

Research and the Voluntary Guidelines

2014 FIG Academic Members Forum –
XXV FIG Congress

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday June 18th, 2014.

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Outline

- Advantages of academic research
- Applied research
- Research to support implementation of the VGGT
- Testing assumptions
- Tool development
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Research and capacity building

Advantage of Research by Academic Institutions

- Academic institutions provide:
 - Independence
 - In-depth context specific studies and research at country level.
 - Ability to test assumptions.
 - Applied research.

Analytical and independent nature of academic research

- Disinterested – no stake in an agenda.
- Data gathering provides evidence.
- Research rigor.
- Scepticism of previous findings.
- Update and revise thinking based on evidence.
- Provides metrics for testing success of VGGT implementation.
- Room for blue sky thinking?

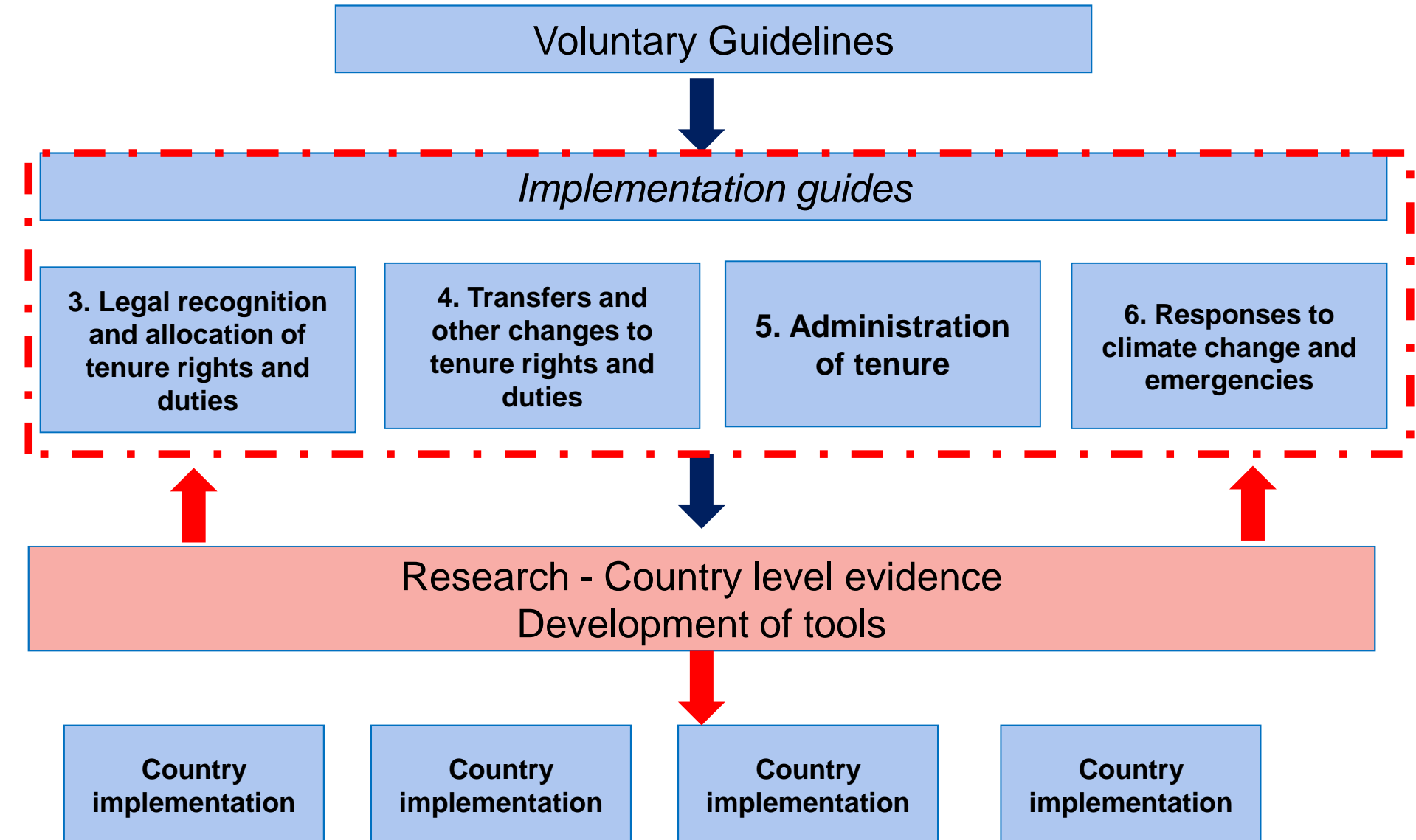
Applied research

- Empirical studies – qualitative and quantitative
- Solve issues related to implementation of VGGT.
- Provides evidence for VGGT implementation on the ground:
 - New policy statement
 - New tools and implementation guides
 - Better coordination across sectors
- Allows for “evidence based decision-making” – within appropriate governance framework.

Implementation of the VGGTs – 5 Pillars

- Very large challenge - large scale innovation at national level and upscaling of LA solutions
- “Collectively Designing The Road Ahead”
 - *Awareness raising*
 - *Capacity development*
 - *Country level focus*
 - *Partnerships, cooperation and coordination (e.g. LPI).*
 - *Monitoring and evaluation*

VGGT, research & implementation



Testing assumptions (dogmas)

- Important role for academic institutions.
- The need to empirically test (to confirm or rebut) many of the assumptions around land tenure/rights (registration).
- Has tenure security improved for all?
- Provide evidence to inform action on the ground.

Research to support VGGT tool development

- 26.3 “Development partners...encouraged to support voluntary efforts...include technical cooperation...knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences, assistance in developing national tenure policies and transfer of technology.
- Applied research to inform tool development to implement the VGGTs.

Research to support M & E (One of the 5 pillars)

- 26.2 *“to monitor and evaluate the implementation in their jurisdictions; and to evaluate the impact on improved governance of tenure....”*
- International partners undertake assessment and monitoring – but broad or project based (e.g. LGAF, Project assessment against KPI).
- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and impact of land interventions at country level.
- Link to SDG indicators?
 - If land becomes one of the indicators, governments will need to produce data.

Research and capacity building

- 26.5 “...All parties are encouraged to disseminate information on responsible tenure governance in order to improve practices”.
- Applied research informs teaching and next generation of leaders.
- MSc and PhD thesis:
 - pure research on relevant topics.
 - builds knowledge and capacity in future leaders.
 - Indirectly assists the implementation of VGGT.

Example: Gender equality in policy

- One of the principles of implementation **Gender equality:**
...States should ensure that women and girls have equal tenure rights and access to land, fisheries and forests independent of their civil and marital status.
- Section 4.4: “Based on an examination of tenure rights in line with national law, States should provide legal recognition for legitimate tenure rights not currently protected by law”.
- Lack of aggregated data on what is happening on the ground with women’s tenure rights:
 - How many women have access to land?
 - Has land reform improved women’s access to land?
 - If so, what led to the improvement.

Some initial thoughts on research priorities

- *“The real value of the Guidelines will be determined by their contribution to changes in the lives and livelihoods of men and women around the globe, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized”.*
- To support tool development:
 - Rural tenure insecurity of smallholders & pastoralists.
 - Women’s tenure rights and access to land.
 - Links between climate change and tenure security.
- Monitoring of implementation at country level:
 - Has formally recording tenure rights improved tenure security for the vulnerable?

Thankyou