



THE NIGER

EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Most of Niger's population lives in rural areas. Access to natural resources remains a primary source of food and income. With recurring droughts and demographic pressure, Niger today faces increasingly frequent and violent conflicts between the rural population, particularly between farmers and pastoralists. These conflicts cause serious social problems: they suspend or destroy income opportunities, increase food insecurity, damage the environment, and cause clashes and assaults, sometimes leading to death. With the objective to improve the situation, in 1993, Niger adopted a legal and institutional system, the Rural Code. It is based on a decade of consultations and its main objective was to secure tenure for the rural population and to prevent conflicts.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the European Union Land Governance Programme – Country Implementation (EULGP CI) is to contribute to securing pastoral land tenure systems in Niger by improving the recognition of livestock owners' land rights, securing areas and resources reserved for livestock farming, preventing conflicts related to the use of pastoral resources, strengthening the capacities of the Rural Code in the area of pastoral land and in land development planning (Schéma d'Aménagement Foncier SAF).

STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The project addresses conflict prevention through:

- The identification of pastoral land to ensure its management with the aim of securing a pastoral system of livestock production as well as rights of access to land for pastoralists.
- Strengthening the capacities of the Rural Code to provide security for rural workers and prevent rural conflicts.

Name of the EULGP CI*	Projet de sécurisation des systèmes fonciers pastoraux au Niger par le renforcement de la gouvernance foncière (PSSFP-RGF)
Implementer	The structures of the Rural Code
Implementer partners	The Permanent Secretary of the National Committee of the Rural Code
Target areas	Securing pastoral land systems and strengthening of land governance
Political entities involved	The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock The National Rural Code Committee
Budget	EUR 3 000 000
Length of the EULGP CI	June 2015 – November 2018

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the project developed a set of national guidelines for the inventory of pastoral areas and pastoral resources, which have been validated and adopted by ministerial decrees. These guidelines draw on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

The guidelines describe in a simple, accessible and concise way the conceptual, organizational and methodological principles needed to carry-out inventories to identify pastoral areas and pastoral resources.

The methodology is organized around eight main stages:

- **Step 1.** Information sharing with communities and organizing the population to participate in the process.
- **Step 2.** Sensitization and awareness raising among all stakeholders.
- **Step 3.** Collective reflection on the evolution of villages and tribal pastoral land and other areas (cropland, forests) over time.
- **Step 4.** Identification of the existing pastoral areas through simplified mapping, including ground planning of agricultural areas to identify areas at risk of conflict.
- **Step 5.** Reaching a social agreement between the actors.
- **Step 6.** Visits to and participative demarcation of identified areas, with a view to securing pastoral and safeguarding agricultural areas.
- **Step 7.** Restitution and validation.
- **Step 8.** Registration of the rural file, classification and/or registration of inventoried areas and resources.

*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).

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

By following this participative approach defined in the guidelines, several areas and resources have been inventoried and legally secured.

- 1 176 out of 1 828 pastoral resources have been inventoried in the Tahoua region.
- 802 out of 3 798 pastoral resources have been inventoried in the Maradi region.
- As an indirect result of this project, the whole region of Maradi, a total of 2 996 pastoral resources, have been inventoried and secured by others following the same participatory methodology.
- In the Dosso region 1 164 pastoral resources have been inventoried and secured.
- In the region of Tillabéri a total of 1 618 pastoral resources have been inventoried. The process of legal security is in progress.
- In two strategic areas (Baffa and Yani) approximately 42 000 ha of the surface area with a perimeter of 110 km have been demarcated.
- An operational database on the activities of the Rural Code structures is available at regional and national level.
- A land development plan has been adopted (SAF).
- 31 communal land commissions have been equipped and strengthened.
- 10 departmental land commissions have received training, equipment and have developed an action plan.
- 50 village land commissions are to be installed and equipped.

The generated outcomes of these project achievements are:

- Data already collected on pastoral resources are secured in a national and regional database.
- The pastoral areas in the agricultural zone of Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri and Zinder regions are inventoried and secured.
- Tools for the recognition and registration of livestock owners' land rights have been developed and made available to institutions in charge of management.
- The capacities of the Rural Code structures in the Dosso and Zinder regions have been strengthened.
- Overall, the results and the generated outcomes have made it possible to improve the knowledge and management of land resources and to reduce the risks of conflict between different users of natural resources.



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