



2015 AND BEYOND

FAO AND PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER
TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VGGT



Governance of tenure makes a crucial difference to peoples' livelihoods. Weak governance is the cause of many tenure problems and the quality of governance affects whether attempts to solve tenure problems are successful. Responsible governance of tenure promotes sustainable social and economic development that can help to eradicate poverty and food insecurity, and encourages responsible investment and sustainable use of the environment.

The *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)* represent an unprecedented international consensus on principles and practices to improve the governance of tenure.

The importance of improving the lives of billions of people by protecting and enhancing their legitimate tenure rights is being recognized in the discussions leading towards the Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015 agenda. The VGGT provide the reference for work to ensure that a wide range of people – including small-scale food producers, women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers – are able to benefit from secure and equitable tenure rights.

FAO is mainstreaming the VGGT in its work

FAO is supporting the implementation of the VGGT through a programme of awareness raising, capacity development, support to countries, development of partnerships, and monitoring.

FAO works in partnership with governments, civil society organizations, cooperatives and producer organizations, the private sector, academia and research institutes, the World Bank and other UN agencies to improve the governance of tenure for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people.

A wide range of organizations and government bodies has brought the VGGT into their programmes

Everyone has a role to play

The VGGT can be used by different people and organizations, in different ways, and in partnership with others.

An increasing number of countries are working to improve governance of tenure as people learn more about the VGGT. Donor countries, such as France, Germany, Switzerland and the USA, as well as the EU, are mainstreaming the VGGT in their support programmes.

Civil society organizations are working to raise awareness and assist people to enjoy and safeguard their tenure rights. Included among them are ActionAid and Oxfam, which are helping communities to use the VGGT in order to protect their tenure rights and food security. **Co-operatives and**

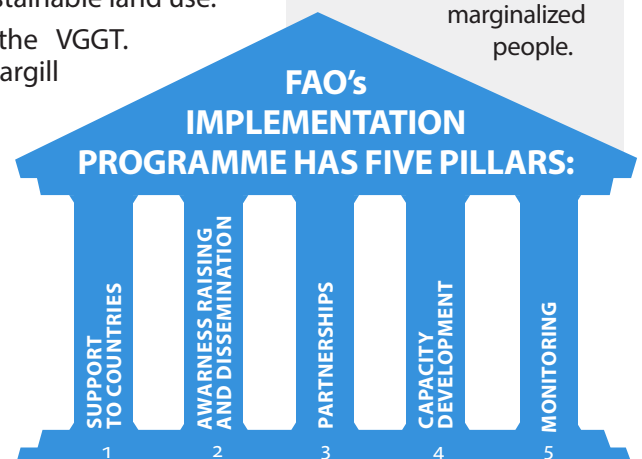
producer organizations are including the VGGT into their agendas and are emphasizing the need for cooperative and collective action as they work to eliminate hunger and to promote values of family farming, right to food and nutrition, and sustainable land use.

Private sector businesses are showing growing support for the VGGT. Enterprises such as the Coca-Cola Company, PepsiCo, Nestlé and Cargill are using the VGGT as an integral part of managing their corporate responsibilities.

Academia and research institutes are using the VGGT in academic courses and are contributing to an improved understanding of policy, legal and technical matters that affect access by vulnerable and marginalized people to natural resources.

Professional associations such as the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the International Union of Notaries (UINL) are working with FAO to support the implementation of the VGGT.

The World Bank expressed its support for the VGGT at the 2013 Conference on Land and Poverty and is working with countries to implement them.

