

Protecting customary collective community land rights in Liberia



NGOs and the national land agency tested and refined over 21 months a practical and scalable guideline to enable local communities self-identify – the first step toward gaining collective title to their customary land under Liberia’s new Land Rights Policy

Project duration
1 December 2015
to 1 October 2017

Liberia is still recovering from two civil wars. A crucial element of the Accra Peace Agreement, signed by the warring parties in 2003, was ensuring a more just and equitable process of land reform. The Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) led a multi-stakeholder initiative to test and refine a national guideline for community self-identification in partnership with Liberia’s Land Commission, the Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI), Development Education Network (DEN-L) and Parley Liberia. The guideline is a practical and scalable tool local communities can use to self-identify, which is the first step a community must take to gain collective title to customary land under Liberia’s new Land Rights Policy. This project also built capacity for implementing the guideline and prepared for national adoption and upscaling.





Results

- The project developed and tested a draft guideline in 11 communities in diverse settings, involving 45,000 people and 150,000 hectares.
- It built government and civil society capacity for implementing the guideline in preparation for national adoption and upscaling.
- The project also strengthened relationships between government and civil society organizations and pioneered a successful model for a partnership between communities, civil society organizations and government.
- Through the projects' Advisory Group, it raised awareness about the guideline and the process for achieving collective title to customary lands among civil society organizations, government ministries, international organizations and private sector companies.
- The project contributed to Liberia's Framework for Implementing Collective Tenure Rights Recognition Nation-wide.

For the full story, visit
thetenurefacility.org/projects/liberia



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 of
 The community of
GBAWILIKEN, BARRIBO
 in
NYONKEN ADMINISTRATIVE DIST. MD/CO.
 County
 Signed on: FEBRUARY 3, 2017

We, the Community of Cavalla and its surrounding environment, which includes 12 villages have agreed to identify ourselves with the land tenure project without any form of discrimination or reservation.

We will use and manage our land in accordance with customary practices and norms, more over we support the documentation of customary land endorsed the process of harmonizing boundaries and the formation of a governance structure with full support of protection of land rights for women and strangers.

*GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND SIGNATURES
 THIS 30th DAY OF NOV. A.D 2016 AT THE HOUR
 OF 11:00 A.M.*

“The trust, mutual understanding, and communication channels developed through the pilot project represent major assets for further developing the relationship with CSOs, and jointly move forward in the recognition of community customary lands.”

– Cecil Brandy, Chair of the Liberian Land Authority



the
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FACILITY**

The Tenure Facility is the first and only international, multi-stakeholder institution exclusively focused on securing land and forest rights for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It provides grants to implement tenure reform within existing government and international structures and shares the knowledge, innovations and tools that emerge. Launched in 2014 by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), the Tenure Facility is dedicated to scaling up recognition of collective land and forest rights globally. The Tenure Facility is an international foundation registered in Sweden.

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