Land Facility

The Land Facility (LF) is a global programme funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) that supports governments to design, implement, and sustain land governance reforms.



Improving land governance for sustainable land use and food security

Main partners: Land Equity International (LEI)

Duration: Nov 2025 – Mar 2026

Country: Indonesia



TETRA TECH International Development

Land Equity International and partners

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Land Facility contacts

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Land Facility supports the Government of Indonesia to accelerate the recognition and productive use of customary land and forest rights, with a focus on improving food security, livelihoods, and resilience for Indigenous groups.

Objective: Through direct technical assistance to national and sub-national institutions, the Land Facility support project helps to accelerate the designation and utilisation of customary forests (*hutan adat*) and non-forest customary lands (*tanah ulavat*). Activities contribute evidence on how secure customary tenure can contribute to resilient food systems, sustainable land use, and inclusive development. In addition, LF facilitates collaboration among key stakeholders to integrate and align approaches to customary land governance towards policy harmonisation and multi-level implementation, translating into formally recognized customary land and forest rights for Indigenous groups.

Project goals

- **Accelerate customary land and forest recognition** by supporting government-led processes for the designation and registration of forested and non-forested customary lands, including technical assistance to national task forces and sub-national implementing agencies.
- **Strengthen the use and protection of documented lands** by supporting communities and local governments to improve livelihoods and sustainable food production, while safeguarding rights and preventing land use conversion risks.
- **Generate evidence and learning for scale-up** by documenting case studies and practical lessons—particularly in Papua—on how customary tenure recognition and utilisation can improve food security, resilience, and development outcomes, informing future government action and Land Facility engagement.

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Progress and achievements between November 2025 – March 2026

Key achievements

- **National coordination and roadmap for customary forests:** Strengthened cross-ministerial coordination and roadmap to accelerate customary forest designation (hutan adat) and policy implementation.
- **Capacity building for customary forest verification:** Equipped national and sub-national agencies (150 people) with technical skills and tools to accelerate verification, designation, and management of customary forests.
- **Evidence base for customary land use and livelihoods:** Delivered multiple case studies demonstrating how customary land rights can support food security, sustainable land use, and local economic development.
- **Advancing registration of customary lands:** Increased awareness, demand, and government commitment for registering customary non-forest lands (tanah ulayat) and built momentum to establish a national task force.
- **Sustainable financing and digitisation of land processes:** Identified financing pathways and developed recommendations to digitise application processes to improve efficiency, transparency, and scalability of land administration systems.

Turning awareness into action on customary land

In Papua, many communities were unaware of how to register and benefit from formally recognised customary land rights. Through targeted workshops and peer exchange, Land Facility helped bridge this gap, bringing together government, communities, and civil society. By the end of the process, multiple customary leaders expressed interest in registering their land, showing how awareness and trust can translate into concrete action.

"After mapping our customary territories and receiving the decree, we felt empowered to protect our forest. We also agreed to care for it by replanting and restoring the forest using our traditional methods. We agree to maintain the forest because, traditionally, our parents inherited this practice from our ancestors, and it is strictly forbidden to damage the forest."

— **Ronald N. Udam,** Kilsi Tribe Traditional Regional Representative

"Our members focus on cocoa plantations that are already in production and seed processing. Here, the customary forest has been recognised, and that means it is our responsibility to protect it. We already know the benefits of the forest, so we must also take care of and maintain it."

— **Trince Yosephina Nian**, Nayuda Mandiri Millennial Farmers