



SUPPORT TO THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY IN SENEGAL

Project update

The operationalization of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) in Senegal is an example of a participatory process that has led to the creation of a multi-stakeholder platform and dialogue mechanism, aiming at fostering effective land governance at national and local level as well as supporting land tenure reforms.

Outcomes and impacts

Successful establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform

The national multi-actor platform was set up during the first VGGT workshop in 2014 (supported by France and Italy) and includes representatives from civil society organizations (CSO), academia, the government, private sector, local authorities and producer organizations.

- The platform established a steering committee (COPIL) to discuss tenure issues and the modalities of the implementation of the project on a more continuous basis.
- The members of the platform have been trained on several aspects of tenure, forest and fisheries governance to become trainers and change agents themselves.
- Senegal was one of the few countries selected to present its experience on VGGT implementation by a multi-stakeholder platform at the 43rd session of the UN Committee on World Food Security.
- The COPIL has developed a series of capacities that will ensure its own sustainability and has established new partnerships, in particular with the International Land Coalition.
- At regional level, the Senegalese platform regularly exchanges experiences with sister-platforms in Mali, Mauritania (German funded project) and Guinea (financed through FAO regular funds).
- The platform has just admitted new actors, including the National Commission for dialogue of territories (CNDT) and the Union of the Associations of Locally Elected People (UAEL) and has developed a 5 year strategy plan.

More information: A good practice on multi-actor dialogue. The Voluntary Guidelines at the heart of Senegal's tenure reform www.fao.org/3/a-i6271e.pdf

Key facts

CONTRIBUTION: 1 500 000 USD

DURATION: 2014-2018

BENEFICIARIES: national institutions working on land, fisheries and forests, local communities, local decision-making bodies, government agencies.



Support to the land tenure reform process

FAO has established collaboration with national authorities, especially with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment (MAER- who also chairs the COPIL), and with the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEM). Senegal's tenure reform efforts have been enhanced by the national donor working group on land, chaired by FAO, being among the few selected national working groups supported by the Global Donor Working Group on Land.

- In collaboration with the MAER, FAO organized a series of consultations with all concerned stakeholder groups for the development of the final draft of the land policy document, which was submitted to the President of the Republic. This document is the result of a participatory and transparent tenure reform process, unprecedented in the country and completely inspired by the VGGT.
- After the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEM) drafted the new Inland Fisheries Law, the Ministry asked FAO's support to carry out a large consultative process. This included local fishermen groups and other concerned parties. The results of these consultations were incorporated in the draft law document.
- The COPIL now contributes to the dissemination and implementation of the new Forest Code through a participatory and consultative process and is now assessing this legal framework in line with the VGGT through the "Voluntary Guidelines informed forest tenure assessment framework".
- The COPIL has conducted a number of studies and held permanent discussions to support the land reform processes.

More information: Senegal: Towards a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring responsible forest governance www.fao.org/tenure/newsletters/detail-events/en/c/1174961/

Operationalisation of the VGGT at local level

Significant progress was made in translating technical recommendations and principles of the VGGT into impacts on the ground.

- Improved access to women to secure tenure through the training of paralegals and to the development of a specific methodology to reduce discrimination during the titling process.
- Improved local governance in line with VGGT principles as a result of the establishment of codes of conduct and land management good practices validated by multi-stakeholder dialogue groups in five different zones of the country.
- Increased awareness among local populations on the importance of ensuring access to land to women and youth, on the VGGT in general as a result of the dissemination of adapted and contextualized documentation, radio-broadcasts and video-broadcasts.
- Better understanding of the impacts of investment projects and increased dialogue among local communities, the private sector and CSOs through the development of assessment frameworks and dialogue mechanisms.
- More inclusive local decision bodies through the expansion of Local Land Commissions including women and youth and the development of land charters.
- Better knowledge about land tenure and soil quality through studies conducted by the National Institute of Agronomy (ISRA).
- Testing assessment tools for governance of tenure (LGAF, assessment of responsible investments).
- Improved local governance as a result of the promotion and establishment of local land governance dialogue platforms.

More information: Voluntary Guidelines activities on facebook "Reformons le foncier, plateforme nationale DV&GF" (2000+ followers) www.facebook.com/Reformonslefoncier/

Newsletter on the implementation of the project www.ipar.sn/Bulletin-d-information-sur-les-Directives-volontaires?lang=fr



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