Audace Institut Afrique

La liberté pour une prospérité partagée

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

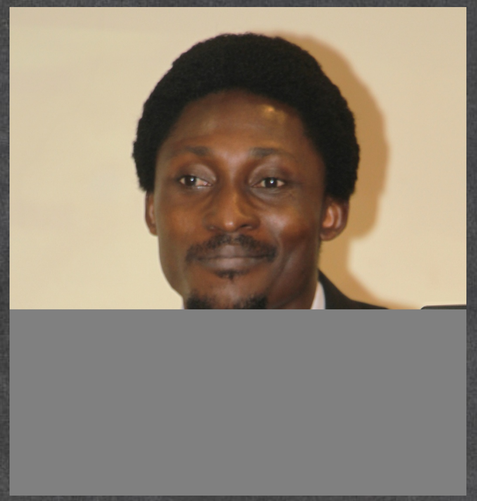
OUR VISION

A RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM FOR A SHARED PROSPERITY

OUR MISSION

Through its publications, seminars, conferences, its research and its willingness to collect innovative, multicultural and multidisciplinary ideas, AIA stimulates the political debate by making contextualized proposals of concrete reforms based on the rule of law, economic freedom, and the property and individual freedoms. AIA also works for strengthening the civil society through meetings, debates, and a training program for students and mobilizing pleas.

EDITORIAL



HERMANN HOKOU
MANAGER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

2017 has fulfilled its promises at our institute. Indeed, we have been able to optimize and finalize the methodology of our land program Acteur Communau'Terre. Our goal was not only to successfully introduce community land registers into our pilot villages, but also to focus on the way to duplicate the program and thus its efficiency. This year has enabled us to adapt our methodology. Now our interventions are faster and cheaper without reducing the quality. The training of the Village committees for Rural Land Management helps to ensure the sustainability of the register. We are looking for villages' autonomy so that land governance can be improved over the long term.

We took advantage of our expertise on the land issue to train the civil society and consolidate our involvement within Alerte Foncier, a civil society platform that we contributed to create in 2015. So these are reflections, sharing of experience, advocacy and training that punctuate the life of Alerte Foncier. As the old saying goes: We are stronger together!

In addition, our strategic partnerships with planters union called SYNAPCI and with the National Chamber of Kings and Traditional Chiefs allow us to enrich our analyzes and to promote innovative ideas or solutions through the fine territorial grid of these two partners. Take updated and contextualized information, and then disseminate it. This is the interest of these strong partnerships

Finally, it is not enough to know how to do it, we must also inform. Audace Institut Afrique maintains its position in the Ivorian and international national media.

For all that has been accomplished, we thank our faithful donors who give us their trust and especially the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, the Network for Free Society and Mr. Paul Beaumartin. They support us and nourish our courage to continue the mission of the poverty alleviation that we have set ourselves. We also thank all the volunteers involved with passion in the life of the institute. Their time and determination to promote freedom for inclusive development is the basis of our daily dynamism.

ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE SUSTAINABILITE

THE VILLAGERS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE TO THE REALIZATION OF THE VILLAGE MAPS WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES

