



**Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development**

**MINUTES
GLOBAL DONOR WORKING GROUP ON LAND (GDWGL)
VIRTUAL MEETING OF CO-CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS
16 SEPTEMBER 2021**

PARTICIPANTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frits van der Wal - The Netherlands• Gemma Betsema - The Netherlands• Astrid Broekaart - The Netherlands• Karol Boudreaux - USAID• Caleb Stevens - USAID | <p><i>GDPRD Secretariat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maurizio Navarra• Cordova Alessandro• Petronilla Wandeto |
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OBJECTIVES

- Getting to know one another.
- Discussion of priorities over the next years under this leadership.
- Planning of the upcoming Thematic Working Group (TWG) meeting.

I. INTRODUCTION AND PRIORITIES

[Frits van der Wal]

- Frits has been in the land governance field for many years on a part-time basis supporting embassies and strategic networks such as the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), among other activities. These initiatives have resulted in spin-offs such as the Netherlands Land-at-Scale Programme and the Land Academy (Landac) which organises annual conferences and summer schools, prepares briefings for relevant ministries, and collaborates with platforms, such as the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL).
- There had not been an opportunity to serve as the co-chairs or vice-chairs of the TWG. Now that there is increased staff capacity at the Land-at-Scale Programme, the timing is right for the Netherlands to engage more in the GDWGL.
- What would be a priority for the Netherlands in the coming years is the alignment of implementation of interventions across different land governance donors and with local dynamics at the country level. Though important, this has not received sufficient attention in previous years. An attempt to do this through the Land Map was made, but this did not go far enough in transforming multi-donor interventions in different countries. The TWG could revive this initiative by selecting a sample of programmes and exploring how coordination could be leveraged for greater impact. The Land-at-Scale programme, for instance, has the potential to grow into a multi-donor programme in the coming years.
- The Netherlands' experience in land governance demonstrates that the complexities involved in the field require political heat or backing to move the agenda forward.

[Gemma Betsema]

- Frits' sentiments align with many of the potential priority areas that had been discussed between the co-chairs and herself before.
- Aside from increased country-level coordination, climate change was also suggested as a great starting point, given that it is a crucial crosscutting issue.
- It is also important that the TWG chairs and vice-chairs occasionally organize strategic discussions, such as this, to complement other practical discussions.
- At the Land-at-Scale programme, a multi-donor group is gradually developing around land governance.

[Caleb Stevens]

- The alignment of coordination at the country level, which is desperately needed, has been discussed for a couple of years now. USAID is approaching this by leveraging different types of funds or integrated programmes to improve programme effectiveness in natural climate solutions and mitigation pathways.
- The Land and Resource Governance team at USAID has a great relationship with the team that controls most of the conservation and natural climate solutions funding in the organization. With a time horizon of more than one (1) year, the TWG could work together on climate issues, more generally through access to information on future funding plans.
- The biggest coordination opportunity lies in having discussions on the issues that the members are planning on engaging with more actively in a year or so from now since ongoing programmes have already been planned out.
- USAID will be starting a 'research programme' spanning across its natural environment portfolio (natural climate solutions, climate, biodiversity conservation and land and resource governance). It will provide a spatial analysis of where the evidence base lies on for instance, the strength of certain programmes, to get as much granularity as possible on what works where, why and for whom. This data will be crucial in guiding programming decisions.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The discussions so far indicate that going forward, there may be a self-selected group of participants that will be willing to collaborate, while others may not choose to engage, for a variety reasons. The next step should be the identification of the self-selected group and the issue areas where there will be interest to coordinate.
- A potential initial idea could be critical forest systems, particularly the Amazon, Congo Basin and Indonesia. There is already a strong interest to pursue this.
- It could also be useful for the TWG to take a systematic look at the evidence base on indigenous people and their role in climate change mitigation. There is a need for increased focus on this issue to bring in more innovative solutions. It would therefore be interesting to hear what other members are doing in this regard.
- This group could work as joint thought leaders to lead by example over the next year with an implementation opportunity.

