

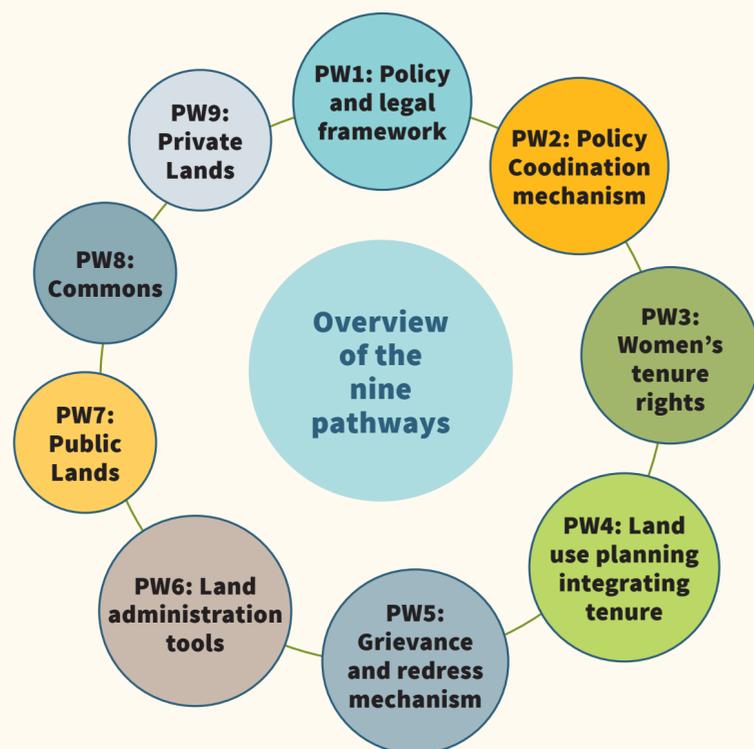
Awareness and capacity development on Responsible governance of tenure as a vehicle to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality, combat drought and desertification

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What approach did the team take to achieve the impact

A series of four virtual training webinars were organized, with the aim to increase awareness and capacity development in Sub-Saharan Africa on how the VGGT principles can be integrated in sustainable land management. This provided an opportunity to present the nine pathways of the technical guide to integrate the VGGT into implementing Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) (which was then under preparation).



Participant countries and participants

- The event was held jointly by the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** and the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** under the frame of the **Resilient Food Systems program (RFS)** between September- October 2021.
- Seventeen selected countries from Sub-Saharan Africa participated** in the process namely Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda (Resilient Food Systems (RFS) countries; Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Sudan (EU Land Governance only). These countries were selected because they are participant to either or both of Resilient Food System programme (RFS) and/or EU land governance program.
- The webinars brought together **UNCCD national focal points, UNCCD accredited civil society representatives, project managers and technical advisors from FAO, RFS and European Union Land governance programs** to share experiences and reflect on opportunities and common challenges to tackle tenure insecurity in their region.
- The event offered a **unique opportunity by bringing together participants working on the policy domains of land and tenure** with those having ground experience of project implementation.
- There were **interactive exchanges not only on the common challenges, but also on solutions by reflecting on the successful experiences from FAO's ongoing programs** in the region as Resilient Food Systems programme (RFS) and European Union land governance program.

STRUCTURE AND FLOW OF TRAINING PROCESS



WEBINAR 01

Launching

Relevance, importance of integrating governance of tenure into UNCCD implementations

15 September 2021



WEBINAR 02

Pathway 1, 2, 3

Strengthening legal and policy framework, establishing targeted policy coordination mechanisms and securing women's use

30 September 2021



WEBINAR 03

Pathway 4,5,6

Integrated land use planning, putting in place grievance mechanism and instrument as land administration tools

13 October 2021



WEBINAR 04

Pathway 7,8,9

Land governance measures for the specific type of land tenure public, commons, private