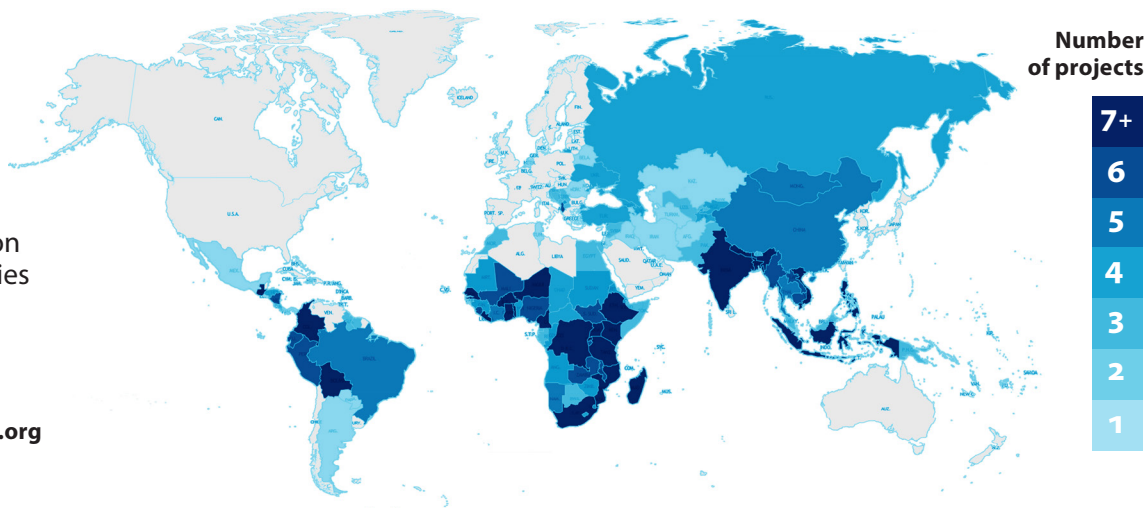


Working with resource partners and other international organizations

The Global Donor Working Group on Land

The map displays land and resource governance programmes from bilateral and multilateral donors as well as development agencies. Currently the database has information on **561 projects in 126 countries** with a total value of USD **4.7 billion**.

For more information visit:
<http://landgov.donorplatform.org>



CELAC promotes the VGGT

The member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held the First Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming in November 2014 in Brasilia. The 2015 Action Plan of the CELAC Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Farming calls for the promotion of the dissemination of the VGGT and of the experiences of its implementation by Member States.

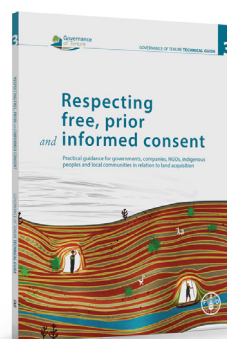
African Land Policy Initiative

In June 2014, FAO and the UN Economic Commission for Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding which:

- Increases synergy of actions towards responsible governance of tenure;
- Promotes comprehensive and effective land policies in the region;
- Supports country level implementation of the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policies in Africa and the VGGT.

Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples have an intimate connection with their traditional lands, territories and resources, which shape their collective physical and cultural survival as people. The VGGT recommends that governments recognize and protect indigenous peoples' rights. Indigenous peoples' representatives and experts discussed the role of indigenous peoples in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines at a meeting hosted by FAO in Rome, Italy in February 2015.



FAO has published a Technical Guide on **Respecting Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**

FPIC: An international human right of indigenous peoples. A principle to be extended to all local communities.

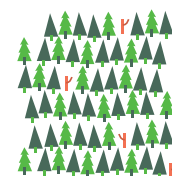
Work on Fisheries Tenure

With a high percentage of the world population's livelihood depending on a secure access to fisheries, improving tenure is of primary importance in this sector. The VGGT are closely linked to the *Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* and can be used as an entry point to improve fisheries management through a rights-based approach. Tenure and Fishing Rights are the theme of the User Rights 2015 forum hosted in Cambodia in March.



Work on Forest Tenure

Responsible governance of tenure is needed to ensure sustainable use and conservation of forest resources. A VGGT-based Technical Guide *Improving governance of forest tenure: a practical guide* focusing on forest management is available and VGGT-related forest tenure projects are being supported in Cambodia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Vietnam.



FAO, improving governance of tenure worldwide

2,200+

of participants



of workshops

26



National and regional workshops have taken place in 26 countries over the past two years.

Emphasis has been placed on using the VGGT in countries. The workshops increase understanding of the contents of the VGGT and identify opportunities for their implementation.

List of countries

2013

Bulgaria

Cameroon

China

Colombia

Fiji

Gabon

Guatemala

Guyana

Jordan

Liberia

Madagascar

Malawi

Mongolia

Morocco

Nepal

Niger

Pakistan

Rwanda

Senegal

Sierra Leone

South Africa

Sudan

Thailand

UAE

Uganda

Ukraine

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2015

Working at country level: Selected cases

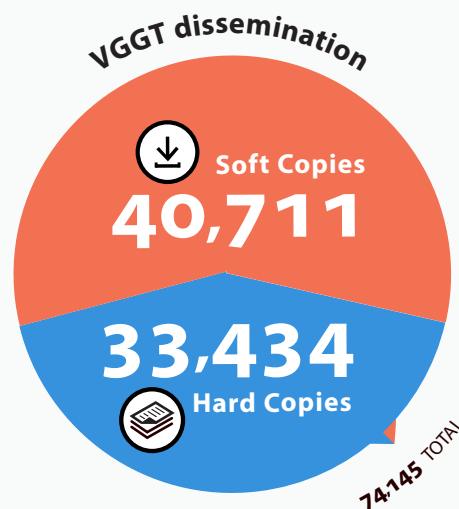
Africa - **Sierra Leone** has committed to implement the VGGT, focusing on land, fisheries and forestry as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender, recourse mechanisms and legal frameworks. In **Namibia**, work is focusing on support for the implementation of valuation activities in line with the VGGT. In **Gambia**, a workshop to raise awareness on the VGGT for journalists was organized by a Gambian multi-stakeholder platform with support from IFAD. VGGT awareness-raising national workshops have been held in **Gabon, Uganda** and **Madagascar**.

