

Zambia Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) Dialogue on the Tenure Guidelines on Land, Forest and Fisheries

On 21st June 2022, over 30 Civil Society Organizations in Zambia dialogued on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. These Guidelines are the most comprehensive international agreement providing guidance to improve natural resource governance based on human rights. Organizations of small-scale food producers, Indigenous Peoples and civil society from around the world have participated in the negotiations that led to the Guidelines, and have used them as a tool to support their struggles at local, national, regional and international levels.

In Zambia, the dual land tenure system of Customary and State tenure system contributes to land conflicts. The numerous displacements, land grabbing and forced evictions of smallholder farmers and landowners and other community members from their land. Is one clear example that the customary land tenure system is less recognized.

In the forest sector, the absence of a National Fisheries Policy implies that the subsector lacks guidance on procedures and practices critical to achieving sustainable development. For instance, relevant stakeholders that could complement efforts of developing the sector are not prescribed.

Although the fisheries Act of 2011 outlines areas from which the community can fish. Unfortunately, communities have no say in the fisheries resources. There are efforts to develop a guiding manual strengthening fisheries co-management that will establish the fishery management areas.

In Zambia, forest is depleting because of agricultural activities, cutting down of trees and removal of protection on the forest by the Government.