

Acteur Communau'TERRE

An innovative rural land program in Cote d'Ivoire



Take over the management of our lands, our future!



Acteur Communau'Terre

Friedrich Naumann
STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT



Who and What?

What?

Acteur Communau'TERRE is a program started in 2016 and that will last for 6 years thanks to a funding from the **Friedrich Naumann Foundation**. This program aims to implement the proposals of a multicultural and multidisciplinary study of 2 years "How to reinvent the rural land system in Côte d'Ivoire?" a Study conducted with the support of the ATLAS Foundation for economic research.

The Friedrich Naumann Fondation for Freedom (FNF) is an independent nongovernmental and nonprofit organization committed to the promotion of liberal policy.

It focuses on the principles of liberalism and its message of tolerance and acceptance of diversity to promote human diversity as the final condition for a society where citizens can live freely and peacefully.

Being active in more than 60 countries all over the world, in Africa, the Friedrich Naumann supports several projects in partnership with partner organizations (political and civil society). Actually, it acts as a support for education, advising, training and political discussion.

Audace Institut Afrique (AIA) is an independent Ivorian think tank, apolitical, non-profit established in 2009.

Mission: Through its publications, its seminars, its conferences, its researches, its will to collect multicultural and multidisciplinary innovative ideas, AIA stimulates political debate by making contextualized proposals of reforms based on free market and the expansion of economic freedom, private property, the rule of law and individual freedoms. AIA also works to strengthen civil society through discussion meetings and a training program for students.

Vision: A responsible freedom for a shared prosperity.



Our traditions at the service of land security

What is the problem?

- ▶ Only 4% of rural lands are registered in Cote d'Ivoire
- ▶ Cote d'Ivoire is classified among fragile states
- ▶ The law governing the registration of lands is inaccessible to the people: the cost is equivalent to 1 year of income for an average household in rural areas and the administrative procedures are long and complicated
- ▶ Access to private property is therefore impossible, and only for rich people while 46% of the Ivorian population lives on less than \$ 2 a day.
- ▶ The situation in villages: Social cohesion is disturbed by many disputes and conflicts over land issues - Without papers to secure lands, the arbitrary rules (the law of the strongest) - Insecurity grows as well as poverty.
- ▶ Finding: The state is unable to secure rural lands and leaders even take advantage of the situation to massively grab lands (political grabbing).

To get out of this maze, it is necessary to change the paradigm:

Bottom-up solutions are needed



Our solutions



New technologies at the service of rural lands



Acteur
Communau' Terre



Securing our lands to make us autonomous

The Acteur Communau'TERRE program helps villagers clarify their rights and secure their lands. This is a pilot program in four Ivorian villages located on different cultural areas.



Organization of a credible land governance in villages

Establishment of Village Committees of Rural Land Management:

In order to determine the correct composition of a committee able to win the trust of the villagers but also of the administration, we are developing a methodology based on the results of qualitative sociological surveys and on the experimental economics.

Governance

WHICH TOOLS ?

Internal regulations
based on the search
for the common good
and lands securing. The
organization is based
on the
recommendations of
Elinor Ostrom.

Computer equipment
adapted to rural areas.

Credible and clear contract models because exchanges are still based on words or small implausible papers. In a country where lands pertained to Ivorians only, foreigners wishing to invest must necessarily have a credible and secure lease. The state refuses to provide contract models and to "legalize" past contracts on lands not yet registered. So we fall into a spiral of the impossible as only 4% of the lands are registered. To get out of this and enable contractualization, we provide contract models respecting local practices to village committees then teach them to archive and encrypt these contracts to provide a fertile ground for investment.

A computerized Community land register wish is a sociological map of land resources of the villages. Beyond the geographical map of village territories, we can clearly identify the plots of customary holders (ancestral owners) and the plots of users as well as the relationship between both of them (rent, donation, "planting-sharing" etc.). It is therefore a clearer overview of information about the owner and the user of the plot. We can imagine the impact this could have on social cohesion and the reduction of conflicts and litigations. This is a transfer of skills because the land register is made by villagers with the assistance of the program. The village committee is trained to the implementation and updating of this tool.



Methodology

The primary objective of the pilot program in the four villages is to determine a clear methodology replicable throughout the national territory. This is a "living" methodology in the sense that during the next 5 years of the program, we will adjust it based on the field experience.



This is a bottom-up development model perfectly adapted to a fragile state in Africa while including the respect of customs and local traditions. The program allows the inclusion of African traditions in the requirements of globalization thanks to a huge technological leap. When talking about the value of ICTs in Africa, Acteur Communau'TERRE enables the judicious use of them.

The program concretely illustrates the liberal thought: more freedom that allows individual actions to harmoniously organize.



Becoming an agricultural entrepreneur on a secured land

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