



MAINSTREAMING GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Land-based sectors in the Philippines are affected by institutional weaknesses in various ways, including overlapping and conflicting policies, laws and programmes, a lack of reform in public land management and inadequate funding for urban development, disaster mitigation and climate change. Land governance has thus been given paramount importance in recent years. However, security of tenure for all remains a challenge as the existing institutional set-up fails to respond to the needs of people in the land, fisheries and forestry sectors. In response to this, the Government decided to mainstream the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) on Land, Fisheries and Forests in order to improve land governance and expand it beyond the land sector. The project contributed to improving the capacity of the Government to provide good land governance by updating the Land Sector Development Framework (LSDF) in line with VGGT principles and guidelines, and by increasing awareness of these principles and guidelines in the fisheries sector.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project contributed to the Government's capacity to strengthen land tenure governance by mainstreaming VGGT principles and standards among key institutions dealing with the tenure of land and fisheries. Practical guidance was given to the Government, investors, and other stakeholders on the responsible governance of tenure. The project also enabled the LSDF to incorporate new international developments on land administration and management. Policy gaps were identified and future directions developed. Studies were conducted on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and state asset management, and awareness raised among stakeholders on VGGT principles and the linkages between governance of tenure of fisheries, natural disasters and climate change.

IMPACT

The project strengthened policies, legal instruments and procedures, contributing to enhanced land and natural resources governance, and improved security of tenure. The mainstreaming of the VGGT in the reforms also increased public confidence in land administration and management. Ramil Agnes of Infanta Community Development Assistance Incorporated said that "we should hold multi-stakeholder forums like this more often because they allow us to share our experiences, problems and recommendations with the Government and international partners." The Tagbanwa Tribe of Coron Island Association saw the VGGT and VGSSF as an opportunity for them to advocate for their resource rights in their ancestral domain.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 396 000

Duration

March 2017 – December 2017

Resource Partners

FAO

Partners

Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Land Management Bureau;
Department of Finance - Bureau of Local Government Finance; Asian NGO Coalition on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

Beneficiaries

Government organizations and institutions responsible for the administration, management, development and enforcement of tenure policies, laws and guidelines at national and sub-national levels

ACTIVITIES

- Detailed LSDF updated in consultation with the Government and other stakeholders.
- Technical capacities to deal with land disputes at barangay/municipality level improved in selected areas through the conduct of consultative meetings and workshops.
- Training manual on ADR in land cases developed for local leaders, and training in ADR provided for both local leaders and national officials.
- Policy guidelines prepared for the adoption of ADR at barangay/municipal level.
- Draft policy adopting applicable VGGT principles in addressing management of state-held assets prepared, and workshops conducted.
- Philippine Valuation Standards (PVS) updated and draft PVS prepared and submitted to Department of Finance.
- Awareness of VGGT principles raised among local and national government agencies.
- Awareness of links between governance of tenure, natural disasters and climate change raised among stakeholders.
- Integrated report on the VGGT, climate change and fisheries prepared and presented at national multi-stakeholder forum.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code
TCP/PHI/3505

Project Title
Mainstreaming Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure (Philippines)

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