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PLADDT: INTEGRATING PARTICIPATORY MAPPING AND ESSENTIAL LANDS

Lessons learnt from an innovative approach to developing Local Land Use and Sustainable Development Plans (PLADDT), piloted and tested by the GIZ-ProPFR project (2023–2026)

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Yaoundé, July 2026

WHY INTEGRATE PARTICIPATORY MAPPING AND ESSENTIAL LANDS INTO THE PLADDT?

In a context marked by increasing pressure on land resources, conflicts of use and poor recognition of customary rights, Cameroon has equipped itself with a strategic tool: the **Local Land Use and Sustainable Development Plan** (*Plan Local d'Aménagement et de Développement Durable du Territoire*, PLADDT). This document, provided for in the 2011 framework law on land use planning, aims to structure land use at the municipal level in a coherent and sustainable manner, taking into account local specificities. However, in its current implementation, **the PLADDT is often developed using a top-down approach**, without fully integrating local knowledge or the land-related priorities of rural communities.

> *«A community deprived of its fertile fields, schools and cemeteries is like a river without water: the community cannot survive without the land that carries its identity, its memory and its future.»* *Proverb*

To address this limitation, the German Cooperation's *Promotion of Responsible Land Policy* (ProPFR) project in Cameroon[1] has developed and tested an innovative methodology focused on **participatory mapping and the identification of lands essential to village communities**, in close consultation with its partners at the local, divisional and national levels, notably the Cameroonian Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) and the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF). These spaces – be they food crop fields, sacred sites, pastures, community sites or traditional forests – **are critical to the economic, cultural and social survival of the populations. Their explicit recognition** in land use planning documents **is an essential requirement for preventing conflicts,** securing livelihoods and strengthening local cohesion.

This guide is intended for all those involved in local land governance: municipal officials, decentralised technical services, traditional authorities, development partners, NGOs and policy makers. It presents a rigorous approach, tested in the field in the municipality of Yoko, and proposes a replicable method for integrating vital spaces into **Village Land Use Plans** (*Plans d'Aménagement des Terroirs Villageois*, PATV) and then into PLADDTs. It also illustrates the concrete progress made by ProPFR in strengthening the legal recognition of these tools, in particular through advocacy for the enforceability of the PLADDT at MINEPAT.

By placing communities at the heart of planning, this approach contributes not only to improving the relevance of land use

1 ProPFR (duration in Cameroon: 2023–2026) is a German Cooperation project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) *GmbH* in Cameroon and ten other countries between 2015 and 2026.

planning at local level, but also **to building a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.** This guide is intended as a practical tool, based on the Cameroonian experience, for those working towards more responsible land governance that is more closely aligned with the needs on the ground.

To date, the Local Land Use and Sustainable Development Plan (PLADDT) is not legally binding and is therefore not a mandatory tool for rural land use planning. However, Circular Letter No. 0006/MINDCAF/CAB/LC of 25 December 2025 from the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF) stipulates that the verification of land use planning tools is a mandatory step in the processing of registration applications. This provision lends substantial significance to the PLADDT.

CONTENTS

1 WHAT IS THE PLADDT PROCESS? … page 01

The PLADDT is a strategic municipal planning tool designed to structure land use in a sustainable manner, but its approach remains too top-down and incomplete.

2 WHAT DOES THE PLADDT PROCESS LOOK LIKE? … page 02

Implementing the PLADDT process in six steps

3 WHY SHOULD ESSENTIAL LAND BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PLADDT PROCESS? – THE IMPORTANCE OF ESSENTIAL LAND FOR VILLAGE COMMUNITIES … page 04

Essential lands are vital spaces — agricultural, cultural, residential or community — without which rural communities cannot ensure their survival and cohesion.

4 METHODOLOGY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND PARTICIPATORY MAPPING OF ESSENTIAL LAND AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLADDT … page 05

Participatory mapping involves communities in representing their territory by collectively identifying and mapping the land they consider essential to their future.

