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Introduction to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the context of National Food Security (VGGTs)

Regional Workshop for Civil Society Organizations on the Implementation of the VGGTs in Europe and Central Asia

12-13 December 2016 – Budapest, Hungary

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

1



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.

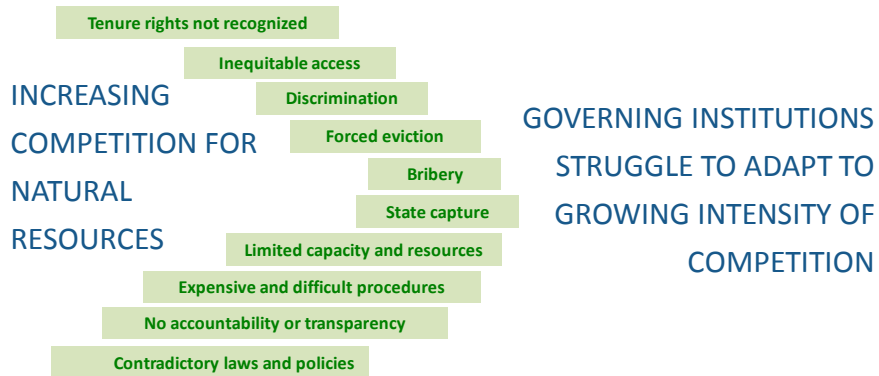
Inadequate and insecure tenure rights to natural resources often result in extreme poverty and hunger.



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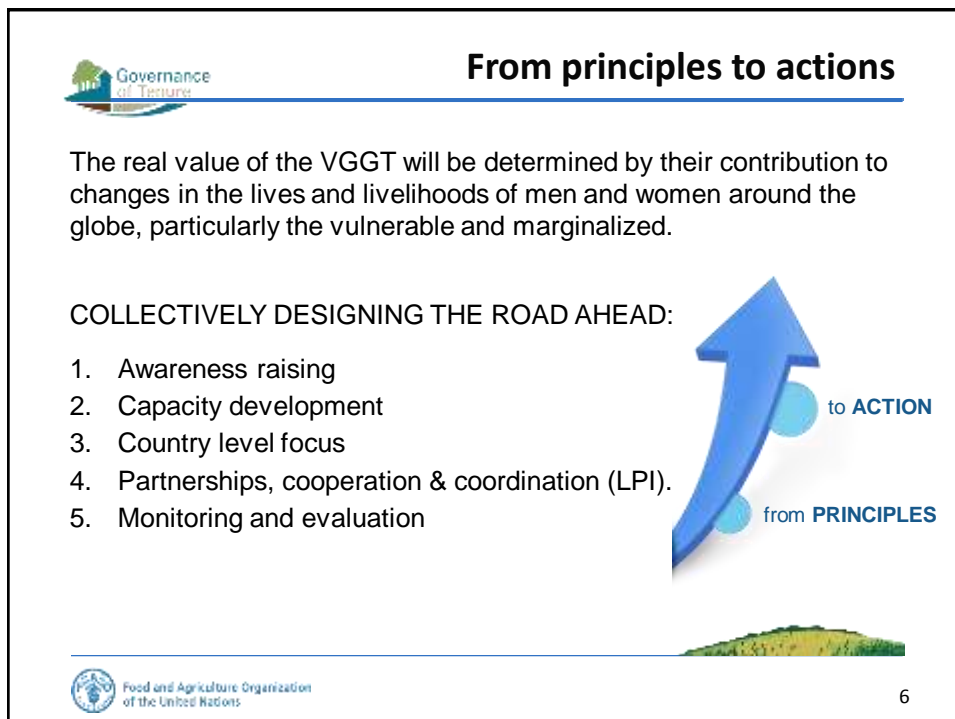
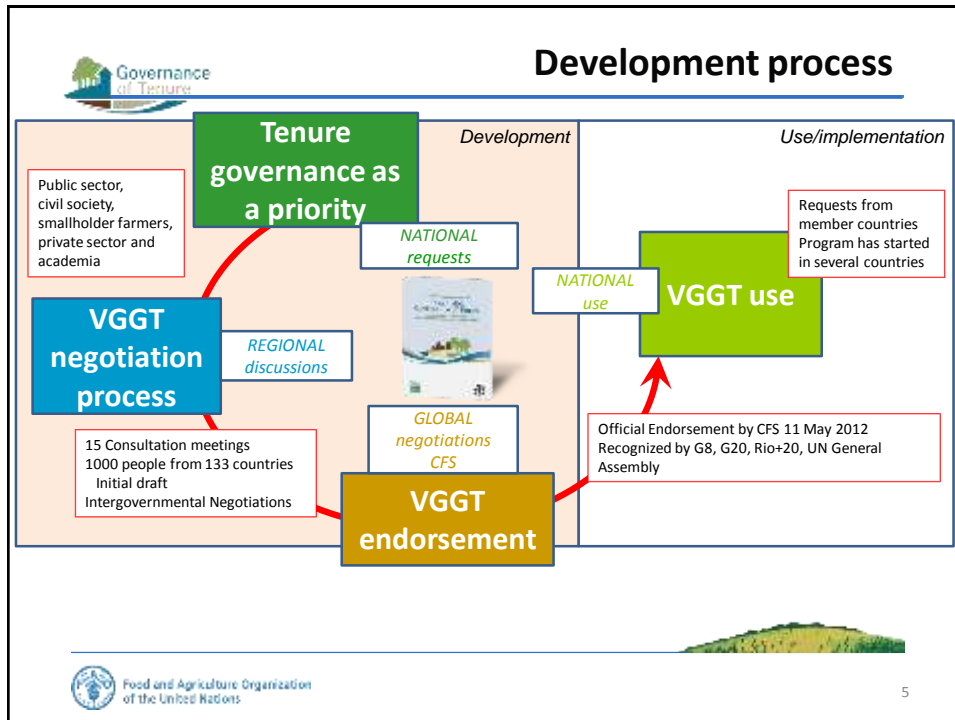
2

