



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES
GLOBAL DONOR WORKING GROUP ON LAND (GDWGL)
7 OCTOBER 2021

PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Karol Boudreaux - USAID | 16. Jennifer Lisher - Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) |
| 2. Gemma Betsema - The Netherlands | 17. Wael Zakout - World Bank |
| 3. Frits van der Wal - The Netherlands | 18. Linus Pott - World Bank |
| 4. Astrid Broekaart - The Netherlands | 19. Juliene Helene - AFD |
| 5. Javier Molina Cruz - FAO | |
| 6. Lawrence Haddad - GAIN | <i>GDPRD Secretariat</i> |
| 7. Chris Penrose-Buckley - FCDO | |
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| 10. Emily Weeks - USAID | 22. Lise Saga |
| 11. Laura Garn - FCDO | 23. Petronilla Wandeto |
| 12. Robert Lewis-Lettington - UN Habitat | |
| 13. Etienne Coyette - European Union | |
| 14. Everlyne Nairesiae - UN Habitat | |
| 15. Thea Hilhorst - World Bank | |

AGENDA

NO.	DURATION	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	5''	Welcome and introduction of the Netherlands as Vice Chair.	Chair
2.		Continuing business:	
a)	5''	Update on the website	Secretariat
b)	10''	Update on the land governance report/consultancy	Chair
c)	10''	Update on IPLC land initiative	Chris Buckley (FCDO)
d)	10''	Update on status of SDG Indicator 1.4.2	WB/USAID
3.		New business	
a)	10''	New Work Plan	Chair
b)	10''	Collaboration in 2022 - WB Land and Poverty Conference?	Chair
c)	10''	VGGT 10th Anniversary	Chair
4.	40''	A discussion with Lawrence Haddad, CEO of GAIN	Lawrence Haddad
5.	5''	Any other business?	
6.	5''	Conclusion	

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Welcome and introduction of the Netherlands as Vice Chair.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Karol Boudreaux will take the lead role as chair of the working group over the next year, taking over from Caleb Stevens (USAID) who will still be engaged in the working group's activities.
- Gemma Betsema and Astrid Broekaart, in coordination with Frits van der Wal, from the Netherlands will be vice-chairs over the coming year. There have already been some fruitful discussions with the USAID team and their willingness to take up this role is appreciated.

2. Continuing business

2(a) Update on the website

[Secretariat]

- Background: The secretariat has been working on an update of the platform's website, with a particular focus on the Thematic Working Group's (TWG) webpages. The aim of this has been to update the webpages' contents, revamp the look and feel of the webpages to improve their readability and ease of navigation. Additionally, start developing a knowledge hub within the webpages on their respective topics.
- The Platform secretariat has a new communications officer, Michelle Tang, who joined in mid-August 2021 and will be leading the platforms communication and knowledge management activities.
- A prototype of the structure of the Rural Youth Employment (RYE) thematic working group web page was presented to provide participants with an overview of how the land governance page would look like once finalized.
 - Information has been re-organized to serve both land governance technical specialists and non-specialists.
 - The next step in this process will be to collect information and resources from the members on areas such as best practices, tools, success stories on land governance etc. to set up the knowledge hub.
 - It was also suggested that interviews with the TWG's co-chairs would be done on their aspirations and ideas on the future direction of the TWG. This will be done for each TWG as well as together to highlight cross-disciplinary aspects of their work and avenues to future collaboration.
 - A prototype of the land governance TWG's page will be shared with the members to get their feedback and inputs.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The website can only be as fresh as the members make it. There continues to be some level of responsibility on the members to provide relevant content and information.