28 October 2021



Breakout group: internalizing/ case studies identification



Panel discussion for sharing more country examples



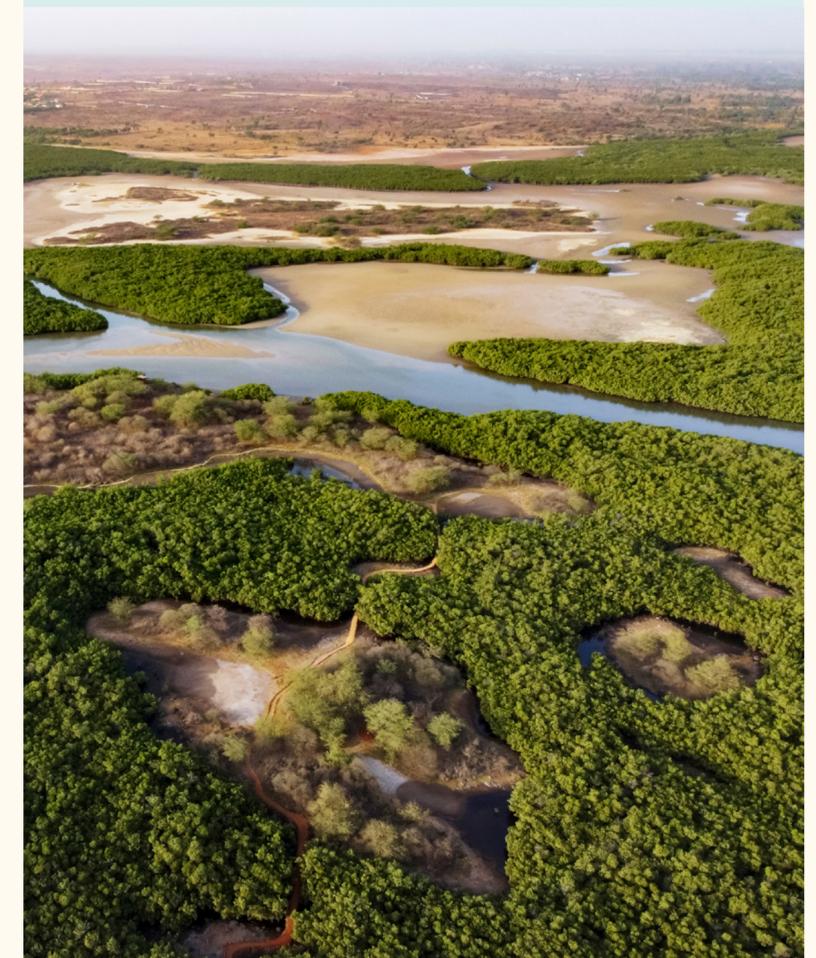
Discussion on the key message from region



What impact did the effort have and on/for whom?



Impact on government agencies, policy makers, project personnel, UNCCD Focal points, UNCCD secretariat was to **increase awareness on the relevant land governance practices aligned to the nine pathways for Land Degradation Neutrality** that sub Saharan countries are implementing successfully.





What were the main ingredients that led to the impact?

Sharing of sub saharan country experiences:

Country Experiences (Supporting pathway of the technical guide). Examples:

Niger

- In Niger, there has been a new land policy adopted to improve the recognition and delivery of the legitimate tenure rights and the management of the land as shared resources and the obligations linked to the rights. The national multi-stakeholder committee was established by ministerial decree to lead the preparation of the “États généraux du foncier rural” under the aegis of the President of the Republic. The VGGT serves as guiding principle for these reforms. Efforts are ongoing for securing pastoral lands through demarcating the lands strengthening consultations between pastoralists and other stakeholder groups. (Pathway 1, 2, 3, 8)

Burkina Faso

- Policy reforms as the National Policy to Secure Land Tenure in Rural Areas (PNSFMR) of 2007 and the Rural Land Law of 2009 in Burkina Faso, were undertaken to recognize the customary land rights and provides legal mechanisms for their formalization. It further codifies principles of customary land rights by enabling communities to draft local land charters. (Pathway 1)

Eswatini

- In Eswatini, the constitution has been reviewed to encompass gender related issues. Grievance and dispute resolving mechanisms are being sought at the chiefdom, tinkhundla, regional, and national level using community-based institutions. These VGGT guidelines are translated into Siswati to facilitate its upscaling to other chiefdoms with the support of government funding. (Pathway 4)

