

LAND FOR LIFE

Together for people-centered land governance

2022 will be the year full of opportunities.

10 years after the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) by the UN Committee on World Food Security, it is time to take stock and to generate renewed political commitment for progressive land reform. National Multi-Actor Platforms on Land, supported by the Land for Life-Initiative, will assess progress towards responsible land tenure and agree on collective action for the further implementation of the VGGT. Throughout this process and beyond, Land for Life will strengthen its ties with relevant strategic partners, such as the International Land Coalition, FAO and GIZ, to coordinate efforts: pursuing synergies at country-levels to optimize the use of available resources, strengthen the initiated multi-actor platforms and thus provide for an enabling environment to accelerate their impact. The success stories in this newsletter demonstrate: change is possible! Together we can make “Land for Life” a reality.

NEWSLETTER 1/2022

**LOOKING FORWARD:
NEW YEAR NOTE**

**RETROSPECT: A LOOK
BACK AT 2021**

**COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS:
ETHIOPIA
SIERRA LEONE
LIBERIA
BURKINA FASO**

Supported by



ETHIOPIA

Highlight 1: Institutionalization of MAP

In November 2020, Land for Life Ethiopia successfully registered as an independent legal entity and secured the corresponding certificate.

Highlight 2: Validation workshop on assessment studies

Deep dive studies on the three prioritized working areas of pastoralism, responsible agricultural investment, and land policy-making processes, were done and validated during Policy Roundtables with multiple actors.

Highlight 3: Launching of organizational Website

After three months of building our website from scratch, we proudly announced the launch of our new virtual home www.lflethiopia.org, on October 16, 2021.

Highlight 4: Strategy validation workshop

On November 20, 2021, our expert team gathered to develop a strategy document, the main reference document that frames the actions to be undertaken by the Initiative and serves as a guide to ensure the Initiative stays on track.

SIERRA LEONE

Highlight 1: Building alliance with the media

In January 2021, the Land for Life Secretariat in Sierra Leone approached five prominent media institutions for partnership. This ensured that land governance issues gained more visibility on media throughout the year.

Highlight 2: Active participation on national MAP, providing critical civil society perspective on national issues

Throughout the year, the Land for Life-Secretariat ensured space for civil society voices in relevant national processes, including the consultations on the new land bills, and the engagement with relevant actors such as the Minister of Land and other development stakeholders like the Country Representative of FAO.

Highlight 3: Rolling out decentralized level multi-actor partnership and strengthening district CSOs

In order to effectively engage the private sector actors and to address the numerous issues characterising the relationship between the investment entities and the affected communities, Land for Life supported district, chiefdom and community level multi-actor structures to regularly engage and take action on land-related issues occurring in their respective jurisdictions.

Highlight 4: Capturing and amplifying community voices

The Land for Life team in Sierra Leone collaborated with Climaxing 2021 media partners and a team of camera experts to record community voices in various districts and to produce a documentary for public broadcasting.





LIBERIA

Highlight 1: Progress on decentralization: Western Region Counties endorsed MAP organogram

The MAP Liberia Land Platform held regional convenings in the Western Region, to support local actors in defining their joint vision for land governance and to establish forums for regular multi-actor dialogue and collaboration.

Highlight 2: Publicity through social media engagement

MAP Liberia Land Platform's social media (Facebook) page has generated more followers and engagement during the year. MORE4WOMEN, an organization working on women and children concerns, has joined the MAP on Facebook. Between September and December 2021, the page reached more than 1068 people.

Highlight 3: Collaboration and coordination among thematic working groups

Throughout 2021, the MAP Liberia Land Platform Secretariat supported the work of multi-actor Thematic Working Groups, such as on women's land rights, customary land rights and responsible agricultural investments. Their work will inform the National Land Conference in March 2022.

Highlight 4: Collaboration with government/LLA

The MAP Liberia Land Platform was strengthened through secondment of staff from the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) to the MAP Secretariat, hosted by RRF. The LLA also plays an active co-convening role in the preparation of the National Land Conference.

BURKINA FASO

Highlight 1: Outing with journalists

Aware of the role that the media could play in achieving our goals, the PMAF has created a journalist group with 10 media outlets. They have greatly benefitted from training on the Law 034:2009 and the FAO VGGT, as well as a field trip to the Samendeni Dam. These activities have strengthened the media partnership of the PMAF and the visibility of its actions.

Highlight 2: Launch of the PMAF in the Hauts Bassins region

In order to bring the PMAF closer to local communities, a decentralization process has been initiated in the Hauts Bassins region. After consultations and the support of stakeholders, an official launch took place on 28 September followed by a training of actors on the MAP, in Bobo Dioulasso. A month later, a steering committee was set up and held its first meeting.

Highlight 3: International Day of Rural Women

On 15 October, the 24th International Day of Rural Women (IWDI) was commemorated in Ziniaré under the theme: "Land Security: What Future for Rural Women?". The PMAF hosted a stand and delivered contributory documents on the evaluation of Law 034-2009 to the Minister in charge of women, while also representatives of the President of Faso, the 1st Minister and the President of the National Assembly were present.

Highlight 4: National Days of Action on Land

On November 29-30, in collaboration with various partners such as the DGOFMR, FAO, GIZ and others, the PMAF organized the National Days of Action on Land (JNAF) in Ouagadougou under the theme: "Local land governance and the problem of securing agricultural and pastoral land in Burkina Faso: issues, challenges and perspectives".



ABOUT

LAND FOR LIFE INITIATIVE

Land governance challenges cannot be resolved by one actor alone. Any solution must take the interests of communities, traditional authorities, representatives of government and other stakeholders into account. Together with partners from Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and at international level, we aim to jointly address land governance challenges: bringing together civil society, government stakeholders, researchers and the private sector to identify common solutions.

Making policies work for food security

Why Multi-Actor Partnerships?

- to address complex challenges through dialogue and collaboration
- to access (local) knowledge and expertise
- to orient the way actors think and operate towards the collective common good
- to bring all voices and interests to one table; thereby fostering legitimacy, ownership and sustainability of decisions
- to generate creative, innovative solutions
- to open up space for transformative and systemic change

Our partners



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