5 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POS AND PLADDT … page 07

The Land Use Plan (*Plan d'occupation de sol*, POS) governs urban planning at the plot level, while the PLADDT provides an overall framework for municipal land use planning by integrating rural and participatory spaces.

6 PRACTICAL TRIAL OF THE METHODOLOGY WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF YOKO AND LESSONS LEARNT … page 08

In the municipality of Yoko, participatory mapping successfully identified essential lands, revealing their diversity and importance according to local contexts. .

7 RECOMMANDATIONS AND CONCLUSION … page 09

The institutionalisation of participatory mapping and essential lands in a legally enforceable PLADDT is key for building inclusive and sustainable land governance.

8 FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROPFR … page 10

The ProPFR project, which piloted the two tools between 2023 and 2026, aims to improve equitable access to land for rural populations by strengthening customary rights, conflict prevention, land registration and the promotion of responsible investment in line with the EUDR.

9 FURTHER READINGS … page 11

Find the document that can provide you with further information.

1 WHAT IS THE PLADDT PROCESS?

The **Local Land Use and Sustainable Development Plan** (PLADDT) is an essential strategic instrument in Cameroon's land use policy, meeting the objectives defined by Framework Law No. 2011/008 of 6 May 2011. Designed to translate national (National for Land Use and Sustainable Development Plan; SNADDT) and regional (Regional Land Use and Sustainable Development Plan; SRADDT), the PLADDT aims to structure land use in a coherent and sustainable manner, taking into account both current local realities and future needs. Currently, a PLADDT is developed through a top-down approach, mainly involving consulting firms and municipal authorities, with limited consultation with village communities and local stakeholders. The types of land typically included in a PLADDT include residential areas, agricultural areas, areas dedicated to public infrastructure such as schools, health centres and markets, and areas reserved for specific economic projects – but not vitally important areas such as sacred sites (including forests) or essential agricultural land that are indispensable to a community's identity.

The major advantages of the PLADDT lie in its ability to clarify land use, prevent land conflicts and, above all, offer potential investors a clear and secure territorial framework conducive to sustainable agricultural or agroforestry investments. By precisely defining residential areas, agricultural land, conservation areas (such as national parks and protected areas), transhumance corridors, biological corridors and areas reserved for infrastructure, the **PLADDT reduces land use ambiguity** and anticipates the risks of overlapping uses. It thus constitutes a strategic management tool for municipal authorities, facilitating the coordination of development projects, the rational allocation of land resources and the prioritisation of public investment.

Furthermore, **the PLADDT improves transparency in decision-making** by relying on a participatory approach that includes local stakeholders, traditional authorities and decentralised state entities. This consultation process promotes greater acceptance of development decisions by the population, which strengthens legitimacy and local support. For investors, particularly in the agricultural and agroforestry sectors, the PLADDT provides a structural reference point that facilitates the identification of viable areas, the reduction of legal and social risks, and the compatibility of projects with municipal priorities.

2 WHAT DOES THE PLADDT PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

The PLADDT process is carried out in several phases:

Phase 1: Preparation and launch of the PLADDT development process

Main activity: Official workshop to launch the PLADDT process

Main deliverable: Report on the workshop to launch the PLADDT process

Phase 2: Municipal assessment

According to the national guide for PLADDT development, the municipal diagnostic phase enables the various bodies responsible for implementing the PLADDT (Steering Committee, multidisciplinary team and technical support structure) to gain an initial shared understanding of land use and natural resources, as well as any sensitive issues that will need to be addressed during the local planning process. It also aims to identify all the municipality's potential and constraints regarding the management of its land, so as to enable it to carry out a forward-looking analysis of municipal land management. Finally, the municipal assessment should lead to the identification and analysis of solutions, the formulation of actions to be undertaken, and the proposal of priority actions in the field of land management.

