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## **Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the context of National Food Security (VGGT)**

**The VGGT Caravan - technical workshop for awareness raising  
26-27 November 2015, Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

**Regional Initiative on Empowering Smallholders and Family  
Farms for improved Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction**



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## **The issue**

### **What is Tenure and why is it important**

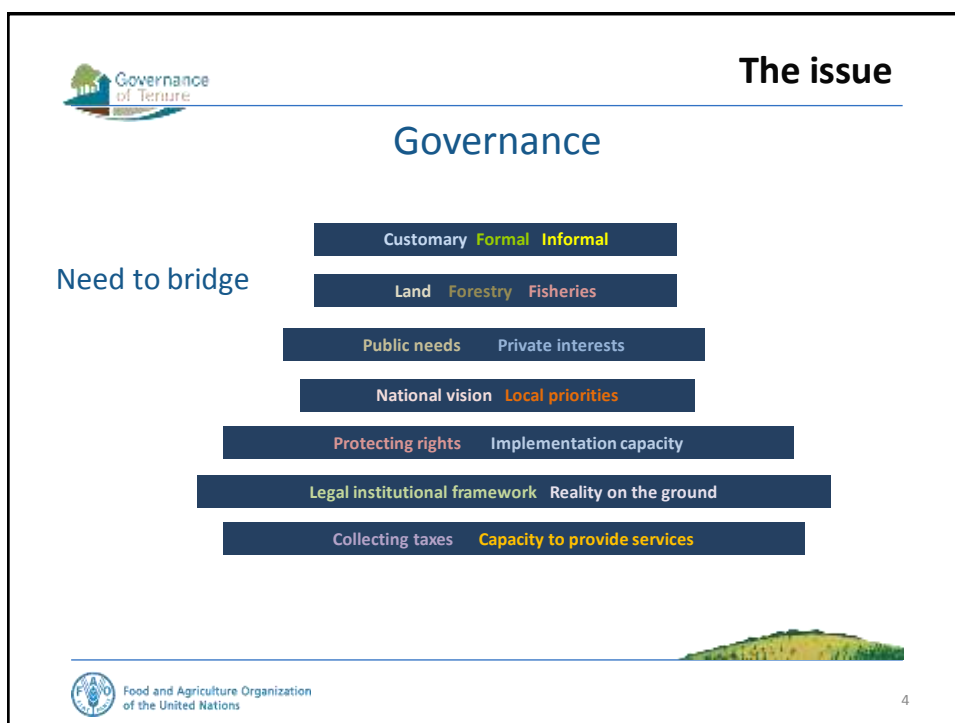
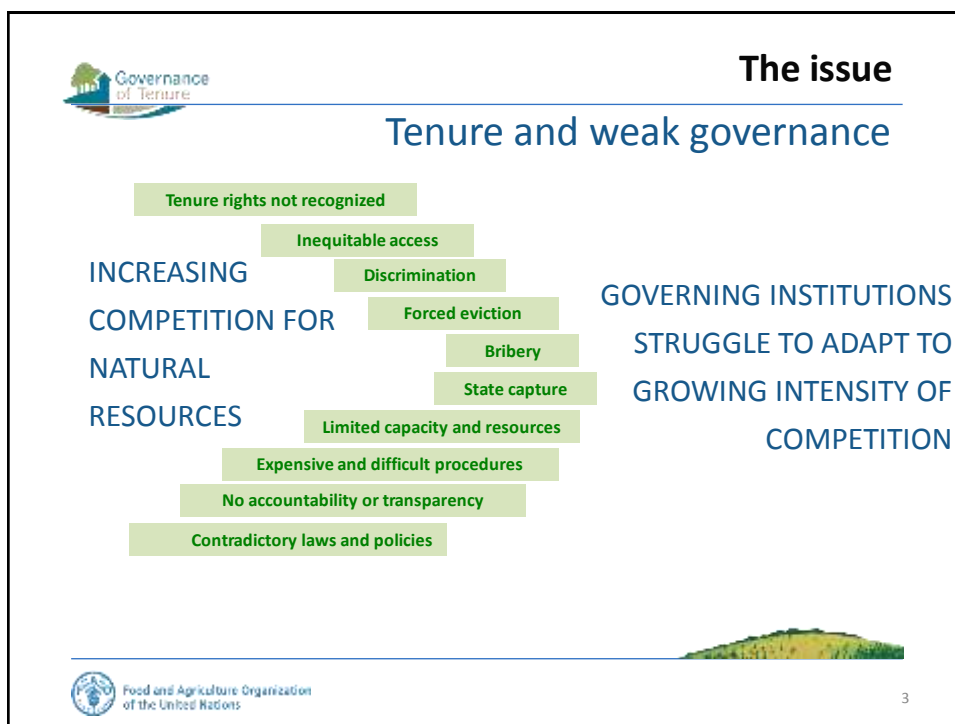
Tenure is how people gain access to land, fisheries, forests and other natural resources. Having secure and equitable access to natural resources can allow people to produce food for their consumption and to increase income. Inadequate and insecure tenure rights to natural resources often result in extreme poverty and hunger.

