



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Global Donor Working Group on Land

12th Physical Meeting, FAO, Rome, Italy

18 October 2018, 14:00 – 17:00h

Minutes

Participants:

Harold Liversage and Giulia Barbanente (IFAD, outgoing chair), Javier Molina-Cruz, Francesca Romano, Louisa Jansen and Yonca (FAO), Jorge Muñoz and Wael Zakout (WB), Manuel Flury (SDC), Oumar Sylla (UN-Habitat), Chris Penrose-Buckley, Francesca Cofini, Peter Rowan and Amanda Shaw (DFID, incoming chair), Jennifer Lisher (MCC), Kim Kim Yee and Caleb Stevens (USAID), Willem Olthof (EC), Minoru Matsunoshita (JICA), Clémence Contensou (MFA-France), Amy Regas (Omidyar Network)

Invited guests: Lorenzo Cotula (IIED), Janet Edeme (AUC-DREA) and Wouter Coussement (UNECA)

Platform secretariat:

Romy Sato

Agenda:

1. [Welcome & outlook into 2019](#)
2. [Round of focused updates](#)
3. [DFI work on land](#)
4. [Collaboration with ALPC](#)
5. [SDG land indicators](#)
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Summary of decisions/agreements:

- Continue to support the re-classification of SDG land indicator 1.4.2 to Tier I; funding to be discussed bilaterally
- Improve coordination with ALPC by discussing engagement at the national platforms and continue engagement at the Africa Development Partners Roundtable
- Define concrete actions in the listed areas of priority for 2019

1. Welcome and outlook into 2019

Chris Penrose-Buckley (IFAD), incoming chair, welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanked outgoing chair Harold Liversage (IFAD) for his work in the last 12 months, when the membership expanded to 26 members (AfDB and Omidyar as new members).

The new chair acknowledged that the main value of this group was exchange, coordination and mutual learning, the value of which should not be underestimated. The Group has played a key global policy or advocacy role on the VGGTs and SDGs, which provided a clear focus and rallying point for the group. But even when there is no such external driver there is much we can do to promote greater coordination and alignment, whilst being open to new issues and opportunities for collective policy or advocacy.

Outlook into 2019

Reflecting on the current work plan, DFID called for finding a balance between agreeing collective priorities in the work plan and what is 'emergent' work, i.e. of interest to a number of donors but where the collective value-add is yet to be defined. Given their relevance in the past years, a few areas for continued work in 2019 were proposed:

- **SDG land indicator 1.4.2** – though it remains important to achieve Tier I, it is important to consider how we can reach the target, beyond measuring it.
- **Country coordination** – we can do better here, around planning, sharing etc.
- **Diverse themes:** there are a number of 'emergent' issues where we have not yet defined a collective action, but they are still important for sharing knowledge, possibly through commissioning studies, holding specific meetings etc.: (1) urban land, (2) land and conflict, (3) political economy of land to unblock some of the land reforms, and (4) women's land rights

2. Round of focused updates

Below are some of the highlighted updates. For more details, please consult the compilation of donor updates (Oct 2018) attached to these minutes or the focal point in the relevant organization.

IFAD: continues the work on the guidelines for impact evaluation of land governance interventions together with MCC. It has also been working on rangelands in North Africa.

The World Bank: continues to work in the Global Campaign on Women's Land Rights, with Landesa providing the secretariat services for this initiative. A flagship study on land and conflict will be started soon. The Bank has signed a new partnership with Japan and Korea including capacity building in land governance, real state property and land valuation. It has also established a trust fund for the SDGs with support from Canada. The focus of the fund is on women's land rights and technologies, to support activities such as capacity building, knowledge sharing and strategic coordination.

Omidyar: is currently supporting Cadasta (platform for communities to register their land rights) and Prindex (initiative to assess people's perception of land tenure security). Omidyar is also supporting the world's largest slum land rights project in Odisha, India, launched in May. The urban slum titling project utilizes drone technology. In September, Radiant Earth Foundation, supported by Omidyar Network, opened its geospatial platform to the public, which includes valuable earth imagery data.

FAO: in the framework of the VGGT capacity development programme, FAO will start working with parliamentarians interested to start a working group on land at the country level. FAO is also engaging in the topics of land and conflict, incl. risk management, disaster mitigation and building up after the crisis, as well as in new technologies to facilitate tenure rights and tenure certificates, and is increasing their work on land-based investments.

MFA-France: have recently held a workshop together with TMG Think Tank and DIMR to present the results of a pilot study funded by France and Germany on human rights and land governance in Ivory Coast and Kenya.

MCC: The proposed MCC Sri Lanka Compact, including a proposed investment in the land sector, is in the final stage of development, expected to be signed in December 2018. MCA-Morocco is supporting a diagnostic of land governance in the country as a first step in the development of a national land strategy, also aiming to implement the World Bank's Land Governance Assessment Framework.