Main activity: diagnostic study on the municipality's potential and constraints

Main deliverable: Municipal diagnostic report

Phase 3: Field assessment (at village, local area or neighbourhood level)

The aim of this phase is to conduct an initial consultation with local communities at village or local area level in order to explain the purpose, scope and process of the PLADDT to village representatives; to present the land-use planning options set out in national or regional strategies and plans; to carry out the assessment; and to analyse and formulate relevant solutions

Main deliverable: an assessment report at village or local area level

Phase 4: Planning and zoning

The aim is to draw up the provisional Village Land Use Plan, setting out the areas pre-identified for the implementation of the selected solutions and taking into account the development options for the local areas Village Land Use Plans (Plans d'Aménagement des Terroirs Villageois, PATV) are drawn up in collaboration with communities, traditional authorities and technical departments, incorporating the results of the participatory assessment and community mapping. Land deemed non-negotiable by local communities (food-producing fields, pastures, sacred sites, community infrastructure, etc.) is demarcated, described and justified within the plan on the basis of its vital importance to the inhabitants.

Deliverable: a Village Land Use Plan

Phase 5: Formalisation, adoption and dissemination

This involves presenting the PATVs at municipal level, drawing up a provisional PLADDT – which summarises the municipality's various PATVs – validating the provisional PLADDT at municipal level, and finally presenting it at the level of local areas or villages.

Once validated, the PATVs serve as the basis for drawing up the PLADDT at municipal level. The data collected is compiled, har-

6. **PHASE 1 : ORGANISATION, PREPARATION ET LANCEMENT OFFICIEL DU PROCESSUS PLADDT**
   - 6.1. Déclenchement du processus de planification au niveau communal par un acte administratif
   - 6.2. Constitution des équipes de coordination, leurs rôles et leurs responsabilités dans le processus d'élaboration du PLADDT
   - 6.3. Organisation de l'atelier de lancement, de sensibilisation et d'information sur le processus d'élaboration du PLADDT

7. **PHASE 2 : DIAGNOSTIC ET PLANIFICATION AU NIVEAU COMMUNAL**
   - **7.1. Production des cartes de base**
   - **7.2. Définition et la description des outils de diagnostic et de planification à utiliser**
   - **7.3. Collecte des données de base complémentaires auprès de personnes ressources et dans les services déconcentrés implantés dans la localité**
   - **7.4. Analyse des tendances et la préparation des cartes thématiques**
   - **7.5. Identification des scénarios futurs possibles à analyser**
   - **7.6. Elaboration et la restitution du rapport provisoire de synthèse diagnostic communal**

8. **PHASE 3 : DIAGNOSTIC ET PLANIFICATION AU NIVEAU DES TERROIRS VILLAGEOIS**
   - 8.1. Préparation du processus au niveau du terroir
   - 8.2. Diagnostic participatif proprement dit

9. **PHASE 4 : RESTITUTION DES PATV AU NIVEAU DE LA COMMUNE, ELABORATION ET APPROBATION DU PLADDT PROVISOIRE**
   - 9.1. Restitution des PATV au niveau de la commune
   - 9.2. Elaboration et approbation du PLADDT provisoire
     - Elaboration du PLADDT Provisoire
     - Approbation du PLADDT provisoire

10. **PHASE 5 : RESTITUTION DU PLADDT PROVISOIRE AUX COMMUNAUTES LOCALES ET PRISE EN COMPTE DES OBSERVATIONS AU NIVEAU DES TERROIRS**
    - 10.1. Présentation des cartes thématiques et d'une synthèse du PLADDT provisoire aux représentants des villages
    - 10.2. Présentation des conclusions principales par usage/zone d'utilisation future identifiée, et des décisions prises ou actions proposées pour résoudre des conflits d'intérêts dans la gestion des terres
    - 10.3. Regroupement et documentation des commentaires additionnels des représentants des communautés sur le PLADDT provisoire sous forme de procès-verbal

11. **PHASE 6 : FINALISATION, ADOPTION ET DIFFUSION DU PLADDT**
    - 11.1. Restitution des consultations villageoises au comité de pilotage
    - 11.2. Finalisation du PLADDT provisoire
    - 11.3. Adoption du PLADDT
    - 11.4. Intégration des conclusions du PLADDT aux échelles supérieures
    - 11.5. Mobilisation des ressources nécessaires à l'opérationnalisation du PLADDT

12. **PHASE 7 : MISE EN ŒUVRE, SUIVI ET EVALUATION DU PLADDT**
    - 12.1. Mise en œuvre du PLADDT
    - 12.2. Suivi – évaluation

monised and integrated into an overarching vision for municipal spatial planning. Thus, the essential land identified in each village informs the zoning of the PLADDT, thereby enabling these areas to be protected in future land-use or development decisions. This method ensures that the land needs of local communities are taken into account in a structured and proactive manner within spatial planning, thereby strengthening the legitimacy, stability and sustainability of the PLADDT.

