



# SOMALIA

## EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

### COUNTRY BACKGROUND

August 2013 marked the first year since the end of the Transitional Federal Government, and the birth of the first democratic Federal Republic of Somalia. This led to a wide-ranging recovery effort of the institutional capacity and structure in Somalia, which had long been in a state of collapse.

Severe problems related to access to land and other natural resources, such as corruption during the process of allocation and sale of land and allocation of land rights, is a critical destabilizing element, and a serious conflict driver affecting the rebuilding efforts in Somalia. Additionally, the challenge of recognition and protection of legitimate land rights of vulnerable people, of whom the majority are women, was highlighted in the analysis of women's and Somali minorities' land and territorial rights.

### OBJECTIVE

Among the major gaps identified are:

- the lack of a comprehensive land policy, the disparate, and to some extent inconsistent legal frameworks and weak institutional governance in land administration;
- unclear land ownership;

In order to address these gaps, the analysis recommended:

- upholding an all inclusive and participatory process in land administration;
- ensuring that there were harmonized and effective policies, and legal and institutional frameworks in land administration;
- the government should ensure uniformity in land administration procedures, and recognition of communal land rights and customary laws in national laws.

The overall objective of the European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation (EULGP CI) is to improve secure

<b>Name of the EULGP CI*</b>	Rebuilding confidence on land issues in Somalia
<b>Implementer</b>	FAO
<b>Implementer partners</b>	Pastoralist Environment Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) Candlelight for Environment, Education and Health Nagaad Network Nordic International Support Foundation Academy for Peace and Development (APD)
<b>Target areas</b>	Somaliland and Lower Shabelle Region
<b>Political entities involved</b>	Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Land and Water Resources) Ministry of Environment and Rural Development
<b>Budget</b>	EUR 2 269 000
<b>Length of the EULGP CI</b>	May 2014 – March 2017

and sustainable access to land and other natural resources in order to facilitate productive investments as well as social and economic development in Somaliland and southern Somalia.

### STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The overall objective of the EULGP CI is expected to be achieved through the following outputs:

- In-depth assessment carried out on territorial rights and conflict dynamics in order to provide a clear understanding of the context and facilitate the formulation of effective strategies towards sustainable natural resource management (access and use);
- Institutional and community capacities enhanced to engage in land management/governance (use, access, and ownership) and related strategic dialogue.

The EULGP CI also supported the improvement of legal and policy frameworks related to territorial issues facilitating a more secure access to land for all.

A key component of the strategy of the intervention was to organize negotiation tables and provide government staff with practical skills in participatory land delimitation, as well as surveying and printing equipment. This enabled the establishment of participatory land delimitation committees, contributing to the effective resolution of disputes over land boundaries.

\*EULGP CI (European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation)

## 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).

An Inter-ministerial Land Policy Review Commission was also established in Somaliland. This Commission was responsible for planning and coordinating the land policy development, producing the zero draft policy through a consultative and participatory process of various stakeholders, including key ministries.

## OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Overall, the EULGP CI interventions greatly contributed to improving secure and sustainable management and access to land and other natural resources, in order to facilitate productive investments, and socioeconomic development in Somaliland and southern Somalia.

Among the positive results are:

- Laws, policies and regulations relating to land governance in southern Somalia and Somaliland analysed using the VGGT Legal Assessment Tool, and major gaps identified.
- First Draft Land Policy for Somaliland developed, and handed over to government for finalization.
- Institutional capacity gaps in knowledge and application of the VGGT in land policy development identified, and personnel from institutions involved in land issues trained in applying VGGT to improve the governance of tenure.
- 28 negotiation tables involving 1 120 community representatives established in 42 villages in seven districts to improve and sustain good governance of tenure.
- Community representatives trained in gender equity in territorial matters and participatory territorial planning to provide sustainable capacities for local level land governance.
- 30 technical government staff members trained in participatory land delimitation, using Global Positioning System and Total Station survey equipment.
- An inventory of natural resource base and territorial diagnostic report released and shared with stakeholders.

A series of positive results also led to strengthening the sustainability of the project achievements:

### Capacity development

The EULGP CI provided support in national land policy development in Somaliland. Once the comprehensive land policy has been enacted by the relevant branches of government, it will pave the way to engaging in legislative and institutional reforms, and the implementation of the land policy, thereby strengthening the sustainability of the project achievements.

The Somaliland Ministry of Agriculture staff were trained in participatory land delimitation of farmland. The Ministry was also supplied with modern equipment to provide services to the population. The support will enable the Ministry to continue to offer services in land surveys,

and to collect Geographical Information System (GIS) coordinates, and subsequently produce titles. Capacities of beneficiary communities were also developed in participatory negotiated territorial approaches.

### Knowledge Products

The following knowledge products were produced:

- An analysis of legal issues related to land in Somaliland;
- An analysis of Women's Land Rights and Territorial Rights of Somali Minorities in Somaliland;
- Baseline survey on 'Rebuilding Confidence on Land Issues';
- Historical Dynamics of Land Conflicts in Somali Region (Lower Shabelle);
- Draft Somaliland Land Policy;
- Territorial diagnostic report on land resources of Somaliland.

### Gender equality

The EULGP CI ensured that men, women and youth, participated in all aspects of the project. Women's participation in land and natural resource issues and land rights were mainstreamed in the planning and implementation of project activities.

The Somali society is predominantly patrilineal, and women are often excluded from decision-making concerning land and natural resource matters. In order to ensure gender equity on land issues, the project facilitated awareness-raising and dialogue forums on women's land rights, and made sure that women participated in land matters. At the negotiation tables, at least 40 percent of participants were women, which was an important improvement in women's representation in land and territorial matters. The message promoted during workshops and training activities was 'land rights are human rights', which was consistently maintained during the project.

### Environmental sustainability

The EULGP CI had a strong element of community participation and empowerment. The participatory natural resource mapping and negotiation tables enhanced communities' awareness in environmental issues, and the sustainable use of natural resources and conservation of the environment.

### Technological sustainability

Technologies introduced by the EULGP CI will continue to support beneficiary communities in mapping and resolving land disputes, and improving the accuracy of the issued farm title deeds.



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