Tenure and weak governance



Governance

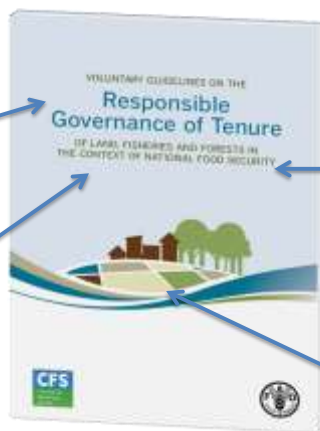




What are the Guidelines about?

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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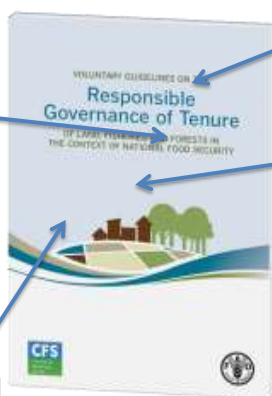
7

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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8

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**

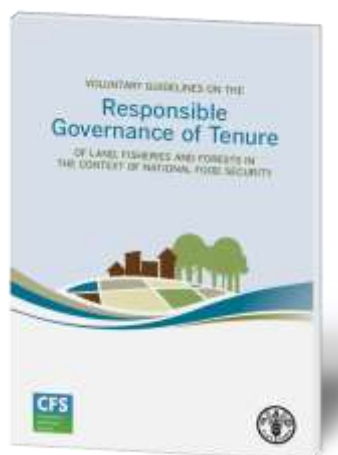


What do the Guidelines NOT do?

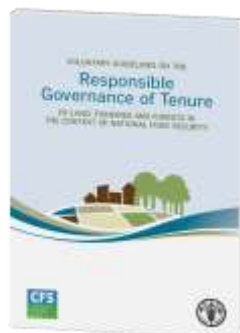
They are not compulsory.

They are not legally
binding.

They don't undermine or
limit any legal obligations.



Getting to know how to USE the Guidelines



What is the PURPOSE of the Guidelines

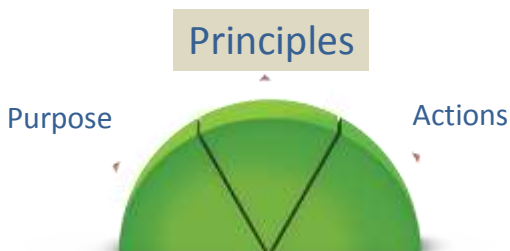
To improve governance of tenure, **for the benefit of all people** and with an **emphasis on people who are vulnerable and marginalized...**

...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.