Burundi

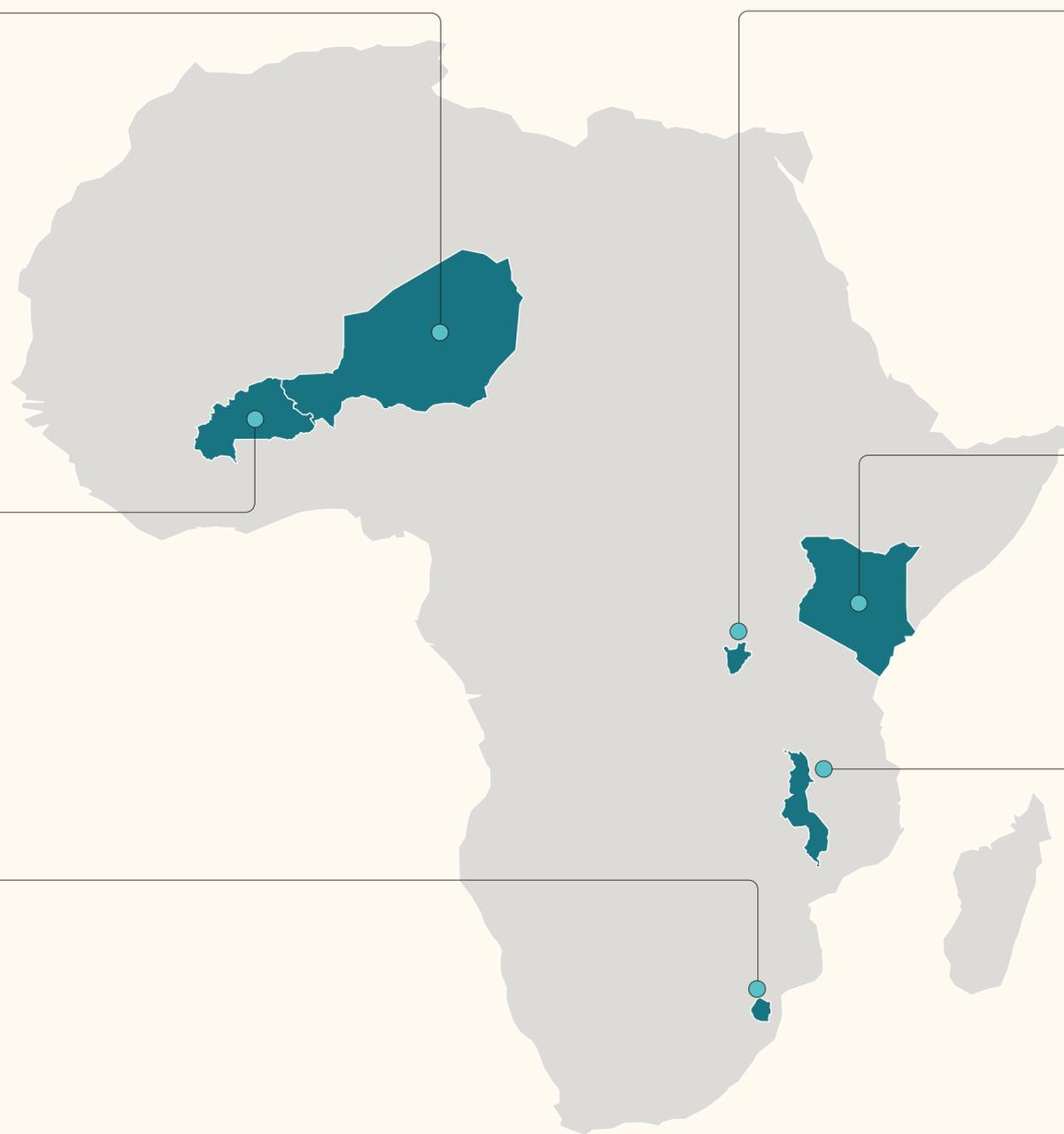
- Land tenure security is also part of the land reform in Burundi, through inventory of public lands and registration of the legitimate tenure rights on public lands. The “Projet d’Amélioration de la gestion et de la gouvernance foncière au Burundi” (PAGGF) supported by EU Land governance program provides support for developing inventory of public land and mediation where there are contentious cases concerning ownership and use. (Pathway 7)

Kenya

- The Community Land Act of 2016 in Kenya provides the framework for the recognition, protection and registration of community land rights, management and administration of community land. Additionally, the National Land Information Management System (NLIMS) is digitizing land records to ensure a faster, easier, efficient, and transparent mode of conducting land transactions and reduce conflicts. (Pathway 1)

Malawi

- In Malawi, a Customary Land Act (CLA) of 2016 is enabling smallholder farmers to convert their customary land rights to private land rights with registered title. The act provides for the establishment of the local committees for the management of customary land with women’s participation. Power of traditional authorities have been institutionalized via tribunals which are responsible for resolving land conflicts. (Pathway 1, 3, 4)





Where or under which circumstances could this effort be scaled?

