



UACDDDD

**Union des Associations et Coordinations d'Associations pour
le Développement et la Défense des Droits des Démunis**

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The UACDDDD's 10-Step Interactive COFOV Implementation Process *Role and responsibilities of the local team*

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UACDD's 10-steps interactive process for establishing COFOVs

This process is the result of 6 years of experience, started in 2015, around community land rights and then concretized in the framework of the Agricultural Land Law of April 11, 2017 and its implementation decree on village land commissions (COFOV) of April 4, 2018. Today this interactive 10-step process of setting up COFOVs by and for communities is proven and replicable between 12 and 18 months.

Step 1 : Awareness

Step 2: The Grand Vestibule

Step 3: Training of the local team

Step 4: Local land management agreement

Step 5: The exchange spaces

The steering committee

Women and youth groups

Consultation frameworks

Step 6: Training of local administrative authorities

Step 7: Establishment of COFOVs

Step 8: Training of COFOV members

Step 9: Land in peasant agro-ecology

Step 10: Assessment of the COFOV



Step 1: Raising awareness

The first villages to sign up were villages facing land grabs who are members of the UACDDDD. Then little by little, new villages and communes came forward to engage in the interactive process of setting up COFOVs in 10 steps of the UACDDDD.

In this first step :

- expanding the areas of implementation of the COFOVs,
- strengthening social cohesion through securing customary land rights
- reducing conflicts
- allowing us to project ourselves into the future with the global approach of terroirs in peasant agro-ecology,

The sensitization stage is the gateway to the UACDDDD's land tenure security campaign. It is the first contact with the actors in the villages and communes: it targets the mayor and his advisors, the village chiefs or their representatives, the women and youth representatives and focuses on the presentation of the Agricultural Land Law, the decree on the COFOVs and the interactive process of setting up the COFOVs in 10 steps of the UACDDDD.



Step 2: the vestibule

The "Blon" vestibule is culturally the space of dialogue where the truth is spoken between the wise men of the village; in the Dogon environment it is the "Toguna" under which one does not get angry, with a very low roof that does not allow one to stand up.

After the representatives have restituted the sensitization meeting in their respective villages, the communities organize a general assembly, the grand vestibule, of the representatives of the villages of the commune, in a village unanimously chosen by them, to designate the local team and transmit the names to the UACDDDD

Step 3: Training of local team



Selection and training of the local team

After step 1, the local team must be chosen by all the villages in each commune, which it represents, throughout the UACDDDD's land tenure security programs.

Its members are appointed by all the villages in step 2.

It is formed by the UACDDDD, step 3

Its composition

- 1 man representing the customary authorities
- 1 woman from the women's group
- 1 youth from the youth group
- 1 representative of the city hall

The qualifications of its members

- Be available, unifying, fair, transparent
- To be recognized and respected
- Have the confidence and strength
- Be able to give feedback, listen, animate, organize

Its functions

To be the permanent link between the UACDDDD, the communities, the town hall, the administrative authorities and vice versa

Ensure consistency and linkages in the areas

Be the privileged interlocutor of the program, be part of the steering committee

It is in charge of the preparation and follow-up of activities in the field: animation of local conventions, women and youth groups, consultation frameworks, meetings...



Step 4: The local land management agreement Definitions

The local land management agreement is the first entry point for bringing the land debate to the village, based on habits and customs, to transform the present and look to the future.

It is the inventory and harmonization of customary land rights through the collective development in each village of a progressive local land management agreement that takes into account women and youth

The local land management convention is the set of customary rules governing land in our villages and fractions

It is understood, accepted and validated by the whole village to preserve common goods and find solutions to conflicts

It is a working tool that is available to COFOV but also to town halls and magistrates for the management of land conflicts.



Step 4: the local land management agreement Elaboration

This is the first activity of the local field team. It is responsible, in conjunction with the UACDDD team, for facilitating the activities planned for the development of local land management agreements: planning with the villages and ensuring the effective and active participation of the entire community, particularly women and youth

The various activities to be carried out for the development of the local land management agreement

At the village level

1. A survey is conducted by the UACDDDD team in each village
2. It is processed at the UACDDDD and is written in the form of a local land management agreement
3. Then the local convention specific to each village is validated in a village assembly, it is kept at the level of the village chief

At the level of administrative and judicial authorities

4. The final local agreement is also validated at a local council meeting
5. Then it is submitted to the local authorities: town hall, sub-prefecture, territorial brigade of gendarmerie, court of first instance.



Step 5: Spaces for discussion and exchanging: The steering committee

All the activities of the UACDDDD's land tenure security programs are governed by a steering committee composed of the local teams of the communes involved, the team and representatives of the UACDDDD and CMAT.

