

What is the Land Rights Policy?

The Land Rights Policy seeks to protect the land rights of all Liberians both for people that live on customary land and for people who live on private land.



The Land Rights Policy Defines Four Different Categories of Land

- 1 Private Land:** land owned and deeded by one or more persons.
- 2 Customary Land:** land owned and managed by a community according to customary norms and traditions.
- 3 Government Land:** land that is owned by the government and used for government activities including offices of ministries, agencies, military bases; roads; public schools and public universities; public hospitals and clinics and much more.
- 4 Public Land:** land that is not government land, customary land or private land and can be used for the general good of Liberia.

Communities will be able to own their land through the “Customary Land” category

Customary land will be:

- **Equally protected:** Customary Land Rights, will be equally protected as private land rights.
- **Managed locally:** Decisions about Customary land will be made at the local level, consistent with sound policy and shared responsibilities between the Government, communities and their members.

The components of Customary Land

- Communities own the land and natural resources including but not limited to water-bodies, land space, residential area, forest and non-timber products, swamps, life-trees, rocks, sand, farm land, etc.
- Communities have the right to management their land and natural resources.
- Communities have the rights to develop by-laws for the use and management of their land and natural resources.

How to obtain title

In order for communities to formalize/register their customary land they will have to first:

- 1 Self-identify:** The process of community members determining the geographic identity of their community. Is it a village, town, clan, chiefdom, district, ...?
- 2 Harmonize boundaries:** Work with neighboring communities to determine where community land stops and community land begins.
- 3 Land Use & Management Plan:** Develop a land use plan and by-laws for the use and management of community land.
- 4 Land Management Committee:** Set-up a Land Management Committee for the management of community land and natural resources.

Note: Communities must establish themselves as legal entities with management institutions that are fully representative and accountable to all community members, including women, youth, and minorities.