

Supplemental Resource

Holding a By-Law Adoption Ceremony

How to Use this Resource

Use this alongside Phase 1, Task 1, Step 6 of the Model Guidebook for Communities to adopt local by-laws governing land investment in the community that support responsible, sustainable and equitable investments.

These by-laws will establish how the community will make decisions about its land, who will represent the community in negotiations with prospective investors, and how compensation will be shared and used. Once a final draft of the by-laws has been agreed upon, the Land Investment Committee should host a community-wide ceremony to adopt them.

How to Conduct a By-Laws Adoption Ceremony¹

► **Step 1. Post notice of meeting and promote attendance:** The ceremony should be attended by at least the male and female heads of every household in the community, all community leaders, trusted government officials, and relevant cultural and customary leaders.

► **Step 2. Read the by-laws:** At the by-laws adoption ceremony, the complete list of by-laws should be read aloud. Community members should be given the opportunity to make any final objections. If a community member raises an objection, the issue should be addressed and a solution found. After all final objections have been resolved, the community should prepare to vote to adopt their by-laws.

► **Step 3. Hold a community vote:** The community votes on the by-laws. At the first meeting to launch the by-laws development process, the community decided how many votes it would take to approve the by-laws. Community members should be reminded of the number required for approval before voting.

► **Step 4. Document the Meeting:** Members of the Committee should take good notes of the ceremony, discussion and votes, including taking photos and videos. It is recommended that all voting community members sign the by-laws. This will help

make the document more legitimate in the eyes of community members, both immediately and over time

¹ The process for by-laws adoption outlined here is adapted with permission from Namati's experiences working with communities to adapt by-laws for community land governance. See Namati, *Community Land Protection Facilitators Guide* at 95-104 (2017).