

# The recognition of the customary land rights: lessons from the Province of Bié in Angola

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## Abstract

*Effective recognition of customary land rights is still a challenge in Angola, as in many other African countries. Despite customary land rights of the traditional rural communities are expressly recognized in the 2004 National Land Law, very few communities in Angola have been able to register their land. In the Province of Bié, in Angola central highlands, only five customary collective land titles (called *Dominio Util Consuetudinario*) had been issued within the period 2004-2015.*

*In October 2015, the Provincial Government of Bié approved a by-law (Despacho 2072/2015), whose aim is to formalize the process for the recognition of customary collective land rights and the issuing of *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* titles. The enforcement of the by-law so far is encouraging: 23 collective land titles have been issued since October 2015 by the Provincial Government of Bié.*

*The present paper analyzes the constraints that have historically prevented communities from legalizing their traditional tenure, and how the Despacho has been able to tackle these limitations. Perspectives and challenges following the issuing of the Despacho are also discussed, and the possible policy implications are presented. An assessment of the impact of the recognition of the customary rights on the rural development is carried out: the paper defends that, while further conditions are needed, and broader support from the State is required, the land titling is, in many ways, still a necessary precondition for sustainable rural development. In particular, the paper defends that effective recognition of customary land rights could represent a key instrument for the inclusion of traditional rural communities in the rural lands market, which in turn, may result in the dynamization of neglected rural areas' economies.*

*The paper concludes with an attempt of assessing the real magnitude of the Despacho. It is questioned whether it could really represent a first step toward a wider policy of defense of customary land rights at national level. The paper finds that the Despacho could be replied/adapted in other Provinces, or even at national level, where a gap in the regulation of the recognition of customary lands still exists. However, this would require the political willingness of the Government, which should recognize the importance of enhance the security of land of the rural communities.*

**Key words:** VGGT, Angola, Bié, customary land rights, land law.

## Introduction

Since the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of the Tenure of land, fishery, and forestry (VGGT) by the FAO's Committee on Food Security, in May 2012, various initiatives have been undertaken along different countries, in order to give a concrete implementation to the principles and practices on the governance of the tenure fostered by the Guidelines.

One of the most ambitious program until the date has been the EU-FAO initiative to improve land governance in ten African countries, signed in April 2014, and presently ongoing. One of

the countries involved in this initiative is Angola, where activities are being implemented by the international NGOs World Vision and Development Workshop in three provinces, namely Huambo, Benguela, and Bié. The project “Strengthened capacity for improved governance of land tenure and natural resources by local government in partnership with Non-State Actors in the Central Highlands of Angola” (concisely named EC Land Tenure Project) started in 2014, and will be completed in December 2017. The project capitalizes the experience built within almost two decades of land governance programs in Angola, many of them implemented by FAO.

In December 2014, the National Government of Angola organized a major event on land governance in Luanda, whose main output has been a set of recommendations to be followed by national institutions (at provincial, municipal, and communal level) involved in the land administration. Many of the objectives of the EC Land Tenure Project are in line with these recommendations.

The Provincial Government of Bié has shown genuine interest in taking advantage from the project’s support to implement many of the National Government’s recommendations. As a result, in the last two years the Government of Bié achieved significant improvements in the land administration, in particular, in what concerns the recognition of the customary land rights. This paper aims to give an insight on these advances, as well as the challenges and the perspectives for the future.

## **1. Customary land rights in Angola: an overview**

The history of access to land for the native rural populations in Angola is not dissimilar from other countries in Africa<sup>1</sup>.

During the colonial times, native populations have been expelled and excluded from the best lands, and prevented from any kind of formal property right. Occupations of natives were admitted only under the traditional communal schemes, and over residual lands (reserves), while the best located (and most productive) areas were taken by the colonial administration. Exclusion of native populations increased with pass of the time, as more and more colonists were settled by the Portuguese Government in the Angolan territory.

The colonial system went on until the independence, achieved in 1975. However, situation for traditional rural communities did not change significantly after the independence. The land became property of the State according to the Constitution, and state-owned, big-scale farms took the place of the Portuguese *fazendas*, with little consideration for the claims raised by the traditional communities. Moreover, the outbreak of the civil war made practically disappear the debate over land issues from the public agenda.

