



# The CALI Project

Research and action for pro-poor land policies  
and practices in Niger and Uganda



International  
Land  
Coalition

## International Land Coalition

### Our Vision

Secure and equitable access to and control over land reduces poverty and contributes to identity, dignity and inclusion.

### Our Mission

The International Land Coalition is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue, and capacity building.



# The CALI Project

Research and action for pro-poor land policies  
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# The CALI Project:

## Research and action for pro-poor land policies and practices in Niger and Uganda

The Collaborative Action on Land Issues (CALI) is a multi-year project intended to support collaboration among government institutions, civil-society organizations, and rural stakeholders to address important land tenure issues that may constrain or support sustainable livelihoods of the rural poor. Funded by the Belgian Survival Fund (<http://www.ifad.org/bsf/>), the project is being implemented by collaborative groups in both Niger and Uganda with oversight by the International Land Coalition based in Rome ([www.landcoalition.org](http://www.landcoalition.org)). The International Fund for Agricultural Development ([www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)) and BSF collaborate in both country-level and Rome-based steering committees and use their respective strengths to build a successful project. In Uganda, CALI is being implemented through the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), and in Niger through both the PPILDA project of IFAD and the Secrétariat Permanent du Code Rural.

### **BSF – IFAD - ILC collaboration to foster solutions for strengthening land tenure rights of the rural poor**

The Belgian Survival Fund (BSF) focuses its intervention upon those factors affecting vulnerable populations in the poorest countries, in an attempt to improve food security and reduce poverty among the most vulnerable segments of rural communities. Within this strategy, support for agrarian reform and equal access to land is seen to be an important factor to the achievement of the BSF objectives. IFAD, with its focus on providing financial and technical expertise to overcome rural poverty by supporting agricultural development, increasingly recognizes the importance of secure access to land as essential for rural smallholder livelihoods.

CALI was conceived as an opportunity to build upon the complimentary focus and expertise of both BSF and IFAD to support collaboration among NGO, CBO, and government principles in Niger and Uganda in order to identify and address land issues that have been a major impediment to the growth and progress of the country and adversely affected the rural poor. The project was intended to address both policy and practices that affect rural small-scale producers and the poor and it is hoped that successful approaches developed by CALI can be “scaled-up” or replicated by IFAD and other members of ILC in similar initiatives elsewhere.

## CALI Quick Facts

**Inception date:** 2005 in Uganda, 2006 in Niger

**Principle institutions involved in the collaboration**

**In Uganda:** Uganda Land Alliance, Ministry of Lands, Water, and Housing, Plan to Modernize Agriculture (PMA), FOWODE, BSF, IFAD,

**In Niger:** IFAD, SDR, Plate-Forme Paysanne, PPILDA, Code Rural, AREN (an association of livestock producers), national and local offices of the National Cadastre

**In Rome:** FAO, IFAD, BSF, ILC Secretariat

**Status as of March 2008:** Mid-project in Uganda. Evaluation and planning for the second phase is currently being implemented. Nearing the end of the first phase in Niger. A mid-term evaluation is anticipated for mid-2008. Project managers have indicated some initial promising results and potential scalability.

### Objectives of the CALI Project:

CALI aims to strengthen the role of Civil Society Organisations in Uganda and Niger to undertake research and citizen consultation on land tenure issues that can inform the formulation of both countries' national land policies and associated implementation strategies.

In Uganda, the CALI project has sought to build sustainable collaboration among government and civil-society stakeholders to identify and oversee research that results in policy options for the draft National Land Policy that will strengthen and sustain the land rights of Uganda's rural poor. It is hoped this collaboration will continue beyond the funding of the CALI project

In Niger, the project is occurring in concert with an existing IFAD agricultural development project. The CALI is pilot testing in one village a complete mapping and registration of land claims of all households as a crucial step in securing smallholder agricultural livelihoods.

## Project Inception

The project was initially conceived in 2004 and initiated in 2005 with a stakeholder workshop in Uganda attended by over 100 people representing farmer's groups, civil-society organizations, and government institutions involved in land issues and land policy development in Uganda. Following extensive consultation and planning, including a stakeholder workshop with 40 participants in August 2006, CALI activities began in Niger in February 2007.

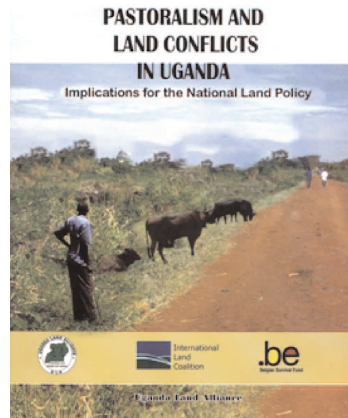
## Progress

In Uganda, ULA has managed the production of documents arising from research focused on land policy issues. Some of these documents have been used to inform and influence the development of the draft national land policy. Through their participation in the project, the various members of the CALI In-country Steering Committee have also worked together more closely and collaborated on other land policy initiatives.

