



Global Donor Working Group on Land

8th Physical Meeting, FAO, Rome, Italy

21 October 2016, 09:00 – 17:00 CEST

Minutes

Participants:

Fritz Jung (BMZ), Iris Krebber and Chris Penrose Buckley (DFID), Victoria Zicos (EC), Andrew Hilton and Paul Munro-Faure (FAO), Christian Graefen (GIZ), Harold Liversage (IFAD), Tomoko Unaki and Makoto Asai (JICA), Maria Lodin (Kartverket), Jennifer Lisher (MCC), Mathieu Boche (MFA-France), Frits van der Wal (MFA-Netherlands), Oumar Sylla and Everlyne Nairesiae (UN-Habitat), Heath Cosgrove and Yuliya Neyman (USAID), Gregory Myers and Linus Pott (WB), Thomas Heimgartner (SDC).

Platform secretariat:

Romy Sato, Reinhild Ernst, Jedi Bukachi

Agenda:

1. Welcome, review of prior year, and welcome for new Chair and Vice-Chair
2. Quick framing of agenda and discussion around processes, incl. budget issues
3. Strategic feedback of the week
4. Discussion by Headline Priorities (1-5)
5. Nomination of HP leads for 2017
6. Wrap-up & Additional business

Summary of decisions

Membership fee and chairmanship: GDWGL agreed that only board members to the Global Donor Platform (i.e. paying members) can become the chair of the this specific Group; chairs of the GDWGL will enquire with the board of the Donor Platform whether in-kind contributions can replace membership fees and secure the possibility to become the chair of the Platform. The purpose is to try to align such rules between the broader Platform and GDWGL as much as possible, however keeping the choice to apply different rules.

Budget: Chairs and Secretariat will share an email following the meeting to summarise the proposals to spend the remaining budget of the GDWGL. The proposals include:

- **HP 1:** improve the backend space of the Land Map (consultant)
- **HP 2:** jointly with USAID, organise 1-hour webinars to train Embassy staff in partner countries on land tenure issues and the VGGT 101 (consultant)
- **HP 4:** co-organise with MFA-France side event on land transparency during the Open Government Partnership Summit on 7-9 Dec 2016 (sponsor speakers)

Activities for 2017:

- **HP 1:** continue to improve and promote the Land Governance Programme Map, incl. a quality

- check of the data
- **HP 2:** continue the webinars with USAID for Embassy staff in partner countries; organise similar trainings, but 2-3h-hours in-person to high-level decision makers in Embassies
 - **HP 3:** explore better ways to engage with the private sector, e.g. by building on the applications by companies to recently launched donor funds (USAID and DFID) to involve them at upcoming the WB Conference; support better data on the costs of investments by the private sector and DFIs to follow the VGGT
 - **HP 4:** organise a 1-day workshop in Paris for Group members to design the new road map 2017-2020 (timing: before the WB Land Conference in March)
 - **HP 5:** WB, MCC and UN-Habitat to keep the Group informed on the SDG land indicator; prepare at least 2 policy briefs (“why land matters”) for other communities to relate more easily to land governance; organise a half-day meeting to discuss more in-depth the Group’s engagement during the CFS and WB Land Conference to influence VGGT implementation and enforcement

Nomination of HP leads for 2017: Secretariat will call for nominations via email by early December; UN-Habitat will take over the lead of HP 5 from MFA-Netherlands

1. Welcome

Heath Cosgrove (USAID) welcomed the participants to the meeting. He outlined some of the achievements that the group has managed over the past year, particularly negotiations on the SDG land indicator 1.4.2, the Land Governance Map and the VGGT focus. USAID also pointed out that the amount of countries which mentioned the Group during the CFS43 is recognition of the important work the Group is doing.

USAID officially passed over the chairmanship to Mathieu Boche (MFA-France) and Harold Liversage (IFAD, vice-chair). MFA-France mentioned two important upcoming tasks for the Group: to design a new roadmap for the next 3 years (2017-2020) and to increase the relationship with the other Platform groups, such as gender, inclusive agribusiness and other working areas related to land.

The new chair also welcomed Norway to the GDWGL, who will be represented by the Norwegian Mapping Authority (Karverket). The contact person is Maria Lodin.

2. Quick framing of agenda and discussion around processes, incl. budget issues

The Secretariat informed that the Platform board requires that the work plans and budgets by the different groups are submitted by the deadline of 15th November.