At beginning of the 90ties, the model of the centralized planned economy proved to be unsustainable, and the state-owned farms were privatized. However, this process did not take into account, once more, communities and smallholder farmers, and huge portion of lands were finally allocated to people with capitals and power, often individuals living in urban areas. A land law was issued for the first time in Angola in 1992, and despite the unavoidable gaps, for the first time the customary land rights of the traditional rural communities were recognized. However, being the civil war still enduring, little implementation was given to the law, and the provisions remained largely unapplied.

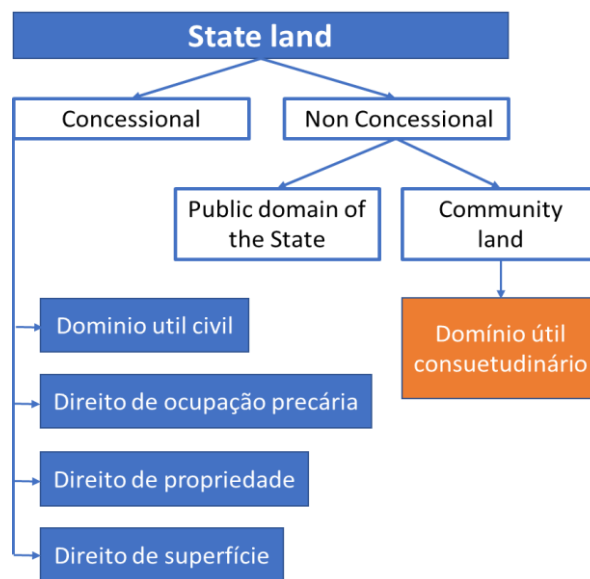
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<sup>1</sup> For a detailed description of the dynamics and main facts concerning land rights and land administration in Angola, see: Filipe P. 2014. *Nos e a nossa Terra. Mitos e percepções sobre a nossa relação com a terra.* Luanda. Also see Pacheco F. 2004. *A Problemática da Terra no Contexto da Construção da Paz: Desenvolvimento ou Conflito.* Luanda

The end of the civil war and the 2002 peace agreements opened a new era for the country. Angola faced enormous challenges, from the resettlement of the huge number of people displaced by the war, to the reconstruction of residential, productive, and transportation infrastructure. In order to enable the national government to deal with these challenges, it was necessary to create a new legal and institutional framework. Hence, a new Land Law was issued in November 2004 (*Lei 03/04 - Lei de Terras*), with the related regulations (*Decreto 58/07 - Regulamento Geral sobre Concessões de Terrenos*) issued three years later, in 2007.

In the 2004 Law, the original property of the land is still owned by the State: however, the Law permits the State to transmit land rights to persons (individual and collective) and traditional rural communities. Customary land rights are thus explicitly recognized, under the denomination of *Dominio Util Consuetudinario*. Differently from the other types of land rights depicted in the law, the *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* is not a “concession”, but rather “recognition”: the State acknowledged, in this way, the long-lasting occupation of the traditional communities: while a concession states the constitution of a new land right, the recognition just confirms a pre-existing land right.

Figure 1: types of lands and land rights in the National Land Law (Lei 03/04 - Lei de Terras)



Despite this step forward, for over a decade the issuing of *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* titles have been prevented in the practice by a number of constraints.

- a. Lack of a clear process for the formalization of the customary land rights. The Land Law (and its regulations) does not detail the process that should lead to the recognition of customary land rights, and the emission of the *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* by the state authorities. It is not specified how to start the process, nor the steps to be followed. In the absence of clear rules, the solution has been the application of *Decreto 58/07's* regulations, which refer mainly to the other land rights depicted in the Land Law. However, not all the regulations of the *Decreto 58/07* are applicable to customary land rights, which has caused the uncertainties and inconsistencies in the recognition process.
- b. Unclear definition of competencies between the institutions involved in the registration process. The Land Law identifies the institution responsible for the technical administration of land (IGCA, Geographical and Cadastral Institute of Angola). However, several other institutions (Communal Administration, Municipal Administration, Provincial Department of

Agriculture) take part to the recognition process, but their responsibilities are mostly unclear. This makes the process slow, bureaucratic, and susceptible of institutional contradictions. Most of the *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* claims started in past in the province of Bié haven't even been submitted to the authorizing authority (the Provincial Government), and got stuck in the wait of some approval by some local authority.

