



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

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The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of  
Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of  
National Food Security (VGGT): 10 Years after their  
endorsement by the CFS  
Global Forum For Food and Agriculture  
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# Overview

- Since the CFS endorsement of the VGGT FAO has led a program to disseminate the VGGT to improve governance of tenure
  - Substantial progress was achieved regarding VGGT awareness-raising in over 78 countries
  - Further commitment to advance the VGGT and stronger collaboration amongst all stakeholders is required.
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# VGGT implementation: focus areas

- **Awareness** raising and VGGT dissemination
  - Embedding VGGT principles in formulation or revision of **policies and laws**.
  - **Capacity development** of stakeholders primarily through multi-stakeholder platforms.
    - Elaboration of capacity development tools and materials (technical guidelines, training courses, documenting best practices, etc.).
    - New approach to securing tenure rights under customary tenure: the application Open Tenure/SOLA.
  - **Addressing global environmental issues** by improving governance of tenure through the VGGT: the UNCCD COP 14 Resolution concerning land degradation neutrality
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## VGGT Up taking/Implementation at Country Level

- Awareness raising and capacity development on the VGGT and land governance carried out in 78 countries.
  - Land policies and programs based on the VGGT elaborated in 34 countries.
  - Land laws and policies based on the VGGT enacted in 9 countries.
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## Results of implementing the VGGTs

- Enacting new laws/legislation or improving existing laws that recognize **women land rights** in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Niger, Senegal, Albania, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia)
  - Recognition of **pastoralist communities land rights** in Nepal, Mongolia and the Sahel river basin countries and **afro-descendant ethnic-territorial rights** in Colombia. Establishment of three transhumance committees in Mauritania
  - Implementation of methodologies for **alternative land disputes resolution** in Tanzania;
  - **Improved process for review and approval of land investments** in Ghana, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Liberia.
  - **Securing youth and women tenure rights under customary systems**, through new innovative methodologies in Sierra Leone and Guatemala;
  - New **land-titling programs** (Colombia and others);
  - Joint administration of national parks territories by the National Parks Agency and indigenous communities in Colombia
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## *Example of policy change: Land Policy Formulation and Instruments for Peaceful Transhumance in Niger*

- National Land Policy formulated in 2019
- The National Transhumance Committee (*Comité National de Transhumance - CNT*) installed in Niger based on Decree (signed by the President).
- A Regional Transhumance Committee (*Comité Régional de Transhumance – CRT*) installed in region of Dosso (to reduce conflicts at the local level and feed the CNT)
- Strengthen capacities of stakeholders in Dosso and Tahoua





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**Example of policy changes: VGGT Special Recognition UNCCD**

**14th  
Session of  
Conference  
of Parties  
(COP 14)**

**New Delhi**

*"Requests the secretariat and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners to collaborate to produce a technical guide on how to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, taking into account national contexts for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session"*



