

Perceptions of the MAST Process

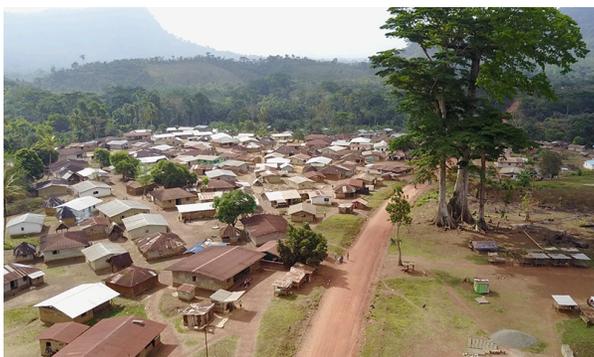
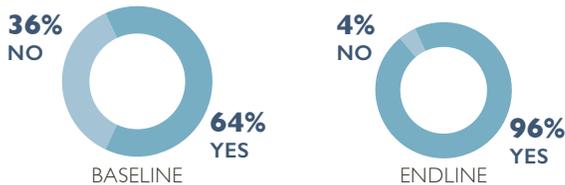
PILOT IN LIBERIA'S BLEI COMMUNITY FOREST

Local communities around the Blei Community Forest in Liberia applied USAID's MAST approach to document land and forest resources. Citizens used MAST to capture land information to make better decisions regarding the use and stewardship of these resources. MAST helped front-line decision-makers identify strategies and actions for their Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP), which provides the framework for safeguarding and sustainably using their customary land and forest resources.



USAID EFFECTIVELY SENSITIZED COMMUNITIES

Are you aware of the process of documenting the resources in the Blei Community Forest?
(baseline n=100; endline n=199)



PERSISTENT ENGAGEMENT GENERATED POSITIVE COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF MAST

After learning about the MAST process, do you think the project activities have been explained clearly and implemented in a clear and transparent manner?
(endline only, n=191)



After learning about the MAST process, do you think it will help your community use its lands and CF more effectively and efficiently?
(endline only, n=192)



After learning about the MAST process, do you feel that your rights to your land and resources are more secure (or protected) given that your community boundary has been mapped and demarcated?
(endline only, n=165)



ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF LAND RESOURCES DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE LANDSCAPE

The MAST approach embraces best practices and utilizes culturally appropriate methods to engage stakeholders and beneficiaries. USAID collected information regarding citizen perceptions about land and resource holdings and uses through baseline and endline surveys. Prioritizing community-level engagement and advocacy was key to building understanding of the MAST approach and helped improve land and resource tenure in the Blei Forest communities. Stakeholders and beneficiaries from the Blei communities viewed the MAST process as clear, transparent, empowering, and beneficial.

USAID's Mobile Applications to Secure Land Tenure is a collaborative, participatory approach that builds sustainable local capacity to efficiently map resource rights and secure land tenure. MAST is managed by USAID's Land and Urban Office.