MCC approved a \$35 million threshold program with the Government of Togo in April 2018. It includes an \$8 million land project that will support the establishment of the regulatory framework to implement the new Land Code and field-test cost effective methodologies for land formalization.

EC: A new project (15 million euros) to support ILC and the Land Matrix Initiative is under preparation in the context of responsible governance of investments in land. The EC is discussing with FAO on a potential collaboration to capture & share successful stories in securing women's land tenure rights in the framework of the VGGT. The Commission is also currently collecting lessons learned for a capitalization exercise concerning all food and nutrition security projects, including land. Finally, the EC is looking at ways to support land defenders, acknowledging the increasing danger that they are facing worldwide.

USAID: is launching a next phase of the pilot project in Ghana's cocoa sector with Ecom Trading and Hershey's. The pilot will combine tenure security at the farm-level with land use planning within nested communities in order to reduce cocoa's impact on deforestation/degradation. The agency has procured its new evaluation and research project (Communication, Evidence, & Learning or CEL) to continue impact evaluations in select countries (e.g. Zambia and Vietnam) in order to measure long-term impact. USAID has procured, or is in the process of procuring, significant land projects in Colombia, Central African Republic, and Ethiopia

UN-Habitat: UN-habitat continues its support to several countries in collaboration with GLTN partners to support land policy development and implementation (Nepal, Uganda, DR Congo); provision of tenure security in informal settlements (Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Philippines). The joint publication between UN-habitat and GLTN about global cases studies on land and conflict is released. The UN Secretary Guidance Note on land and conflict has been adopted by the Secretary General office and shall be transmitted to the UN Executive Committee in January 2019. The UN-Habitat is also supporting the transition of GLTN towards a new programmatic phase starting in 2019 that will focus on the implementation of the SDGs by using tools already developed. The next phase of the GLTN will scale up experiences on provision of tenure security at country level; support to the model of fit-for-purpose land administration and capacity development at regional level. For more innovation, GLTN is also currently carrying out a scoping study on land and climate change, and continues its work on the nexus between urban and rural land, in collaboration with the WB.

JICA: Between Jan-Feb 2019, JICA will conduct again its knowledge programme on "Inclusive land administration and Improved tenure security" for representatives from selected countries (Albania, East-Timor, Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique, Myanmar, Vietnam) in Japan. In Indonesia, JICA started in March this year the "Project for Capacity Development for Land Acquisition System Improvement", which will run for 3 years.

SDC: continues to fund the VGGT programme (implemented by FAO), and highlighted the facilitation of the inaugural meeting of the Africa Development Partners Roundtable on Land (ADPRL) on 17 May 2018, to better collaborate and align with the African institutions on land policies and governance in Africa. Like the EC, SDC is supporting the next phase of the International Land Coalition. Through a bilateral agreement, SDC is also currently supporting the promotion of land policy both in pastoral and urban lands in Niger. A new programme on the implementation of the RAI principles will start soon together with DFID and OECD.

DFID: continues to fund Prindex, which has just launched data on the first 15 assessed countries. DFID's Legend programme is coming to an end, but there might be a new phase, possibly with a stronger focus on responsible investment in land. DFID is also looking at land transparency – not just contracts, but also the governance of investments at the national level. DFID started a dialogue with Global Witness to consider initiatives on land defenders. Finally, the impact evaluation of a long standing programme in

Rwanda is now available.

3. DFI work on land

Lorenzo Cotula (IIED), invited as a guest speaker, presented the results of a DFID-commissioned study looking at whether and how Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) are addressing land rights issues in the sector of agriculture. The purpose was to catalyze transformative change in DFI policies and practices through learning, instead of “naming & shaming”.

Through key informant interviews and review of materials, the study indicates that DFIs are increasingly improving their awareness and practices by incorporating sophisticated environmental and social systems and teams. While there is still a small pool of external experts advising DFI in land issues, there is a strong case for further improving policies and practices.

In the discussion, a few additional areas were proposed to be investigated in relation to the DFI’s work:

- Possibly expand the analysis to other sectors, such as infrastructure, construction etc.
- Looking at women differentiation & partnerships – the latter is not covered by the IFC performance standards
- Looking at impacts and opportunities in peri-urban areas
- Consider the difference between talking to DFIs and seeing operations on the ground.

Lorenzo noted that even if the country legislation does not impose the use of sustainability standards, the use of the IFC standards is in the contract between the DFI and the contracting company, so they are obliged to report on the standards

Action points:

- Report to be circulated to GDWGL for further reaction or comments.
- We will discuss next steps on individual engagement with respective DFIs on findings/recommendation at upcoming GDWGL call.

4. Collaboration with ALPC

Janet Edame (AUC) provided some background to the work of the African institutions related to land rights and the institutional setup. The African Land Policy Initiative (LPI) which has the mandate to implement the AU Declaration on Land, was an interim body between 2006-2016 and changed status to become a Centre in 2017 (now, ALPC).