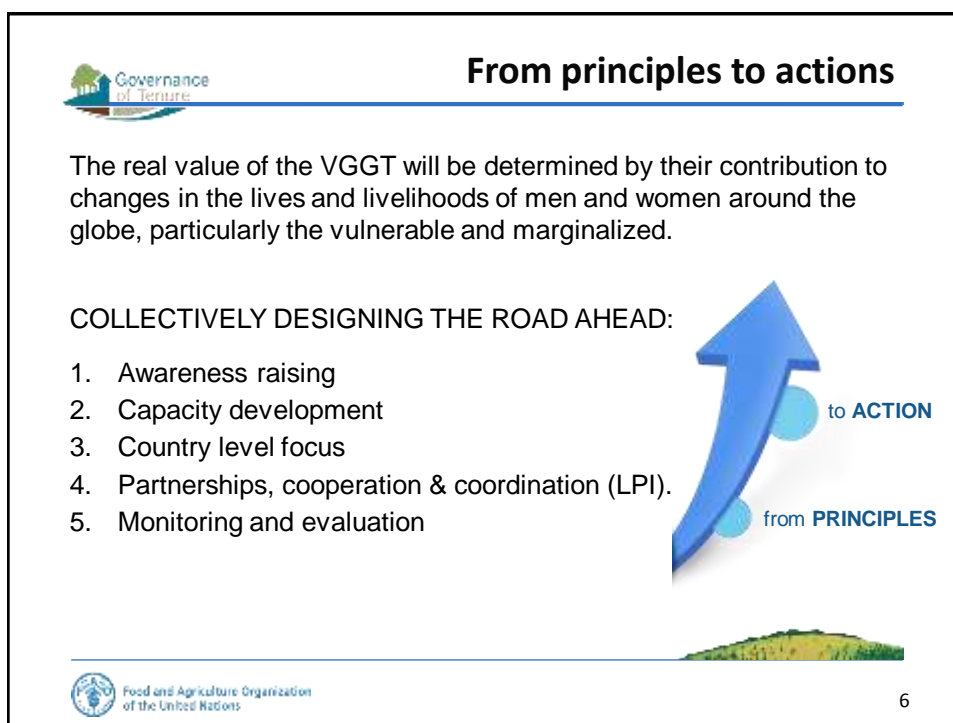
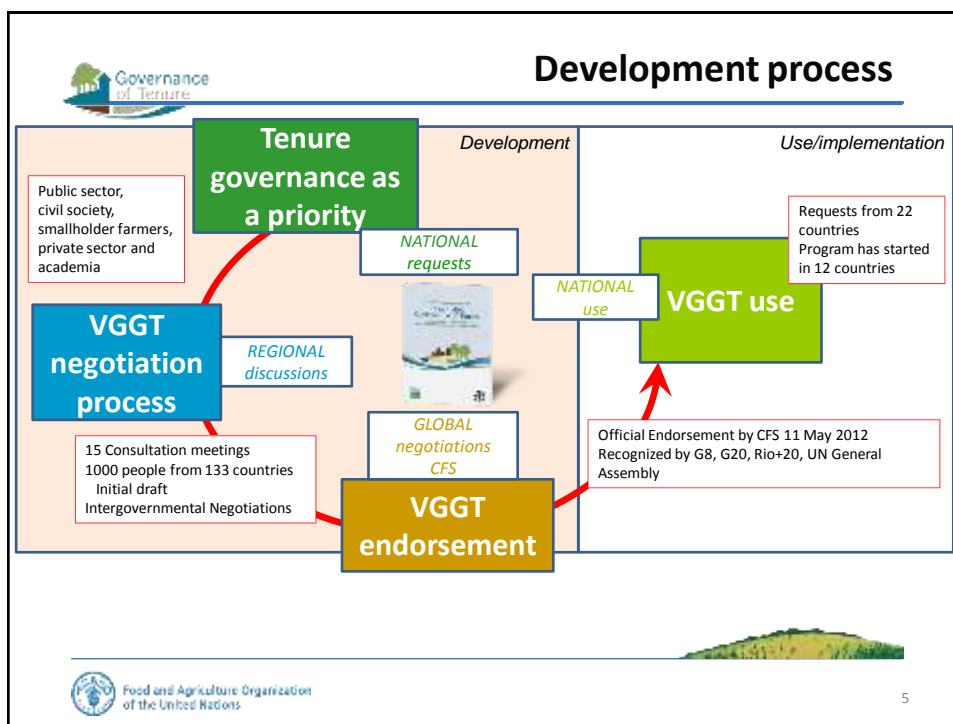