Knowing what PRINCIPLES to USE



Contents

PREFACE	iv
1 Preliminary	1
1. Objectives	1
2. Nature and scope	2
2 General matters	3
3. Guiding principles of responsible tenure governance	3
3A General principles	3
3B Principles of implementation	4
4. Rights and responsibilities related to tenure	6
5. Policy, legal and organizational frameworks related to tenure	7
6. Delivery of services	9
3 Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties	11
7. Safeguards	11
8. Public land, fisheries and forests	12
9. Indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems	14
10. Informal tenure	16
4 Transfers and other changes to tenure rights and duties	19
11. Markets	19
12. Investments	20
13. Land consolidation and other readjustment approaches	23
14. Restitution	25
15. Redistributive reforms	25
16. Expropriation and compensation	27
5 Administration of tenure	29
17. Records of tenure rights	29
18. Valuation	30
19. Taxation	31
20. Regulated spatial planning	32
21. Resolution of disputes over tenure rights	33
22. Transboundary matters	33
6 Responses to climate change and emergencies	35
23. Climate change	35
24. Natural disasters	36
25. Conflicts in respect to tenure of land, fisheries and forests	37
7 Promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation	39

General principles for States


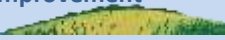
Recognize and respect
legitimate tenure rights and people who hold them


Safeguard and protect against threats
legitimate tenure rights

Promote enjoyment
of legitimate tenure rights

Provide access to justice
in case of violation of legitimate tenure rights

Prevent disputes, conflicts and corruption

General principles for non-State actors	General principles for all
<p>Avoid infringement...</p> <p>Prevent adverse impacts...</p> <p>Provide ways to remedy adverse impacts...</p> <p>Identify and assess impacts of actions...</p> <p>...on human rights and legitimate tenure rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Human dignity ○ Non-discrimination ○ Equity and justice ○ Gender equality ○ Holistic and sustainable approaches ○ Consultation and participation ○ Rule of law ○ Transparency ○ Accountability ○ Continuous improvement
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	 15



Tools for actors in countries

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



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 16

Knowing what ACTIONS to TAKE



Contents

PREFACE	iv
1 Preliminary	1
1. Objectives	1
2. Nature and scope	2
2 General matters	3
3. Guiding principles of responsible tenure governance	3
3A. General principles	3
3B. Principles of implementation	4
4. Rights and responsibilities related to tenure	6
5. Policy, legal and organizational frameworks related to tenure	7
6. Delivery of services	9
3 Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties	11
7. Safeguards	11
8. Public land, fisheries and forests	12
9. Indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems	14
10. Informal tenure	16
4 Transfers and other changes to tenure rights and duties	19
11. Markets	19
12. Investments	20
13. Land consolidation and other readjustment approaches	23
14. Restitution	25
15. Redistributive reforms	25
16. Expropriation and compensation	27
5 Administration of tenure	29
17. Records of tenure rights	29
18. Valuation	30
19. Taxation	31
20. Regulated spatial planning	32
21. Resolution of disputes over tenure rights	33
22. Transboundary matters	33
6 Responses to climate change and emergencies	35
23. Climate change	35
24. Natural disasters	36
25. Conflicts in respect to tenure of land, fisheries and forests	37
7 Promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation	39

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

Contents

PREFACE	iv
1 Preliminary	1
1. Objectives	1
2. Nature and scope	2
2 General matters	3
3. Guiding principles of responsible tenure governance	3
3A General principles	3
3B Principles of implementation	4
4. Rights and responsibilities related to tenure	6
5. Policy, legal and organizational frameworks related to tenure	7
6. Delivery of services	9
3 Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties	11
7. Safeguards	11
8. Public land, fisheries and forests	12
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10. Informal tenure	16
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11. Markets	19
12. Investments	20
13. Land consolidation and other readjustment approaches	23
14. Restitution	25
15. Redistributive reforms	25
16. Expropriation and compensation	27
5 Administration of tenure	29
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18. Valuation	30
19. Taxation	31
20. Regulated spatial planning	32
21. Resolution of disputes over tenure rights	33
22. Transboundary matters	33
6 Responses to climate change and emergencies	35
23. Climate change	35
24. Natural disasters	36
25. Conflicts in respect to tenure of land, fisheries and forests	37
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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



