



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Global Donor Working Group on Land

10th Physical Meeting, IFAD, Rome, Italy

9 October 2017, 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Minutes

Participants:

Harold Liversage and Elisa Mandelli (IFAD, chair), David Egiashvili (FAO), Jorge Muñoz, Thea Hilhorst (WB), Bernard Zaugg (SDC), Christian Graefen and Marc Nolting (GIZ), Fritz Jung (BMZ), Oumar Sylla (UN-Habitat), Frits van der Wal (MFA-Netherlands), Chris Penrose-Buckley (DFID), Jennifer Lisher (MCC), Heath Cosgrove and Caleb Stevens (USAID), Joachim Knoth (EC), Helge Onsrud (Kartverket), Sophie Stahlberg (BMEL), Louison Fonteneau (*observer on behalf of MFA-France*), Miki Motomura (JICA)

Platform secretariat:

Romy Sato

Agenda:

1. [Welcome and framing of the agenda](#)
2. [Discussion on achievements in 2017](#)
3. [New work plan 2017-2018](#)
4. [Defining activities & leads for 2018](#)
5. [Election new vice-chair](#)
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Summary of decisions/agreements

- Continue to support the re-classification of the SDG indicator 1.4.2, but also keep focus on VGGT
- Continue to improve the Land Map (data quality check etc.)
- Finalise the new work plan 2017-2018
- Chris Penrose Buckley (DFID) elected as the new vice-chair

1. Welcome and framing of the agenda

Harold Liversage (IFAD), incoming chair, welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanked outgoing chair Louison Fonteneau (MFA-France) for his work in the last 12 months. The new chair acknowledged good progress made by the Group two days earlier in drafting its new work plan 2017-2018. Further work would be needed to finalized it until the end of the year.

2. Discussion on achievements in 2017

Harold informed that the Group had been quite successful in 2017 in mobilizing support for the re-classification of the SDG land indicator (due in November). The Group was less successful in piloting country level coordination, an area where the Group may wish to consider new ways to address it.

Other achievements were reported in relation to the current work plan:

Headline Priority 1: Info sharing and coordination on the ground

The Secretariat provided a quick update on the Land Map, informing that resources were now available to hire a consultant to check the data quality and report back to members. In a discussion about limiting the scope of projects included in the Map, MFA-NL noted that its original purpose was to support the VGGT implementation, therefore, all which is beneficial to this purpose should be reflected there. In order to improve the Map and its navigability, members suggested:

- Including project evaluation reports, M&E
- Implement a filter/tags to select projects according to areas: land use, land administration, infrastructure project, agricultural project, forestry
- Implement filter per amounts of dollars in the projects (filter per range)

On the theme of training, JICA reported to be partnering with FAO and GIZ to provide land governance training in partner countries like Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Malawi and Ghana. With regard to Training on VGGT for Embassy technical staff, USAID together with FAO and the GDWGL hosted a webinar in April focusing on Tanzania. The Secretariat should follow up with USAID to get information about how many participants had joined, results of the discussion and any feedback by participants following the webinar.

Headline Priority 2: Private sector engagement

DFID, the HP lead, reported that not all the work done under this headline priority is at the GDWGL level, but mostly bilaterally via DFID's Legend Programme. There are two areas of action: knowledge sharing and DFI analysis with regard to community engagement, conformity with IFC standards and how DFIs disclose land contracts. DFID suggested to keep the Group informed about these activities, sharing the TOR for the analysis, and possibly holding a joint workshop early next year where the analysis results could be shared. **GDWGL members were asked to provide feedback to the TOR, inform their DFIs about it and engage with IIED for follow up, which is leading the analysis.**

MFA-NL pointed to the report by Michael Windfuhr (German Institute for Human Rights) comparing IFC standards and WB safeguards with VGGT as a useful source in adapting DFI procedures to better comply with VGGT and acknowledging where they are already doing well; BMZ to share Windfuhr's report with the Secretariat and the Group. The World Bank informed to have approved a new set of Safeguards, which will be implemented in 2018.

In terms of other bilateral activities in this area, it was also reported: USAID and DFID are working with Landesa on responsible agricultural investments; DFID just commissioned a complementary study on the costs of not doing responsible investments, looking mainly at agriculture and energy. The Netherlands is shifting more from agriculture to the infrastructure sector, but the latter only invest for a shorter time in comparison with the agricultural sector.

Headline Priority 3: Collaboration with host governments

MFA-France informed that the initially planned workshop, meant for donors to discuss a specific issue of interest incl. the participation of external speakers, was changed in concept to only address the development of the Group's roadmap given the time required for this exercise. Earlier in the year, MFA-France had organised a webinar on land investments (with the French technical committee) with opening remarks by BMZ.

