



THE SUDAN

EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

The economy of Greater Darfur is heavily reliant on farming and livestock keeping, with more than 70 percent of the population relying on traditional and subsistence agriculture, the majority of whom are dependent on rain fed agriculture and pasture for both crop and livestock production. Historically, overlapping rights on land use and land tenure systems were governed through customary means in Darfur. Nationalization of un-registered lands and disbandment of customary institutions without an alternative created a vacuum in the provision, protection and promotion of tenure rights and social justice related to land disputes. Competition over land resources continues to be ungoverned, creating conflict among users. Mistrust between state actors and Darfur communities was widened, and government actions are always perceived with suspicion. On-going conflict in Darfur leads to problems with law, order, displacement of rural farmers and a change in migration patterns of nomadic pastoralists. Under the current state, neither the government, customary institutions, nor any other actors have been able to bring a solution to the complex realities of land tenure governance in Darfur. In 2014, the former Minister of Agriculture made a special request to the FAO Director-General for the rollout of the VGGT in Sudan. In response, the FAO office in Sudan developed the EULGP CI with relevant stakeholders. The intervention covers 32 percent of the Darfur land mass and targets 28 percent of the Darfur population.

OBJECTIVE

The European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation (EULGP CI) aims to support the Government of Sudan in reforming its land laws to develop practical solutions to secure access to and use of cropland, livestock routes, rangeland and pastureland including the provision of adequate and practical dispute resolution mechanisms. The intervention also aims to assist state and locality level stakeholders to promote the provision for legitimate land tenure rights to conflict displaced communities including small scale rural farmers, pastoralists and IDPs in the Darfur region.

Name of the EULGP CI*	Promoting the provision of legitimate land tenure rights using the VGGT in the context of national food security for conflict-displaced communities, including small-scale rural farmers, pastoralists, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Greater Darfur region of the Sudan
Implementer	FAO
Implementer partners	State government ministries, civil society organizations and research institutions
Political entities involved	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Physical Development, Ministry of Justice, Forest National Corporation (FNC), Darfur Land Commission (DLC), Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission (VRRC)
Budget	EUR 3 000 000
Length of the EULGP CI	May 2016 – November 2020

STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The EULGP CI adopted five strategies to implement activities under its four outputs:

- Establishment of the EULGP CI implementation framework: Local Action Groups (LAGs) whose members were 10 of the most influential people in each of the 20 localities; State Technical Teams (STTs) made up of 12 members representing 6 line ministries, 2 commissions, 2 native administrators and 2 FAO staff members; the Darfur Regional level Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of 10 members and a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) made up of 16 members from federal ministries, TAC and FAO provide the bases of the EULGP CI implementation.
- Benchmarking socioeconomic dynamics that affect land resource use and land tenure governance. Through service providers, the EULGP CI conducted an in-depth baseline assessment of individual capacities, the role of leaders in 20 localities of the five Darfur States and carried out natural resource mapping: institutional, formal and customary. The exercise aimed to establish a benchmark of indicators: community land use, tenure types, and land governance systems. Different land uses and the prevalence of disputes/conflicts between land resource users were also identified.

*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).

- Facilitating inclusive decision-making among activity stakeholders. Through consultative processes, decisions made at each coordination level are shared with stakeholders in locality, state and federal line ministries to help them to improve their policies on the governance of land resource tenure.
- Capacity development related to the VGGT principles and tools using the technical guidelines.
- Establishment of locality level forums that address disputes over land resources and provide community-to-community peace negotiation platforms to build trust between communities and state level institutions, and to provide technical support to the locality level forums.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

To date, the EULGP CI intervention has had a number of outcomes:

- Contributed to the enhancement of social stability. Mistrust and tensions between formal institutions with overlapping mandates, and insecurity and violent conflicts between communities that prevailed in Darfur have all been reduced because of the EULGP CI intervention.
- Tension between formal and customary institutions on land tenure governance defused. Three inclusive consultative workshops and 30 state and local level meetings have been organized and working relations between *Hawakir* (customary land governors) and formal land service providing institutions have improved. The culture of joint decision-making has also been developed.



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- Enhancement of stakeholders' awareness on responsible land tenure governance and reduced sensitivity over land issues that existed before and during the first year (2017) of activity implementation:
 - In April 2017 an inception workshop brought together over 60 people from diverse professions and backgrounds educated participants on VGGT applicability in terms of processes and mechanisms and laid the framework of a foundation for workable solutions to the land problems in Darfur. The workshop objectives reflected the Government of Sudan's interest in resolving land resource-based conflict, which is one of the root causes of conflict in the region
 - A series of stakeholder consultations took place from February to June 2018 under the EULGP CI implementation approach. The roles of key stakeholders, as well as partnerships linking the activity and a critical group of stakeholders were defined, and PAC, TAC and STTs were established
 - A community awareness campaign on natural resources contributed to the reduction of natural resource-based disputes/ conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in 2018.
- Enhanced stakeholder capacity to improve land service provision. Two stakeholder consultation workshops in Nyala (South Darfur) and El-Geneina (West Darfur) in July and August 2018 reviewed state level processes, procedures and the time and cost of delivering services on land registration. A common strategy on improved land registration services was adopted by the five Darfur states.
- A community of knowledge on the responsible governance of tenure of land and forests was established using social media channels.
- Improved capacity of state and non-state actors to conceptualize and use the VGGT principles, tools and practices for implementing responsible governance of tenure of land in Darfur states.
- Capacities of communities at targeted localities have been enhanced to appropriately and transparently manage their fragile land resources and achieve peaceful and sustainable development:
 - State level trainings – a total of 62 members of state technical teams were trained of these, three were women
 - Local level trainings – a total of 298 Local Action Groups (LAGs) were trained, 32 of these were women
- The culture of inclusiveness between formal and customary institutions developed and enhanced the culture of working together and joint decision-making among state and non-state actors (customary institutions).



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