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# LAND GRABBING AND FORCED RESETTLEMENT IN ANGOLA

*Does the diversification of the economy with agro-business projects go at the expense of small farmers?*

*Malungo Germano, LWF Angola advocacy Officer  
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# Who is LWF Angola ?

- More than 30 years of experience in Angola (both emergency and development)
- Currently working in 3 Provinces, directly with communities and through a rights-based approach



# INTRODUCTION

## The Evolution of land law in Angola

- In the colonial period the land was the original property of the State. Business men could request land from the State for private business.
- From 1975 Angola became independent and all properties were nationalized, no private property;
- 1975 to 2002: Conflict army in Angola, source of land conflict;



- In 1991 Angola opted for democracy and the market economy system. The new system adopted by Angola has influenced the land law by opening doors for private sectors to request land for business.
- Angola adopted Land law in 2004
- 2002 to 2014: Economic boom, Angola first oil producer in Africa; economic growth , but based only on oil production (75 %);
- 2014 : Angolan economy affected by the fall of oil prices in the international market, economic crisis in Angola as a result;



# DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ECONOMY AS A MEAN TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS

- The Government is encouraging business men to invest in the agriculture.
- Angola was one of Africa's main agricultural producers during the colonial time. It was self-sufficient and a great exporter of agriculture products.
- The agro-business was one of the major income for the economy. Coffee production in 1974: 200. 000 tones; in 2015: 12. 000 tones



• War and mismanagement reduced the agriculture production.

- Now with increasing agro-industrial investments, there is an increasing number of land conflicts and usurpation.
- Moxico Province, first victim of illegal land occupation, as it is the largest province of Angola and contains a great part of arable land.
- Its surface is 201,000 Km<sup>2</sup> with a tropical climate and its population is over 727,594,





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# Land conflicts encountered in our target area in M<sup>ó</sup>xico Province

## Lumege Cameia Municipality Occupation of vast land

- Company Chifumaji : 1000 hectares - Caiembe locality
- Company Kulinanga : 1000 hectares - Savanah Chuze
- Company Tuhya Lted : 1000 hectares - Chiyisso locality
- Frederick Lucas' company : 1000 hectares - Titima village
- Mika Company : 1000 hectares in Kassai-Gare village



NB : A football field is 0.7 ha,  
so 1000 ha would be 1400 football fields !



# Camanongue Municipality: Camaingala Project

- Occupation of 16,000 hectares in Kamuleke, more than 250 families had to leave their land and their house. The project is directed by the Executive Coordination of the Management of arable Lands of the Central Government of Angola (GESTERRAS).
- Occupation of 6400 hectares of lands in the localities of Mussala, Muxiringenge, and Ndongue. The owner of the project is a General.



## Leua Municipality:

- Occupation of 1000 hectares in Chindupo Village
- Occupation 800 hectares in Samaria Village



# In all the cases above mentioned :

- No consultation or negotiation with population, nor compensation as stipulated in the Angolan Land Law, Article 9.2
- So far, no foreign companies identified, only in Camaingala project where Chinese are involved (only providing service to the Government project).



# LWF Contribution in favour of vulnerable communities

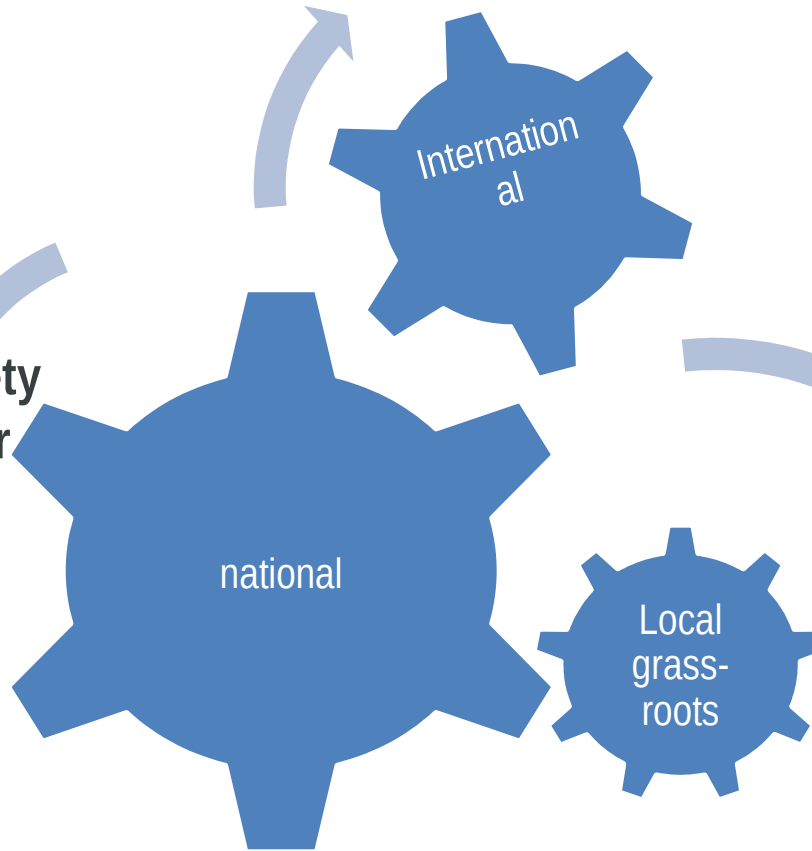
- The Rights Based Approach Local to Global Methodology (RBA L2G)



# RBA – Local to Global

## Focus:

- Empowered national civil society
- Accountability for implementation



- tool not goal
- not just Geneva: complementary advocacy (RAs etc.)

**VOICE!**  
local to global

**IMPACT:** local – secure concrete outcome on priority issue



# LWF Contribution in favour of vulnerable communities

## At local level: 22 villages in Moxico Province

- Training and sensitization on HR, Land law, public awareness campaigns, including training traditional leaders.  
Disseminating knowledge enabled farmers to know their right and to rebuild public confidence in the judicial system.
- Educate rural populations on their rights, as well as on how to advocate and to protect their right;  
15 initiatives conducted by communities



# LWF Contribution in favour of vulnerable communities

## At local level: in 22 villages in Moxico Province

- Education on gender and equality in the access of land between men and women.
- Literacy classes
- Training and accompanying farmers to legalize their farmers' association and register their land. 1470 farmers started their process so far, as a result land eviction was prevented in some villages.



# LWF Contribution in favour of vulnerable communities

## At national level

- Advocacy through the General Attorney
- Advocacy to IGCA for rural community land demarcation;
- Advocacy to the Ministry of Women and Family Promotion for women farmers' association;
- Advocacy to the Ministry of Education for literacy classes





# CHALLENGES

- Lack of scientific research;
- Implication of military high officials in land conflict;
- Lack of government budget for the demarcation of rural community land;
- Costs for land registration are too high for communities.
- Absence of clear public policies on Land Law and no explicit indication about which ministry or specific department is responsible for land management.

All these challenges above mentioned are present in almost all parts of Angola, but in urban areas there is more control than in rural areas;



# Recommendations

- The government of Angola need to put in place clear land law implementation program with necessary human, technical and financial resources from national to local level.
- The government of Angola could make use of the current land policy reform discussion to move communityland regularization process from provincial to Municipal level where it can be closer to the communities.
- The government need to put in place local authorization process that is based on Free Prior and Informed  
Consent (FPIC) of the entire village.
- The government should put in place special women empowerment mechanisms especially at the Provincial and Municipal level to support women in the villages.

