

# SMART SURVEYORS FOR LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES IN A NEW REALITY



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Protecting Customary Land Rights In Sierra Leone Open Tenure Spatial Mapping Technology  
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Fit For Purpose (FFP) for Land And Water Management –The Relationship Of The Water And Land Tenure Nexus

## SOLA suite of applications consists of



- SOLA REGISTRY
- SOLA SYSTEMATIC REGISTRATION
- SOLA STATE LAND

To support cadastre and property registration operations



- OPEN TENURE



To record customary tenure and field data collection



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## Open Tenure comparative solutions

Green	Available	SOLA OT	Cadasta	MAST	STDM	ODK
Yellow	Partly available					
Red	Not available					
<b>Functionality</b>						
Workflow management						
› Dispute handling						
Property management						
› Systematic Registration						
Spatial unit management						
Map spatial information						
Manage rights and right holders						
Digital document management						
Search, retrieve and display						
Reporting						
<b>System Qualities</b>						
Security						
Maintainability/Flexibility						
› System administration						
› Survey form templates						
› Multiple languages						
Other						
› Multiple operating systems						
› E-mail notifications						
› Data import/export						
› Offline use of data						
› Downloadable Installers						
› Host Web data server						
› Support						

Review SOLA suite of applications:

<https://bit.ly/2SHydZi>

- SOLA REGISTRY, SOLA SYSTEMATIC REGISTRATION and SOLA STATE LAND have no alternative
- OPEN TENURE has only one similar alternative, CADASTA, which is no longer Open Source



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## Use in countries





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## Country Profile

- Total population is 7,092,113
- 5 Regions ( North, North-West, South and East, Western Area/ Freetown), 16 districts, 190 chiefdoms
- Land Mass of Sierra Leone is 71,740 km<sup>2</sup>
- Two separate land tenure system ( Freehold/English law in Western Area/Freetown; Costmary regime in provinces)
- Over 95% of land in Sierra Leone falls under customary regime
- Less than 5% of land in Sierra Leone is administered under Freehold



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## Key Achievement

- ❑ In 2018, Financial support from Irish & German Government and Technical support from FAO, Government of Sierra Leone piloted a project to generally understand the dynamics involved in the clarification and protection of customary land rights
  
- ❑ The project was piloted in 4 districts across the country using Open Tenure Mapping Technology
  - 1) **Bombali – Norther Region**
  - 2) **Port Loko - North West Region**
  - 2) **Bo – Southern Region**
  - 4) **Kenema – Eastern Region**
  
- ❑ In 2019, the protection of customary land rights was scaled up in 16 communities under the UN Peace Building project



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## Key Achievement

- ❑ Open Tenure mapping exercise in 2018:
  - ✓ 11, 745.79 acres of family land across 4 chiefdoms
  - ✓ 60 land parcels under customary tenure in 12 villages
  
- ❑ Open Tenure mapping exercise in 2019:
  - ✓ 21,484 acres of family land across 4 chiefdoms
  - ✓ 111 families in 16 villages





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## Key Achievement

### ☐ Resources & stakeholders Mobilization

- ✓ Less time involved; less expensive; promote dialogue involving tribal authorities; land users, land owners, youths and women

### ☐ Capacity Building & Field data collection

2018:

- ✓ Over 500 local actors capacity built in gender and land rights issues across the four districts
- ✓ 120 youths trained as para-surveyors
- ✓ Less 24 hours to train 10 youths per settlement to use android tablets



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## Key Achievement

### ☐ Resources & stakeholders Mobilization

- ✓ Less time involved; less expensive; promote dialogue involving tribal authorities; land users, land owners, youths and women

### ☐ Capacity Building & Field data collection

2019:

- ✓ Over 500 local actors capacity built in gender and land rights issues across the four districts
- ✓ 320 young para-surveyors (30% women, aged 18-35 years)
- ✓ Less 24 hours to train 10 youths per settlement to use android tablets





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## Key Achievement

- ❑ **Methodology for identifying & mapping of customary land rights established**
  - ✓ Legal empowerment of communities ( 90% successful) – Stage 1
  - ✓ Governance strengthening initiatives, community by-laws development (90% successful) – Stage 2
  - ✓ Boundary Harmonization and Mapping ( 90% Successful) – Stage 3
  - ✓ Community validation of customary land parcel maps ( 90% successful) – Stage 4
- ❑ **Enabling environment for the legal and institutional reforms required to improve the tenure governance system ( SOLA/Open Tenure)**



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## Key Achievement

### Cluster & Individual family land parcel thematic maps

- ✓ Total of 12 family cluster maps produced & validated in 2018 ( 6 months)
- ✓ Total 111 family cluster maps produced and validated in 2019 ( 12 months)





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## Key Achievement

- Informed the development of National Land Commission and Customary Land Rights Bills
- National Land Commission and Customary Land Rights Bills will be passed into law in July 2021

## Challenges

- Limited resources to cover a chiefdom, a chiefdom is considered a complete administrative unit.
- Poor weather conditions and forest cover canopy in certain cases affected GPS signals of the android tablet.
- Difficult terrain pose serious challenges the recording and mapping process.
- Boundary misunderstanding also posed challenges to the process



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## Next Steps

- Scale up recording and mapping of customary land holdings to cover an entire chiefdom
- Introduce in the mapped chiefdom a secure system for loading/register validated customary land claims
- Import validated customary land claims in SOLA Registry
- Establishment of the National Land Commission
- Implementation of the National Land Commission and Customary Land Rights Acts