

Land rights' registration successes in the Philippines: Enhancing Tenurial Security of Indigenous Peoples



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Land tenure context for the indigenous peoples

Indigenous Peoples (IPs)

- Estimates of 12-15 million
- One of the poorest sectors in the country
- Most do not have legal recognition over their traditional/ancestral lands

The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997

- 221 Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles/CADTs; 5.4 million hectares
- about 50 CADTs are registered under the Land Registration Authority
- Implementation issues
 - Lack of budget and trained personnel
 - Expensive, tedious, long and technical process for CADT application
 - Policy and jurisdictional overlaps among land agencies
 - Boundaries delineation overlaps of titles and resolution of disputes
 - Increasing commercial pressures

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Process of application of Land Tools (GLTN and others)

Complimented by several tools, the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) was used in the process of **mapping the farms and residential lots** of the indigenous households to increase their tenure security.

- Courtesy visits and orientation meetings
- Training of local enumerators
- HH data gathering, encoding and validation
- Documentation and resolution of land disputes
- Awarding of Certificates of Customary Land Occupancy (CCLOs)

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Stakeholders/Partnerships

Organization	Role
NAMAMAYUK, MILALITTRA, PTTA (IP Organizations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Main project partners <input type="checkbox"/> Data providers <input type="checkbox"/> Approve and sign the MOUs <input type="checkbox"/> Sign the CCLOs
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy discussions <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison with local NCIP offices
Local government units	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve and sign the MOUs <input type="checkbox"/> Sign the CCLOs
Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC)	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy dialogues and learning events <input type="checkbox"/> Programs of RLUC members

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Outcomes

Increased perception of tenurial security among IPs through the issuance of CCLOs

- enumerated 3,500 HHs; 2,182 parcels mapped; 3,347 CCLOs issued
- from arbitrary boundary indicators to informed land boundaries
- motivation to bring forward their CADT application

Increased capacities to use appropriate land tools

- 36 local enumerators trained (25 women, 11 men; 20 belonging to age group 24 years and below); conducted 26 courses, 48% of the 797 trainees were women
- increased confidence
- ensures sustainability of initiatives

Enhanced capacities of women and youth motivated active community participation

- renewed ties of youth to their ancestral lands
- improved relationships among stakeholders
- participatory and community-led data gathering served as a mobilizing platform and an empowerment tool

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Take aways

- In the absence of weak institutional capacities, it is possible to increase tenure security through the **use of appropriate, affordable and participatory tools and approaches to document land rights and land use, delineation of boundaries**
- Documentation of land rights has also been observed to be a **key step** in moving forward with formal land rights recognition. The CCLOs provide **evidence of use and occupancy** that is recognized by **community members, IP leaders, and local government officials**.
- Increased tenure security** provides a powerful incentive to **manage natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner, as well as contributes to food security**.

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