- c. Lack of time bounds for the registration process. The duration of the recognition process is not defined, and no time bounds are established for the pronouncement of each institution involved. This means that communities cannot have a clear expectation of the time they should wait to receive a formal pronouncement. This is obviously a discouragement when it comes to decide whether to start a recognition process or not.
- d. Inadequate information at community level. As little diffusion has been given to the Land Law, communities are generally not aware of their land rights. The title of *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* provides them a defense against external threats, so it could guarantee that individuals, or even the State, are not allowed to occupy the land that has been recognized as part of their domain. However, communities generally don't know the Land Law, so they are not aware of the option of titling their land, above all in the areas where pressure over land has been lower. The lack of knowledge of the Land Law affects communities in different ways: not only they are vulnerable against external threats (land grabbing by companies or individual, sometimes with the acquiesce of the State), but they are also exposed to the abuse of traditional leaders with opaque objectives (cases of illegal selling of community land by the traditional leaders at the back of their own communities are quite frequent). Finally, this lack of knowledge at community level affects also the government institutions, which have little control over the occupation of the territory, with all the related consequences in terms of territorial planning and administration. In the most serious cases, land disputes even ended in major tensions and clashes.
- e. Inadequate knowledge of the law and regulation by the government staff. Considering the weakness and the inconsistencies of the legal and administrative framework, it is not surprising that civil servants (administrative and technical staff) have little knowledge of the fragmented rules and processes that communities have to follow in order to legalize their land. Therefore, they are often not capable to provide the proper administrative support to claiming communities, or they apply the law in an arbitrary and unsystematic way. In many cases, technicians incorrectly apply to the recognitions the same rules that refer expressly to the concessions. For instance, for the concessions the Law establish the obligation of placing concrete landmarks to show the limits of the parcels; however, this rule should not apply to the delimitation of communities, as the objective is to have a recognition from the State, not to create a separation with the neighbors.
- f. Cost of the legalization process. Despite the Land Law expressly establishes that the recognition of the *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* is free (Art. 47.2), the process always conveys some cost, like the transportation of the technicians to the community. These costs should be covered by the State, but in the practice, due to the lack of resources allocated by the Government to accomplish with the Law's stipulations, it's the community that usually pays.

All these constraints make in practice very difficult for rural communities to obtain the recognition of their customary land rights: for instance, in the Bié Province, at October 2015, only five *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* titles had been issued by the Provincial Government. In all these cases, the processes were fostered by an external support (FAO), and the issuing of the titles took on average one year.

In order to tackle these problems, in December 2014 the Government of Angola organized a major conference at National level, on the topic of illegal land occupation. While the focus of the event was mainly on urban, individual land titles, many of the considerations raised applied to the overall land tenure situation, involving also the customary land rights. The workshop was then replicated in all the provinces. In Bié, the provincial conference took place in May 2015. The main output of the conference has been a set of recommendations directed to the institutions involved in the land administration. In particular, it was recommended, among other:

- To reconsider the competencies of each of the institutions intervening in the land legalization process
- To simplify the legalization processes, pursuing the bureaucratization and avoiding the duplication of steps
- To carry out sensitization activities on the Land Law at community level
- To carry out training activity to raise the knowledge of the law of technical and administrative staff.

## **2. The steps undertaken at Bié Province level: the *Despacho* 2072/2015**

In this context, the Provincial Government of Bié undertook important steps toward the improvement of the recognition of customary land rights. The most important result of this effort has been the formulation and the issuing of a by-law, the *Despacho* 2072/2015, which formalizes the process for the recognition of customary land rights and the emission of the related titles, fulfilling the gaps of the actual legal framework.

First, the by-law defines in detail all the steps and the list of the documents necessary for the recognition of the customary land rights, from the starting stage (the request to be presented by the community leaders), until the final approval by the responsible authority (which depends on the size of the land). In addition, the *Despacho* provides the templates of the documentation necessary at each step of the process. There are, hence, no doubts on the procedures to be followed, and on the documents to be produced at each stage of the recognition process.

Second, the functions and responsibilities of all the authorities involved in the recognition process are clearly separated and defined, avoiding ambiguities. The different government institutions have now a clear framework that specifies when and how they have to intervene in the process. This avoids duplications, conflicts, contradictions, and prevarications. At the same time, this makes each institution accountable: communities and government authorities can now easily check the stage of the registration process, and identify the bottlenecks that slow the issuing of the titles. In sum, the process is now much more transparent.

