



Activity report 2020 - 2021





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About us

Who are we?

Independent and apolitical, the think tank Audace Institut Afrique (AIA) is a multicultural and multidisciplinary think tank that aims to promote responsible freedom for inclusive development in Africa.

Our vision

Responsible freedom for shared prosperity

OUR MISSION

AIA is involved in generating innovative ideas on crucial issues that are considered complex. It contributes to unraveling problems and obstacles to better understand them through a process of clarification in a bottom-up approach based on local actors.

AIA then implements its proposals on the ground to refine and contextualize them to provide useful input for public policies. The aim is to bring ideas into line with reality, with the general interest as the compass. To this end, AIA does not hesitate to combine tradition and modernity to reconcile legality and legitimacy by integrating the specificities of African culture without rejecting the good recipes that have worked elsewhere. For the past 6 years, the institute has been working particularly on the issue of rural land tenure and has implemented innovative solutions to secure rural land rights.



I. Rural Land program

1. Inform

1.1 Rural land forum

The forum took place in a context where the land policy based on law n°750 of 23 December 1998 on rural land and its application texts, does not manage to unite the populations to secure their land. Securing rural land tenure, therefore, remains a major challenge for economic development and social cohesion in Côte d'Ivoire. Hence the interest of the state and its partners in working towards inclusive and sustainable land governance. In such a context, the role and contribution of civil society are important.

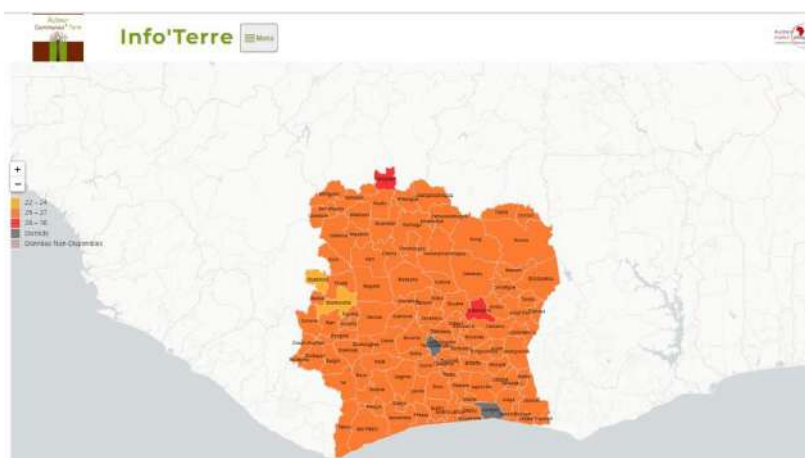
For us, the objective of this forum, within the framework of the activities of the Land Tenure Alert platform, of which we are a co-founder, was to contribute to land tenure security through the development of inclusive, consensual, and sustainable governance of rural land tenure thanks to increased citizen participation and strengthened political dialogue. The forum provided the opportunity for recommendations to be shared with decision-makers and field actors.



1.2 Info' Terre

Access to information is essential for efficient land governance. Reliable data is essential for informed decision-making, especially in land transactions. In Côte d'Ivoire, data and information on land remain scattered, fragmented, difficult to access, and in some cases costly or even non-existent.

In this context, with our partners, the ATLAS Network Foundation and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, we wanted to improve access to data and information related to rural land to contribute to the more responsible development of the land market and to allow the different actors to have more accurate information during their transactions. To this end, we have created an information portal on land tenure in Côte d'Ivoire.

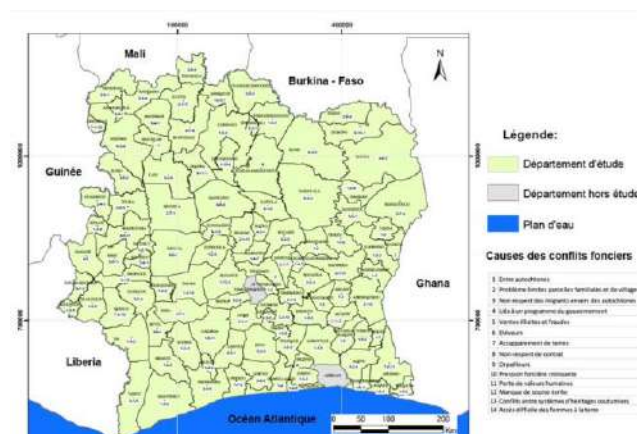


. The analysis was based on the evaluation method and led to the construction of a cartographic medium to which a list of information is attached. The portal is available for free access on the Institute's website.