[Astrid Broekaart]

- As a coordinator at Land-at-Scale, Astrid will assist Gemma Betsema in her role as the TWG's vice-chair to ensure stable and well-coordinated engagement by the Netherlands in the TWG.
- Are there specific ways that the Netherlands would be expected to contribute to the TWG?
 - [Caleb Stevens]: There is a funding need regarding the Land Portal migration. A contribution to this from the Netherlands and other TWG members would be welcome.

II. THE UPCOMING TWG MEETING

[Karol Boudreaux]

- There are two (2) requests from ILC and CADASTA to present at the upcoming meeting.
- The TWG could explore the opportunity to encourage conversations on innovative technologies in land governance at the March 2022 meeting since a couple of its members are actively involved in this.

[Caleb Stevens]

- We should start curating the agenda and format of the meeting. Virtual meeting platforms offer an opportunity to make the meeting a little more dynamic.

[Secretariat]

- We could start thinking of a possible in-person or hybrid meeting either at the end of 2021 or early 2022.

III. THE WEBSITE REVIEW PROCESS

[Karol Boudreaux]

- She and Caleb have reviewed the proposed changes to the website. This will be further discussed at the upcoming TWG meeting on 7 October.
- The website attracts little traffic. The TWG needs to decide what it wants its public face to be, who its target audience is and how we should tie in other critical issue areas in a compelling way. This could involve getting quotes from, for instance, political leaders.

[Secretariat]

- A mock-up of the Rural Youth Employment TWG's section of the website has been prepared. This is indicative of how the Land TWG's section, which is currently being reviewed, will look like.

[Frits van der Wal]

- Given the current low usage of the Land Map, the TWG should ensure that it does not just preach to the converted. It should open up linkages with other TWGs on the Platform and beyond, particularly where there are ongoing activities.

IV. THE GLOBAL LAND GOVERNANCE REPORT

[Caleb Stevens]

- USAID is also providing some support (USD 25, 000) to the production of the Global Land Governance Report in collaboration with FAO, ILC and GLTN. A consultant has already been lined-up to prepare the report outline.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- We need to ask ourselves what we need to achieve from it.

V. 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE (VGGT)

[Frits van der Wal and Karol Boudreaux]

- This TWG grew out of the VGGT experience, which is coming up to its 10-year anniversary in May 2022. We need to think of whether we would like to recognize this anniversary e.g. through a coordinated campaign on why the VGGT matter.

VI. THE SDGs

[Karol Boudreaux]

- There is no need to prioritize these now although a brief discussion on this will be done at the following TWG meeting.

VII. MEETING OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF TWGS

[Secretariat]

- The secretariat has organized a meeting of the chairs and vice-chairs of all the TWGs hosted by the Platform on 21 September to discuss the current work and way forward for each TWG as well as how the secretariat can better support them.

[Gemma Betsema]

- It could be useful to have a meeting structure for the co-chairs and vice-chairs of the land TWG for the coming year, with a pre-agreed frequency for better planning.

VIII. SUPPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

[Gemma Betsema]

- What kind of support does the secretariat offer TWGs hosted by the Platform?

[Secretariat]

- Organization of meetings and provision of meeting reports and minutes.
- Recruitment of consultants.
- Graphic design services.
- Any other form of support that the TWG may need.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

ACTION AREA	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
Prepare a draft agenda and send it to this group for fine-tuning.	TBD	Co-chairs
Decide on and reach out to guest speakers to invite to the upcoming TWG meeting and prepare a vision on what they would be required to offer at the meeting. For instance someone connected to the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS); David Nabarro, Agnes Kalibata or Bronson Griscom (possibly for a future meeting) etc.	In time for the upcoming meeting.	All Frits to reach out to his contacts at the UN FSS for the upcoming meeting.
Invite the rest of the TWG members to provide updates on their work via email to avoid taking up meeting time on this.	TBD	TBD
Decide on whether to have two (2) back-to-back meetings to accommodate broader discussions or just one.	TBD	All



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