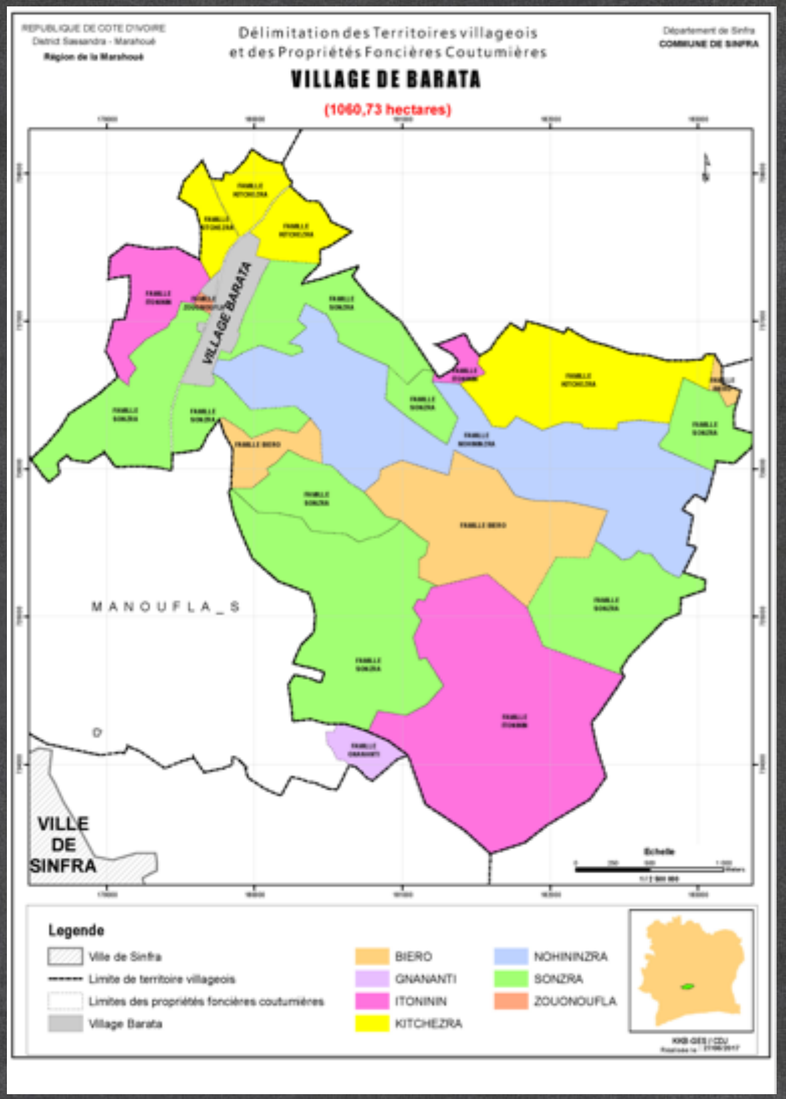
A PARTICULAR CARE FOR WOMEN THANKS TO A SOCIOLOGICAL WORK OF PROXIMITY CARRIED OUT BY THE TEAMS

WHAT ARE THE FIRST RESULTS OF ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE

CLARIFICATION OF LAND RIGHTS IN 04 PILOT VILLAGES

4 VILLAGES HAVE A COMPLET COMMUNITY LAND REGISTER WITH THE VILLAGE TERRITORY DEMARCATION, THE REGISTRATION OF THE CUSTOMARY OWNERS AND TENANTS

4 VILLAGE COMMITTEES FOR RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT ARE IMPLEMENTED, STRUCTURED WITH INTERNAL REGULATIONS, TRAINED TO USE THE GPD AND ARCHIVE LAND DATA IN THEIR VILLAGE