It is an important moment of exchange and sharing of experiences from one zone to another, and of research for collective solutions

The steering committee meets twice a year in Bamako under the leadership of the UACDD. Each meeting is sanctioned by a report.

It plans activities, identifies difficulties and discusses strategies to facilitate the implementation of program activities and land tenure security in general



Step 5: Spaces for discussion and exchanging: Women and youth groups

It is a space of exchange exclusive for women and youth to better insert themselves in community debates, and in particular the land. Indeed, they are not seriously taken into consideration, they must have a lead role and must become a force of proposal, conscious of the stakes and challenges.

Their discussions are shared at the level of the consultation framework and the steering committee, thus reinforcing their consideration and involvement.

The two groups, women and youth, meet once every two months, six times a year. Each group chooses its own meeting date and location. This is step 5 of the UACDDDD's 10-step interactive process for establishing COFOVs

At least one representative from each village in its commune makes up the group

At each meeting, a reporter is designated within the group to write the minutes of the meeting: a model is provided by the UACDDDD. The town hall must get involved to ensure the minutes

At least the woman and the young person of the local team are an integral part of the group and are in charge of animating the debates, providing documents, getting information to feed the debates...



Themes for women and youth groups

Securing common property

Take ownership of the local natural resource management agreement in each village and develop strategies for:

- obtain secure collective fields
- apply the 15% of developed land of the LFA .

To deepen knowledge about COFOVs and the issues and challenges they face for women and youth

Reflect and act collectively on water:

- the water of the land, its protection and for an equitable access to water including agricultural
- water-saving practices

Sustainable land management with peasant agroecology (PEA)

To work on a global approach in AEP on the management of the environment and the restitution of degraded lands at the level of the terroir with a diagnosis of the ecosystems of the zone: two cartographies: one 50 years ago and one today

Sharing and understanding AEP and its training needs

Deepen reflection on certain so-called cash crops such as onions and potatoes, from production to marketing

Step 5: Spaces for discussion and exchanging Framework for dialogue



Considered as a space of dialogue in all its component, the framework of dialogue gathers the representatives of the town hall, the chiefs of villages, the women and the young people, the religious leaders of the commune and to share the concerns, to find collective solutions and to carry out common projects

It meets every 6 months at the town hall

Minutes of each meeting are sent to the UACDDDD and shared in the steering committee

Its main task is the facilitation of inclusive dialogue in the municipality. In particular, it must ensure that:

To listen to the debates, especially those carried out by women and youth groups, and to involve them and make them responsible for making decisions and implementing them

Ensure the quality of the COFOV's operations: it must facilitate the role of COFOV members, particularly with regard to administrative documents and the securing of collective lands for communities and families

Establish a participatory, inclusive and equitable dialogue to anticipate and resolve conflicts

Projecting for living and dynamic terroirs in peasant agroecology



Step 6: Training of local administrative authorities

The training takes place at the sub-prefecture presided over by the sub-prefect with the mayor and one or two of his councillors, the technical services (agents of agriculture, domains and land), the focal points of the zone.

The objective is to facilitate the process of setting up COFOVs in the same understanding, agreement and peace, with the local administrative authorities.

This training also allows :

- an update on the agricultural land law and its application decrees**
- an update on **the responsibility of each authority** in relation to the creation of COFOV



Step 7: Setting up the COFOVs what they say

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The strength of COFOV is the villagers themselves

The establishment of regular meetings is essential

Thanks to the Union, we have united in the struggle, and for the law and we continue to mobilize for its application, to defend our customary land rights

The good thing about the composition of the COFOV is that everyone is a member and everyone talks to each other and now everyone respects each other

The COFOV reassure us, frighten the speculators and guarantee us the achievement of food sovereignty and especially the future of women and young people

Anything that can be prepared the next day, do not let wait

Being a member of COFOV is a great responsibility for development, cohesion and peace



Step 7: Establishment of the COFOVs composition

Articles of Executive Order 0001 of April 4, 2018 on the composition of the COFOV	Thoughts on the selection of COFOV members
<p><u>Article 2: Composition of the members of the COFOV</u></p> <p>President :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The village or fraction chief <p>Members :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The customary chief ○ The village council representative ○ The representative of the professional corporations ○ The youth representative ○ The women's representative <p>This is the basic composition, the number of members is not fixed</p>	<p>The qualities of future members of the COFOV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>to be upright, fair, honest/sworn</i> ○ <i>to be a close-knit and united team</i> ○ <i>to work in communion and in righteousness without bias or discrimination in equity, social cohesion and peace</i> ○ <i>to defend the general interest of the communities</i> ○ <i>be committed and available</i> ○ <i>respect women and youth</i> ○ <i>enforce the law, local agreements, internal regulations</i> ○ <i>reconciling people in conflict</i>