She informed that, despite the current reform of the AU, the overall strategy will not change and that land issues will remain a priority. However, ALPC is facing severe lack of resources, so the institutional capacity to foster the land agenda is at risk. She called on donors to support the continuation of the ALPC work and improve coordination at two levels:

- Country level – coordination should be done through land policy platforms that have been set up by countries. There has been a disconnect between the work of donors in the countries and what is reported at the AU summits. This is not meant to prevent donors to do their bilateral work, but to better align with the national platforms.
- Regional level – ALPC is the body to look for and support from donors would enable its continuation

Donors requested the AU for more and better communication regarding the work of these national

platforms, so it can be informed to country offices. There was general agreement that coordination with these platforms and ALPC should be improved and the Africa Development Partners Roundtable offers a space for continuing this dialogue.

Action points:

- ALPC to share list of platforms in African countries where donors should, could engage
- Discuss further with ALPC how the Land Governance Donor Map can help them in their work by having an overview of where donors have major land programmes

5. SDG land indicators

Since the re-classification of indicator 1.4.2 from Tier III to Tier II was achieved in late 2017, the custodians (WB and UN-Habitat) continued working to fill data gaps and increased collaboration with FAO (custodian for land indicator 5.a.1), but they still need support. A funding proposal to support countries' National Statistical Offices (NSO) and a budget proposal were prepared by custodians and submitted to the Group in August 2018. The custodians hold the mandate to work on the indicator, but have no specific budget. At the SDG land indicators meeting on 15 October, the custodians provided specific updates on the data and agreed on next steps together with some present donors (see action points below). Data for Africa is well covered, but there are still gaps for other regions, particularly Asia and Latin America. Overall, there is a gap in 42 countries where data will be needed. By 2020 it will be particularly important that countries with large populations are able to report against the land indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1

Donors are encouraged to review the funding proposal and consider: a) funding NSO and/or custodians directly, and/or b) building on the activities of donors' projects in country, recognizing that transactions might be high.

The Group agreed to continue to advocate the re-classification, but noted that specific funding to support this work should be discussed bilaterally with each donor. There is need to consider the scenario (and what actions to take) that coverage of data required to reach Tier 1 is not achieved and what implications this has for global attending on land in the context of the SDG and beyond.

MCC and WB is following up with the 50by2030 initiative to coordinate with indicators 2.3. (on agricultural productivity) and 2.4 (on agricultural sustainability). Following the USAID lead, DFID is discussing UK reporting on 1.4.2 with its NSO and other donors are encouraged to do the same.

Action points:

- Custodians to have funding conversations with individual donors
- Continue dialogue with the 50by2030 initiative and UN Women
- Draft policy brief advocating the re-classification to Tier I

6. Work plan 2018 review

Responsible large-scale land investments

FAO is facilitating a network in Sierra Leone and Tanzania to set standards for responsible land investments. They are also considering commissioning a report to explore the process of attracting investments

Land and conflict

The WB noted that mediation of peace agreement, incl. guidance for UN employees with relation to land

issues, is a missing area in our plan. DFID argued that there is still lack of conceptual clarity when talking about land and conflict, so it might be helpful to scope what donors are doing in this theme.

Urban

GLTN reported that the webinar on the nexus between rural and urban land in August was very successful. There is now need to provide the state of the art and advice on how expanding cities could avoid the mistakes of the past – GLTN to submit a concept note. It was also informed that the next World Urban Forum will take place in Abu Dhabi in 2020 – USAID is willing to submit a session request

Leveraging experience

The impact evaluation subgroup has been established (mailing list currently managed by the Secretariat). DFID informed about the upcoming impact evaluation in Rwanda – link up with MCC.

Exchange and sharing of info

FAO informed about the revamp of their website and invited donors to contribute with blogs.

Action points:

- Scope what donors are doing with regard to land and conflict / set up a call with GIZ and other relevant organisations
- GLTN to submit a concept note on how to further develop the work on urban land
- Follow up on the next World Urban Forum in 2020 in Abu Dhabi (possibly hold a session)
- DFID to follow up with MCC on upcoming impact evaluation in Rwanda

7. Priorities for 2019

The following priority areas have been identified by members for knowledge sharing and/or joint work in 2019:

1. Working together on the global campaign for women's land rights
2. Continued Private sector engagement
3. Review of long-term and high-level impact of land governance interventions
4. Technology - share successful use of technologies at future meetings, e.g. WB Land Conference
5. Support for Global report on land governance

Action points:

- Define concrete actions and donors interested to engage in each of these areas – a process will be proposed by the chair and Secretariat

8. AOB

A vice-chair has not yet been identified. DFID and secretariat will follow up with potential candidates and inform the Group about the next steps (voting etc.)