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## From principles to actions

Stakeholders should REACT:

**R** = Recognize & Respect legitimate Rights

**E** = Equality & non-discrimination

**A** = Administer efficiently & ethically

**C** = Consultation & participation

**T** = Transparency & accountability



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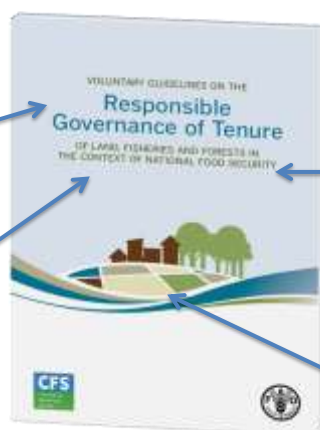
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## What are the Guidelines about?

The first  
**international**  
document on  
governance of  
tenure

**Responsible**  
governance is  
about doing the  
right things and  
doing them well



A reference to  
improve governance  
of tenure.

A **Consensus** on  
existing practices



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## What is tenure about!

**How people get access to natural resources.**

Who can use what resources, for how long, and under what conditions

Apply in **national context**



**Focus on land, fisheries and forests**

**Consider all forms of tenure:**

Public, private, communal, collective, indigenous and customary.

Ownership and other rights to use the natural resources

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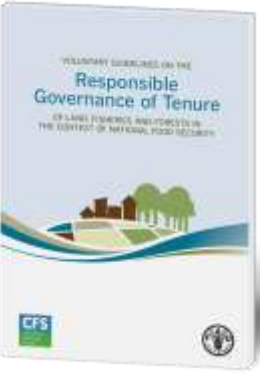
## What do Guidelines do?

On a **voluntary** basis, the VGGT...

...establish principles

...give references

...contribute to the development of political, legal and administrative frameworks



The VGGT can be **used by all people and organizations, in all countries**

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## What do the Guidelines NOT do?

They are not compulsory.

They are not legally binding.

They don't undermine or limit any legal obligations.



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## Getting to know how to USE the Guidelines

Purpose

Principles

Actions



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## What is the PURPOSE of the Guidelines

To improve governance of tenure, **for the benefit of all people** and with an **emphasis on people who are vulnerable and marginalized...**

...to contribute to **food security, sustainable development** and **environmental management...**

... by: Strengthening transparency,  
Protecting legitimate tenure rights (not recognized in formal law but recognized by society),  
Improving political, legal and institutional frameworks.

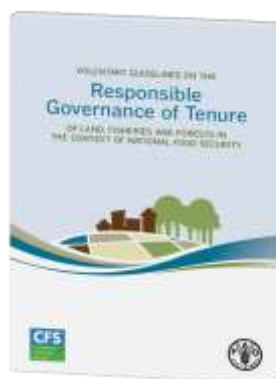
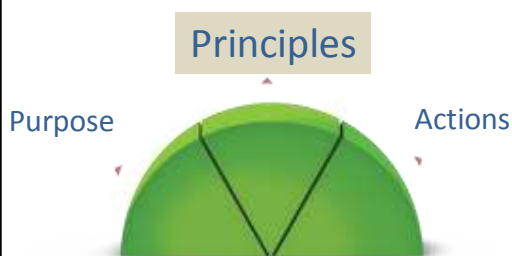