To date, the four research documents include:

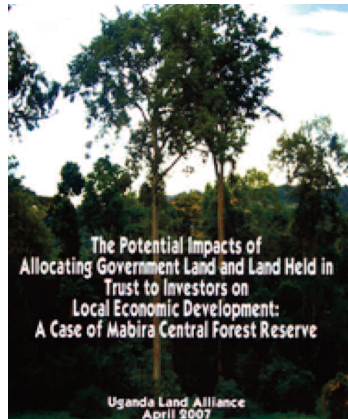
- *Reference guide to land research in Uganda. 2005*
- *Pastoralism and land conflicts in Uganda: implications for the national land policy. 2006.*
- *The potential impacts if allocating government land and land held in trust to investors on local economic development: a case of Mabira Central Forest Reserve. 2007.*
- *The impact of the give-away of public land and land held in trust to investors on local development: a case study of the oil palm project on Bugala islands, Kalangala district. 2007.*

Initial feedback from some of the primary stakeholders suggests that the CALI project is making an important contribution to evolving policy and public debate on pro-poor land issues in Uganda. The strength of relationships with stakeholders, built in part through the CALI project has been evident in cooperative efforts among members that evolved through their collaboration on the In-Country Steering Committee.



In Niger, the CALI project began later than in Uganda. During a mission in August 2006, the activities for CALI Niger were redesigned so as to best:

(1) support and strengthen the Secrétariat Permanent du Code Rural (SPCR), as the primary agency of the government with the mandate for decentralising governance of land in Niger; (2) feed lessons learned and action-research findings directly into a context of project implementation so as to build a persuasive case for decision makers, and; (3) strengthen the organizational capacity for civil society and other stakeholders in Niger to share experiences/advocate/lobby through a single platform on land issues.



The design and implementation of the CALI project in Niger differed significantly in nature from that in Uganda. In Niger, the project was conceived and designed in recognition of the different political and socio-economic context; stakeholders considered that a more persuasive case could be made to policy makers through demonstrating alternatives on the ground rather than the production and use of research data to influence policy. Accordingly, the Niger component has focused on more technical activities in specific communities, including registration and mapping. It is hoped that the CALI-funded methods being used in the target communities will be replicable across a wider scale throughout Niger.

## Next Steps

The ILC Secretariat, in cooperation with the CALI In-country Steering Committee in Uganda, is currently planning and implementing a mid-term evaluation of CALI activities in that country. An evaluation in Niger is anticipated for mid-2008. The second phase of the Uganda project will depend upon the results of the evaluation and the feedback and ideas of the stakeholders. The implementation of the CALI project in Niger will continue according to the existing work plan and be adjusted according to the results of the future evaluation.

In Niger, conflict management and the adjudication of existing land claims will be an important aspect of the project. Anticipated next steps include:

- *Facilitation of community discussion to design and agree upon a process and procedures to manage and resolve land tenure disputes*
- *Delineation of livestock grazing areas and livestock movement corridors*
- *Facilitation of community agreement on a process and standards for conducting land transactions*
- *Setting up of a national platform of organizations working on land issues for exchange of information, collaboration and advocacy*





## Lessons learned

The formal mid-term evaluations will provide clear lessons and recommendations for the CALI project to establish sustained impacts. However, there are a number of lessons already emerging:

- *The CALI project involves a number of organizations in planning, oversight, and implementation, all of whom rely on information and communication with one another in order to contribute and understand the progress of the project. Regular, consistent communication regarding project implementation and expenditure is essential to building trust and satisfaction regarding the progress of the project.*
- *Projects such as CALI can provide a focus for convening government and civil-society institutions in order to build a history and culture of collaboration on land policy and practice issues with the hope that such collaboration extends beyond the project cycle*
- *The original project was prescriptive in terms of methodology and overall project cycle. However, the project has evolved very differently in Uganda and Niger. This reflects local conditions and circumstances and may lead to project results with greater probability of sustainability.*

# Project Accomplishments

**Project stakeholders in Uganda and Niger have cited a number of preliminary positive results of the project, including:**

## Uganda

Improved collaboration among Steering Committee members such as IFAD and the Ministry of Lands and Housing. As a result of working together to oversee the project, some of the institutions on the Committee have collaborated on land policy initiatives outside the scope of the project

Research results used to influence policy According to reports from ULA, CALI research results and recommendations on forest and pastoral tenure issues, both very public and controversial issues in Uganda, have adopted and used by some Parliamentarians. It has also been suggested that CALI research has influenced the drafting of some parts of the draft National Land Policy.

Broader and more informed awareness of land policy issues CALI has been used to inform rural citizens in select communities about the national land policy development process and CALI reports have been widely circulated among organizations involved in the land policy process. A number of stakeholders involved in the initial CALI stakeholders' workshop expressed appreciation for the initial research output, an annotated reference of existing land policy research in Uganda, noting that it would be useful resource, helpful to reduce research duplication and identify policy research gaps.

## **Niger**

Development of a Plan of Action Establishing the institutional arrangements and respective roles and responsibilities for implementation of CALI in Niger have been complex. However, the principals involved have now agreed upon a Plan of Action.

Training of local youth in use of GPS and demarcation methods, who have formed teams to demarcate household plots throughout the village. In addition to developing an important land administration skill among the local people, it was a cost-effective way to gather the necessary data to record land claims throughout the community.

Land Market Analysis and Mapping of approximately 1200 households CALI funds have been used through the existing IFAD project to employ GIS to register and map all the existing landholdings in Dan Saga commune.

Issuance of titles for all registered uncontested landholding claims For all uncontested and demarcated claims, a title was issued to the Head of Household. All individual landholdings were demarcated and represented on a community map which will be maintained and updated by local officials administering communal and individual land records.









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