

## Responsible Land Policy in Madagascar



### Starting point

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world and has about 24 million inhabitants. 65 % of the population are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture and forestry, most of them working in subsistence agriculture (rice, maize and manioc). 70 % of the land is used for agriculture, including a high proportion of pastures, and only about 15 % of the land is still covered by forest. Deforestation and degradation of forest landscapes are some of the country's biggest environmental problems. Consequently, livelihoods and agricultural productivity in rural areas are increasingly endangered. As part of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), Madagascar has committed itself to restoring 4 million hectares of forest landscapes by 2030.

### Project

This commitment is offset by a lack of clearly defined and formalised rights for land use and ownership, which leads to conflict. Insecurity of tenure and the lack of a legal framework or its weak enforcement are also obstacles to sustainable investments in land and forest resources. Such an investment without a secured, long-term use perspective involves a high risk. Women and marginalised groups find it particularly difficult to assert their land use rights, as they generally know little about legal regulations and procedures and are thus unable to claim their rights. To address these challenges, Responsible Land Policy in Madagascar works in four fields of action: land governance, forest landscape restoration, Capacity building of local governance actors for integrated, responsible and transparent land management; and capacity development.

#### Our objective:

Access to land as a core condition for combating poverty and hunger in rural areas has improved for specific population groups in the Boeny and DIANA Region in Madagascar, particularly for women and socially marginalised groups.

### Fields of action in Madagascar

- **Land governance:** the project works on improving the institutional framework and the processes for securing rights of use or ownership of land for the rural population in the Boeny and DIANA region. The stratified systematic land inventory approach (*inventaire parcellaire systématique stratifié - IPSS*) is used.
- **Forest landscape restoration:** the securing of land use and ownership rights is part of pilot

measures to rehabilitate and sustainably develop forest landscapes.

- **Capacity development:** the project aims to increase the involvement of civil society, which is a main implementing partner, in formulating and implementing a responsible policy concerning forest resources.

# Responsible Land Policy in Madagascar

## Budget and duration

EUR 15.44 million / July 2017 – May 2026

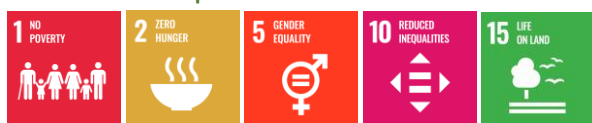
## Lead executing agency and implementing partners

Ministry of Land Use Planning and Land Services of Madagascar (MATSF) / NGOs (like Transparency International), civil society and the Ministries of Environment (MEDD), Agriculture (MINAE) and Interior (MID) of Madagascar

## Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

## Sustainable development



Malagasy women with their new land titles

## Example from the field

Since the 2005 land reform, Malagasy legislation provides a solid basis for smallholder farmers to register their land and obtain a land use certificate for it. The decentralised system provides for a competent body (*Guichet Foncier*) in each municipality to issue these certificates. Reality shows, however, that in many places the issuance of land certificates is not possible, as *Guichet Fonciers* have only been opened in 535 of Madagascar's 1,693 municipalities, are often understaffed or not functional due to a lack of infrastructure. In addition, the process of applying for the certificate and of proving land use is currently complicated and costly in many municipalities.

The project is therefore committed to simplifying the procedure for obtaining a land certificate. To achieve this goal, a Land Inventory Protocol (LIP) procedure has been introduced, which allows the rural population in the pilot communities to participate in a systematic land inventory. Civil society and the decentralised structures responsible for land law are jointly developing an efficient and transparent procedure for inventorying the parcels and therefore LIPs are issued. They bundle various information required for the application of a land use certificate. By doing so, multiple field surveys are to be avoided and the latest technology is to be used to make precise land surveys possible.

## Results

### Land governance

More than 20,000 plots, including 4,500 assigned to women, covering an area of more than 23,600 ha have been inventoried.

### Forest landscape restoration

In the implementation of forest landscape restoration (FLR), 3 sites covering an area of more than 11,000 ha have been demarcated by the IPSS women's team.

### Capacity development

The 10 mayors of the project's communes were trained on land tenure and 53 state actors (45% women) received training on land tenure and territorial planning for sustainable development. In addition, 139 key actors (public sector, private sector, women, marginalised groups) were trained on the legal and regulatory framework for land. 20 trainers were trained to provide legal assistance on land issues to target groups.

More information on <https://www.giz.de/responsiblelandpolicy> and [Land Portal](#)

Published by  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Registered offices: Bonn and Eschborn, Germany  
Rural Development, Agriculture (Department G500)  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36+40  
53113 Bonn, Germany

T +49 (0) 228 44 60 - 3824  
F +49 (0) 228 44 60 - 1766  
[www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

Contact:  
Florent Lasry  
[propfr-mg@giz.de](mailto:propfr-mg@giz.de)

Photos  
© GIZ/Angelika Jakob

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

April 2023