The Land Governance Programme Map and Database

[Gemma Betsema]

- Background: The TWG received a proposal from the Land Portal to host and continuously update the database of land-related donor projects and programmes that the land governance TWG currently hosts on its webpage. Keeping the database sufficiently updated has become rather unwieldy for the working group given the high budget involved and the level of effort that members needed to invest in providing the relevant data.
- The initial proposal from the Land Portal raised a couple of questions such as sustainability of the support they can provide, given that they are a donor-funded agency as well as the extent to which the reporting burden on members will be reduced to increase the efficiency with which the database can be kept up to date in the long term.
- Discussions held so far on this led to an updated proposal to link this database to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) database. This approach comes with its own pros and cons, namely;
 - It will still require a substantial financial commitment. Building the interface that links the two databases in the first year will require EUR 50,000 (+ VAT) and a further EUR 10,000 each year afterwards for maintenance and updates. The current available budget is not sufficient to cover this.
 - The advantage is that this would leverage on the reporting that members are already doing to IATI, requiring much less effort and time to keep the database updated.
 - With this approach, it also be possible to keep displaying the database on the land governance TWG's webpage, under the [Land Governance Programme Map](#).
- Aside from this, a crucial question remains: What will be the utility of the updated database?
 - It could provide donors with deeper and broader visibility on what other donors are doing with their land-related investments and programming, opening up more opportunities for collaboration.
 - It could also be used as an advocacy tool to bring land governance issues to the fore in development discourses.

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- Would the database be managed by the Land Portal, who would then link it to IATI or would Land Portal be out of the picture?

[Gemma Betsema]

- This would be up to the land governance TWG to decide.
- An external company affiliated with Land Portal that already works with IATI (and therefore familiar with IATI reporting protocols) would set up the interface in the first year and manage the periodic updates thereafter. Land Portal's role would largely be on the content side i.e. interpretation and translation of the data reported to IATI to narrow down to what is relevant for the land governance programme database.

2(b) The Global Land Governance Report

[Secretariat]

- A consultant has been hired to prepare an outline of the report from early November to December 2021.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The outline that will be produced under this consultancy will support the work that FAO, ILC and GLTN have been doing. In consultation with these stakeholders, the consultant will identify the data needs and their possible sources, the timelines and other relevant partners in this initiative.
- A workshop hosted by FAO will be organized to discuss the findings from this outline and map out the way forward in the production of the full report.

[Wael Zakout]

- What is the full report's timeline?

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The full report's timeline has not been set yet but the consultant will have the outline ready early in the new year.
- There will also be further discussions with the stakeholders on how the outline will set the baseline for the global report.

[Everlyne Nairesiae]

- Recent discussions around the policy paper on linkages between land tenure and food systems have brought out a number of lessons that may come in handy in the preparation of the global land governance outline and full report.
- The report's stakeholders will hold a meeting on this will be held in the coming week and hopefully reflections from these discussions will be incorporated in the consultant's Terms of Reference (ToRs). Clearer details on their expectations as well as how they plan on supporting and engaging with this initiative will be shared.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Further details will be shared with the working group members as and when they become available, particularly once the consultant is on board and has began engaging with the partners involved.

2(c) Update on IPLC land initiative

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- Background: This is an initiative to put indigenous peoples' and local communities' tenure rights at the top of the agenda in the upcoming COP 26 in November, 2021. It has five (5) major objectives:
 1. Have these tenure rights part of the climate change mitigation agenda.
 2. Engage with indigenous peoples and local communities to give them a bigger platform to speak about their needs.
 3. Mobilize some of the tropical forests' country governments around indigenous peoples' and local communities' tenure rights.

4. Mobilize more resources. Less than 2% of international climate finance goes towards indigenous peoples and local communities' efforts.
 5. How to better coordinate and maintain momentum after COP 26.
- This is an initiative among a broad group of donor countries (e.g. Norway, France, Germany, US, the Netherlands) and private foundations (e.g. the Ford foundation), convened by the UK government.
 - There will be a session on this initiative on 2 November, during the World Leaders Summit, where representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities will address about 120 heads of state.
 - There will also be a side event on Nature Day (6 November) to engage some ministers on this issue.
 - To mobilize resources, the initiative is organizing an indigenous peoples and local communities' tenure rights pledge. This will be under a broader forest finance pledge. A policy statement to accompany this pledge has been prepared. Anyone who would like to have a look at it and possibly plug in is welcome to reach out to him.
 - The initiative is also working on building better bridges among the people involved in forests, tenure rights, and land in taking forward indigenous peoples and local communities' tenure rights issues after COP 26.