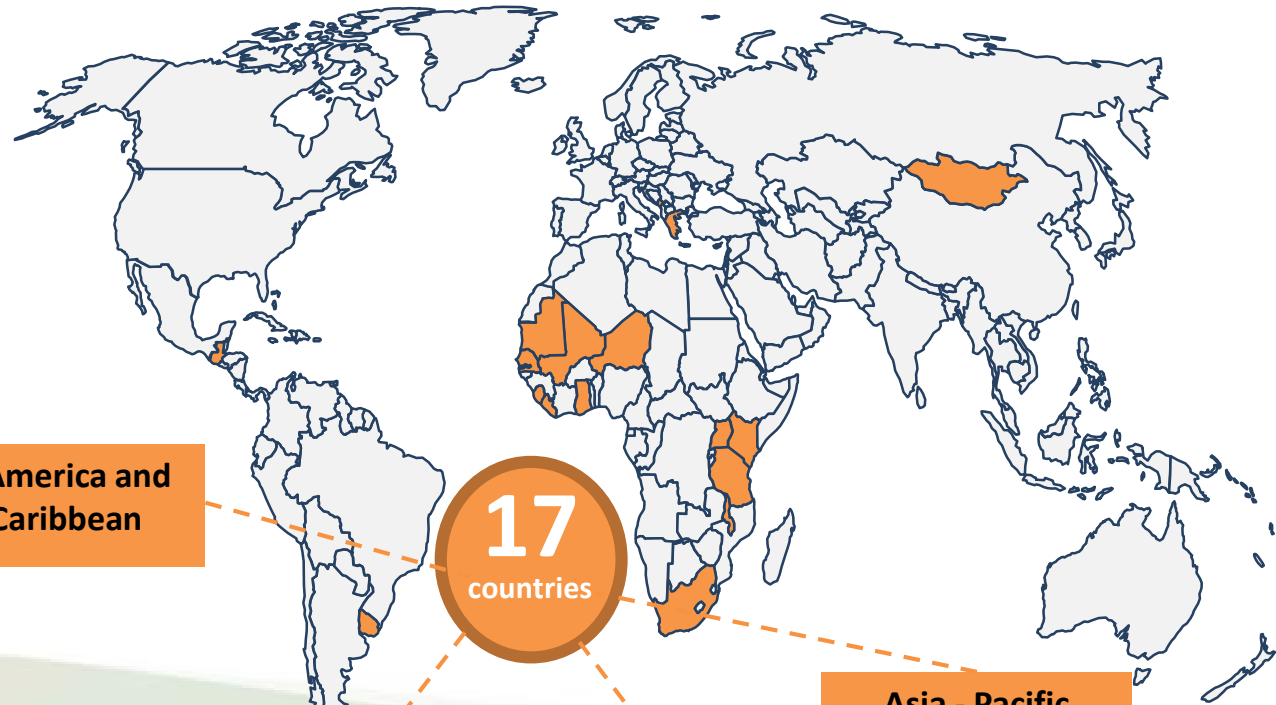






## SUPPORTING MULTI STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

*Advancing the  
establishment of  
national MSP*



**Latin America and  
the Caribbean**

**17**  
countries

**Asia - Pacific**

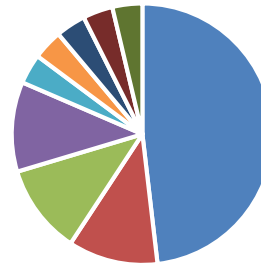
**Africa**

**Europe and  
Central Asia**



# Example of MSP: Diversity and Legitimacy of MSP in Niger: 9 sectors represented

Niger: National Multi-stakeholder Committee in charge of preparing national land policy



- Government
- OSC/ONG
- Farmer/pastoralist/fisher folks org
- Local Aut
- Private Sector
- Academia
- Notaries
- Youth
- Technical/Financial Partners



Strong participation of government  
=> strong buy-in





## New approach to securing land tenure rights based on the VGGT

- Use of new technologies implementing the principles of the VGGT, to produce property maps which are geo-referenced (application Open Tenure/SOLA).
  - Fit-for-purpose application is low cost and easy to use by farmers, particularly by rural youth.
  - Participatory in approach to facilitate conflict prevention/resolution.
  - Inclusive in scope in order to cover all tenure and all lands
  - Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process to engage at the local level
  - It introduces/supports the vision of the sustainable use of natural resources.
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# Examples from countries



## Results:

- **Ghana, Volta river estuary**

NGO and fishermen communities trained to adapt and use OT for securing their traditional rights over the river: 127 fishing farms mapped

- **Sierra Leone**

NGO and local communities trained to adapt OT for the recognition of their customary rights: 11,750 hectares customary tenure rights demarcated, validated and approved by the Ministry of Land, Housing and Environment

- **Guatemala**

NGO, local communities and Academia trained for the recognition of communal land and individual internal land management by community: 554 hectares mapped in 2016 + activities still on going

- **Uganda**

4706 parcels were mapped and 3183 CCOS were validated by Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development

- **Guatemala and Sierra Leone:**

Rural youth mapping their land. Youths trained as para-surveyors ready to map survey the land and collect mapping data.



## Good practices for scaling up VGGT implementation: the way forward

- Multi stakeholder processes through multi stakeholder platforms at country level have been fundamental for the dissemination and up-take of the VGGT by national governments.
  - Capacity development of stakeholders is key and more efforts and resources should be allocated in this area.
  - Changes in policy and legal frameworks is a mid to long term process which requires sustained technical support over time.
  - New technologies may be leveraged to facilitate and scale up the legal recognition of tenure rights particularly under customary tenure.
  - Integrating land tenure into land degradation neutrality and climate change mitigation/adaptation
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## Conclusions

- We are not achieving change at the scale required to fulfil the ambition of the SDGs.
  - The celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the VGGT is a unique opportunity to reaffirm commitments to securing equitable land tenure and to promote the required changes at scale.
  - In order to do that FAO considers that some key actions are necessary:
    - a) **Reaffirm** the commitment of all actors on promoting and supporting the VGGT;
    - b) **Increase the coordination and collaboration** between all actors at each country to promote change at scale;
    - c) **Promote an evidence-based assessment** of the trends on land tenure, giving visibility to the challenges and best practices
    - d) **Mainstream the VGGT in other strategies**, policies and programmes, such as rural poverty eradication, climate change adaptation and COVID-19 recovery.
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**Thank you**