The secretariat also reported on the status of finances, which show that the GDWGL has a balance of approx. € 42.300 until December 2016. Budget group member (DFID) cautioned that the future allocation of budget for the GDWGL could be impacted negatively by this underspending. Hence, it was agreed that the chair and Secretariat would follow up with HP leads on proposals for spending the remaining budget until the end of the year.

The secretariat reminded that the member organisations are strongly advised to secure their funding to the Platform by March 31st 2017, which enables the GDWGL and other groups to carry out their planned activities. This led to the discussion about whether chairs of the GDWGL should always be paying Platform members. It was generally agreed that the chairs of the GDWGL should indeed be paying members. Furthermore, it was proposed that the chair enquires with the Platform board what are the current views on this issue within the board and whether in-kind contributions can make up for membership fees.

3. Strategic feedback of the week

There was a wide consensus that the CFS43 plenary session on VGGT monitoring was positive according to feedback from donors, civil society and technical support. The group discussed some critical questions around the subjects of VGGT monitoring, human rights issues and implementation challenges, such as countries that only pay 'lip service' to the VGGTs, as well as private sector compliance.

Monitoring

It was questioned how the GDWGL can influence the VGGT monitoring which continues to be a big challenge.

- MCC stated that more work is needed on the qualitative and quantitative sides, through impact evaluations of VGGT. It was suggested that the GDWGL can provide globally comparable land data and support research.
- DFID and MFA-France cautioned that the Group should not duplicate the role of the CFS, but rather try to reach common ground on the VGGT, which can be passed on through trainings and awareness raising. IFAD added that the GDWGL meeting to discuss training sessions on the VGGT (also during the CFS43) was very good, and the Group does not always have to focus on monitoring.
- FAO reminded that monitoring will happen independent of the GDWGL, so creative thinking is needed to nudge such process. BMZ mentioned that this could include the G20 forum where Germany will take over the presidency in 2017. In a similar reflection, MFA-Netherlands proposed that GDWGL improves the format of its side events in order to encourage feedback from different stakeholders instead of simply informing what donors are doing.
- BMZ and others also expressed to be uncertain whether it is helpful to bring *all* donor initiatives forward to be monitored in terms of VGGT impact, and whether this should be connected to the SGD methodology.

Implementation challenges

GIZ raised the question of how to deal with those countries that only pay lip service to the VGGTs.

- DFID responded that states already own some instruments that can be piggy backed upon well beyond the CFS tools. FAO added that for change to happen, long term perspective is necessary, such as shifting customary thinking and behaviors alongside legal frameworks and administrative work.
- JICA suggested creating a sense of competition between neighboring countries on their VGGT implementation, based on their experience in the Balkans. This would encourage bad performers to catch up and do better. UN-Habitat further suggested training sessions to parliamentarians.
- On the topic of private sector, DFID stated that the silos of PSM and CSM at the CFS events need to be broken and the investment angle to land discussions need to be improved. WB agreed, adding that the private sector has several challenges and must also be brought in to understand the benefits of the VGGT process, particularly domestic private sector.
- USAID suggested categorizing countries into those actively implementing the VGGT, those moderately committed, those paying lip service etc. in order to have different strategies to promote enforcement (trainings, advocacy, knowledge sharing etc.) according to the country.

Human rights

Tied to the discussion on implementation challenges, the group debated on how best to approach the human rights perspective of the VGGT.

- WB and MCC cautioned the GDWGL in linking up the VGGT too closely to human rights, given the

difficult debate at the time of the VGGT endorsement, but, together with other members, acknowledged this is a political issue where different groups will have different views; this space should be viewed and supported in its diversity where there is no single owner of the VGGT, but many.

- WB and MFA-France mentioned that the CSM has produced a manual with a human rights approach and this helped to raise the importance of the VGGT to Ministers on partner countries.
- Summarizing the reactions, MFA-France concluded that the Group should probably continue what it is already doing: providing an *additional* space for debate besides the CFS.

4. Discussion by Headline Priorities (1-5)

HP 5 – lead: MFA-Netherlands

Progress made

- The Group was successful in influencing the SDG process, where the land indicator (1.4.2) was kept under Goal 1. WB and UN-Habitat are the custodian agencies for this indicator and are preparing the methodology and metadata to be submitted to the IAEG.
- Good work in following up with the CFS Secretariat for the VGGT plenary session. As a result, donors coordinated their messages during the plenary and a good communication channel was established.