19

Contents

PREFACE	iv
1 Preliminary	1
1. Objectives	1
2. Nature and scope	2
2 General matters	3
3. Guiding principles of responsible tenure governance	3
3A General principles	3
3B Principles of implementation	4
4. Rights and responsibilities related to tenure	6
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3 Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties	11
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11. Markets	19
12. Investments	20
13. Land consolidation and other readjustment approaches	23
14. Restitution	25
15. Redistributive reforms	25
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18. Valuation	30
19. Taxation	31
20. Regulated spatial planning	32
21. Resolution of disputes over tenure rights	33
22. Transboundary matters	33
6 Responses to climate change and emergencies	35
23. Climate change	35
24. Natural disasters	36
25. Conflicts in respect to tenure of land, fisheries and forests	37
7 Promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation	39



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What actions to take

Part 5: Administration of tenure

- Records of rights
- Valuation
- Taxation
- Regulated spatial planning
- Resolution of disputes
- Trans boundary matters

Part 6: Responses to climate change and emergencies

- Policies and laws on tenure should address climate change
- Tenure should be addressed in natural disaster work
- Work on tenure should support peaceful solutions in order to avoid or mitigate conflicts



20

Contents

PREFACE	iv
1 Preliminary	1
1. Objectives	1
2. Nature and scope	2
2 General matters	3
3. Guiding principles of responsible tenure governance	3
3A. General principles	3
3B. Principles of implementation	4
4. Rights and responsibilities related to tenure	6
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5 Administration of tenure	29
17. Records of tenure rights	29
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19. Taxation	31
20. Regulated spatial planning	32
21. Resolution of disputes over tenure rights	33
22. Transboundary matters	33
6 Responses to climate change and emergencies	35
23. Climate change	35
24. Natural disasters	36
25. Conflicts in respect to tenure of land, fisheries and forests	37
7 Promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation	39



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What actions to take

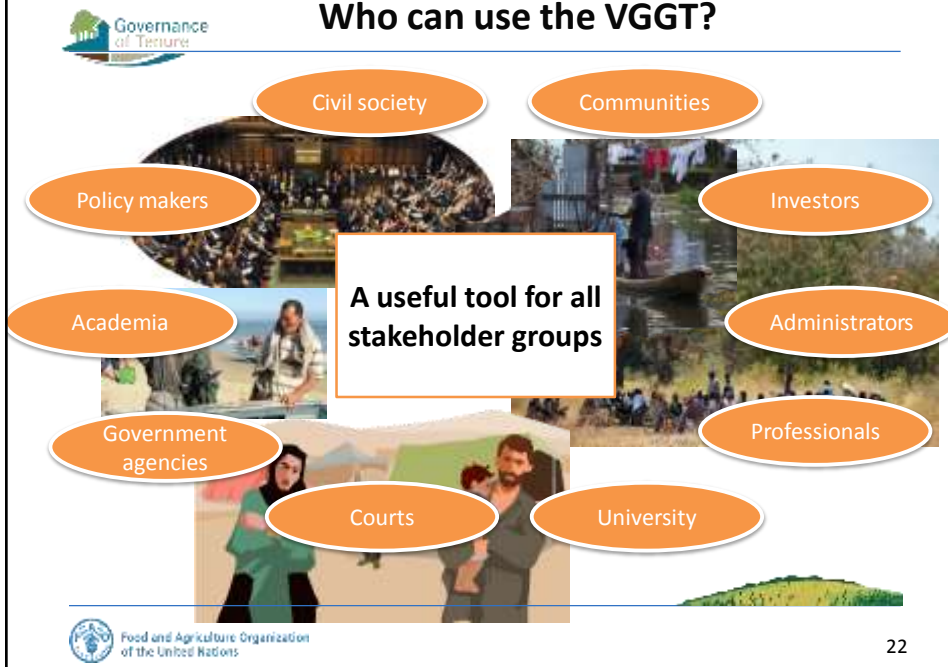
Part 7: Promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

- In accordance with the voluntary nature of the VGGT, States have the responsibility for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Development partners UN specialized agencies and regional organizations are encouraged to support voluntary efforts by States.
- All parties, including civil society organizations and the private sector are also encouraged to play a key role to promote and implement the VGGT.