Further, the *Despacho* clarifies the inapplicability, to the recognition process, of some of the norms that regulates the concessions. Specifically, the obligation of carrying out two delimitations (one provisional, and another definitive), and the obligation of placing physical landmarks, which are established for the concessions, are not requested in the *Despacho* for the recognition process. This is in line with the spirit of the customary land rights, which is to recognize the occupation of an area by a community, not to create barriers to exclude anyone. Also, both the delimitations and the placement of landmarks are costly, thus, not in line with the provision of the land law, which establishes that customary titles must be issued for free. In this way, another one of the barriers that complicated the recognition of customary land right is removed.

Additionally, all the steps and the authorizations to be granted by the different local government institutions are now time-bounded. This means that all the institutions that intervene in the process must now provide their approval (or denial) within a precise period, which varies

between 15 and 30 days. In this way, communities can now have the security that the process will be completed within a certain period: considering all the steps, the registration process should take no longer than 3 months. This should be a critical incentive for the communities to legalize their land.

Last, and perhaps most importantly, the *Despacho* establishes the obligation of carrying out a Rural Participatory Delimitation in each community undertaking the recognition process. The Rural Participatory Delimitation (DRP, for the Portuguese acronym that stays for *Delimitação Rural Participativa*) is carried out through a methodology developed by FAO, which consists in a series of instruments that are applied within 6 to 10 community encounters. The application of these tools enables government technicians to collect information on the community history, internal organization, use and management of the natural resources, and the occupation of the space. All this information is compiled in a report, which is eventually corroborated -and signed- by the community's representatives. This information permits a rural land to be qualified as communitarian, in the sense of the Art. 23 of the Land Law, and therefore, to apply for the recognition of the customary land title. Finally, the completion of the DRP makes real the disposition at the Art. 51 of the Land Law, where it is required to considerate the opinion of the families of the community as a pre-condition for the recognition of the customary land right. This disposition, which remained largely unacted in the practice because of the lack of any further specific indications, finds now a precise application in the *Despacho* through the implementation of the DRP.

The *Despacho* represents a significant step toward the tangible implementation of the principles and practices contained in the VGGT. One of the VGGT's guiding principles encourages states to "promote and facilitate the enjoyment of legitimate tenure rights" and "take active measures to promote and facilitate the full realization of tenure rights", which is exactly the aim of the *Despacho*. Furthermore, many of the VGGT's principles of implementation, such as consultation, participation, transparency, and accountability, despite not being expressly mentioned in the text, find a concrete application in the *Despacho*. In particular:

- **Consultation and participation** are ensured by the implementation of the DRP methodology in each community requesting the recognition of their customary rights. In this way, the *Despacho* facilitates "the participation of users of land (...) in order to be fully involved in a participatory process of tenure governance (...) and decisions on territorial development", as expressly mentioned in the VGGT.
- **Transparency and accountability** are ensured by the definition of the steps of the recognition process, as well as by the specification of the functions and responsibilities of each intervening institution. In this manner, the *Despacho* puts into practice the VGGT's provision that encourages States to "clearly define the roles and responsibilities of agencies dealing with tenure of land, fisheries, and forests. States should ensure coordination between implementing agencies, as well as with local governments, and indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure systems".

Also, the *Despacho* represents a rare case of creation of a legal instrument through a bottom-up approach, based on the lessons learned in the practice from the grassroots level, and the experience gained from several land programs funded by, and implemented with the support of, international development organizations within the past decade. The Provincial Government of Bié has been able to capitalize on this experience, and to take advantage of the *momentum* created by the debate on land governance started at national level.

The first effects of the *Despacho's* enforcement are encouraging: as an immediate result, at present 23 community titles have been issued since the approval of the *Despacho*, in October 2015, in comparison with only five titles issued before, in a period of 11 years, since the approval

of the 2004's National Land Law. This means that more than 7.500 people among men, women, and children, have now their land secured from external threats, and don't have to be afraid of losing their livelihoods in the future. The title over the land they occupied protects them from conflicts and disputes over land with any external play-actor.

Beyond these remarkable, immediate effects, the real significance of the *Despacho* will be probably clearer in the future, when the pressure over land will increase, and communities will have to face the (still not totally predictable) consequences of new, powerful drivers, such as the urbanization process, internal and international land grabbing, and climate change, among others. What is by now evident is the political willing that the Provincial Government of Bié proved to own, which represent the first and most important precondition for effective land administration policies.

### **3. The way forward: perspectives and challenges for the future**

The *Despacho* opens interesting perspectives for the near future.