NEW TECHNOLOGIES AT THE SERVICE OF THE TRADITION

DIGITAL LAND DATA ARCHIVING BY VILLAGERS THEMSELVES

DIGNIFIED AND AUTONOMOUS POPULATIONS

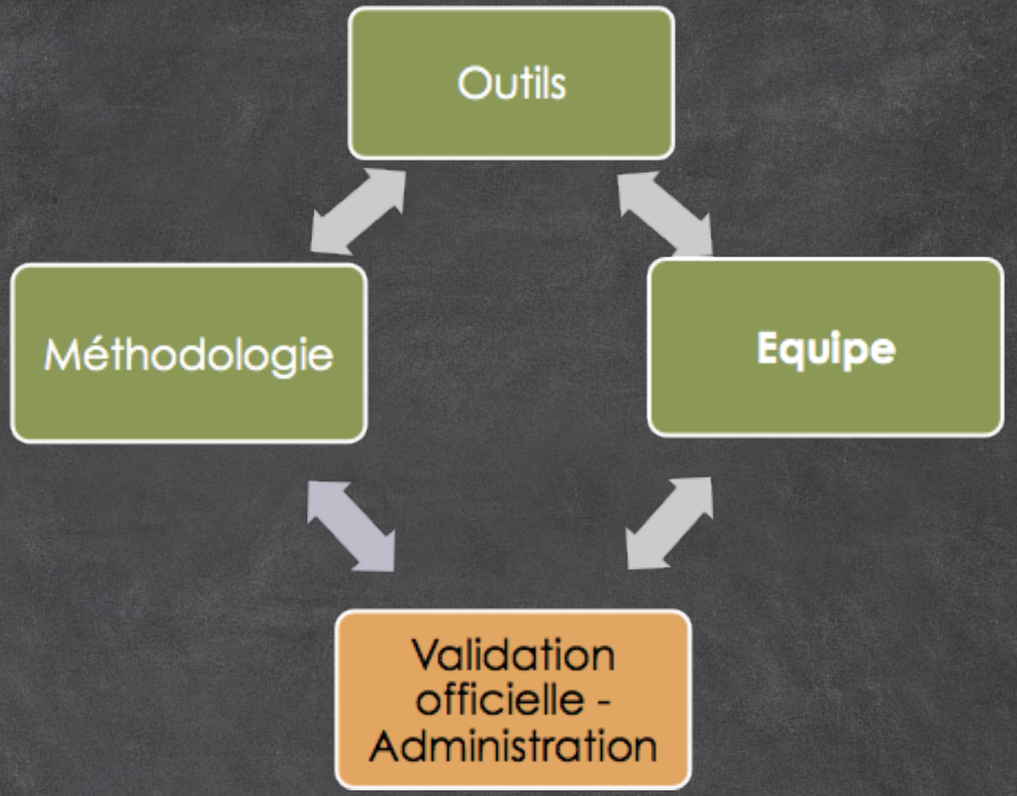
WHAT IS THE BASE OF THE SUCCESS OF AN INTERVENTION IN A VILLAGE?

1. THE CHOICE OF THE HUMAN RESSOURCES IS THE MAIN PILAR OF THE SUCCESS

2 - AFTER AN EXPERIMENTATION IN 4 PILOT VILLAGES, A CLEAR METHODOLOGY HELPS TO REPLY THE PROGRAM AT A LOWER COST, THE EFFICIENCY IS AT THE CENTER OF OUR REQUIREMENTS

3 - USING THE MOST CHEAPER EQUIPMENT (GPS AND SMARTPHONES) WITH FREE SOFTWARE IN ORDER TO MAKE THE PROGRAM FEASIBLE ON A LARGE-SCALE

4 – A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ADMINISTRATION IS NECESSARY DURING THE WHOLE INTERVENTION IN A VILLAGE IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ACTION



NATIONAL MEETING- RESTITUTION 1ST YEAR OF ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE

SECURING RURAL LANDS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE
RECONCILING TRADITION ET MODERNITE
20th Septemberer 2018 at theCNRCT - Yamoussoukro

THE RESTITUTION OF ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE

Not only a technical issue

The day's discussions have showed how land tenure securing operation in Cote d'Ivoire is not just a technical matter, but deeply rooted on human and sociological reality of the country. The composition of the participants was the best proof: beyond the surveyors and technicians, a large number of prefects and traditional chiefs were present. If population growth and economic development requires a modernization of the rural land securing in Cote d'Ivoire, its sustainability depends on a thorough knowledge of local organizational methods. The creation of the National Chamber of Kings and Traditional Chiefs of Côte d'Ivoire in 2014 shows the willingness of the government to include tradition in the modern institutions and thus contribute to a sustainable development and the irreversible setback of the poverty. Made up of a whole, handed down from generation to generation, of knowledge, know-how, beliefs, customs, laws and opinions, tradition is the fruit of a broad social agreement on certain behaviors, activities and methods considered to be good for the survival and development of the society. With a strong local cultural base and deep roots in the lives of citizens, as well as accepted and recognized rules by the whole community, tradition which continuously evolves, cannot be dissociated from modernity. Any attempt at development denying the habits and customs is therefore, doomed to failure. The past experience is highly an useful reference to survival and the future prosperity of a country.

