

## 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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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](#)*

### S1. CAMEROON: Using the VGGT within the NES platform for capacity building and building of propositions on land reform and tracking of community land rights

<b>Country(ies)/ Region(s)/ Organization/ Entity</b>	Cameroon/Africa/Cameroon ILC's National Engagement Strategy
<b>Contact person</b>	Joseph Désiré ZEBAZE, Facilitator
<b>Brief description of the successful experience (including location, geographical coverage, main actors, main activities, timeframe)</b>	<p>The Cameroon ILC's NES actors used the VGGT to build members capacity during inception meetings of the Cameroon NES platform in ten regions of the country. It was an occasion to share the VGGT as much-needed global norms and benchmarks.</p> <p>As a platform, VGGT was also used as a reference to build our position paper on land reform which was presented to Parliamentarians and Government officials, including the Minister of State for Property, Land Tenure and Survey during an audience as well as to a Prime Minister representative.</p> <p>The Cameroon NES stakeholders believe that the natural resource management and VGGT are interconnected and that the continuous improvement is realistic and necessary. They had also based their reflections on principle 19 of the VGGT to build their position on harmonization of taxation policies. The VGGT principles 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16 and 21 had helped to address issues of indigenous people, transparency, and conflicts in respect to tenure of land, fisheries and forests, and these helped to build the different positions of the NES.</p> <p>Some COMINSUD and CED members are also committed in the use of the VGGT. COMINSUD had used the Guidelines during the assessment of the</p>

	land law in Cameroon in 2012, specifically for aspects regarding the right to food. CED had used VGGT principle 9 on Indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems, to assess and reveal the weaknesses and not application of the Decree 76/166 concerning the procedure for granting land concessions. This decree specifies the identification of essential lands for riparian agriculture, fishery and animal husbandry activities by the Advisory Commission as a precondition of granting of a concession. In fact, pillars of the agro – industrial company identified at least less than 15 meters of local communities’ houses as a proof that there was not enough space for the livelihood activities of the community.
<b>Location</b>	Cameroon
<b>Geographical coverage</b>	National territory
<b>Main actors</b>	International Land Coalition, Cameroon ILC’s NES Secretariat, CED, MBOSCUDA and COMINSUD
<b>Main activities</b>	Advocacy for a pro – poor and people - centred land governance
<b>Timeframe</b>	For the NES platform, the action took place from June 2013 to February 2014. About COMINSUD, it happened from January to April 2012. Concerning the study of CED, data was collected from March to August 2015 in the Littoral and the south region.
<b>Results obtained</b>	<p>The position paper for the NES was shared in hard and soft copies to more than 3000 decision makers, community members and civil society actors. During the inception meeting at the regional level, the VGGT was presented to the stakeholders and some FAO training tools used and shared from the following links:  <a href="http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/fr/courses/VGGT">http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/fr/courses/VGGT</a> and  <a href="http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/information-resources/en/">http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/information-resources/en/</a>.</p> <p>For COMINSUD, up to 400 community members was introduced to the VGGT in the North West (Bello and Ndop), South West (Buea) and North (Garoua) regions. During the national workshop which was held prior to the meeting with parliamentarians, over 100 civil society actors were trained to the use of the VGGT to assess right to food challenges.</p> <p>The CED study is on-going.</p> <p>Due to all these activities carried out by the stakeholders of the NES for the ILC led initiative, there is an increasing of number of stakeholders using the VGGT in their advocacy activities to improve the legal framework and their livelihoods.</p>
<b>Key catalysts and factors that influenced the results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the position paper to policy makers (Government actors and Parliamentarians) by the NES stakeholders</li> <li>• Presentation of the COMINSUD proposition at the National Assembly</li> </ul>

<b>Constraints and challenges that were faced</b>	The VGGT has yet to be included in the local legal framework.
<b>Good practices that helped to make the experience successful</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participative methodology used by the NES Secretariat when drafting the position paper</li> <li>• Assessment of an existing law by CED compared to the VGGT</li> <li>• Use of the VGGT to question the right to food in the legal framework, in a dialogue workshop with parliamentarians</li> </ul>
<b>Quantitative aspects where available-estimate of the number of people, households and communities that have been positively affected by the successful experience</b>	The experience was shared through a platform consisting of more than 250 members who reach out to a lot of constituencies.
<b>Link to additional information</b>	<a href="http://hubrural.org/Document-de-position-des.html?lang=fr">http://hubrural.org/Document-de-position-des.html?lang=fr</a>