**Scale up the experience.** The *Despacho* is enforceable, obviously, only at Provincial level. However, it has been presented and discussed along different events outside the Province of Bié, and it has been considered a best practice that should be adopted by other Provincial Governments, and even at national level. In this sense, the *Despacho* may constitute a basis for the regulation of the customary rights' recognition process, which is a pending task since the issuing of the National Land Law.

**Training of technical staff to strengthen the enforcement.** The first months of the enforcement has been encouraging. The steps and the time bounds set in the *Despacho* have been mostly respected. However, this is due mainly to the constant follow up of the administrative process by the EC Land Tenure Project's technicians, which have been constantly exhorting the local institutions for the accomplishment of the provisions of the *Despacho*. It is now necessary, for the sustainability of the actions, to foster the autonomous enforcement, through the production of material (manuals for the local institutions' staff) and the organization of training sessions. The civil servants involved will be technicians from IGCA, Agriculture Provincial Department, Urban Planning Department, and Municipal Administrations.

**Sensitization at community level.** The *Despacho* seeks to make the process for the recognition of customary rights more transparent and predictable. In this sense, it means to primarily benefit the rural communities, which will have a clearer idea of the steps to undertake to have their title recognized and registered, and the time needed to complete the process. To make this happen, it will be necessary to widespread the content of the *Despacho*, producing material to be distributed and displayed in different locations (Municipal and Communal Administration Offices), in both Portuguese and native language (*Ombundo*).

Beyond these perspectives, there are huge challenges that need to be tackled in the future, in order to give a greatest significance to the improvements achieved in the recognition of the customary rights.

**Internal inequalities.** The *Dominio Util Consuetudinario* is a collective title. It is the community as a whole that, with the title, receives the recognition of the customary occupation. But the title says nothing on the management of the land inside the community, and the Land Law remits to tradition including for aspects such as internal conflicts (according to the Art. 82, disputes between people of the same community must be first addressed through the traditional laws).

The title provides hence protection against external threats, but may not help to address existing internal inequalities, in particular, gender inequalities. Similarly to what happens in many other

African countries<sup>2</sup>, women are actually prevented, in most of the cases, from the access to land: family land is normally distributed uniquely between sons, and if a man dies, wife and daughters are usually excluded from any inheritance lineage. DRP methodology can provide an effective mean to raise awareness at community level, and to foster community dialogue toward a more equal distribution of land among family members.

Similarly, inequalities based on ethnical differences may keep hidden in a collective land title. It's the case of several groups of San ethnic minority, traditionally nomads, who in the past decade have been re-settled by the State in areas occupied by communities of Bantu origins. In some community, where the DRP process has been carried out properly, Bantu and San communities managed to build a peaceful and equal cohabitation.

Customary land titles are thus a first step to guarantee traditional occupation is recognized, but they can also hide deep inequalities that must be addressed to guarantee that land rights are enjoyed by everybody at community level. To this extent, sensitization at community level is the first step to be undertaken.

**Policies for smallholder farmers.** It has been questioned whether the land titling represents, *per se*, a significant change for the smallholder farmers. Despite the theory suggests that farmers with a title over the land should be more confident in undertaking investments, keener to adopt long-term agronomical practices, and more able to have access to credit, the practice shows that this correlation may be not so linear. Several studies stresses that in Africa the relation between land titling and increase in the household's income is weaker than in other regions, as there are many further constraints (poor infrastructure, difficult access to market, low educational level and technical skills, among others) affecting the farmers, and preventing them from taking full advantage from the title they have over their land<sup>3</sup>.

Hence, fostering land registration is important, but it is not enough. The State is called to create an enabling environment that could permit smallholder farmers in rural communities to fully exploit the registration of their land. This means, in sum, improve the infrastructure and the communications, remove the barriers that prevent smallholder from the access to market, invest in research and development, and adopt macroeconomic policies in support of the agriculture sector.

**Foster land rental markets.** One of the most effective – and less costly, from a State's point of view – policies has proven to be the creation of a solid and reliable rural lands' rental market. Land rental represents a potentially win-win situation. Communities with limited capability for making a productive use of most of the land they occupy can reach formalized agreements with external people, in order to permit them to exploit part of it. In this way, communities can get financial resources and/or productive inputs without losing their most valuable asset. And on the other hand, medium-big producers can expand with no conflicts with the smallholder producers, and the general interest of intensifying national agriculture production is pursued.

Informal land rental schemes already take place: however, most of them are deals arranged by traditional authorities at the back of the population, and communities don't get any benefit from them. Additionally, information asymmetries are common, obviously in detriment of the

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<sup>2</sup> See Joireman S.F. 2013. The mystery of capital formation in SubSaharian Africa: women, property rights, and customary law, World Development Vol. 36, No. 7, pp. 1233–1246.

