

GUIDE TO LAND MEDIATION

BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE IN THE EASTERN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Securing land and property rights for all

GUIDE TO LAND MEDIATION: BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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PREFACE



Land is a valuable resource for all human beings. It is also a source of tensions, particularly in post-conflict contexts that are characterized by displacements of people and the destruction of land registries. Identifying mechanisms to prevent and manage land conflicts in a sustainable manner

is necessary to promote peace, secure land rights and improve livelihoods during reconstruction. From this perspective, UN-Habitat, together with its local and international partners, has used land mediation as an essential tool in its action plans in several countries that have been recently affected by conflicts - including Liberia, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo - to secure land rights of the people and communities concerned.

Success in the implementation of the land programme, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the need to adapt the mediation method to other countries and regions are the motivations for the development of this guide. The ideas contained here also draw inspiration from land mediation experiences in other countries, particularly in Burundi.

The aim of this publication is to highlight the salient points of the land mediation process. The guide is part of the range of interventions and tools necessary for the prevention and resolution of land disputes in countries that have gone through crises. The process may also be applied in countries where weak institutional, administrative and customary capacities affect the ability of political and judicial authorities to implement land services.

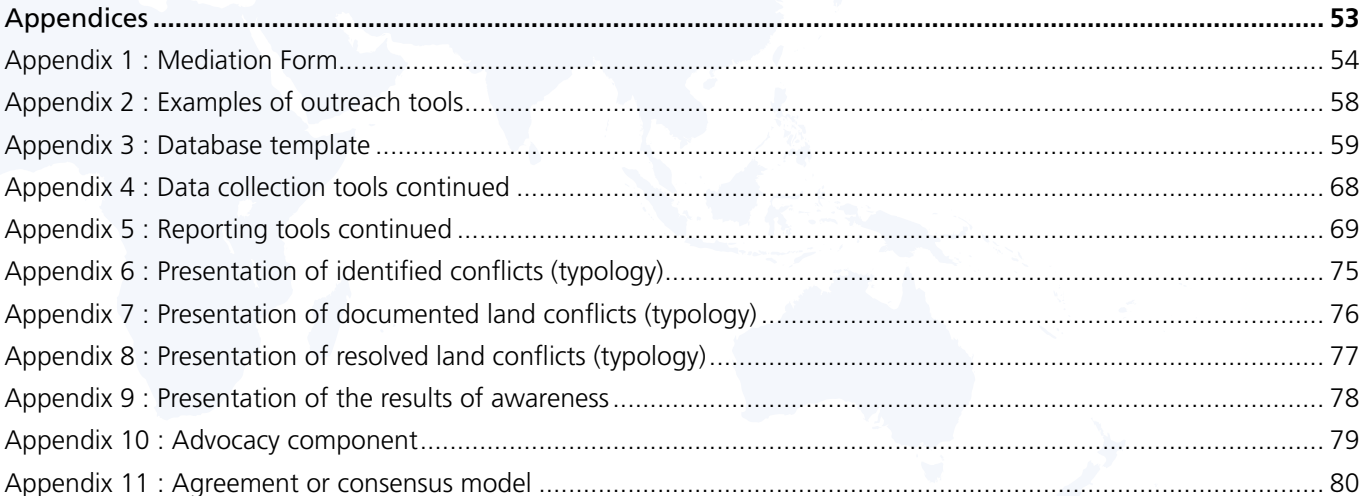
This practical guide particularly targets humanitarian actors who mediate land conflicts, and agencies involved in peace-keeping, community rehabilitation and social cohesion programmes. State institutions in general, and agents in charge of land administration in particular, will find in this guide a set of tools and ideas to manage land disputes and resolve them positively.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joan Clos'.

Dr. Joan Clos
Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

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ABBREVIATIONS

CCFM	Community Land Mediation Centre
CSD/IT	Ituri District Commissioner
CLPC	Local Standing Committees of Conciliation
CE	Committee of Elders
CFI	Land Commission of the Ituri
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FDLR	Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda
FARDC	Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
NGO	Non-governmental organization
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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