



Global Donor Working Group on Land

7th Physical Meeting, Washington-DC
18 March 2016, 09:00 – 14:00 EDT

Minutes

Participants:

Heath Cosgrove, Yuliya Neyman and Jennifer Chow (USAID, chair), Mathieu Boche (MFA-France, co-chair), Andrew Hilton and Paul Munro-Faure (FAO), Caroline Plançon, Jorge Muñoz, Gregory Myers and Linus Pott (WB), Bernard Zaugg (SDC), Astrid Jakobs de Pádua (German Embassy in DC), Christian Graefen and Max Baumann (GIZ), Fritz Jung (BMZ), Oumar Sylla and Robert Lewis-Lettington (UN-Habitat), Frits van der Wal (MFA-Netherlands), Iris Krebber (DFID), Jennifer Lisher (MCC), Tomoko Unaki and Shigehiko Sugita (JICA), Harold Liversage (IFAD)

Platform secretariat:

Romy Sato, Luisa Prior

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Discussion of HP 5, lead: Frits van der Wal (MFA-NL)
3. Discussion of HP 1, lead: Jorge Muñoz and Gregory Myers (WB)
4. Discussion of HP 2, lead: Heath Cosgrove and Yuliya Neyman (USAID)
5. Discussion of HP 3, lead: Iris Krebber (DFID)
6. Discussion of HP 4, lead: Mathieu Boche (MFA-France) and Fritz Jung (BMZ)
7. AOB and summary

1. Welcome

Heath Cosgrove (USAID, chair) welcomed the participants of the meeting and presented the agenda, which followed the headline priorities under the Group's Work Plan 2016, agreed in Rome in October 2015. It was informed that the presentation by UN-Habitat on the *Fit for Purpose Land Administration Guide*, originally planned for the last slot, had been cancelled.

2. Discussion of HP 5

Discussion under headline priority 5 (HP 5) focused on the following topics:

- VGGT reporting at CFS 43 monitoring session
- Discussion on IASS' proposal for VGGT implementation & monitoring
- Metadata and baselines for SDG indicators 1.4.2 & 5a

The Group agreed that the CFS reporting process provides a great opportunity for donors to show their progress and to support the CFS Secretariat in collecting and analysing robust indicators. In the short term (soft deadline 31 March) donors agreed to collect concrete and inspiring country examples on VGGT



implementation and lessons learned, possibly in the form of a position paper. Over the medium and long term (CFS 43 and beyond) donors will increase efforts to position themselves as a group vis-à-vis CFS 43 (e.g. through the first LEGEND brief on VGGTs to be published in May) and to develop a more methodological approach which might include global figures and/or an overview of government specific inputs, depending on the outcome of the country examples collected by the CFS. Frits van der Wal (MFA Netherlands) suggested to second a consultant to the CFS who can support the Secretariat and represent the GDWGL in the reporting process. Andrew Hilton (FAO) proposed a side-event to CFS 43 which was unanimously accepted. Concrete next steps will be discussed by the chair and vice-chair shortly.

The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) provided a short concept note to the Group, outlining a human-rights based, country-level monitoring approach for VGGT implementation. Iris Krebber (DFID) emphasized that the proposal provides an opportunity to integrate new stakeholders and could be implemented complementary to the CFS reporting process.

Concerning SDG metadata, a number of participants cautioned that the land indicators may still be at risk of being eliminated. It was proposed to develop a coordinated and harmonized methodology to quickly gather the required metadata. Jennifer Lisher (MCC) suggested creating a sub-group to develop a baseline before the next IAEG session in Mexico City on 31 March. Klaus Deininger (WB) outlined that WB, FAO and IFAD could jointly provide land related metadata for approximately 100-150 countries (including household data, legal documents). It was agreed to quickly prepare a work plan and an initial breakdown. Concerns were raised about the quality of the metadata and the rural-urban divide.

Decisions on HP 5:

- The GDWGL will apply for a side event at the upcoming CFS 43 in October to focus on VGGT monitoring, regardless of the CFS official session on the same subject. Another idea for the side event, suggested during the discussion under HP 4, was to show how donors are supporting the implementation of the VGGT, creating synergy between activities under HP5 (activities A) and under HP4 (B.b)
- Also in the same subject, the Group's chair and vice-chair will discuss in the next weeks about a policy position and possible next steps
- WB, MCC and UN-Habitat to follow the agreed road map:
 - Agree on the metadata to be submitted to the UN Statistical Office (via IAEG members) to support the land indicator under 1.4.2 and 5a
 - Combine metadata from GLII, WB and others
 - Offer a proposal to the UN Statistical Office on how to provide the metadata where it is not available

3. Discussion of HP 1

The discussion under HP 1 focused on the future perspectives of the [Land Governance Programme Map](#). For this, Linus Pott (WB) made a presentation outlining some of the challenges and options to improve the Map in terms of site visits, content and layout.

The presentation raised the question whether the objectives of the Map had changed, which all members agreed they had not. While all members appreciated the proposed changes, they agreed there should be a prioritization of tasks given the limited human and financial resources. The main shared concern was to improve the quality and accuracy of the map. The WB proposed to draft a road map to identify next steps and a survey to decide about the proposed changes.