<sup>3</sup>See in particular Lawry at al. 2016. The impact of land property rights interventions on investment and agricultural productivity in developing countries a systematic review, Journal of Development Effectiveness. See also Deininger K., et al. (2009) Impacts of Land Certification on Tenure Security, Investment, and Land Markets. Evidence from Ethiopia. Environment for Development; and Also Jacoby, H., and B. Minten. 2007. "Is Land Titling in Sub-Saharan Africa Cost Effective? Evidence from Madagascar," World Bank Economic Review 21(3): 461–85.



communities; moreover, even the best informed community is often in a weaker position when it comes to negotiate with some powerful individual. And finally, contracts and informal agreements are barely enforceable. For all these reasons, communities are often reluctant in undertaking rental agreements.

Obviously, a functional rental market does not take place by itself. A sound support to land rental market would require the State to guarantee transparency and rule of law, and to reduce information asymmetries and transaction costs. The State must assume, hence, an active role in the creation an enabling environment for a functional rural land rental market.

The need to tackle these challenges through the adoption of proper policies is suggested also from the preliminary results of the study carried out by the EC Land Tenure Project in the first months of the year. The survey analyzes a total of 48 rural communities in the Province of Bié and Huila. Half of the communities are legally recognized and held a land titles, while the other half (selected as adjacent communities) are not. In the case of Bié, the titles are more recent, having been issued in 2016 and 2017, while some of the titles in Huila Province have more than 10 years. Among all the communities with a title, no one has reported any attempt to make a productive use of the document, i.e., to engage with some individual for the renting of part of the rent. When asked the reason, the answer was always “lack of knowledge of the procedures”, “lack of support or orientation”. There is, hence, a clear need for further support, that cannot be limited to the recognition of the title, and must involve policies in favor of smallholder agriculture.

## **Conclusions**

Recognition of customary land and emission of related land titles has been remarkably boosted by the Provincial Government of Bié. The *Despacho* formalizing the steps to be followed, the documents to be presented, the responsibilities of the involved institutions, and the time necessary for each step, has proven to be a very effective instrument to facilitate the recognition process. The first results of the enforcement are encouraging, with a consistent number of customary titles already issued since the approval of the by-law.

It has been questioned whether these land titles may actually bring any benefit for the communities. Several studies demonstrate that in Africa the theoretical positive effects of the land titling in terms of sustainable rural development (land security should increase investments and access to credit) are less evident than elsewhere, and little correlation has been found between recognition of land, and increase in food security and household income. The preliminary results of the study carried out in Angola in the frame of the project seem to confirm this trend. At present, customary land titles may not be able to bring, *per se*, any tangible immediate improvement to the community welfare. Additional enabling conditions must be met - and active support is needed from the state- to convert a land title in a key element for the economic growth. The role of the rural communities for the national food security should be acknowledged, and to guarantee them the security over the lands they occupy should be a priority.

The above cannot lead to underestimate the importance of the land titling. First, the communities may actually make a fruitful use of the title. With the land secured, they can feel more confident to negotiate rental agreements with external persons, or to carry out investments. Second, the present situation (relatively low pressure over land) may suddenly change, considering the powerful dynamics on going at national and international level (urbanization process, population growth, changes in the food system, international land grabbing, climate change, among others), and pressure over land may rapidly increase, just it happened in other areas of the continent. Considering future's risks and the uncertainties, it is critical for the communities to count with a legal protection. The *Despacho* provides the

communities the means to defend their land from external threats. In this sense, one of the merits of the Provincial Government of Bié has been the capability of anticipating the raising of possible land conflicts in the future, and adopting a legal instrument able to prevent and face them.

The real magnitude of this bylaw (isolated experience resulting from the lobby of a project, or first step toward a wider policy of defense of customary land rights at national level) will depend on the evolution of the public debate on land issues at national level. In 2004, land was one of the crucial points in the public agenda: Government, civil society, practitioners, and international cooperation, have been engaged in a national debate around the National Land Law, whose definitive version has been influenced by the inputs coming from this debate. Afterward, land issues have been progressively neglected from the public agenda, and no further steps have been done. It is presently necessary to resume this debate, review the national legal framework in place (National Land Law and the related Regulations), and analyze the changes that are needed to face the extraordinary new challenges that the present and the future present.

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