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## Knowing what PRINCIPLES to USE



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General principles for non-State actors	General principles for all
<p><b>Avoid infringement...</b></p> <p><b>Prevent adverse impacts...</b></p> <p><b>Provide ways to remedy adverse impacts...</b></p> <p><b>Identify and assess impacts of actions...</b></p> <p><b>...on human rights and legitimate tenure rights</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Human dignity</li> <li>○ Non-discrimination</li> <li>○ Equity and justice</li> <li>○ Gender equality</li> <li>○ Holistic and sustainable approaches</li> <li>○ Consultation and participation</li> <li>○ Rule of law</li> <li>○ Transparency</li> <li>○ Accountability</li> <li>○ Continuous improvement</li> </ul>

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## Tools for actors in countries

- States
- Courts and government agencies
- People and communities
- Civil society
- Investors
- Professionals
- University and academia



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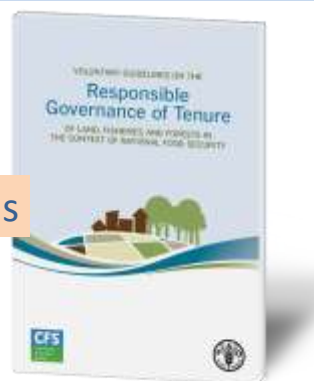
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## Knowing what ACTIONS to TAKE



Actions



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### What actions to take

#### Tenure rights and responsibilities

- Provide ways to resolve disputes
- Remove discrimination
- Recognize and protect tenure rights

#### Policy, legal and organizational frameworks

- Review and revise frameworks
- Coordinate between agencies
- Address obstacles faced by women

#### Delivery of services

- All should work to prevent corruption
- Services should be available to all
- Staff should have the resources and training

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### What actions to take

#### Part 3: Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights

- Safeguards
- Public lands, fisheries and forests
- Indigenous peoples and customary tenure
- Informal tenure

#### Part 4: Transfers and other changes to tenure rights

- Markets
- Investments
- Land consolidation
- Restitution
- Redistributive reforms
- Expropriation

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3A General principles	3	• Resolution of disputes
3B Principles of implementation	4	• Trans boundary matters
4. Rights and responsibilities related to tenure	6	
5. Policy, legal and organizational frameworks related to tenure	7	<b>Part 6: Responses to climate change and emergencies</b>
6. Delivery of services	9	• Policies and laws on tenure should address climate change
<b>3 Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties</b>	<b>11</b>	• Tenure should be addressed in natural disaster work
7. Safeguards	11	• Work on tenure should support peaceful solutions in order to avoid or mitigate conflicts
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1. Objectives	1	• In accordance with the voluntary nature of the VGGT, States have the responsibility for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
2. Nature and scope	2	• Development partners UN specialized agencies and regional organizations are encouraged to support voluntary efforts by States.
<b>2 General matters</b>	<b>3</b>	• All parties, including civil society organizations and the private sector are also encouraged to play a key role to promote and implement the VGGT.
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## Who can use the VGGT?

**A useful tool for all stakeholder groups**

- Civil society
- Communities
- Policy makers
- Investors
- Academia
- Administrators
- Government agencies
- Professionals
- Courts
- University

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## Who is calling for implementation?

- CFS  
Committee on World Food Security
- GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
- 2013 BERLIN AGRICULTURE SUMMIT
- RIO+20  
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE
- G8 Lough Erne 2013
- act:onaid
- G2012 MEXICO

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## Who is using it in their own programs?



THE WORLD BANK



USAID  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Oxfam  
International