Phase 6: Monitoring, evaluation and adaptation

The PLADDT is drawn up for a period of 25 years and is updated every five years.

3 WHY SHOULD ESSENTIAL LAND BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE PLADDT PROCESS? – THE IMPORTANCE OF ESSENTIAL LAND FOR VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

Essential lands, also known as **"vital spaces"**, refer to areas that are essential to the economic, social, cultural and environmental survival of local communities, particularly in rural contexts. In concrete terms, these lands include various categories such as:

- **Agricultural land:** essential for ensuring the food and economic security of rural populations, this includes plots cultivated for food and cash crops;
- **Residential areas:** residential spaces essential for housing families and structuring the village;
- **Community grazing land:** land dedicated to livestock farming, essential for pastoral or agro-pastoral communities;
- **Sacred and cultural sites:** areas of great spiritual and cultural importance to local communities, such as sacred forests, cemeteries and initiation sites;
- **Spaces dedicated to collective infrastructure:** land reserved for the construction of schools, health centres, markets, water points and other community facilities;
- **Community and agroforestry forests:** these not only ensure environmental conservation but also provide vital resources such as wood, medicinal plants and non-timber forest products.

The importance of essential lands lies in their central role in the social, cultural and economic stability of rural communities. They guarantee not only livelihoods, but also the transmission of cultural heritage and local know-how. Furthermore, their official recognition and legal security are essential levers for effectively preventing land conflicts, which are often exacerbated by increasing demographic pressure, migration dynamics and land grabbing. Finally, clearly identifying and protecting these areas in land use planning documents such as the PLADDT ensures sustainable management of natural resources, which also promotes the protection and restoration of ecologically important landscapes and fosters a climate conducive to responsible investment, indispensable for long-term local development.

Finally, when essential lands are identified and protected under the PLADDT, it also becomes a lever for social justice and environmental sustainability, ensuring the preservation of vital spaces for communities and promoting balanced land management. Ultimately, and subject to its legal enforceability, the PLADDT has the potential to become an essential tool for local land governance, promoting equitable, peaceful and sustainable development.
However, despite these benefits, the current approach has several drawbacks, notably the lack of systematic integration of "indispensable lands", also known as vital spaces – such as sacred sites (including forests), community pastures and lands that are critical to the subsistence of local communities. These shortcomings limit the operational effectiveness of the PLADDT and undermine its appropriation by local populations, potentially increasing the risk of land conflicts and reducing its relevance on the ground.

🔗 Find more details on land conflicts in the guide "Prevention and Management of Land Conflicts", ProPFR (2025)

Aware of this limitation, ProPFR is actively working to address this shortcoming by promoting a more inclusive approach that fully incorporates the participatory identification and mapping of essential land.

4 METHODOLOGY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND PARTICIPATORY MAPPING OF ESSENTIAL LAND AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLADDT

The **participatory identification and mapping** of vital spaces is an inclusive methodology that directly involves local communities in identifying and visually representing their territory, with a view to better managing and safeguarding the spaces essential to their survival. The methodological process implemented by the ProPFR project comprises several clearly defined stages:

a. During the PLADDT awareness-raising phase

The first stage involves preparing and raising awareness amongst stakeholders. When preparing the process at the village, group of villages or local area level, this is integrated into the information and awareness-raising activities on the PLADDT. The challenges involved in taking vital habitats into account within the planning process are outlined. Information and awareness-raising activities on the PLADDT must include clear communication regarding the approach to identifying and mapping vital habitats that will be implemented.
Here, the project team meets with the communities concerned to present the approach and obtain their Free, Informed and Prior Consent (FIPC). It brings together a multidisciplinary team (comprising community facilitators, mapping experts, geographers and sociologists), which organises workshops to identify local land-use issues, raise awareness amongst local people about land management challenges and clarify concepts such as that of 'essential lands'.

b. During the participatory assessment phase at the village territory level

During the assessment phase for village territories, the aim is to define the concept of 'living space' in a participatory manner, to identify the types of living spaces present in the locality, and to map these living spaces for the communities.