2 (d) Update on status of SDG Indicators 1.4.2, 5.a.1, 5.a.2

[Thea Hilhorst]

- A joint module containing model questionnaires for each land module has been produced and published in five (5) languages.
- Work to improve the methodologies in areas such as pre-testing of questionnaires is under way. GLTN, UN-Habitat and UN Women have published a guidance tool on women's land rights status and statistics.
- The data is hosted on the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) website. Thirty-four (34) countries, 22 of which are in Africa, are now reporting on SDG indicator 1.4.2, with a couple more that have already collected the data but have not released it yet.
- SDG indicator 5.a.1, which has much stricter reporting requirements, has ten (10) countries are reporting on it.
- Data on SDG indicator 5.a.2 is of a much more legal nature as it covers legal frameworks that guarantee women's rights to land ownership and/or control. Forty (40) countries, distributed across Latin America, Africa, Europe and other regions are currently reporting on it. One challenge involved in reporting on this indicator is the need to have a designated entity nominated to champion this process in the different countries since it requires more resources compared to the other indicators.
- There are many outreach activities on data reporting currently underway from the World Bank, UN-Habitat, FAO and other land-related agencies.
- It is crucial to have a land module integrated into household surveys and censuses in order to have consistent and cost-effective production of land-related data. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a major hindrance to this as it put a stop to face-to-face interviewing. Better linkages between national statistics agencies and land agencies are also needed.
- The 50X2030 initiative has a fully integrated land module and has identified 50 countries where data collection will be done.
- The Harmonized Household Survey Initiative piloted the land questionnaire in eight (8) Francophone African countries in 2018/2019 with support from the World Bank. It

has since been adopted by five (5) more countries in the region. Although the data has been collected there have been challenges in releasing it, since the questionnaire was embedded within broader poverty surveys, which require higher level of sensitivity in calculations and release. A second round of data collection has been planned, together with an expansion into Anglophone Africa.

[Everlyne Nairesiae]

- Past opportunities to leverage conferences organized by different partners, some of whom are GDWGL members, to share information on these initiatives are highly appreciated.

3. New Business

3(a) New Work Plan

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The current GDWGL work plan is coming to an end. Preparation of the next one needs to begin.
- The co- and vice-chairs will get back to the group with some proposals on how to move forward with this.
- The members are welcome to share their thoughts and experiences on what has worked well (or not) in previous work planning processes, as well as some of the priorities they would like to see included.

3(b) Collaboration

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Land has been and will continue to be a cross-cutting issue in many forums such as the UN Food Systems Summit, COP 26, and the convention on biodiversity, among others. Broader collaboration to amplify the messaging around land issues is important.
- The secretariat organized a meeting of the platform's thematic work groups where its co- and vice-chairs got to meet each other, introduce their work and explore some collaboration possibilities.
- Because of that initial conversation, the Rural Youth Employment Working Group proposed the organization of a joint webinar during the GIZ Land Hub conference, in early December, 2021. Youth access to land will be one of the priority themes of the webinar. Any member who would be interested in co-sponsoring or participating in an event related to youth access to land is welcome to join this collaborative effort.
- There are ongoing discussions on a new voluntary guideline on water tenure, where FAO is one of the organizers. Members are also welcome to engage in this initiative, as well as other land tenure-related initiatives, particularly the UN convention on desertification and the convention on biodiversity. These engagements would, in that case, be featured in the new work plan.
- Inputs are also welcome on how members would like to engage at the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in spring and commemorate the VGGT's 10th anniversary in May 2022. USAID could provide some financial support towards this anniversary.

[Javier Molina Cruz]

- The VGGTs are related to the ongoing work on water tenure and other initiatives that have already produced concrete outputs in the form of a technical guide on how to address decertification, land degradation, and water management.
- The VGGT's 10th anniversary provides an opportunity to build momentum on work done to better govern land, forest and water. The IPCC report demonstrates that there is an urgent need to rethink how we relate to natural resource management. The land tenure team at FAO is putting together a proposal, in coordination with the CFS secretariat, with some preliminary ideas on how this can be accomplished.