1.3 Land Conflict Monitoring Unit

The observation unit for rural land conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire was initiated in 2019. For two years, it collected information in 31 regions and 106 departments of Côte d'Ivoire. The method implemented consisted of the creation of a telephone fleet, which made it possible to make and receive calls easily.

This cell was based on collaboration with the National Chamber of Traditional Kings and Chiefs (CNRCT), which designated one member of its regional committees per department as a focal point. These focal points were supervised by members of the CNRCT Board (one per region).



During the two years of the project, the rural land conflicts observation unit made 1,200 calls and recorded 718 information sheets (434 conflict sheets and 284 sheets on the typology of conflicts in the department concerned). This observation unit has made it possible to draw up the very first map of the typology of land conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Rural Land program

2. Innovate

2.1 CLAP Programme (Côte d'Ivoire Land Partnership)

a. Feasibility study

A study was carried out at the request of the company Meridia. It covers a broad field of reflection on land tenure security, specifically in the cocoa sector. It was a feasibility study that attempted to answer questions raised by a group of international cocoa companies who were looking for solutions to improve the land security of their producers to improve their welfare and the traceability of the cocoa they buy. They were also looking for solutions to have a positive impact on vulnerable populations but also on the environment through agroforestry.

These companies also wanted to understand the legal framework and the obstacles to applying the 1998 law governing rural land in Côte d'Ivoire. Why is less than 2% of rural land currently certified? The feasibility study provides some explanations. As land tenure security requires significant resources, these companies wanted to ensure that it would have a real impact on the well-being of the farmers, and in particular on their ability to access credit and defend their rights. Finally, it was also a question of thinking about multi-actor financing models that would make it possible to deal with the cost of securing land, which is the main obstacle to the process of securing land

b. Pilot

At the request of the Dutch government-supported company Meridia and with financial participation from the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, a pilot program was set up in 2 villages in the Guitry department following the feasibility study. The main objective of this pilot was to test a methodology that would allow cocoa farmers from a group of cocoa companies to gain access to land security (land certificate and contract of use), to scale up the project. Within the framework of this pilot, we carried out awareness-raising, information, and clarification of the land rights of the planters and the indigenous people who have ceded the land to them. We participated in the elaboration of the methodology to be used for the extension of CLAP and its scaling up.



2.2 Mobile application Contra 'Terre



It is a free application available on the Play Store and Apple store. It is an idea conceptualized and realized by AIA with the financial support of GIZ. It targets everyone, but particularly the territorial network of the National Chamber of Traditional Kings and Chiefs and the village rural land management committees, which are land management bodies in the 8,471 Ivorian villages conceptualised and realized by AIA with the financial support of GIZ. This application contains ten Rural Land Agency (RLA) contract templates and contract templates dedicated to agroforestry programs. The application also includes a support component with integrated information that helps and guides in the implementation of contracts.

2.3 Production of an awareness-raising play for women's land tenure security

Within the framework of the CLAP pro, we chose to communicate differently by creating and testing an awareness-raising medium that encouraged the emergence of a frank dialogue between women and men. The aim was to break down taboos and bring out the participants in the awareness-raising sessions by encouraging them to express their problems and obstacles.

Part of the awareness-raising was done in the form of a filmed play entitled "We women lose on both sides", as part of the CLAP program.

The central theme of the play was the interest of families and villagers in enabling women to secure their land to improve their income, impact, and future and that of their children.

The play was very well received and led to lively exchanges, as the people found themselves in the scenes. Our sociologists in charge of the activity affirm that the debates were much more advanced and constructed than during simple awareness-raising.



2.4 Development of agricultural contracts including agroforestry practices

Models of agrarian contracts adapted to agroforestry and more broadly to crop diversification have been created within the framework of the CLAP program. This is in line with the desire to improve the income of villagers, especially young people who will benefit particularly from these initiatives, but also in the interests of food security and the reforestation of Côte d'Ivoire. Given the evolution of the legal framework in recent years, notably the adoption of a new forestry code, these model contracts were missing in the Ivorian landscape. They will facilitate agroforestry programs and promote agroforestry within the legal framework. These contracts will effectively accompany the programs of cocoa companies that are concerned about the environment and the well-being of their producers.

I. Rural Land program

3. Influence

3.1 Participation at Africa Liberty Forum (ALF)

During the ALF, a major event in the world of land, we had the opportunity to share the experience of the Acteur Communau'terre program. The African Land Forum is a gathering where members of the International Land Coalition (ILC) and land sector actors discuss people-centered land governance and the continent's pressing challenges. They provide a platform to develop new ideas and learn action-oriented techniques that can affect change on the ground.