THE RESTITUTION OF ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE

A constantly evolving custom

Tradition must not be subject to willingness to level and standardize cultures and practices. Some jurists consider them to be worthless. Whereas, they are based on an unavoidable human and sociological reality. For others, tradition would oppose modernism, the latter which is assimilated to the denial of authority, the rejection of collective knowledge, and the sacralization of innovation, is considered as the only condition for progress. If ignored, cultural values, habits and customs of a population cannot be the impetus for sound development. This development cannot be realized outside of this base built by countless generations. More than in any other field, the role of tradition cannot be underestimated in rural land management. This is indeed, the place where traditional authority is manager, guardian and judge. This one is the driving force that allows land to exist. The role of traditional chiefs in the management of the nourishing land, which is more and more source of conflict, is central. Tradition is not fixed, especially concerning the rural land, but it evolves and adapts to the realities of the population, and this has been the case for centuries, even if some people believe that it is not changing fast enough. Thus, several women are village's chiefs and the National Chamber of Kings and Traditional Chiefs of Côte d'Ivoire is actively working for women's rights, showing that for these customary leaders, the promotion of gender is not a taboo subject. Tradition is wrongly worrying a lot of people. Its diversity makes it close to the men and women of the country. This diversity is not a brake but a living force. Some people criticize it and want imported models, forgetting that tradition works at improving the living conditions of men, by providing help and assistance. Also, it doesn't assigned itself a limit in the constant search for truth and justice. In this context, should we continue to oppose tradition and modernity?

Settlement of disputes

The knowledge of litigation related to parcels boundaries problems, inheritance, absences of rights holders, provisional transfers that become final divestiture, should be strengthen by specific methods from the chiefs for bringing peace and social cohesion. The statement of conflicts with the heads of family, village, township and even the King, is done according to a specific process. Firstly, a meeting is attended with Parties in dispute, as well as neutral people and credible witnesses who know the land history. Then, the protagonists are listened, followed by a fieldtrip. When back to the village, information are pooled and the protagonists are listened once again. Once the findings made, the culprits are punished. The team of witness then proceed to the realization of limits. This approach strengthens social cohesion and help to reduce congestion in the courts since 90 per cent of the conflicts are resolved by traditional mediation. The traditional authorities are living cadastres and are necessary in the process of legalization of the customary rights on the rural land. The virtuous circle including State and traditional authorities already exists but must be consolidated for social peace and security. If the local governance is strong, the State will be stronger in its mission. The involvement of the State and the customary authorities, with Technicians (experts, surveyors,)is necessary to help the village boundaries and reduce its cost. Finally, if the creation of the village committees is important, a land commission for the settlement of disputes is also necessary.

THE RESTITUTION OF ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE

New technologies

To be even more effective in their mediation on rural land, traditional chiefs should benefit from the contributions of new technologies. This would secure and allow the tradition to be more credible. It is also important for the government and donors to coordinate, in their willingness to clarify and secure land rights, respecting the tradition. The introduction of new technologies in the villages should help to clarify the rights of each individual, enables to scan and save the traditional knowledge without editing them. Training for the use of new technologies goes hand in hand with the improvement of the local land Governance. Here again, tradition and modernity must not be opposed but be complementary so that the new tools (GPS, mapping,) constitute a real support that helps village chiefs to secure the land and reduce conflicts

Improve territories land management

Created by a decree of 13 October 99, in the enforcement of the rural land act of 98, the CVGFR (village committees for the Rural Land management) must be a real consensual management body, that will establish confidence between villagers and administration and improve the living together, in order to strengthen the virtuous circle of the interaction between villagers and the government. We could notice that some CVGFR are somewhat in sleep. Several reasons can explain this lethargy: the members of these CVGFR have only the land certification procedure as mission and their responsibilities are not well known by villagers. It is therefore necessary to raise awareness and act from information to action at the same time. For this, it requires a methodology based on a qualitative and participatory approach, involving the use of tools such as the AMPR (active method of participatory research), the problem tree and the classification matrix by pair. We could also submit to the villagers a sheet on which we have the names of potential members. The proposed organization would include a decision-making body (village chief as the President of Honour, the Land chief as President, Coordinator, and Treasurer …) and a technical body (surveyors, archivists, computer scientist …). A contextualized internal regulation would clarify roles, missions and the pace of meetings.