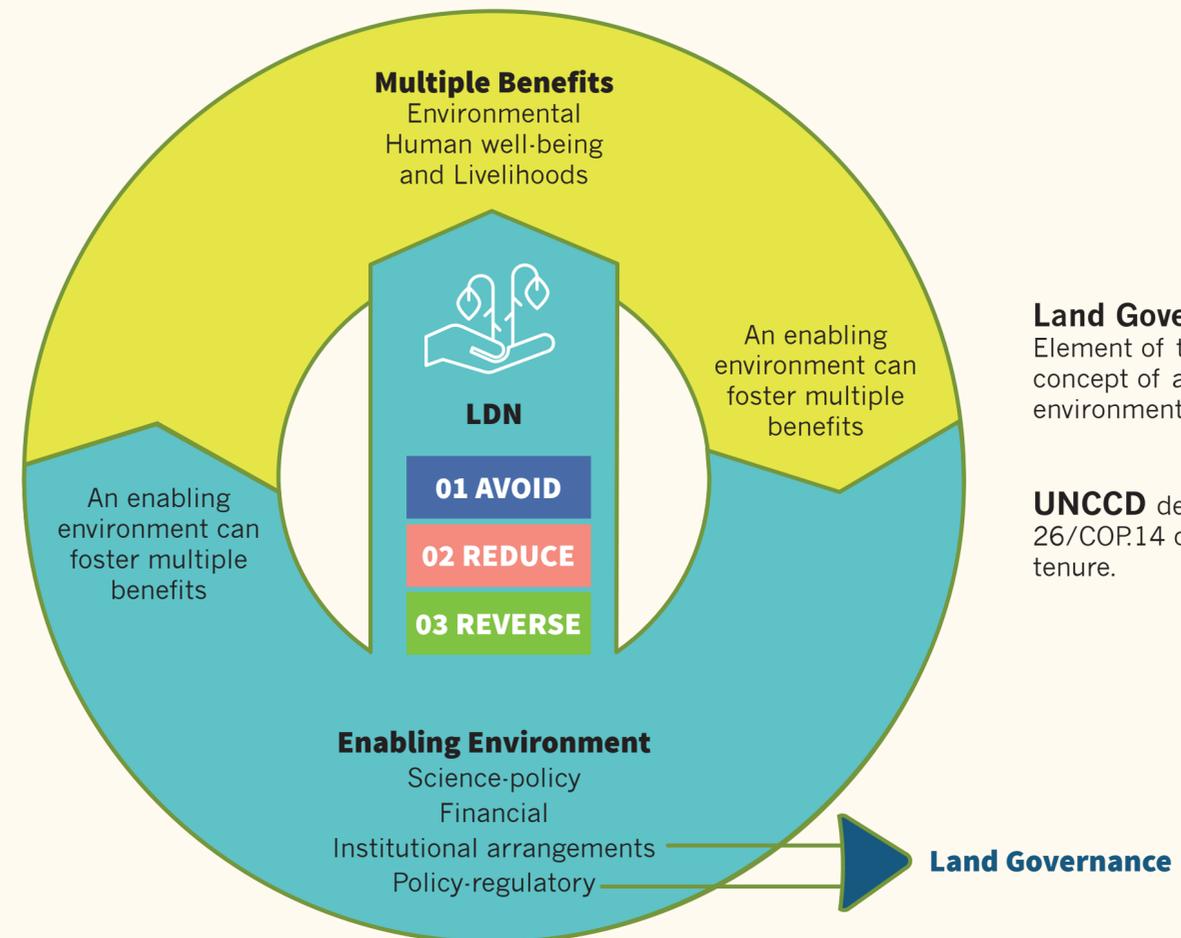
Sub Saharan African countries implementing the nine pathways of the Technical Guide on VGGT for improved governance of tenure for sustainable land management.



**What are the main lessons that were learned?
What would you advise others?**

- **Ongoing efforts for the legal recognition of all the legitimate tenure rights**, though, implementation is lagging behind.
 - **Creating or strengthening multi-stakeholder platform offers effective co-ordination** (Example of multi-stakeholder platform Sierra Leone and Niger);
 - **Mainstreaming of gender equality in land tenure governance** is paramount and is still a challenge.
 - **Tenure responsive land use planning** is key to achieve LDN.
 - **Continuous awareness raising is required on land reforms**, land rights, VGGT and gender equality (adapted to the local language), at all the administrative levels.
- Utilising collaborative networks to capture lessons learnt and upscale experiences at all levels is effective**

LAND TENURE: CONTRIBUTING TO CREATE THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR LDN



Land Governance:
Element of the broader concept of an enabling environment for LDN.

UNCCD decision 26/COP.14 on land tenure.

Source: Creating an Enabling Environment of Land Degradation Neutrality and its potential contribution to enhancing well-being, livelihoods and environment. (UNCCD Science Policy Interface). United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).