The approach must be participatory and sensitive to the perspectives of the most vulnerable stakeholders, such as women without land titles, young people without access to land, traditional authorities, herders, fishermen and hunter-gatherers.

c. During the drafting phase of the Village Land-Use Plan

The activities to be carried out as part of this phase are as follows:

- **Step 1: Estimating vital land requirements**

N.B.: The methods for calculating vital land requirements are set out in the comprehensive and detailed guide on the methodology for identifying and mapping vital areas as part of the process of developing local spatial planning tools.

🔗 See the "Summary and Practical Guide: Harmonised Participatory Mapping Methodology", ProPFR (2026).

- **Step 2: Mapping vital habitats**

Mental and Manual Mapping of the Local Area

During this phase, community members, supported by facilitators, draw up maps themselves in the field – either on paper or directly on the ground – in order to visually represent the areas they consider essential (farmland, residential areas, sacred sites, community infrastructure, pastures, forests, etc.). This process enables them to represent their territory according to their own perceptions and priorities.



Image 1 : A group of women develops a mental map of their village Bifoule © Consoler TAPIMENE / GIZ, 2025

Georeferencing and Digitisation

The next stage involves the georeferencing and digitisation of the participatory maps. The multidisciplinary team carries out precise field surveys using GPS (with a GPS device or mobile apps such as QField (https://qfield.org/) or Avenza Maps (https://store.avenza.com/) or others) to record the geographical coordinates of the identified areas. This data is then integrated into a Geographic Information System (GIS) to produce accurate and detailed digital maps.

🔗 See also the user manual for GPS devices, ProPFR (2025)

- **Step 3: Return the map to the communities...**

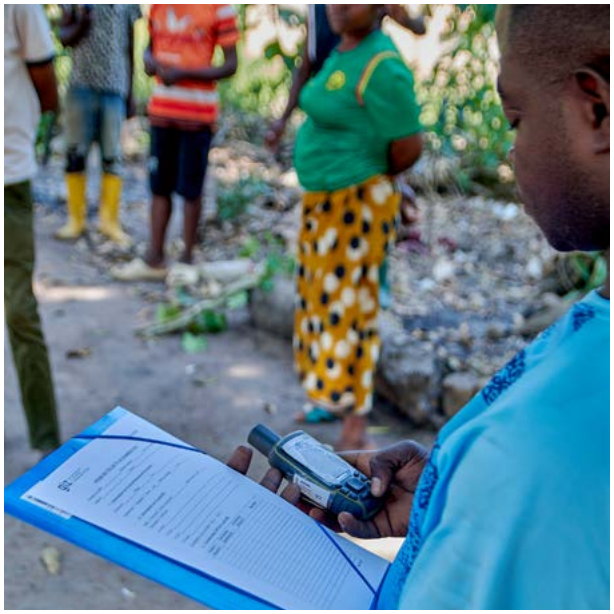


Image 3 : Georeferencing of a plot of land in the village of Ngouétou © Tarra films / GIZ, 2025



Image 2 : The community of Nguétou is validating their map © Tarra films / GIZ, 2025

...and validate the projections of land requirements necessary for the relevant spatial planning tool (PLADDT, POS, etc.).
Finally, the last stage involves community validation, during which the digital maps are presented to the communities concerned. They confirm or adjust the information collected, thereby ensuring the reliability and legitimacy of the data produced.

