



## **FRANCOPHONE AFRICA DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE**

**Yaoundé, 4 - 6 December 2012.** Around hundred people from 14 francophone African countries (Central Africa, Western Africa and India Ocean) participated in the Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure*. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the African Land Policy Initiative, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Government of Cameroon. It benefited from the financial support of the European Commission through the Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme and of the UN-REDD programme.



### **First regional awareness raising workshop**

This workshop was the first in a series of nine meetings that focus on raising awareness on the Guidelines. During the three days of the workshop, the participants familiarized themselves with the Guidelines and other available instruments; reviewed opportunities for governance of tenure in the region; and discussed the implementation of the Guidelines. The workshop also made possible the exchange of experiences and the creation of synergies.



### **An instrument of inspiration**

The participants contributed with enthusiasm to the discussions. They welcomed the Guidelines in unanimity recognizing their relevance for the evaluation and harmonization of policies, legislation and programmes of governance of tenure in countries. The participants appreciated the fact that the Guidelines adopt a rights based approach; consider the social and cultural value of land, fisheries and forests; emphasize gender and customary tenure systems; and introduce new themes such as climate change.

### **Proposals for the implementation of the Guidelines**

The workshop ended with the formulation of a number of proposals for the implementation of the Guidelines. These proposals attributed roles and responsibilities to a range of actors. We can retain the following ones:

- Organize an official hand-over of the Guidelines to Member States;
- Organize workshops in countries to raise awareness on the Guidelines among national stakeholders;
- Designate a Focal Point in each country to coordinate the implementation of the Guidelines and to create synergies between initiatives and projects;
- Use the Guidelines and the Framework and Guidelines for Land Policies in Africa to inform policy processes;
- Ensure that the Guidelines are an instrument that assist States and other actors in decision making and in developing activities on the governance of tenure;
- Introduce the principles of the Guidelines to on-going processes and programmes;
- Put in place a structure of monitoring and evaluation;
- Use the Guidelines to reinforce capacities at all levels;
- Promote the Guidelines and raise awareness of actors on the importance of governance of tenure;
- Create synergies by building on existing networks and platforms. Engage universities and the academia to work on governance of tenure.

### **Next steps**

The discussions and proposals of the workshop will be recorded in a report that will be available in January. The promotion and awareness raising activities will continue in Africa in the first quarter of the year with a technical workshop targeting Anglophone Africa.

### **Said during the workshop**

*“La prochaine guerre du 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle sera celle de la terre et de l’eau potable. Les terres en Afrique [...] font l’objet de convoitises. C’est pour cela qu’une bonne gouvernance du foncier reste un élément central qui devrait permettre aux populations autochtones de sécuriser le seul patrimoine, le seul capital qui aujourd’hui restent à leur disposition.”*

Honorable Ministre de l’Agriculture  
Cameroun

*« Nous allons lancer en RCA le 11 décembre 2012 l’atelier d’harmonisation visant à circonscrire tous les documents que nous avons à notre possession qui légifèrent et règlementent le foncier. Nous allons nous fonder sur les Directives volontaires pour concevoir, sinon élaborer, nos politiques foncières en la matière. C’est un bon outil d’évaluation qui nous permettra d’élaborer une politique dans l’intérêt de nos populations. »*

Simplicie Sarandji  
Ministre, Directeur de Cabinet du Premier Ministre, République Centrafricaine

*« La réforme foncière malgache a commencé en 2005. Presque tous les points évoqués dans les Directives volontaires sont déjà dans la législation malgache. C’est la mise en œuvre de ces Directives qu’on est en train d’élaborer et de concevoir. J’espère bien que le contenu des Directives volontaires va encore nous aider pour renforcer nos acquis. »*

Tantely Ravelojaona  
Directrice générale des services fonciers, Madagascar

Les Directives volontaires ce sont un « certain nombre d’axes, de principes, des règles et des pratiques [...] qui permettent d’améliorer la gouvernance foncière partout dans le monde ».

Adam Mallam Kandine

Enseignant chercheur, l'Université de Niamey, Niger