Step 7: Establishment of the COFOVs composition

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<p><u>Article 2 (cont.)</u> A rapporteur shall be appointed by consensus within the Land and Fraction Commission.</p>	<p>He/she is the key to all the minutes (PV), and must have the confidence of everyone. It is the credibility of the COFOV that is at stake, through the truth of the documents, the minutes. It is important to have at least two people capable of performing this function, to fill in when needed.</p>
<p><u>Article 2 (cont.)</u> The composition of the village or fractional land commissions is determined according to the specificities of the villages or fractions.</p>	<p>From the 6 basic members of the COFOV decree, the village must reflect on the relevance of adding other members, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More representatives of the different professional corporations of the village (agriculture, breeding, fishing, market gardening...) ○ To have more women and/or youth, at least two of each would bring balance ○ The fact of having substitute members to ensure a correct functioning of this one in case of need, especially for the level of the reporter...



Step 7: Establishment of the COFOVs composition

UACDDDD's 10-Step Interactive VFOC Implementation Process

<p><u>Article 3</u> : use of any person that might have resources and connections to carry out its missions</p>	<p>Women who also have a lot of wisdom and who might also have resources and connections. They, are important contributions for the COFOV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they must have integrity and impartiality - they are not there to influence but to enlighten the debates on which the COFOV invites them, be careful with some politicians, religious etc. - they are only there occasionally, -they are not an integral part of the COFOV - they do not have the power of decision making
<p><u>Article 4</u> : The term of office is 5 years renewable</p>	<p>Swear in all members every 5 years with respect to integrity and commitment.</p>

When the members of the COFOV are designated and validated in a village assembly, a report is established. It is from this report that the sub-prefect will create the COFOV,

In the UACDDDD process, the local team accompanies the sub-prefect and the mayor to each village to physically formalize the COFOV



Step 8: Training of COFOV members

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To elaborate an internal regulation collectively, its validation and its legalization by the city hall

**Roles,
Responsibilities,
Operation of the
COFOV**

Training of
reporters

**Training provided by the
UACDDDD team in the
zones, on different
themes**

Know how to use a GPS

Know how to do village mapping, especially for certificates of ownership of customary land rights, an essential element in the use of administrative documents

Know how to fill out the documents related to the various land transactions



Step 9: Lands in peasant agroecology

Villages, local teams, town halls are sensitized at each stage on the perspectives of development of the lands around the 7 pillars of the peasant agro-ecology

This specific stage nevertheless requires a specific process with adequate resources... It needs more reflection and diagnosis for a project on the scale of the land with a global approach.

Nevertheless, training and exchange days are organized and discussed within the communities, especially in the different spaces of exchange and concrete realizations in the field, such as the collective fields of women

Climate: for the IPCC, adaptation will require the preservation of biodiversity

"This is the first report in which we so clearly recognize the interdependence between climate, ecosystems and biodiversity," said Hoesung Lee, Chairman of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at a press conference on February 28. In this new report on adaptation to climate change published today, the IPCC recalls, on the basis of nearly 34,000 scientific studies, that "climate change, including the increased frequency and intensity of extreme events, has reduced food security. In Europe, "substantial production losses are expected in most regions", which will not be compensated by yield increases in Northern Europe. The IPCC warns that irrigation will not be sufficient, since its effectiveness "decreases with rising temperatures" and it may even "have undesirable effects", in particular by altering rainfall. The experts therefore recommend developing adapted varieties and breeds, but also "restoring wetlands and rivers", stopping the artificialization of soils, or diversifying the landscape and encouraging agroforestry./agrafil March 1, 2022



Step 10: Assessment

Step 10, the assessment step, cannot yet be completed because it is subject to the issuance of decrees, in particular that of attestations and possessions of customary rights, but the table below provides a status report to date.

Situation of the COFOVs within the UACDDDD						
Regions	Circles	Municipalities	Programs	Number of COFOVs	Validated COFOV with decision	COFOV in progress
Koulikoro	Kati	1-Mandé	PPLM	20	12 en cours	08
		2-Siby	TFF	21	21 en cours	00
		3Yélékébougou	TFF	12	00	12
	Kangaba	4-Naréna	IRDC/FIAN	06	06	06
Nara	Nara	5-Dilly	Enabel	22	00	22
		6-Falou	Enabel	15	00	15
		7-Nara	Enabel	06	00	06
		8-Niamana	Enabel	13	00	13
		9-Wagadou	Enabel	04	00	04
Ségou	Ségou	10-Sansanding	PPLM	23	05	18
		11-Sibila	PPLM/TFF	16	05	11
San	San	12-Djéguéna	PPLM	08	08	00
		13-N'Goa	PPLM	14	14	00
		14-Niasso	PPLM	27	00	27
Total				207	33 +39	142