

Land registration is one of the cornerstones underlying the Malagasy government plan to decentralize and accelerate the economic development of Madagascar. Acting under strong pressure exerted by the IMF, the Malagasy government launched the PNF (*Programme National Foncier*) in 2004 to implement a national land registration system. From the outset, land registration has proven to be complex and problematic, due in no small part to the difficulties in reconciling the dictates of positive law (*lex fori*) and customary law (*lex loci*). Land registration is a key area where Malagasy customs collide with *vazaha* (foreign) economic and cultural references.