



ANGOLA

EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Angola is facing a delicate economic situation, due to the drop in crude oil prices, which is negatively affecting the balance of payment, and is leading to an end of subsidies, increased local prices, and devaluation of national currency.

Effective recognition of customary land rights is still a challenge in Angola, as in many other African countries. Although customary land rights of the traditional rural communities are expressly recognized in the 2004 National Land Law, very few communities in Angola have been able to register their land. Rural communities' claims for land regularization have been often treated with a mix of mistrust and discrimination: as a result, less than 0.1 percent of the territory is currently registered under customary land titles.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation (EULGP CI) is to ensure respect of land rights and promote the socioeconomic development of rural communities including the most vulnerable groups in the central highlands of Angola.

Name of the EULGP CI*	Strengthened capacity for improved governance of land tenure and natural resources by local government in partnership with non state actors in the Central Highlands of Angola
Implementer	World Vision International (WVI)
Implementer partners	Development Workshop
Target areas	Provinces of Bié, Huambo and Benguella
Political entities involved	Provincial governments, Instituto Geográfico e Cadastral de Angola (IGCA)
Budget	EUR 3 529 000 (15 percent contribution from WVI)
Length of the EULGP CI	May 2014 – December 2017

STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The EULGP CI envisages the achievement of the following:

- Strengthening of the technical capacity of the municipal government in participatory mapping, cadastre management, the use of geographical information systems, as well as assessing the legal framework from the perspective of the VGGT and the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM).
- Increase the capacity of public administration and legal entities to simplify and fast-track the land rights recognition processes, and to meet the demand for land rights formalization.
- Support the collaborative engagement and involvement of non-state actors (NSAs) in peri-urban and rural communities, and increase the understanding of traditional authorities and local government of land governance mechanisms to ensure all actors are able to better advocate for their rights.
- Public sensitization on the land law, wide dissemination of the VGGT, as well as sharing of lessons learned with land governance stakeholders, including global networks, such as the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

*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

Through this EULGP CI, non-state actors collaborated successfully with the government to sensitize communities and strengthen their capacities. The EULGP CI assured awareness raising on the community land law in over 150 communities in 10 municipalities in the provinces of Bié, Huambo, and Benguela.

At the community level, the EULGP CI was particularly successful in terms of community engagement and in supporting the recognition of rights. Before the issuance of a by-law to support the recognition of communal rights, only two titles were issued in 12 years. Thanks to the EULGP CI's advocacy, in 2015 the Provincial Government of Bié issued a by-law that formalized, for the first time, the process to be followed for the recognition of community land, and the issuing of customary titles (Dominio Util Consuetudinario). As a result, 31 customary land titles have been issued during the EULGP CI implementation by the Provincial Government of Bié, covering an area of 17.888 ha.

Key successful results include the following:

- Placed debate on traditional land rights in the public domain. Traditional land rights have been often considered residual rights, with little relevance for economic development, or even a limitation and a threat for the implementation of large-scale agricultural projects. The EULGP CI managed to change this perspective, at least in the Province of Bié, where local administrators and technicians now acknowledge the social and economic gains of guaranteeing security to rural communities over the land they occupy. The creation of an inter-ministerial committee for the regularization of community land is a very promising opportunity for sustaining the gains of the EULGP CI, scaling up and ensuring the debate on the socioeconomic importance of rural land to development is kept at national level.
- Built public policies from practical experience. The by-law approved in Bié (Despacho 2072/2015) represents a real milestone for the effective protection of customary land rights in Angola. It includes the experience and the lessons learned over approximately two decades of land governance projects in Angola, and represents a concrete implementation of the VGGT principles in practice.
- Built trust at community level. The EULGP CI has been particularly successful in breaking the natural initial distrust of many communities towards the delimitation process. Many communities which did not initially engage have approached the EULGP CI technicians and local institutions to ask to be included in the EULGP CI: in the province of Bié, where the initial target was to reach 40 communities, more than 50 were eventually delimited.



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- Update and improve the Participatory Rural Delimitation (PRD) methodology in use. More attention has been dedicated to the sensitization of rural communities, and to the explanation of the Land Law. Also, the methodology now takes new generations into consideration as key actors of the delimitation process. The manual produced to guide the process is currently being considered by the newly created inter-ministerial commission for regularization of community land, as a tool to be adopted in the coming years by state authorities.

A second phase of the EULGP CI helped deepen the results of the first phase in the Province of Bié, supporting the issuing of 14 additional community titles. Further, the PRD has been officially adopted as the methodology in use for the delimitation of rural communities prior to the recognition of the community traditional land title.

Joana Jukila, from the village of Cassoco in the Commune of Cangote, shows the community land title issued by the Provincial Government of Bié. Together with other community leaders, she learned about the Angola Land Law during the project meetings and transmitted this information to the rest of the women in the community. They have a farmer association, named "Tuamako", which includes 27 women and some men, and now they talk often about rights to land, discussing "what we learned in the informative meetings". The existence of the title of recognition will support the association in the defense of community lands.



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