Decisions on HP 1:

- It was agreed that donors should carefully review the information already uploaded to the map according to detailed guidelines which will be prepared by the Secretariat (see third point)
- All projects finalised by October 2012 or earlier will be moved to an archive within the Map (this function will be developed by the IT support)
- Based on the presentation made by Linus Pott (WB), the WB and the Secretariat will agree on and carry out next steps to improve the Map which will not require large resources (e.g. verifying bugs in the database, preparing more elaborated guidelines to upload data, linking with other databases and better marketing by adding hyperlinks in donors' websites)

4. Discussion of HP 2

The topics discussed under HP 2 focused on:

- Determine criteria by which to select the 3 countries in which to pilot the on-the-ground working groups comprised of donors and relevant government counterparts (Activity 2(A)(a)).
- Select a short list of the actual countries

Decisions on HP 2:

- The Group agreed on the following criteria to select countries in which to pilot better donor coordination on-the-ground:
 - Regional spread
 - Donors already work in the given country
 - Interest/support from the host government
 - Dynamic and opportunistic environment, e.g. ongoing land policy reform
 - Countries where some kind of network is already in place
 - Where civil society organisations would also be willing to support such pilots
 - Innovations/new types of ideas, programmes
 - Involve opportunities for replication in other countries
- The Group agreed on a long list of countries, out of which 3 should be selected through a process to be determined by the HP lead (USAID). The long list includes so far: Uganda, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Myanmar, Lebanon, DRC, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Liberia, Lebanon, Senegal, Colombia, Mozambique, Indonesia, Mongolia, Ethiopia, Morocco, Tanzania.
- It was agreed that the outcome of this process should inform the CFS reporting process.

5. Discussion of HP 3

The items addressed under HP 3 were:

- DFID and USAID to present work undertaken to pilot the new VGGT-based 'Analytical Framework for Land-Based Investments in African Agriculture': Progress to date, lessons, challenges, next steps - how members or the wider group can assist
- DFID to provide a short overview on other activities to which the group can add value

With regard to the first item, Iris Krebber (DFID) presented the new [LEGEND Challenge Fund](#), aimed at improving land rights protection, knowledge and information.



DFID committed to share further information once the applications have been analysed in order to offer other donors a portfolio for possible further support.

Yuliya Neyman (USAID) informed about a similar programme targeted at the private sector, but with less funding available (around USD 700,000). There has been a recent call for applications, but projects were not yet selected.

Both initiatives received far more application worthwhile supporting than expected. Given the similarity of the programmes, USAID suggested the relevant donors to start developing a framework to report back on these investments and sharing experiences along the process. USAID also announced an upcoming meeting for the co-creation of a private sector supporting programme, and they will soon share further details with members.

JICA informed to be particularly interested in supporting responsible land investments in Mozambique. In addition to an emphasis on Mozambique, several participants highlighted the current momentum for land-based investments in Tanzania. Fritz Jung noted that BMZ has a general cooperation with the private sector to encourage their engagement in the VGGTs, with existing initiatives at the country level.

Decisions on HP 3:

- DFID to share further info about the selection process of the LEGEND Challenge Fund
- USAID to share meeting details for the co-creation of a private sector supporting programme

6. Discussion of HP 4

The topics discussed under HP 4 focused on:

- Organization of the workshop to peer review donors programs
- Updates and lessons learned from advocacy for home public and private sector investment: based on workshops with the private sector, inter-ministerial discussions etc.

BMZ raised the question of whether a peer-review exercise was still desired and considered feasible by the Group. Members also discussed whether this activity was initially meant to take place at the programme level or project level, the majority of them opting for the latter. USAID and MFA France proposed to combine this peer-review exercise with the activity on improving cooperation at the field level (HP 2/A). JICA expressed interest in such a peer-review exercise and learn from other donors' experiences in designing and conducting training programmes in land governance. The Secretariat suggested to pursue elements of the peer-review exercise, namely lessons sharing, through activity HP 1/ 1.1, as well as to fulfill JICA's interest for knowledge sharing on training programmes under activity HP 1/ 1.8, which JICA is already leading.

Overall, many members showed concern that the peer-review exercise, as stated in the work plan, may not be very feasible at this point and agreed to put the corresponding activity (B, including its sub-activities) on hold until next year, but trying to pursue it through the other suggested activities.

On activity 4.5 (work with legal experts), DFID informed about a cross-government debate on arbitration of land disputes and Iris will share info about this initiative.

Decisions on HP 4:

- Put on hold activity HP 4/B, including its sub-activities, but try to pursue it under HP 2/A and HP 1/1.1 when appropriate.

- DFID to share further info about a cross-government debate on arbitration of land disputes

7. AOB and summary

The chair opened the discussion for AOB, but no additional issues were proposed. He thanked the Secretariat, Yuliya Neyman and Mathieu Boche (co-chair) for their continuous support and reminded members that this would be the last meeting chaired by USAID. Heath informed that a new co-chair should be identified shortly and an email calling for nominations would be circulated in the next weeks.

He stressed the need to continuing the advocacy to secure the SDG land indicator and VGGT implementation and provided a summary of decisions as captured in these minutes, under each headline priority.

Next steps

Action	Due	Lead
Apply for a CFS side event	July/August	Secretariat + chairs
Discuss and propose a policy position with regard to VGGT monitoring	Late March – early April	Chairs + Secretariat
Provide available metadata and offer a proposal to provide unavailable metadata for the SDG land indicator	Late March – early April	WB, MCC, UN-Habitat + Secretariat
Review and correct information already uploaded to the Land Map	After the guidelines are provided	All members
Agree on and make a proposal on how to improve the Land Map	By mid-April	WB + Secretariat
Determine process to select 3 countries to pilot better donor coordination at the country level	By mid-April	USAID
Make sure that the aforementioned pilot exercise inform the CFS reporting process	August/September	Chairs + Secretariat
Share info about LEGEND Fund selection process	April/May	DFID
Share meeting details for the co-creation of a private sector supporting programme	April/May	USAID
Share info about a cross-government debate on arbitration of land disputes	April	DFID