5 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POS AND PLADDT

Apart from the PLADDT, **Cameroonian legislation also provides for the Land Use Plan** (*Plan d'Occupation des Sols*, POS). The difference between the two lies mainly in their objectives, their scope of application, their specific content and their enforceability:
The POS is an operational and enforceable urban planning tool provided for by Cameroonian legislation (Law No. 2004/003 governing urban planning), designed to precisely define land use at the urban or peri-urban level. It clearly establishes the rules applicable to construction, determines buildable and non-buildable areas, sets out the detailed spatial distribution of different activities (residential, commercial, industrial, green spaces, etc.) and governs urban development at the plot level. The POS is generally used in specific urban areas and is primarily regulatory and operational in nature.
Conversely, **the PLADDT,** which stems from Framework Law No. 2011/008 on land use planning, **adopts a broader territorial scale, generally at the municipal level**. It is a strategic tool that takes into account urban, peri-urban and, above all, rural areas with a view to ensuring the long-term sustainable development of the territory. The PLADDT aims to structure land use in a comprehensive manner, integrating economic, social, cultural and environmental considerations. It is more forward-looking,

involving development scenarios, a common territorial vision and a participatory approach that involves local populations. The PLADDT is not yet enforceable.

In summary, while the POS is primarily a specific regulatory document applicable mainly to urban areas to regulate construction, the PLADDT is a comprehensive strategic land-use planning document covering all areas of a municipality, geared towards medium- and long-term sustainable development and incorporating elements such as participatory management and land securing, which are essential for rural communities.

6 PRACTICAL TRIAL OF THE METHODOLOGY WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF YOKO AND LESSONS LEARNT

As part of its mission to strengthen local land governance, the ProPFR project carried out a **pilot trial in 2024 of the participatory mapping methodology for essential lands in three villages in the commune of Yoko** in the Central Region: Yoko village, Ngouétou and Mekoassim. The main objective of this mission was to test a practical and participatory approach enabling village communities to identify, locate and georeference the land deemed essential to their survival and collective identity.

The results of ProPFR's pilot mission in 2024 are particularly rich and informative. In **Yoko village**, the local people identified the following as essential lands: the chief's compound, the cemetery, agricultural land (notably situated within Game Reserve No. 41), sacred sites (within the Mbam-et-Djerem National Park), settlement lands, grazing areas, land reserves for future generations, as well as ecotourism sites. In **Ngouétou**, residents have highlighted the sacred sites (known as Mbaam and Wah by the local population), several cemeteries (Mbororo/Muslim, Catholic, community), agricultural land, dense forests, pastures, residential areas and social facilities such as the primary school, secondary school and health centre. In **Mekoassim**, essential land included, in particular, sacred sites, community farmland, traditional places of worship, play areas, the health centre, the market, the community hall and various sites for ritual initiation.

One of the key lessons from this mission is that **the perception of the concept of 'essential land' varies according to social, cultural and geographical contexts.** What is vital for a farmer may not be so for a herder, and vice versa. The same applies to women, young people and traditional leaders. The mission enabled essential land to be classified into four main categories: sacred land, agricultural land, housing and community facilities. In Yoko village, the findings also highlighted a particular challenge: most of the land identified as indispensable is located on state-owned land (ZIC 41 and the National Park), which highlights latent land conflicts between village communities and the State and necessitates consideration of strategies to resolve these conflicts in order to reduce human–wildlife conflicts and ensure social, economic and environmental sustainability.

This process also enabled local people to clearly express their understanding of the concept of essential land, which they define as non-negotiable areas that are vital to their economic, cultural and social survival, and which they wish to protect in the long term. Consequently, participatory mapping has not only helped to strengthen local social cohesion, but has also provided a solid basis for the formal integration of the results into the PLADDT drafting process, thereby facilitating better local land governance and significantly reducing land conflicts..

🔗 The PLADDT for the municipality of Yoko was adopted in March 2026.

7 RECOMMANDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

In conclusion, incorporating essential land resources and participatory mapping into the PLADDT drafting process is not merely a matter of good practice, but a strategic necessity to ensure the legitimacy, sustainability and effectiveness of spatial planning policies in Cameroon. These two approaches help to put local communities back at the heart of planning by valuing their knowledge, recognising their priorities and safeguarding the areas essential to their economic, social and cultural survival. They also serve as powerful tools for conflict prevention, the protection of customary land rights and the promotion of inclusive development.

