all community structures • Knowledge from the VGGT on how they could negotiate for tenure rights from developers and government representatives • Use of existing structures to channel their concerns
<p>Constraints and challenges that were faced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reluctance from developers to grant villagers access to land when they went on their own • Developers arrested men who were found encroaching on the island without knowledge of the owners. Some were beaten and harassed.
<p>Good practices that helped to make the experience successful</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering communities with information on negotiation mechanisms and enabling the understanding of legitimate tenure rights helped them to get organised to lobby for their rights to be given land for fishing ground • Intervention of local CSOs in Salima such as National Initiative Civic Education
<p>Quantitative aspects where available- estimate of the number of people, households and communities that have been positively affected by the successful experience</p>	<p>In the area of traditional Maganga, there are about 500 fishermen depend on Lake Malawi for fishing and were using Malele Island as a fishing ground. The community surviving on this occupation is estimated to be 5000 people. Families can smile again as the community has been granted access to part of the island for fishing.</p>
<p>Link to additional information</p>	