

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 43rd 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](#)

S49. GLOBAL: Mainstreaming support for the VGGT in FAO operations

Country(ies)/ Region(s)/ Organization/ Entity	FAO
Contact person	Paul Munro-Faure, Deputy Director, Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division (OPC), FAO
Brief description of the successful experience (including location, geographical coverage, main actors, main activities, timeframe)	Since its inception, FAO has worked on improving tenure security as a means to eradicate hunger and poverty. The VGGT are the official standard for FAO's work in tenure (Director-General's Bulletin 2013/73) and a house-wide Task Force coordinates relevant work by technical units and decentralized offices. FAO works with a wide range of actors at the global, regional and national levels to promote the VGGT as the global international standard for tenure, and it supports stakeholders in countries to improve tenure consistent with the VGGT.
Location	Global, regional, national and multi-country
Geographical coverage	Over 50 countries and in all FAO regions
Main actors	FAO, CFS, national governments, donor partners (Belgium, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom), civil society (IPC/FIAN, cooperatives and farmers associations), Indigenous Peoples, academia, private sector, IFAD, Regional UN Economic Commissions (UNECA including LPI, UNECE), World Bank, professional associations (FIG, IUNL).
Main activities	Activities can be categorized as: (i) raising awareness of how people can use the VGGT in their own situations; (ii) improving the capacity of people to use the VGGT; (iii) targeted support to

	countries on using the VGGT; (iv) building partnerships for work on the VGGT; and (v) monitoring the progress made. In practice, these activities are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.
Timeframe	2009 to 2020
Results obtained	<p>Awareness raising workshops were held in all regions and in countries in Africa (Central African Republic, Gabon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda), Asia (China, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan), Latin America (Colombia, Guatemala, Panama, Peru), Europe and Central Asia (Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Tajikistan, The FYR Macedonia) and Near East and North Africa (Sudan).</p> <p>In a number of countries, raising awareness of the VGGT led to the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms. For example, in Senegal, the national platform provided an important forum to discuss and inform tenure reform, and has helped to move forward work on more equitable access to natural resources that started in the 1990s. Through the platform, the VGGT served both the National Tenure Reform Commission and civil society and provided a framework for consolidating the various interests on governance of tenure.</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder platforms have played valuable roles in the process of preparing new policies and laws. For example, in Sierra Leone, the multi-stakeholder, inclusive process ensured broad national ownership of a new land policy, which incorporated the VGGT's principles and text. Political leadership was provided through the Government's Inter-Ministerial Task Force on the VGGT, which brought together five ministries and was supported by a Steering Committee, a Technical Working Group and a Secretariat.</p> <p>In Guatemala, the new land governance policy incorporated principles of the VGGT, with the objective of improving food security and nutrition in rural areas, particularly among indigenous communities, and promoting stability, investments and growth in agriculture. Communication support was provided to improve governance of communal lands.</p> <p>Improving governance of tenure requires increased capacity of people and organizations. Technical guides have been produced on gender; free, prior and informed consent; forestry and agricultural investments; and guides on other topics are being finalized. E-learning courses have been developed, and learning programmes have been linked with learning assessments and blended learning programmes, involving on-line courses and face-to-face interaction in workshops.</p> <p>Trainer-of-trainers initiatives have been launched in Guatemala, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Senegal and South Africa. National partners have control over the training and follow-up</p>

	events, adapting programmes to local needs and strengthening their networks on tenure. For Indigenous People, regional capacity development programmes in Central America and India have strengthened capacity to participate in policy and legal dialogues.
Key catalysts and factors that influenced the results	The adoption of the VGGT as a standard within FAO has resulted in an internal coordinated approach. Political will on the part of governments has been key to start and facilitate the policy dialogue on the VGGT and policy reform. Strong partnerships have been crucial and their development has rested on a common understanding of the VGGT as the unquestioned global standard.
Constraints and challenges that were faced	<p>Increasing requests from countries for support can potentially exceed the capacity to respond, without the provision of additional resources.</p> <p>Addressing tenure problems in countries is a multi-year process, and can require an initial period in which stakeholders build consensus on priorities and develop trust. A long-term commitment is required.</p> <p>The broad inclusion of vulnerable groups (Indigenous People, elderly, youth) has been challenging.</p>
Good practices that helped to make the experience successful	As with CFS, multi-stakeholder platforms in countries provide a way to bring together representatives from government, civil society, the private sector and other constituencies. The platforms provide an effective forum to discuss tenure issues, develop ideas for reform and build consensus. Where countries have embarked on policy and legal reforms, the platforms have facilitated participatory, inclusive processes.
Quantitative aspects where available - estimate of the number of people, households and communities that have been positively affected by the successful experience	There have been over 64 000 downloads/page views of the VGGT through the FAO website and FAO has distributed over 44 000 hardcopies of the VGGT. Over 10 000 people have participated in meetings focussing on how they can use the VGGT in their own situations, about 800 people have received face-to-face training, and over 14 000 learners have used the e-learning courses. This has had a direct impact on opening up space for dialogue and the preparation of new policies in countries.
Link to additional information	http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/