[Wael Zakout]

- A decision on whether the group wants to have an event organized at the World Bank spring meeting needs to be made quickly.
- The collection of ideas will begin in a few weeks and there is stiff competition from other interested participants.
- There is also the option of having an event organized during the annual meetings, which hopefully will be in person in 2022. This option would provide the group more preparation time.

[Jenny Lisher]

- Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has a series of impact evaluations on the logic models of land tenure and governance that got pushed back due to the pandemic. Reports on these will be released in the coming year.
- MCC has been coordinating with GIZ and the World Bank on some of these initiatives. It would be a good idea to organize a forum to communicate some of the rigorous evidence coming out, but this would require a broader group of participants. MCC is open to taking part in such a forum in the next year if other members are willing and able to join.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- USAID will release a full batch of impact evaluation findings towards the end of 2021 and early 2022.
- Indeed, discussions on research findings and syntheses on land and related sectors among members would be valuable. An evidence summit, for instance, would be a useful platform for this.

4. A discussion with Lawrence Haddad, CEO of GAIN, on improving land governance

[Frits van der Wal]

- The governance of land tenure has not been as prominent in the coalitions and action areas coming out of the UN Food Systems Summit as we would have hoped.
- The onus is on this group to identify possible entry points to step up engagement in land governance issues.

[Lawrence Haddad]

Based on a diagnostic review of 10 African countries by Deininger, Klaus, Thea Hilhorst, and Vera Songwe (2014), some of the challenges faced in the removal of land governance constraints are;

- a. The recognition of rights: Protection of rights in practice is weak, and the effectiveness of institutions to record rights and resolve disputes limited. There is no special rapporteur on land although there is one on human rights and environment. If the working group is interested in engaging on this, Klaus Deininger may be a useful resource to reach out to.
- b. Land use, management, taxation: Land use plans are often lacking or outdated and, if they exist, elaborated in non-participatory ways. There is a coalition on urban and local government that was constituted from the UN FSS, with FAO & GAIN as some of its leads.
- c. Management of Public Land: Public land management, acquisition, and divestiture are often deficient as boundaries of state land are ill defined.
- d. Registration of Land: High fees often become a barrier to land market participation. The Soils Hub is doing some interesting work on the role of land registration in opening up opportunities for carbon sequestration.
- e. Large-scale acquisitions
Action track one (1) has been exploring ways to better integrate food systems considerations into Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) standards.

Some of the avenues available to improve land governance monitoring include

- The food systems dashboard (a multi-organizational initiative that pools together all food systems indicators)
- Google (his team has also been working with Google to get them more engaged in food systems by for instance mapping out land use)
- Countdown to 2030 Report

These initiatives are also potential entry points to incorporate the data on the land indicators that the group has already been working on, given that there is no coalition on land governance yet.

It is not too late to form a land governance coalition. The UN FSS did not necessarily place a deadline on coalition formation.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Past conversations with the UN FSS secretariat discouraged the establishment of a new coalition on land. Has this position changed, are there opportunities to still go ahead with this, if so, is there interest among the members to do so?

[Lawrence Haddad]

- The coalition formation guidelines are quite fluid. If there is interest in forming a land coalition, it is encouraged to go ahead and try to bring in countries to whom land tenure governance is of a high priority.
- What are some of the key issues that the group is working on right now?

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Responsible land-based investing
- SDG land indicators
- Food security and the adoption of food systems approaches

[Frits van der Wal]

- What processes are currently there to foster more country-level alignment and impact of donor organizations' activities?

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- What would be the added value of trying to include a focus on land tenure within the broader food systems summit agenda? Although it is an important element in many of the food systems issues, available research has not categorized it as one of the key levers in shifting how food systems work. Do you think this is a strategic place for the advancement of land tenure given all the other issues in the food systems summit space? If it is, where do the opportunities for greater traction lie?