Asia Pacific - The **Philippines** is working to strengthen policy-making, institutional and personnel capacities in land governance through mainstreaming of the VGGT. In **Pakistan**, a national workshop recommended that the VGGT should be applied to the country and served to open a debate over tenure issues. In **China**, the VGGT are being used as a reference in key issues such as large-scale rural land registration and international land-based investments. In **Nepal**, a workshop highlighted that the implementation of the VGGT would ensure a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way to govern tenure of land, fisheries and forests.

Europe - Multi-stakeholder groups in six **Western Balkan** countries have been trained on the VGGT as well as the technical guide on gender. The groups are now producing gender-disaggregated reports and are using them to improve gender equality. Additionally, work has been ongoing in many countries, including **Albania, Croatia** and **Montenegro** where FAO partners closely with the World Bank to improve land administration.

Near East and North Africa - The VGGT served as the basis for discussions at the Regional Land Forum, organized by the Habitat International Coalition in **Tunisia**. The forum built capacity of CSOs to participate in ongoing global policy and norm-setting processes related to land. A workshop specifically for **Near East investors** is being organized in collaboration with, and through the initiative of, the Government of **Kuwait**. The workshop will focus on the VGGT and land-based investments.

Latin America and the Caribbean - The Government of **Guatemala** presented a new land policy that facilitates access to land by the rural poor and helps resolve land disputes in the country. The Secretaría de Asuntos Agrarios and the Land Fund worked to integrate the VGGT into the new policy framework. In **Brazil**, the VGGT were promoted during the 2nd National Conference of Sustainable Rural Development and Solidarity as well as the National Council for Sustainable Rural Development.



Preparing tools to get things done!

Learning programmes to develop capacity

FAO is developing and providing tailored learning programmes targeting national actors who work on tenure. One programme enhances the capacity of civil society organizations to participate and engage in VGGT implementation in their country. A second programme provides key stakeholders and decision-makers with instruction and training on how the VGGT can be best applied in their country. A third programme focuses on sensitizing participants to the importance of gender equality in governance of tenure.

VGGT learning programmes will operate in:

- Ethiopia
- Liberia
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa

E-learning

Learn about the VGGT and why governance of tenure is so important to solving problems that exist around the globe.

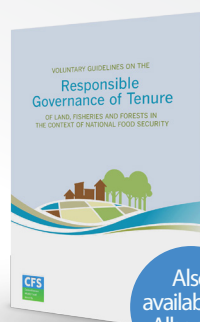
To date, there are 4 modules available:

- ➔ Introduction to the responsible governance of tenure [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)
- ➔ Tenure disputes and conflicts [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)
- ➔ Addressing corruption in the tenure of land, fisheries and forests [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)
- ➔ Addressing tenure issues in the context of natural disasters [EN](#)

6 more
are coming
soon!

For more information visit:
fao.org/nr/tenure/e-learning

The VGGT are available in many languages!



Arabic
Chinese
English
French
Russian
Spanish

Also available in Albanian



The VGGT are now available as eBooks!



Monitoring and Evaluation

FAO works with civil society organizations to document their perspective on monitoring of tenure governance. Support is also being provided to the Committee on World Food Security and the Open-ended Working Group on Monitoring.

Technical Guides

The guides apply the principles and recommendations of the VGGT to specific technical areas. Four technical guides are currently available in English, French and Spanish:

- ➔ Governing land for women and men
- ➔ Improving governance of forest tenure
- ➔ Respecting free, prior and informed consent
- ➔ Implementing improved tenure governance in fisheries

For more information visit:
<http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/information-resources>

Link with normative work

The VGGT strengthen other FAO normative instruments such as:

- ➔ Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems;
- ➔ Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;
- ➔ Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.

Technologies for tenure governance

Open Tenure is open source software that addresses the needs of people in many countries to have their tenure rights recognized at a community level through the use of mobile devices and crowdsourcing techniques. The software builds on ongoing open source work and empowers communities and individual citizens to identify and document their tenure rights and can operate on low-cost mobile devices.



For more information visit:
flossola.org/group/open-tenure