PEPSICO

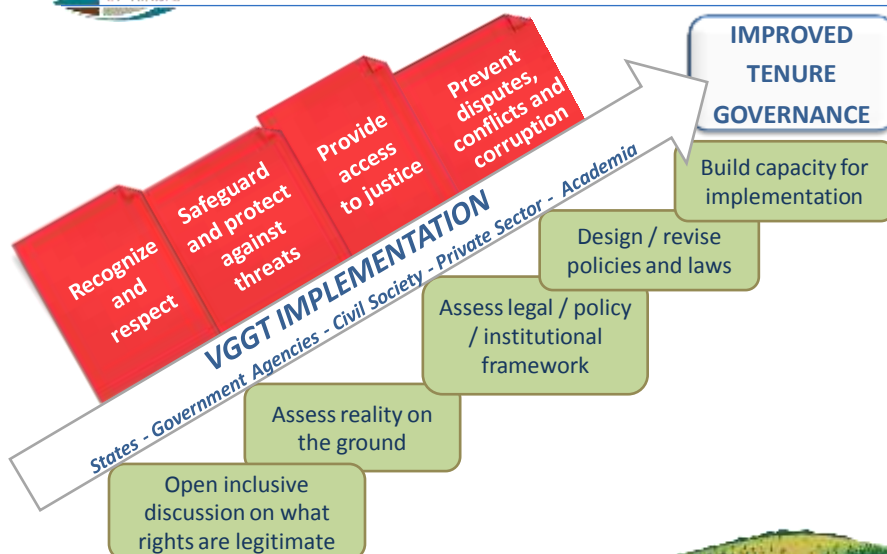


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## VGGT as a National Tool: relevant entry points



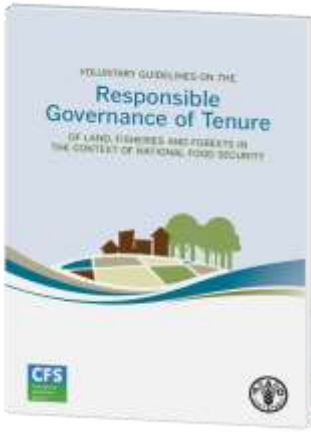
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## How is FAO supporting the VGGT?

### *Implementation programme – 5 pillars*






- Awareness raising
- Capacity development
- Support to countries
- Partnerships
- Monitoring



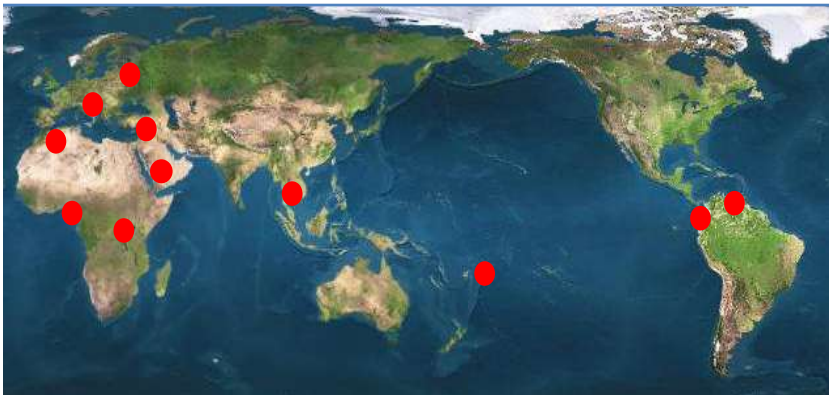
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## 1. Awareness raising

### *11 Regional WSs & numerous national WSs*



**Plus:** Conferences, meetings, briefings, website, newsletter, technical journals, TV and radio interviews, promotional videos, etc.



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## 2. Capacity development:

*The “package”*



**Technical guides**

**Capacity development materials**

**Learning programs (country based)**

**A growing suite of resources to support the implementation of the VGGT...**



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## 2. Capacity development:

*Technical Guides*



### Available/Forthcoming

1. Gender
2. Governance of forest tenure
3. FPIC
4. Governance of small scale fisheries tenure
5. Agricultural Investments

### Underway

6. Legal implications
7. Pastoralism & Rangelands
8. Tenure of commons
9. Enabling technologies
10. Private sector
11. Registration



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**Governance of Tenure**

## 2. Capacity development:

**E-learning Curriculum**

**Manual for Civil Society Organizations**

**Thematic training materials**

*Other materials*



**Learning Programmes and Events**

**VGGT learning programmes**


**CSO capacity development**





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**Governance of Tenure**

## 2. Capacity development:

- Introduction to the responsible governance of tenure
- Addressing disputes and conflicts over the tenure of natural resources
- Addressing corruption in the tenure of land, fisheries and forests
- Tenure issues in the context of natural disasters
- Making tenure rights more secure
- Planning and administering for better governance of tenure
- Markets and investments
- Assessing country situation with respect to the VGGT
- Monitoring and promoting policy change
- Gender and land


**E-learning**

Available in English,  
French and Spanish

Coming soon

Coming later

[www.fao.org/nr/tenure/  
e-learning](http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/e-learning)



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## 2. Capacity development:

### *VGGT Learning Programmes*

FAO will be delivering a series of **Learning Programmes** in 2015-16 specific to the Voluntary Guidelines (Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mongolia and Nepal).