The practical testing of the methodology for identifying and mapping vital spaces thus demonstrates the **relevance and feasibility of the approach**, whilst highlighting the need to adapt planning tools to the diversity of local contexts. It represents a key step towards the full and effective integration of essential lands into the spatial planning process, through the PLADDTs.

In light of these findings, the main and most important recommendation is to incorporate this methodology into the national PLADDT guide when it is updated or revised.

The legal enforceability of the PLADDTs should also be strengthened in order to improve their ability to compel the various stakeholders to respect the vital spaces identified in such processes. This is why the efforts undertaken by the ProPFR project in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for spatial planning (MINEPAT) and the Ministry responsible for Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF) must be continued. Support from ProPFR contributed to MINDCAF's adoption on 26 December 2025 of Circular No. 006/MINDCAF/CAB/LC of 26 December 2025, **establishing a 'letter of non-objection' from the Head of the first- or second-level Traditional Command Unit with territorial jurisdiction for the validation, at departmental level, of applications for direct registration or concession of parts of the national domain covering areas of ten (10) hectares or more.** This legal text enables communities wishing to do so to express their objection or non-objection to a project on the grounds of concerns regarding encroachment on vital spaces, as provided for in land-use planning instruments (PLADDT). This is the very first piece of legislation to

provide a mechanism for the legal protection of communities' vital spaces.
This Circular also stipulates that the local MINDCAF Departmental Delegate is obliged, as part of procedures for applying for land registration of 10 hectares in a single block or in aggregate, t**o verify—on pain of nullity— that the proposed areas comply with land-use planning instruments.** This means that land-use planning instruments duly approved by the competent authorities are enforceable against all projects and investments that initiate land registration procedures.
It would be desirable for these advances to be fully integrated and taken into account as part of land reform. At stake is not only land security for rural communities, but also the credibility of planning and sustainable development policies at local level. Fully integrating these tools and conferring legal status upon them represents a decisive turning point towards more responsible, equitable and forward-looking land governance

8 FURTHER INFORMATION ON ProPFR

The project "*Promotion of Responsible Land Policy* (ProPFR) in Cameroon", implemented by the German Cooperation through the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) *GmbH* since January 2023 in the Centre Region, particularly in the municipalities of Nanga-Eboko and Yoko, aims to improve equitable access to land for rural populations, particularly women, young people and other marginalised groups. It focuses on several complementary areas: raising community awareness of land rights, documenting customary and usage rights through simple and legitimate tools, supporting georeferencing, and creating or strengthening local conflict prevention structures. The project also supports traditional and public authorities in land archiving, assists small producers in obtaining security documents such as certificates issued by the project, and contributes to advocacy for more inclusive land reform. At the same time, ProPFR facilitates the implementation of good investment practices in agricultural sectors in line with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the protection of natural resources, while promoting collaboration between local communities and national institutions such as MINDCAF. The project ended in May 2026.

🔗 More details can be found in the ProPFR project's fact sheet and brochure.

