Looking back, 2022 leaves us with positive energy, great ideas, and many plans for 2023.

The coming year will be utilized to ensure the impact of progressing land legislature on the ground by raising capacities and commitment among an array of actors. Decentralized multi-stakeholder processes will be strengthened to empower communities and vulnerable groups to access their rights and let their voices be heard.

New strategies and action plans were developed in the past year, paving the way for further actor engagement, as well as improving the impact of the CFS VGGT on the ground.

Land for Life will strengthen its ties with strategic partners on national and international levels, coordinate efforts, and pursue synergies to further accelerate impact and build strong and sustainable multi-actor platforms.

The highlights in this newsletter show that change is possible. Together we can make “Land for Life” a reality.
Land for Life Ethiopia conducted a mid-term assessment workshop at JeCCDO Training Center (Bishoftu) from February 18 - 19, 2022. Participants were different partners of Land for Life Ethiopia from civil society organizations, the private sector, Oromia government regional bureaus, and similar initiatives. The participatory mid-term assessment aimed at creating a common understanding among stakeholders on the status of Land for Life, corresponding insights, and the way forward.

HIGHLIGHT 2: SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY

In collaboration with the Oromia Irrigation and Pastoral Development Bureau, Land for Life Ethiopia organized a sensitization workshop on Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy on May 14, 2022, in Addis Ababa, Azzeman Hotel.

The workshop brought together more than 70 participants (policymakers, academics, development practitioners, civil society organizations, representatives from eight Oromia regional pastoral zone heads, and communities and media houses) to deliberate on the pastoral development policy and strategy and Oromia regional pastoralism context.

READ MORE

The adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) by the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) took place on May 11, 2012. This marks a historical milestone in international development policy. It has been ten years since the endorsement of VGGT, and Land for Life Ethiopia organized a national dialogue on the 10th Anniversary of the VGGT on October 14, 2022, at Eilily International Hotel.

The dialogue brought together different relevant actors creating an opportunity to raise awareness of the VGGT and the importance of governance of tenure. Through the deliberation made during the event, different priority governance of tenure and action steps were identified to be taken forward.

READ MORE

Land for Life Ethiopia established a Community, Investor, and Local Government Forum (CILGF) in Lume woreda (Mojo area) and Adami Tulu woreda (Batu area), where local communities and local government, including Abba Gada and women representatives, participated. The forum created a space for participants to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the investment in their surroundings and suggested solutions that could help solving the challenges related to the investment and improve government follow-up.

READ MORE
SIERRA LEONE

HIGHLIGHT 1: LAND FOR LIFE ADVOCATES FOR THE PASSAGE OF NEW LAND LAWS IN SIERRA LEONE

Initiative Land for Life Sierra Leone has played a critical role in influencing policymakers to pass into law two Land Acts in Sierra Leone: the Land Commission Act and the Customary Land Right Act.

These two land laws will help mitigate land disputes and enhance women’s right to own, use and transfer land in rural communities in Sierra Leone. The law also promotes tenure security and provides protection to ecologically sensitive areas.

HIGHLIGHT 2: A SUCCESSFUL PRESS BRIEFING ON THE MALEN SITUATION: A MOMENT OF TRUTH TELLING

In April 2022, Land for Life conducted a press briefing to provide the public with better knowledge of its work and the present situation in Malen Chiefdom, where SOCFIN Agricultural Company has leased a large piece of land, leaving the inhabitants of Malen Chiefdom with no alternative means of getting their livelihood. Senior journalists, members of civil society organizations, and other interest groups attended the meeting. The press briefing result conveyed a strong message to the Sierra Leonean government, the management of Socfin Agricultural Company, and human rights groups about the existing condition at Malen Chiefdom. Moreover, it stressed that the necessary steps need to be taken to alleviate the suffering of the people of Malen.

HIGHLIGHT 3: FACILITATING A RADICAL INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN THE MAP DECENTRALIZATION STRUCTURE

Sierra Leone’s new Customary Land Rights and Land Commission Acts make it easier for women to purchase, utilize, and transfer land that was previously forbidden to them. As an Initiative that strives to guarantee women’s land rights, offering safe seats for them in all of our operating area’s District and Chiefdom Multi-Stakeholders’ Platforms, helps to increase their participation and guarantee their protection.

“Previously, women in Port Loko were not thought to be capable of bringing ideas to the table for debate. Women will be appreciated and regarded as persons with brilliant ideas with the radical inclusion of more women in the District Multi-Stakeholder Platform.”

