



Securing land under the customary tenure system

How to register Customary land

Step 1: Community/Family Meeting: The applicant/s convenes a meeting with the family, clan or community to express his/her/their interest in acquiring a Certificate of Customary Ownership.

Step 2: Completion of Application Forms: The applicant obtains application forms in triplicate from the Area Land Committee (ALC), fills the application forms accurately, seeks information from Clan leaders/elders in areas where information is scanty and then duly files and submits application forms to the ALC.

Step 3: Submission of Forms: An applicant submits a completed form 1 to the Land Committees together with the fees. (UGX 5000)

Step 4: Public Notice: The Land Committee puts a notice in a known place in the area and on the land being applied for. The notice shall require all persons claiming any interest in the land or in any adjacent land which may be affected by the application, including adjacent land claims as to the boundaries of that land to attend a meeting of the committee at a specified time and place and put forward their claims

Step 5: The Land Committee confirms and marks the boundaries. The ALC shall, in the event that all persons are in agreement as to ownership of the land, The ALC proceeds to mark the boundaries of the land, rights of way and other forms of easements on the land. During this process, the neighbors to the adjacent land, the local council chairperson, clan leaders and any other interested persons are required to be present and assent to the agreed demarcations. A sketch map will then be generated by the ALC and signed by the landowners, the neighbors, the local council 1, the ALC and selected elders in the community.

Step 6: ALC Report: Following the demarcation, the committee compiles a report on the application, documenting all claims to interest and rights in the land, or to the occupation and use of the land and its opinion as to whether those claims have been proved to exist, setting out its findings and recommendations. If all parties agree, then the report will recommend to the District Land Board to issue a CCO. In the case of a disagreement, the report will recommend for a land conflict resolution meeting to settle the conflict. When the conflict is settled then another report will be presented for the continuation of the process.

- 1 Additionally the committee provides a copy available within the parish for inspection by all parties who submitted claims to or who were heard by the committee.
- 2 The Land Committee also utilizes customary law to make decisions on the land and advises the board on matter related to customary law.

Step 7: Sketch of Land produced by ALC (Under DINU this was digitalized): The Committee creates three copies of the sketch of the land in respect of which an application is made. The original copy is sent to the Board, a copy is provided to the applicant and the Committee retains the third copy. (Regulation 35)

Step 8: Board Decision: The Board reviews the committee's report and recommendations and may either confirm or reject them.

- Upon agreement, the Board communicates its decision in writing to the Recorder and:

Step 9: Upon approval of an application for a certificate of customary ownership is approved, the Board makes copies of the sketch and retains one copy for its records, sends the original and a copy to the Recorder.

Step 10: The Recorder issues a certificate to the applicant in the terms of the decisions of the Board.(UGX 5000)

Any person aggrieved with the decision of the Board may appeal to the tribunal.

A parcel of land for which a certificate of customary ownership is issued bears a unique Customary Land Identification Number (CLIN) given by the Recorder.