Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
in the context of national food security

Dr. Babette Wehrmann
Senior Land Tenure Officer
FAO

ACCESS TO LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS
INCLUDING ALL TYPES OF LAND USES

THE CHALLENGE

Increasing demand for land and nat. resources
Decreasing supply of land and nat. resources

Increasing competition for land and natural resources

Unsecure access to land and other natural resources

Lack of financial and human capacity in the administration and management of resources

Inefficient / not adopted approaches and technologies in the administration and management of resources

Bureaucratic and political corruption in the administration and management of resources

Resource degradation, hunger, poverty...
THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
in the Context of National Food Security

Principles and internationally accepted practices to guide the preparation and implementation of policies, laws and actions related to tenure governance.

... set out principles
... provide a benchmark
... are voluntary
... do not replace laws or treaties

CONTENTS OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES

• The Voluntary Guidelines comprise issues such as:
  - Recognition and registration of legitimate tenure rights
  - Expropriation and compensation
  - Restitution
  - Spatial planning, land consolidation, land readjustment
  - Valuation and taxation
  - Markets and investments
  - Tenure under particular circumstances
    - climate change
    - natural disasters
    - violent conflicts
The Voluntary Guidelines treat all aspects that deal with the administration and management of land and natural resources:
- policies
- legal frame
- procedures and approaches
- methods and technologies
- services
- capacity

CONTENTS OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES

- Part 1: Preliminary
- Part 2: General matters
- Part 3: Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties
- Part 4: Transfers and other changes to tenure rights and duties
- Part 5: Administration of tenure
- Part 6: Responses to climate change and emergencies
- Part 7: Promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
The 5 general principles = the VG in a nutshell

- **RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT** legitimate holders of tenure rights, and their rights.
- **SAFEGUARD** legitimate tenure rights against threats.
- **PROMOTE AND FACILITATE** the enjoyment of legitimate tenure rights.
- **PROVIDE** access to justice to deal with infringements.
- **PREVENT** tenure disputes, conflicts, and opportunities for corruption.

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
in the context of national food security
CONTENTS OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES

Principles of implementation

- Human dignity
- Non-discrimination
- Equity and justice
- Gender equality
- Holistic and sustainable approach
- Consultation and participation
- Rule of law
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Continuous improvement

DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES

2000 onwards
- Research, networking

2009 - 2010
- Consultation

2011: January - June
- Drafting
DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES

2011 - 2012
July, October, March

Negotiations
11 May 2012
Endorsement

Milestone achievement
- Globally relevant, appropriate and accepted text
- Dialogue between global, regional and national actors
- Awareness raising, capacity development, advocacy
- Networks and partnerships
- Momentum

Governance of tenure
is something that a range of actors talk about
At country level:
- Create an inclusive national platform
- Jointly assess the current situation
- Identify and address priorities (e.g. policy and legal framework, procedures, technology, capacity…)
- If appropriate follow a two step approach including short-term measures to stop negative processes immediately and long-term measures to build up systems that prevent future harm in a systematic manner
- Establish monitoring systems

At regional level:
- Create synergies with regional initiatives (e.g. African Land Policy Initiative)
- (Further) develop monitoring systems (e.g. “observatoires” in Africa)

At global level:
- Create partnerships to support efforts at local, national and regional level
- Further develop tools to realize responsible governance of tenure
- Support capacity development
- Support VG Implementation monitoring systems
FAO SUPPORT

Awareness raising
• Dissemination of the VGs making use of printed as well as social media
• Encourage actors to make use of the VGs

Capacity development
• Prepare capacity development material, e.g. e-learning tools
• Prepare technical implementation guides
• Promote best practices and offer innovative approaches
• Mainstream VG in academia

Technical facilitation
• Respond to specific country needs

FAO SUPPORT

Monitoring and evaluation
• Help monitor and evaluate implementation and impacts of VG

Strengthening of partnerships
• Support and promote strong, open and transparent partnerships
• Seek synergy with global and regional initiatives

Promote practical integrated work between multiple sectors and disciplines
Improving Governance of Tenure

Implementation guides

- Translating general principles of the VGs into more **practical mechanisms, processes and actions**
- Useful **tools** for the design of policy and reform processes, for the design of investment projects and for guiding interventions
- Short **reference documents**. To be used by a range of actors. No advocacy document, no research paper
- **Thematic focus**: Fisheries; Forestry; Gender; Indigenous Peoples; Agricultural Investment... (Water)...more to come
JOIN THE PROCESS!

VG Newsletter
Subscribe at: VG-tenure@fao.org

Website
www.fao.org/nr/tenure

Photo Competition

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security