Recommendations

- WB, UN-Habitat and MCC to keep the Group informed on the SDG land indicator and remove this activity line from the work plan
- Important to establish linkages to other groups and other topics to enrich the narrative on why land matters. A suggested approach is to write 3 policy briefs (targeting business, civil society and governments)
- Become part of communities beyond the “regular” land communities, such as within the climate groups, gender and others that can be influenced. This principle should also be reflected in the new 3-year roadmap
- Use the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the VGGT in May 2017 in Rome to engage with other groups on the topic of VGGT implementation, monitoring etc.
- Have a half-day meeting to discuss the crosscutting topics which have been noted as important by the group and to discuss a more strategic engagement at conferences

HP 1 – lead: WB

Progress made

- New design of the Land Map was prepared jointly by WB and Secretariat and launched. Romy (Secretariat) and Linus (WB) made a presentation to the Group.

Recommendations

- Continue the improvement of the Map, particularly of the backend space until Dec 2016 and to conduct a quality check of the data.
- Address the recommendations to further improve and promote the Map, namely: (a) add a field where one can include monitoring and evaluation reports; (b) promote the Map at the next WB Land Conference; (c) use the Map for advancing country cooperation (e.g. countries to review interventions in their territories); (d) use the Map for the daily work as donors (e.g. checking

ongoing projects before going on a mission).

HP 2 – lead: USAID

Progress made

- Country level coordination in 3 pilot countries was initiated; most successful case was Senegal; in Colombia donors were contacted about several meetings, but one will take place; in Myanmar the Group could not identify actors to champion the process
- Discussions are ongoing for preparing the training on land tenure and VGGT to Mission and Embassy high-level staff. A parallel meeting dedicated to this activity took place during the CFS43 with FAO and other interested donors and a proposal has been shared by USAID. Two levels of people and types of training were identified: technical or less high-level (for 1-hour webinar) and high-level (in-person training)

Recommendations

- Jointly with USAID, organise 1-hour webinars to train Embassy staff in selected partner countries on land tenure issues and the VGGT 101. A consultant should be hired to prepare 1-pagers per country that will support the dissemination of the webinars.
- organise similar trainings, but 2-3h-hours in-person to high-level decision makers in Embassies

HP 3 – lead: DFID

Progress made

- GDWGL endorsed the Analytical Framework for Land-Based Investment in African Agriculture
- Good collaboration between DFID and USAID on work with the private sector; MFA-France and BMZ also conducting some activities to better engage with the private sector

Recommendations for next year

- Explore better ways to engage with the private sector, e.g. by building on the applications by companies to recently launched donor funds (USAID and DFID) to involve them at the next WB Conference
- Support better data on the costs of investments by the private sector and DFIs to follow the VGGT

HP 4 – leads: BMZ and MFA-France

Progress made

- Good level of support to multi-stakeholder platforms around land governance in donor' countries (France and Germany organised workshops, also inviting each other)
- Webinar on land rights and investment treaties was organized in August

Recommendations

- GDWGL to co-organise with MFA-France a side event on improving open data and land transparency during the Open Government Partnership Summit on 7-9 Dec 2016 (to sponsor speakers; part of the work plan 2016)
- Organise a 1-day workshop in Paris for Group members to design the new road map 2017-2020 (timing: before the WB Land Conference in March)
- Interested Group members to obtain further from EC on their upcoming launch of VGGT-related

projects in 18 countries.

5. Nomination of HP leads for 2017

It was agreed that the Secretariat will call for nominations of new HP leads for 2017 per email. UN-Habitat will take over the HP 5 lead from MFA-Netherlands.

6. Wrap-up & AOB

The chair summarized the meeting with the following highlights:

- Need for more links to other topics (climate change, gender etc.)
- Find strategic entry points to engage with other actors
- Continue support to multi-stakeholder platforms
- Need for more discussion on monitoring issues, how donors see themselves, multiple approaches that could run in parallel
- Better engagement in conferences, particularly improving side events format

Next steps

Action	Due	Lead
Organise workshop to design the new road map	Jan-Feb 2017	MFA-France, IFAD, Secretariat
Draft work plan 2017 and collect feedback	Nov	MFA-France, Secretariat and all
Draft budget 2017 and collect feedback	Nov-Dec	MFA-France, Secretariat and all
Support the webinar for Tanzania (HP2)	Dec	USAID, FAO, Secretariat
Continue the improvements in the Land Map	Nov-Dec	WB, Secretariat
Co-organise side event at the Open Government Partnership Summit	7-9 Dec	MFA-France, Secretariat
Draft TOR for consultant - write-ups for the webinars (HP2)	November	Secretariat
Contact Babette to possibly moderate the workshop to design the new road map	asap	Secretariat