

Towards the implementation of the indigenous people working group action plan on DRC land reform



Kinshasa, February 8, 2018 (caritasdev.cd) : A workshop was organized by the Ligue Nationale des Associations Pygmées du Congo (LINAPYCO) in Kinshasa.

It focused on the development of the action plan of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples on DRC Land Reform (GTAREF). The workshop gathered the views and insights of indigenous peoples' representatives and other stakeholders in the DRC land reform working group. The aim was to enrich the first draft of the work plan before it was submitted for review and approval by the Provincial Working Groups as well as the CONAREF (National Commission for Land Reform).

This meeting also allowed participants to be informed about the progress of the land reform process in the DRC and to give major orientations of the plan related to the access rights of Indigenous Peoples (AP) to the land.

This workshop brought together 39 people, including members of the Indigenous Peoples Working Group on Land Reform and civil society organizations involved in pro-indigenous reform. These organizations include: DGPA, ERND, OSAPY, CTIDD, GTF, ANAPAC, REPALEF, FECOFFA, LINAPYCO, GTCRR, CARITAS CONGO ASBL, etc.

Group work was completed and facilitation was provided by Mr Bienvenue Ngoy of the Forest Working Group (GTF). The first draft of GTAREF's strategic work plan was produced on this occasion.

In fact, the land reform that will lead to the promulgation of a new law and a new land policy is a great opportunity, not least for the indigenous peoples and organizations that represent them, said Mr. Kapupu Diwa , president of Linapyco. Every effort must be made to ensure that the crucial issue of recognizing and securing the traditional lands of indigenous peoples finds an answer in this ongoing reform.

As a reminder, this workshop was organized with the financial support of the Project of Support to Communities Dependent on the Forest (PACDF), within the framework of the contract signed between Caritas Congo Asbl (National Execution Agency of the said project) and LINAPYCO, with regard to the collection of data on indigenous peoples' lands, to support advocacy for the legal recognition and securing of these lands in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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(Translated by Edhosal Tshibanda)