3.2 Acteur Communau'Terre

Started in 2016, our rural land program Acteur Communau'Terre, carried out with funding from the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, has been implemented in seven (07) villages in four (04) regions of Côte d'Ivoire. It is part of the German government's global program "A world without hunger".

In broad terms, Acteur Communau'Terre aims to clarify land rights to improve land governance in the target villages while supporting the national land tenure security program conducted at the national level by the Rural Land Agency (AFOR). Indeed, Acteur Communau'Terre allows :

- clarify the land rights of villagers, by combining traditional knowledge of the land with new technologies;
- to strengthen the capacities of the knowledgeable people and particularly of the Village Rural Land Management Committees (VRLCs);
- improving contractual practices by disseminating model agrarian contracts and using portable GPS to delimit farm plots;
- The archiving of land information, including a village map, also consolidates the process.

Thus, on a strong and clarified basis, land governance is drastically improved in the villages. Thus, the land tenure security program led by AFOR finds a favorable ground for faster progress of the operations.

Acteur Communau'Terre ended at the end of 2021, but the experience gained in this program remains through its influence. Indeed, this research-action program is now used as a methodological basis for the innovative land tenure program called CLAP, which is dedicated to securing land tenure for cocoa farmers. It should also be noted that the methodological stages of the program have been included in the AFOR operations manual. These include participatory mapping, training of young people in the villages in portable GPS, and archiving of land information at the village level.



3.3 Intgration of International Land Coalition

Our organization has joined the International Land Coalition in 2021. This integration will allow us to share our international experience in a specialized and recognized network on land issues, but also to benefit from the experience of the ILC network and its members. There is strength in numbers.

**INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION**



I. Rural Land program

4. Implement on a large scale

4.1 Côte d'Ivoire Land Partnership (CLAP)



Starting in 2021, CLAP aims to provide cocoa farmers with access to land tenure security at very affordable costs because it is subsidized. Indeed, cocoa farmers want to formalize their land rights but cannot afford it at full cost. CLAP offers an adapted, cost-effective, technology-based solution and a participatory approach to support cocoa farmers and the Ivorian government in securing land rights and the future of cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire. CLAP partners are convinced that securing the land rights of cocoa farmers will protect their long-term opportunities and create an enabling environment for achieving sustainability goals.

To address this issue and the need for traceability of cocoa on the international market, a public-private partnership has been set up. It brings together a group of international cocoa companies (the Côte d'Ivoire Land Partnership (CLAP), consisting of industry leaders Hershey Company, Unilever and Barry Callebaut-Cocoa Horizons, coordinated by the Dutch company MERIDIA), in partnership with the German cooperation (implemented by GIZ under the global program ProPFR).

We are partners in CLAP on several levels. First of all, in 2020, we carried out the feasibility study for the MERIDIA company and we were involved in the pilot. Today, we are at the heart of the scaling up of CLAP (Early Scale) in thirty (30) villages in Western Côte d'Ivoire and the Divo area. We are involved in raising awareness, clarifying land rights, training, conflict management mechanisms, contractualisation, the inclusion of the marginalized, but also in various innovations and the methodological approach that will enable large-scale implementation at a lower cost.

Bank and implemented by the Rural Land Agency (AFOR). Our Acteur communautaire program served as a methodological laboratory for this project. Three stages were included in the Pamofor:

4.2 PAMOFOR

The Rural Land Policy Improvement and Implementation Project (PAMOFOR) is funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Rural Land Agency (AFOR). Our Acteur communautaire program served as a methodological laboratory for this project. Three stages were included in the Pamofor:

- 1- Participatory mapping
- 2- Training of young people in the use of portable GPS
- 3- Archiving of land information at the village level

We then took part in the field implementation in partnership with the GCK PAMOFOR group and covered 34 villages.



II. Economic freedom

1. Rescue small businesses in Côte d'Ivoire



After six (06) months of research, studies, and analysis, the institute published in May 2021 the results of its work in its 2021 report entitled: How to save small businesses in their first years of existence?

Through this study, we wanted to better understand the internal and external environments of young enterprises to make precise proposals adapted to the Ivorian context. The aim of this study was therefore to provide contextualized and targeted recommendations to support small businesses in their early years of existence based on updated information on the Ivorian entrepreneurial ecosystem and the main challenges SMEs face in their early years of existence.

2. Meet the actors of the Ivorian ecosystem

On Thursday 7 October at the Pullman Abidjan Plateau Hotel in Côte d'Ivoire, a meeting was held to exchange views and publicly present the study.

