



Recognizing and Documenting Group Rights to Land and other Natural Resources

Rural people generally need both secure individual rights to farm plots and secure collective rights to common pool resources on which whole villages depend. IFAD-supported projects and programmes have supported the recognition and documenting of group rights, focusing on range/grazing lands, forests and artisanal fishing communities.

Range and Grazing Lands

Most livestock keepers in the developing world access land through diverse and context specific customary systems that tend to balance individual and group rights; these systems generally have a collective element to resource management, including group decision-making to determine access, use and management of resources in common grazing areas, shared rights of way and water rights. Nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralists generally using marginal land tend to be marginalized in their societies, but they often make a significant contribution to the national economy. Worldwide, pastoralists are under pressure due to population growth, environmental degradation, encroachment of agriculture on their grazing territories, the privatization of former communally owned land and unsound development and trade policies. Government policies usually favour settled farming and crop production, and are implemented at the expense of pastoralist ways of life.

In **Eritrea**, the Gash Barka Livestock and Agricultural Development Project has supported community-managed rangeland development. Satellite imagery, equipment and staff training were provided to identify possible locations for livestock watering points and drinking-water supplies. Where water was available for livestock, interested communities selected voluntary livestock exclusion areas (VLEAs) of up to 1,000 ha to be managed by guards employed by grazing-management groups formed by the communities, with assistance from government staff. Boreholes, mainly with windmill-driven pumps, were constructed in conjunction with VLEAs.

Under the Agricultural Sector Development Programme – Livestock: Support for Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Development in **Tanzania**, IFAD provides funding to support district and village administrations to pilot a participatory approach to land and natural resource-use planning, including rangeland management. Support is provided to develop participatory methodologies to resolve conflicts, to produce village- and district-level land and natural resource-use plans, and to train national facilitators in the use of such methodologies. The results of these activities are used as inputs for policy dialogue and the modernization of legal and regulatory frameworks.



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Forests

Recognizing customary and/or collective rights to natural forests can improve access and secure livelihoods for the poor. Evidence shows that local communities can manage forests in a sustainable way if they have secure land rights. In recent years, several countries have changed their legislation in order to strengthen local forest rights. Within this sphere, attention must be paid to intra-community relations, ensuring equal access for women and men, and promoting the development of forest enterprises. In **Kenya**, communities living along the margins of the forest reserves are engaged by the Mount Kenya East Pilot Project through community forest associations (CFAs). The CFAs are empowered through the development of participatory forest management plans, which will include initiatives for forest protection, rehabilitation of degraded areas, reduction of human-wildlife conflict and alternative income-generating activities. The project has supported the Plantation Establishment Livelihoods Improvement Scheme (PELIS), which provides small income generation activity grants to those who invest in natural resource management-related activities. To ensure wider participation in these special activities, the major criterion for all these is investment of some sort in natural resource management activities, such as tree/fodder planting, soil and conservation practices, conservation agriculture, forest nurseries, etc. PELIS has created significant income-generating opportunities and recognized customary use rights. It has had a significant impact on the success rate of reforestation.

Artisanal Fishing Areas

Artisanal fishing is central to the livelihoods of poor rural coastal communities but industrial/semi-industrial fishing, conservation, tourism and gas/oil/mineral exploration are encroaching on traditional fishing and other natural resource rights. This has led to competition, disputes and sometimes conflicts over access to fishing, land, forests and water resources between migrant and local artisanal fishers, industrial/semi-industrial fishers, tourism and conservation. In **Mozambique**, an upcoming project will support the Artisanal Fisheries Promotion Project to: (i) develop common strategies/approaches on integrated community-based coastal management between various stakeholders to better integrate these strategies with other government policies and strategies; (ii) strengthen lobbying and advocacy on artisanal fishers' resource rights at district, provincial, and national levels; (iii) strengthen community fisheries councils and fishing associations and clarify their respective roles and responsibilities in community-based coastal resource management; (iv) encourage closer coordination between the various actors engaged in strengthening coastal resource co-management and securing resource rights.

The Fisheries Development Project in **Eritrea** aims to raise production and productivity of artisanal fishers while conserving fishery and other marine resources. The project is supporting the start-up of the Integrated Coastal Area Management Authority. The operation of an Integrated Coastal Management Board will also be supported by enhancing its capacity. The board is involved in promoting sustainable coastal territorial management through the development of an Integrated Coastal Area Management Plan. The focus is on coordinating the various development activities, such as fishing, tourism, power generation, the salt industry, oil exploration etc., to assure sustainable development and conservation of Eritrea's coastal assets.



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Land and Natural Resources Learning Initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa

IFAD and UN-Habitat, through the Global Land Tool Network, have entered into a partnership to implement the Land and Natural Resources Learning Initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa (TSLI-ESA). The initiative aims to improve knowledge management strategies and approaches towards pro-poor and gender-sensitive land and natural resource tenure rights in selected Eastern and Southern African countries. TSLI-ESA focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on the following five themes:

- i. Using technically advanced geographic information technologies, such as aerial photography, remote sensing technology and geographic information systems for mapping land and natural resource rights, use and management.
- ii. Recognizing and documenting small-scale farmers' land and water rights in irrigation schemes.
- iii. Recognizing and documenting group rights, focusing on range and grazing lands, forests and artisanal fishing areas.
- iv. Strengthening women's access to land.
- v. Documenting best practices in securing land and natural resource rights through business partnerships between small-scale farmers and investors.