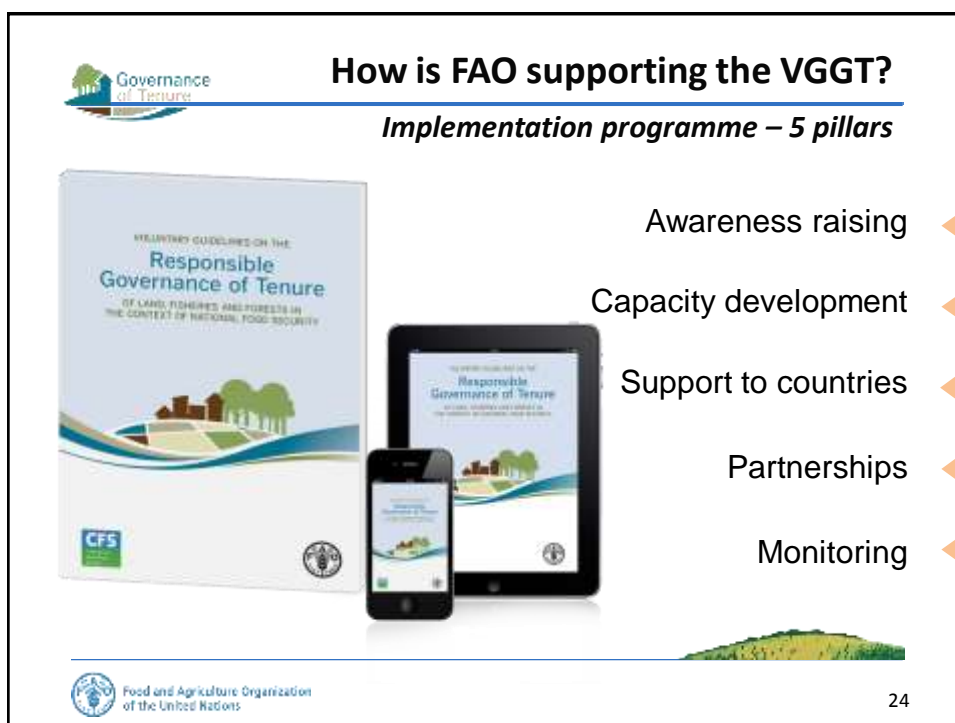
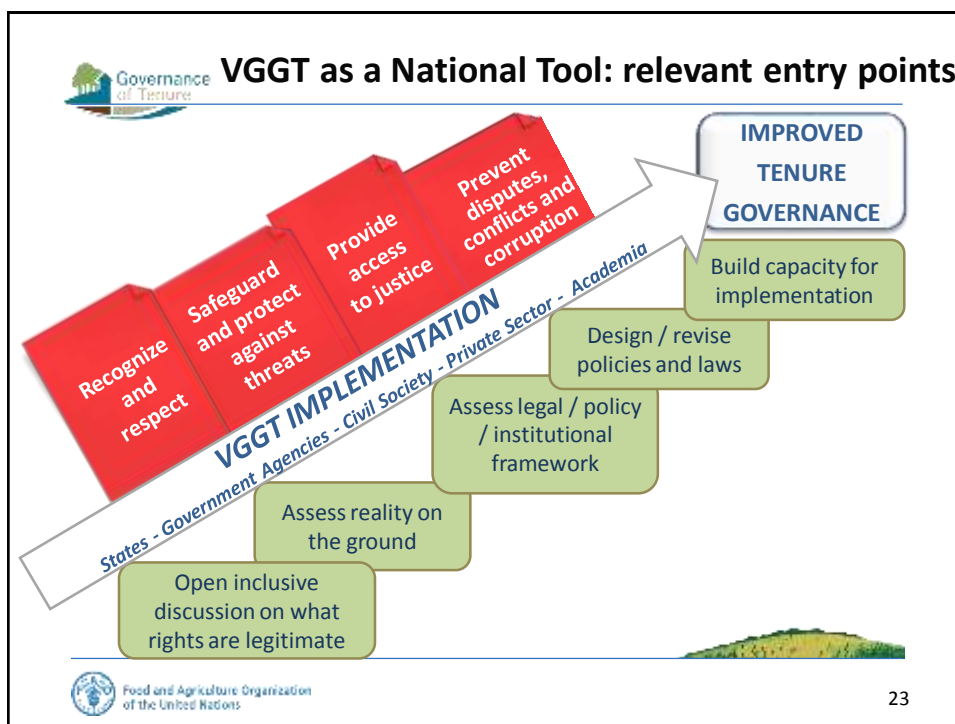
21

Who can use the VGGT?



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22





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