[Lawrence Haddad]

- Country-level coordination and coherence:
 - Some of the national pathways that come out of the UN FSS national dialogues are very general.
 - Watching out for how they evolve could be helpful in finding ways to align land tenure and governance activities at the country level.
- Land tenure at the UN FSS
 - There are different layers through which coalitions can engage in food systems issues; the technical level, which covers policies, practices, resource allocations, the power and relationships level, which due to its highly political nature, the working group may not have the capacity to fully leverage. There is an opportunity to promote land tenure issues in food systems by making a case based on the technicalities of the issue. This would involve, for instance, demonstrating what relevant actors would stand to gain by measuring land tenure more effectively. This could be linked to other agendas such as carbon sequestration, which monetizes land in a very functional way. In this case land use links very well with coalitions on climate and biodiversity.
 - Based on recent meetings among the action track leads, groups and special envoys around the food systems summit, the mechanism that will take the summit forward is not yet clear. There may be a gridlock or loss of momentum if the global coalitions and initiatives don't find a way to link to national pathways in a practical way. There is a group that is currently working on this.
 - Once analysis of national pathways and statements has been finalized, a shortlist of countries will be identified to begin working with as exemplars.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- There has not been a lot of research on soil carbon and ownership. There has been an RRI study and some interesting case studies from Eastern Europe, but there are questions on whether farmers in places with different tenure systems would be able to do this and what the challenges would be. This could be a unique research stream for the working group to look at, if resources are available. With billions of dollars flowing through climate finance, such research might be insightful for other partners that members work with.

[Lawrence Haddad]

- He would be happy to link the working group to some relevant contacts to establish entry points for land tenure issues.



SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS				
AGENDA ITEM		ACTION AREA	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
2 (a)	The Website Review	Share a prototype of the land governance TWG's webpage with the members for feedback and inputs.	TBD	Secretariat
		Any member interested in sharing information and resources on as best practices, tools, success stories on land governance etc. to set up the knowledge hub to reach out to the secretariat.	TBD	Secretariat
		Organize interviews with the co- and vice-chairs on their aspirations and ideas on the future direction of the TWG.	TBD	Secretariat
	The Land Map	Follow up on activities around the Land Governance Programme Map	TBD	Karol and Gemma
2 (b)	The Global Land Governance Report (GLGR)	Get back to the group with clearer details on their expectations as well as how they plan on supporting and engaging with this initiative and the consultant.	TBD	FAO
3 (a)	The New Work Plan	Share thoughts and experiences on what has worked well (or not) in previous work planning processes, as well as some of the priorities members would like to see included with Karol and Gemma.	TBD	All Members
		Get back to the group with some proposals on how to move forward with this.	Next meeting	Karol and Gemma
3 (b)	World Bank Spring meetings	Have a decision on whether the group wants to have an event organized at the World Bank spring meeting.	ASAP	All Members
	Land Hub event on Youth Access to Land	Send in expressions of interest in co-sponsoring or participating in the Land Hub event on Youth Access to Land co-organized with the Rural Youth Employment TWG to Karol and Gemma.	ASAP	All Members
	ALC 2022	Any member interested in participating in the ALC this November to reach out to Everlyne Nairesiae	ASAP	All Members



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Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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ANNEX 1: PRESENTATION BY LAWRENCE HADDAD

Some thoughts on Land Governance and the UNFSS

Lawrence Haddad
ED
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
(Chair of Action Track 1)

Improving Land Governance

Removing Land Governance Constraints

1. Recognition of Rights
 - No Special Rapporteur on Land, but there is one on Human Rights and Environment (David Boyd)
 - Governance Group at UNFSS, Kirsty Buckley
2. Land Use, management, taxation
 - Urban and local government coalition (FAO and GAIN)
3. Management of Public Land
4. Registration of Land
 - Soils Hub (Rattan Lal)
5. Dispute Resolution
6. Large Scale Acquisitions
 - ESG work with B-Lab

Improving Land Governance Monitoring

- Google
 - Food Systems Dashboard
 - Countdown to 2030 Report
- A. Share of communal land with land rights mapped
 - B. Share of land registered in women's name
 - C. Number and prices of registered land transactions
 - D. Amount of land tax collected
 - E. Area expropriated by state and compensation
 - F. Number of land related conflicts in court

Deininger, Klaus, Thea Hilhorst, and Vera Songwe. "Identifying and addressing land governance constraints to support intensification and land market operation: Evidence from 10 African countries." *Food policy* 48 (2014): 76-87.