Members noted and agreed that activities under HP 3 were in fact more bilateral in nature, but should continue to be reported to the Group for knowledge sharing and to enable partnerships with interested donors.

BMZ reported their engagement in the Land Matrix Initiative and suggested there could be more collaboration with other Group members.

Headline Priority 4: Joint action at the global level (SDGs, CFS etc.)

UN-Habitat and the World Bank (custodians for SDG indicator 1.4.2) informed about the following progress in preparing for the re-classification of indicator 1.4.2:

- Policy brief by the GDWGL published in June
- 2 Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) organized in Washington-DC and in Barcelona
- A side event at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) jointly with the GDWGL, raising awareness about the indicator and calling for support on capacity development in partner countries to be able to report on the indicator
- Another HLPF side event organized by UN-Women, where land indicators were emphasized, particularly the indicator 5.a.1 (Goal 5 on gender equality)
- Webinar to sensitize actors on the SDG land-related indicators in August
- Friends of the Custodians Committee set up to support the reclassification process

The next agreed steps included:

- **Update webpage on indicator 1.4.2 ideally on a monthly basis (Secretariat)**
- **A road map for the reclassification to be developed by custodians and aligning with 5.a.1**

In terms of VGGT-related activities, UN-Habitat and MFA-France supported the technical forum in celebration of the 5th VGGT anniversary by jointly organizing a thematic session on land conflicts. It is expected that the high-level session as part of this technical forum will renew the commitment of decision makers to advance VGGT monitoring.

MCC informed that a paper about best practices on impact evaluation was under development and to be available in December.

3. New work plan 2017-2018

Overall strategy & work plan structure:

- **The Group agreed to classify the long list of areas of intervention according to: a) those which are a priority for collective action; and b) those conducted more bilaterally, but which could be shared with members for knowledge exchange**
- The newly agreed mission statement of the Group reflects the VGGT as the main frame for next years, since the SDG are less specific. This fact was highlighted in a discussion about the concern that too much focus were put on the SDG indicators (see sub-item on land indicators below)
- It was suggested to improve the formulation of areas of intervention, highlighting the importance of land governance in connection with climate change, gender and other topics where the Group could play a stronger role. The purpose would be to increase legitimacy of the land governance within their own donor agencies
- Some members mentioned the growing momentum for topics like gender, as well as decentralized administration; growing donors' portfolios in these areas would mean the need to develop capacity in land tenure issues

SDG land indicators

- Some members suggested to also look at fostering land indicators in other goals, like in the Urban goal, however, **the majority agreed that, for capacity reasons, the focus should remain primarily on indicator 1.4.2 with continued work by the Friends of the Custodians Committee**
- It was emphasized that the Group should act particularly on resource mobilization to help build capacity of National Statistical Offices to report on the indicator. Additionally, there should be better coordination by the custodians with the land indicator under Gender Goal, as well as on country-led efforts both on the part of donors and custodian agencies
- There was concern that, if the indicator is not reclassified to Tier I, the Group could lose its flagship goal; hence, the suggestion of not forgetting the VGGT when discussing the SDG indicators. It was noted that, while the custodians and the land community would not be able to avoid political issues that might hinder the reclassification, they could remediate the technical issues which might also be a reason for the non-reclassification.
- **It was agreed that the Friends committee would support custodians on preparing a gap analysis and budget proposal to help mobilizing resources for capacity building of NSO**

4. Defining activities & leads for 2018

The activities and its leads were discussed in conjunction with point 3 of the agenda, and can be seen in the draft work plan 2017-2018 (final version is now available online).

5. Election new vice-chair

GDWGL members welcomed the nomination of Chris Penrose-Buckley (DFID) and unanimously elected him as the new vice-chair of the Group.

AOB

Jorge Munoz informed that the new World Bank's representative from the Geospatial Unit to the GDWGL would be **Mika Torhonen**, formerly working for FAO. His contact details would be shared and added to the Group's mailing list

Next steps

Action	Due	Leads
Draft TOR to improve Land Map based on suggestions made by the Group	Asap	Secretariat
Send comments to TOR on DFI analysis	Asap	DFID + all
Update webpage on indicator 1.4.2	Asap	Secretariat
Prepare a road map for the reclassification of 1.4.2 and aligning with 5.a.1	Asap	WB, UN-Habitat
Classify activities of the Work Plan according to a) collective action or b) bilateral activity	Asap	Secretariat + feedback by all
Prepare data gap analysis for 1.4.2 and budget proposal to improve capacity of NSO	December	DFID, MCC, GLII, ILC, Omidyar, and WB, UNH
Share contact details of new WB focal point	Asap	Asap