The meeting was attended by all the actors in the entrepreneurial ecosystem: the supervisory bodies, including the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and the Côte d'Ivoire SME agency, associations, support structures, new and experienced entrepreneurs, and actors in the informal sector. A total of 62 people attended, including 12 women and 50 men. Recommendations were made to enrich the study's proposals to improve the environment for small businesses and promote their survival.

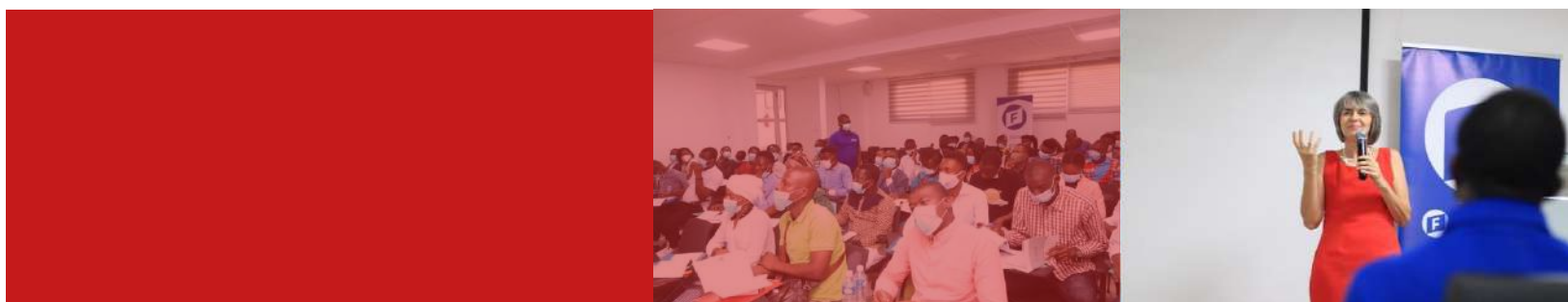


III. Training

1. The school of liberty

We partnered with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, which launched an innovative training program in 2021 entitled "Freedom School". This program was aimed at one hundred and twenty (120) young people and students who, for two (02) months, were trained in the ideas of freedom, notably individual rights, human dignity, the rule of law, the market economy, and liberal democracy.

The Freedom School is therefore a space for young people to discover freedom through a thematic approach (economic, political, social, cultural, etc.) to develop their critical thinking and to get rid of clichés and received ideas.



2. Training of Members of the National Chamber of Traditional Kings and Chiefs (CNRCT)



Given the major role of traditional chieftaincy in rural land tenure, a workshop on the importance of disseminating and promoting written agrarian contracts in securing land tenure was held with the CNRCT Directorate. The objectives of this training were to

- To inform and sensitize the members of the Board of Directors on the importance of creating written usage contracts containing all the useful information for the peaceful exercise of farming activities;
- To gather the advice of members on the ways and means of a contractualisation likely to be accepted at the village level.
- To present and disseminate the agrarian contract models used nationally by the Rural Land Agency (AFOR).



III. Training

3. Coaching of trainees at the University of Bouaké



As an organization working in the field of land tenure, we host and train students in a professional master's degree in land law at the University of Bouaké. We supervised two trainees in 2021. Having participated in field activities, they were able to leave their theoretical training to discover the reality of land tenure in the villages.

4. Mentorship pour Atlas

Our institute was designated by the Atlas Network Foundation to follow a young think tank, the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kivu Region). This was an opportunity for the director of the institute to share the institute's experience and to accompany the CDE by formulating recommendations for the success of their program dedicated to women.



IV. Overview of our data

1. Impacts of the project Acteur Communau'Terre

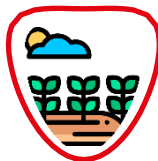
Influence at the level of national land procedures

- Adoption of several steps of the Acteur Communau'Terre methodological approach in the Rural Land Agency (AFOR) Operations Manual:
 - participatory mapping ;
 - training of young people in the use of handheld GPS ;
 - archiving of land information in the village land register
- Experience was shared with the Rural Land Agency (AFOR), particularly on agrarian contracts, for which the program's models served as a basis.

Some key figures



07
villages
territories demarcated



More than
37,000 hectares
of land demarcated



07 villages rural land
management committees
reconstituted inclusively,
trained and functional



30,000 people
reached



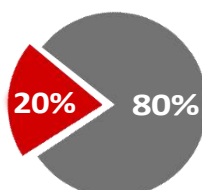
35 young villages surveyors
(GPS operators) trained



1887 farmers registered.

2. Governance of the Institute: efficiency ratio

the running costs of the Institute



of our resources are
devoted to our activities and only



V. They trust us





Audace Institut Afrique

La liberté pour une prospérité partagée



Scannez moi !



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