



## After Senegal and Mauritania, *Welcome to the Gambia!* The national launch workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land

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# Welcome to the Gambia!

After Senegal and Mauritania, The Gambia has organized its national launch workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land. It brought together 107 people from various organizations: farmers' associations, fishermen, livestock breeders, traditional leaders, regional administrators, civil society, representatives from the Ministry of lands and Regional Administration and from the Ministry of Agriculture, technical and financial partners. Almost 20% of participants were women.

During that meeting, a general observation on the need to integrate the principles of the voluntary guidelines in order to build a real action plan for their implementation was made by the various stakeholders.

The importance of raising awareness among the different stakeholders in the political process has also been reminded. Indeed, the Voluntary Guidelines can help improve access of small farmers to land and secure their tenure rights, in developing countries. The inclusion of guidelines into national policies and practices is also a precondition. Setting up platforms for multi-stakeholder political dialogue or strengthening the existing ones will also help to create an environment conducive to the promotion and integration of the Voluntary Guidelines in public policies.

In this issue, the stakeholders' capacity building in the Voluntary Guidelines is also dealt with especially for journalists. This accounts for the training workshop for the Senegalese press stakeholders on the Governance of Tenure of Land and the Guidelines, organized by the CNCR and IPAR in partnership with Action Aid and GRET.



A series of meetings with technical and financial partners in Mauritania has also given rise to new perspectives on the operationalization of the Voluntary Guidelines and their ownership by the baseline stakeholders. Finally, we will cover in this newsletter, the Land Governance in Madagascar.

Enjoy your reading!

## In Gambia



# Launch and information-sharing workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines

## 1 to 4 September 2014



That workshop marked the launch of the dissemination and implementation project of the VGs in The Gambia supported by The National Coordinating Organization for Farmers Association in The Gambia, (NACOFAG). The objective was to share key information on the project with all stakeholders and identify practical arrangements for the dissemination of VGs in The Gambia. It was specifically to share:



National Workshop Voluntary Guidelines launch in Gambia

- A shared understanding of the project between the different categories of stakeholders;
- The definition of objectives, expected results, the implementation strategy and the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder;
- The dissemination of the principles governing the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF)
- Ensuring that institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other key partners can use the Voluntary Guidelines for the organization and / or contribution to dialogue platforms on Land policies in order to improve the land status for small farmers and vulnerable groups;
- The recognition and legitimation of the bodies coordinating and managing the project.

## In Gambia



# Launch and information-sharing workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines 1 to 4 September 2014

## A few words from participants



**Al. Ebrima A.T. Jammeh,**  
chief of upper Baddibou  
and Secretary

*«I would like to appeal to funding agencies to consider the extension and expansion, sharing and dissemination of Land Governance issues by creating synergies between members of the National Assembly and all stakeholders in the country: women, leaders of peasant farmers, journalists, Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries public etc.»*



**Lamine Sanneh PS,**  
Minister of lands, governance  
and regional integration

*«According to Mr. Lamin Sanneh, the Project for the dissemination of guidelines was designed to build on the results for the application of the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) and will focus on improving the livelihoods of small farmers through the inclusion of the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, fisheries and Forests in policies and practice. This project is run in four West African countries (The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal), which share many similarities and show favorable conditions for change in Land Governance issues.»*



**Mme Mariatou Njie,**  
Deputy Representative of FAO

*«FAO, for its part will be instrumental in facilitating the establishment of farms and agricultural facilities in forest areas. Mrs Njie informed the audience that the FAO has actively participated in many consultations that led to the development of the main document on the Voluntary Guidelines and their worldwide adoption.»*



The Honorary President of ROPPA first thanked the Gambian government for the creation of an environment conducive to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines. According to Mr CISSOKO **«we have heard people talking about the abundance of land unsuitable for agriculture, giving the southern part of The Gambia as example. We must be aware that the land available since the time of our grandparents have never increased, contrary to the population and the use of land which are increasing exponentially.»**

He called on all stakeholders to continue the dialogue in order to raise public awareness, identify the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder which plays an important role in the process. The success and continuity of the program depend on the full responsibility of stakeholders with the full support of the multi-stakeholder National Committee which will be set up.



According to Mr Camara , the Voluntary Guidelines are based on the following general principles:

- Recognize and respect all legitimate tenure rights holders;
- Encourage the promotion, access to justice to allow the handling, prevention of Land conflicts;
- Respect human dignity by recognizing the intrinsic characteristics of equal opportunities, justice, gender equality.

## In Mauritania



# Meetings and events: results and prospects



**P**olicy restitution workshop on LGAF, co-organized by the Mauritanian Government and the World Bank, represented by its Regional Director Vera Songwe, who came from Dakar. The meeting was attended by about thirty participants including members of the government, 5 ministers (Finance, Agriculture, Justice, Economy, Housing), about ten representatives of technical and financial partners (EU, IFAD, FAO, UNDP) and IPAR.