HIGHLIGHT 4: LAND FOR LIFE COMPLETES REGISTRATION FOR ITS INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Land for Life Initiative Sierra Leone has completed the registration procedures and secured a certificate of incorporation to start its formal existence as an entity.

With the institutionalization, the Initiative will transition from a project to an organization that will bring together additional civil society organizations to speak with one voice and champion land issues across the country. The procedure will also let the institution seek funding, expand its scope, and conduct its national affairs.

Since 2019, the Consortium has been led by the leadership of the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD).
Towards the assessing progress made regarding the implementation of the 2018 Land Rights Act of Liberia, the MAP Liberia Land Platform hosted a major National Land Conference (NLC) in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County from March 1 - 3, 2022. During the event, participants call on stake-holders through a GBEHZOHN Declaration to: Prioritize coordination and decentralization of land services, improve facilitation of the formalization processes and to continue providing funding support to land sector. The NLC brought together 344 delegates (121 females and 223 males), including international guests.

On Tuesday, June 28, 2022, an induction ceremony of the MAP National Steering was held in Ganta, Nimba County. Primary the SC is responsible for making key policy decisions, providing support, and guidance, and ensuring outcome harvesting of the MAP.

The current committee includes high-profile and top decision-making representatives of the various constituencies of the MAP (Government, CSOs, the Private Sector, Academia, and local community-based establishments).

On Monday, May 23, 2022, stakeholders from the three (3) western region counties of Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu and Bomi convened in the city of Tubmanburg – Bomi County, to officially launch the decentralized MAP.

The Launching Forum brought together 30 participants across various constituencies. The forum ended with an official declaration to launch the western region MAP, read by Ms. Jenneh Kemokai, CSO Chairperson in Grand Cape Mount County read the 10 counts declaration.

Under its stakeholders’ engagement and policy dialogue approach, the MAP served as one of the co-conveners for the 2022 Rural Women Land Rights Conference (RWLRC). During the RWLRC, the MAP delivered a very strong solidarity message, made two presentations and led group discussions at different intervals. The RWLRC was used to further publicize the MAP initiative in Liberia.
For a better popularization of the Voluntary Guidelines or VGGT and Law 034 on rural land tenure, a pictorial guide has been designed thanks to the multi-stakeholder collaboration between CPF, PMAF, ONF-BF, GRAF, FAO, ILC and GIZ. This guide was presented to local actors in the Centre-West region and the Boucle du Mouhoun from 26 to 30 September 2022 through training workshops.

It should be noted that the PMAF also recorded and broadcasted radio programs in 4 languages as part of the awareness-raising campaign on Law 034-2009. The programs were hosted by PMAF members and helped inform local people about their land rights.

HIGHLIGHT 2: WOMEN’S ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE LAND IN THE HAUTS BASSINS, A STUDY CARRIED OUT BY THE PMAF

On Monday, February 7, 2022, the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Land (PMAF) in Burkina Faso held a workshop to return and validate a study on women’s secure access to productive land in the Hauts-Bassins region.

This study was carried out with the aim of highlighting the challenges and land issues of women’s secure access to land. The study will make available to actors involved in the definition and implementation of land policies and interventions, the necessary tools to create a framework for dialogue around land issues, particularly with regard to gender and land tenure in the region.

HIGHLIGHT 3: COMMEMORATION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VGGT

As part of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the voluntary guidelines, the CPF (Confédération Paysanne du Faso) and the PMAF (Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Land), with the support of FAO, ILC, GIZ and WHH, organized a training workshop and a national dialogue on voluntary guidelines, from 14 to 16 June 2022 in Ouagadougou.

The objective of this meeting was to strengthen the capacities of national stakeholders on the use of the voluntary guidelines in Burkina Faso, to establish a national dialogue around these guidelines and to develop an action plan for the improvement of land, fisheries, and forest governance for the next ten years. Through a final declaration, participants committed to better take into account these guidelines in rural land management.

HIGHLIGHT 4: RECOGNITION OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM ON LAND

It’s official! the multi-stakeholder platform on land tenure (PMAF) is now institutionalized.

The institutionalization of the platform is a process that has been foreseen since the implementation of the Land for Life initiative. Thus, since January 2022, Land for life Burkina Faso has left the status of a project implemented by a host organization to become an independent and sustainable structure that brings together all actors in the land field and is at the service of all members.
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 network

[Logos of partner organizations]

MAKING POLICIES WORK FOR FOOD SECURITY

MORE DETAILS

WWW.LAND-FOR-LIFE.ORG