Targeted at **country actors** engaged in various aspects of the VGGT.



Four comprehensive VGGT learning programmes are planned covering the topics from the e-learning curriculum.

Two theme-based learning programmes are planned based on the thematic guides on Gender and FIPIC.



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## 2. Capacity development:

### *Overview per country*

VGGT CD country support (2014-16)	VGGT learning program	Gender and land learning program	CSO learning program	FPIC training
Ethiopia	X	X	X	
Liberia	X	X		X
Malawi			X	
Niger			X	
Senegal			X	
Sierra Leone	X	X		
South Africa		X	X	
Mongolia	X	X		
Myanmar			X	
Nepal	X	X	X	
Guatemala			X	



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### 3. Support to countries

**Africa Region** – Support to AU/UNECA/AfDB Land Policy Initiative (SDC & EU)

**Pan-African** support; **EU10-country** transversal support;  
Plus implementation in Kenya & Somalia

**Sierra Leone** – Multi-sector (Germany)

Legal Framework Assessment; Land Administration; Fisheries & Aquaculture; Forestry; Right to food.

**Nigeria & Uganda** (DfID)

Open source software / Governance of Tenure / community forest tenure

**China**

Awareness & extraterritorial investment

**Ethiopia** (Italy)

Strengthening Capacities and Procedures in State Land Lease Management.

**Others:**

World Bank: in Europe and Central Asia (36 countries)

Western Balkan Project – reform teams & training on Gender T.G. (6 countries)

LGAF testing for VGGT M&E in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and the Philippines

Innovation grants – gender data disaggregation; IT system spatial data acquisition (6 countries).

FAO Technical Cooperation Programme: Bhutan, Namibia, Philippines,

SOLA implementation in Lesotho, Nepal, Nigeria (7 states), Samoa, Tonga



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### Integrated with other FAO initiatives



Voluntary Guidelines  
for Securing Sustainable Small-scale  
Fisheries  
in the Context of  
Food Security  
and Poverty Eradication

*Adopted 10 June 2014*

CFS Principles for Responsible Investment  
in Agriculture and  
Food Systems



*Adopted 15 October 2014*



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 **Partnerships**

  
 United Nations  
Economic Commission  
for Africa  
**Africa LPI**

  
**CFS**  
 Committee on  
World Food  
Security

  
**THE WORLD BANK**

  
**FIAN**  
 25th Anniversary  
 1990-2015

  
**FIG**

  
**IFAD**  
 Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

















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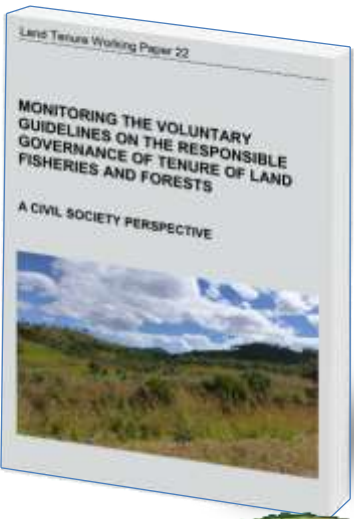
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 **5. Monitoring**

  
**CFS**  
 Committee on  
World Food  
Security

  
**LGAF  
(testing)**

  
**GDWGL**



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## Regional issues related to land

- Land fragmentation
- Small farm sizes
- Unfinished land reforms (restitution, privatization)
- Deficient land and property administration
- Complicated and costly transaction procedures
- Deficient rural land markets, etc.



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## Regional issues related to land

Approaches to resolve the above may also create new problems in relation with the VGGT:

- Land consolidation programs/strategies
- Farmer or producer associations (“soft” land consolidation)
- Reforms of the legal and institutional framework (e.g. for facilitating the land market)
- Direct foreign investment in agriculture



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## Open questions

- What role the Voluntary Guidelines could take in your country/ work?
- What entry points exist for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines?
- What immediate and long term actions could be undertaken to improve governance of tenure/ implement the Voluntary Guidelines?



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## Thank you for your attention

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