The film prepared by Dr Mamadou Barro, Research Professor at the University of Tuckson and coordinator of LGAF in Mauritania raised the awareness among ministers who attended on the need to continue to improve Land Governance in Mauritania. The Mauritanian authorities have committed to open up the inter-ministerial committee chaired by the Ministry of the Interior to the civil society. This measure was welcomed by donors and experts who attended the meeting.



training of shepherds funded by the Swiss and which backstopping is provided by IPAR;

- Meeting of the IPAR Executive Director with the FAO representative in Nouakchott. The representative pointed out the interest of their institution on issues relating to resilience and agricultural investment. Thematically, FAO focuses on pastoralism before pointing out that the land tenure issue is a matter of security and peace. He expressed interest in benefiting from the support of IPAR, in particular following the presentation of the PREPP program, a project on the

- The Management and Exploitation Company of Diama (SOGED) which is an arm of OMVS (Senegal River Basin Development Organisation) called on IPAR and Dr. Mamadou Barro for the organization of: (i) an internal refresher workshop for its staff on voluntary guidelines (IPAR) and Land Governance and (ii) a sub-regional workshop in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal during the first half of 2015.

- In view of the support plans made by the German government to FAO and IPAR in order to contribute to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines in OMVS countries, the project sponsor has been asked to ensure the availability of policy makers from OMVS member countries. The meeting of the IPAR Executive Director helped to interact with the Mauritanian authorities on the perspectives related to the project.

## In Senegal



# Training of journalists on Land Governance and the Voluntary Guidelines

On 23 and 24 October 2014

**T**he purpose of the workshop was to train journalists on Land Governance issues with a focus on the Voluntary Guidelines.

Basically it was about:

- Informing and raising awareness among journalists on issues of Land Governance in Senegal;

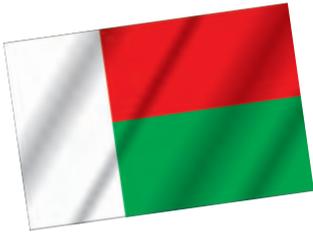
- Sharing with the press actors on Voluntary Guideline principles;
- Develop capacity building on the analysis of investment projects in agriculture, mining, tourism, etc. in light of VGs;
- Analyze the land reform process in Senegal according to VGs.

### Lessons learned

- Press actors are more familiar with the land regulatory and institutional framework issues, and are aware of the context and challenges of public policies as well programs on LandGovernance in Senegal;
- Journalists have acquired the required knowledge to analyze investment projects in agriculture, mining, tourism, etc. according to the VGs;
- Press actors have acquired the necessary knowledge to analyze the ongoing land reform process in Senegal in line with the Guidelines;
- The media undertake to practice the skills acquired during the training and undertaking field reports on land issues.



## Madagascar



# Observatoire land, a tool Decision for State actors, donors and actors civil society

Since 2005, some land reforms have been initiated in Madagascar. Many developments and technical, institutional and moreover legal innovations have been noted. The Observatory on land tenure has been set up in this context and has thus been created "to develop analysis and provide knowledge" leading to greater ownership of reforms that have been taken, a better impact assessment with the development of practical guidance proposals. The Observatory is a decision support tool for state actors, donors and the civil society. Given that Senegal is considering a similar process, it could draw on this experience.



Recently (July 2014), a decree setting the measures for the management of the state private domain was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

This text suspends all assignments of lands in the private State domain until December 31, 2014 and the granting of new tenure rights certificates until the establishment their Communal Planning Scheme (SAC) and their Local Plan of Land Occupation (PLOF) by the related municipalities.

Moreover, a week dedicated to land issues was organized at the beginning of October to bring to the attention of the general public institutional and legal components of land management. It was an excuse to gather ideas in the consolidation of land policy process.

The observatory has set up mapping and statistical tools on land offices in Madagascar, which allowed having data on decentralized land management: Since their setting up, the land offices have granted 106,057 land tenure certificates out of 192,521 requests, including 23,557 land tenure certificates being issued for women.

Website of the Observatory:  
<http://www.observatoire-foncier.mg/>

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### For more information, see:

FAO Voluntary Guidelines portal dedicated to making available a documentary base for people with information resources organized into categories and topics and respectively including:

- Cross issues
- Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of tenure of land
- About Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of tenure of land
- Technical Guidelines on the governance of land tenure systems
- Online Courses

### Topics:

- Land tenure applicable to fisheries
- Land tenure applicable to forests
- Indigenous Peoples and Land tenure
- Gender and Land tenure
- Land tenure applicable to fields
- Legal aspects of the Governance of tenure of land

Follow this link to access the database:  
<http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/information-resources/fr/>

# ABOUT



Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale



**IPAR is a space for reflection, dialogue and proposals for concerted agricultural and rural policies** in Senegal and the West African region. The initiative was prompted by specialists in agriculture and rural areas who have been giving support to farmers' associations and were interested in creating permanent spaces for prospective and strategic thinking.

IPAR missions revolve around three major areas:

- **Research,**
- **Capacity building**
- **Facilitating spaces for discussion and debate.**

The main areas of intervention are demographics, employment and migration, agricultural performance, land and natural resource management, public policies, capacity building and debating.



Plateforme de partage  
sur les Directives Volontaires



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