COMMUNICATION

KNOW-HOW AND MAKE IT KNOW

THE RESTITUTION OF ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE

Results and impacts

The approach of Audace Institut Afrique leads to several results: conflicts reduction and facilitation of their resolution; securing investments;)strengthening relationship between villages and the administration; active transition toward the certification and the creation of a favourable breeding ground for certifications; The decrease in the cost and time of the land certification procedure; involvement of the prefectural administration and the traditional chieftainship, in addition to the technicians; identification of methods with a better cost/quality and a certain duplication; definition of reliable, accessible and contextualized solution; strengthening social peace and the inheritance transmission mode.

Conclusion

Participants welcomed unanimously, the quality of the project implemented since March 2016 by Audace Institut Afrique to help village communities to clarify locally the management of their lands. This innovative program is a mean to make easy the enforcement of the rural land act of 1998. It was suggested that this project should be in line with the land certification process which is now manage by the AFOR.

Realized by **Pascal Gbikpi**.

ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE AWARDED

HONORED WITH THE 2 ND PRIZE FOR THE BEST AFRICAN PROGRAM AT THE AFRICA LIBERTY FORUM 2017 ORGANIZED BY THE ATLAS ECONOMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION (UNITED STATES).

GUEST OF THE ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE

15 MINUTES FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT ACTEUR COMMUNAU'TERRE ON FRANCE 24

TRAINING
A STRONG CIVILE SOCIETY

TRAINING TO RURAL LAND

Women

WOMEN FROM THE NETWORK OF AFRICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (RAFAA) TRAINED ON THE ISSUE OF WOMEN ACCESS TO LAND IN RURAL AREAS .

Political parties

INVOLVEMENT WITHIN ALERTE FONCIER

AUDACE INSTITUT AFRIQUE IS A MEMBER OF THE STRATEGIC COORDINATION GROUP OF ALERTE-FONCIER, A PLATFORM BRINGING TOGETHER 41 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE LAND ISSUE

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TRAINING -ADVOCACY- INFLUENCE – PROSPECTIVE REFLECTIONS
STRONGER TOGETHER!

INFLUENCE
AT THE SOURCE OF THE CHANGE

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

SYNAPCI

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SYNAPCI (NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL UNION IN COTE D'IVOIRE) IN ORDER TO DEFEND THE CAUSE OF COCOA PLANTERS

1 : ADVOCACY FOR THE LIBERALIZATION OF THE COCOA SECTOR

2 : IMPROVE PLANTERS'LAND SECURITY THROUGH THE DISSEMINATION OF CLEAR AND CREDIBLE CONTRACTS WITHIN SYNAPCI NETWORK WITH MORE THAN 50 000 PLANTERS

CNRCT

A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF KINGS AND TRADITIONAL CHIEFS (CNRCT), RAISED TO THE RANK OF **INSTITUTION** IN 2015, ENABLES::

- TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE LAND ISSUE WITH ITS DIVERSITY ACCORDING TO THE CULTURAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY SINCE THE CHAMBER HAS 262 REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NATIONAAL TERRITORY

- TO DISSEMINATE INFORMAATION THROUGH THE FINE TERRITORIAL GRID OF THE CNRCT

_ JOINT ADVOCACY FOR A BETTER VILLAGE LAND SECURITY BY COMBINING KNOWLEDGE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

OUR MAIN DONORS

Friedrich Naumann STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

ATLAS NETWORK

NETWORK FOR A FREE SOCIETY

Libre Afrique
Un regard alternatif sur le continent

ARIS
ADVANCED RESEARCH & INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

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