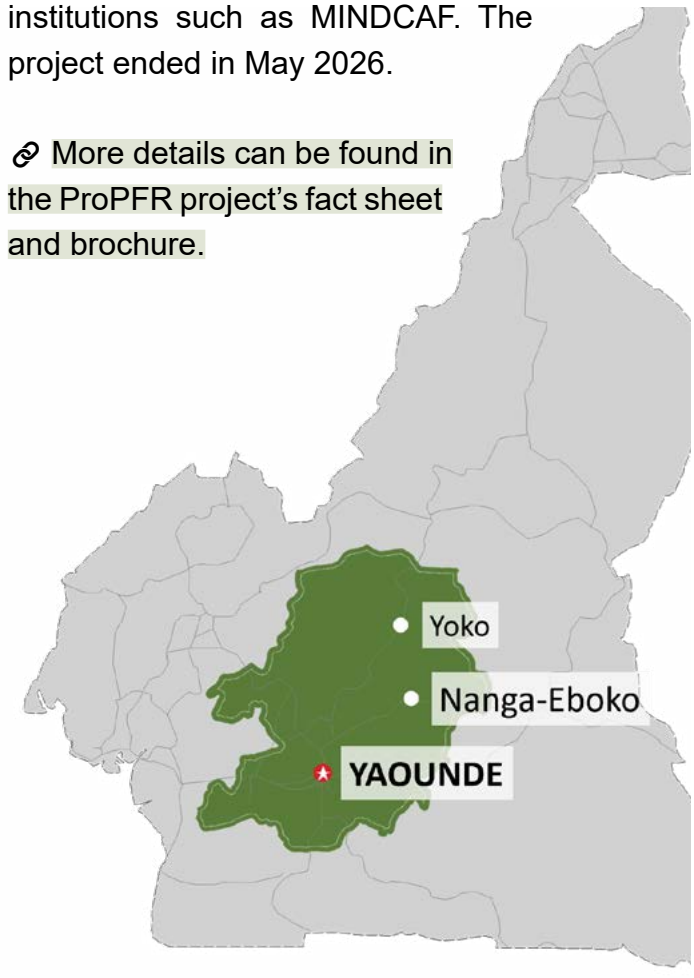


Image 4 : Map of ProPFR intervention areas in Cameroon

9 FURTHER READINGS

Here is a summary table linking the additional documents, to help you find your way around according to the type of information you are looking for:

Thème / Type d'information	Document de référence	Contenu spécifique
In short, what is the PLADDT and what role does it play in regional planning?	*PLADDT Brochure*, ProPFR (2025)	Disseminated summary of the PLADDT, its objectives, its link with SNADDT/SRADDT, broad target audience (local authorities, local decision-makers).
How to develop a PLADDT?	*Guide to developing PLADDTs*, MINEPAT (2021)	Main reference document validated by the relevant ministries, including the national legal and technical framework
Is there an example of a validated PLADDT?	*PLADDT for the municipality of Ngong*, 2024, and *PLADDT for the municipality of Yoko*, 2026	PLADDT for the Ngong Municipality validated in 2024, supported by the GIZ-ABC-PADER project
How should participatory mapping be applied in PATVs and PLADDTs?	*Comprehensive and practical guide to the unified participatory mapping methodology*, RAINBOW (no year)	Step-by-step method, participatory tools (mind maps, focus groups, community validation), recommended output formats, adaptable to different contexts.
How to map essential lands in villages?	*Methodology for mapping essential lands,* ProPFR (2026)	Supplement to the guide on participatory mapping, focusing on the concept of "essential lands": typologies, georeferencing, integration into GIS.
Has participatory mapping of essential lands been tested?	*Report on the testing of participatory mapping of essential lands*, ProPFR (2024)	Application of the methodology in three villages in Yoko: process, results, lessons learned.
How to georeference a plot of land?	*Simplified guide to using a GPS for georeferencing plots*, ProPFR (2025)	The guide provides step-by-step explanations on how to use the Garmin GPSMAP 65s GPS receiver model
What do you need to know about land conflicts?	*Prevention and management of land conflicts*, ProPFR (2025)	Seven specific steps for managing land conflicts with improved archiving

Thème / Type d'information	Document de référence	Contenu spécifique
Is there more detailed information about the ProPFR project?	Fact sheet and brochure, ProPFR (2025)	

Recommendations for use:

- For a **general presentation** to non-specialists: start with the PLADDT leaflet, ProPFR (2025).
- **For municipal planning work** or to train municipal officials: use the updated PLADDT Guide and the POS Guide.
- **For field activities** or community outreach: start with the Guide to Participatory Mapping, RAINBOW (no year) and supplement with the Technical Guide to Essential Lands, ProPFR (2026).
- To illustrate with a **successful case study**: use the report Test of Participatory Mapping of Essential Lands, ProPFR (2025).

All documents are available on request and at https://landportal.org/library.

