



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# MINUTES

## GLOBAL DONOR WORKING GROUP ON LAND

DATE: 7 APRIL 2022

### PARTICIPANTS

- Adriano Campolina, FAO
- Chris Penrose Buckley, FCDO
- Danilo Antonio, UN Habitat
- Etienne Coyette, EU INTPA
- Francesco Pierri, FAO
- Frits Van der Wal, the Netherlands
- Gemma Betsema, the Netherlands
- Jenny Lisher, MCC
- Jenny Lopez, FCDO
- Jill Pike, MCC
- Jorge Espinoza, GIZ
- Karol Boudreaux, USAID
- Klaus Deininger, World Bank
- Laura Garn, FCDO
- Mathieu Boche, AFD
- Nora Boehm, BMZ
- Patrik Olsson, Switzerland
- Sondra Wentzel, GIZ
- Thea Hilhorst, World Bank
- Wael Zakout, World Bank

#### GDPRD Secretariat:

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Luca Passacantilli
- Monique Amar
- Lise Saga

### AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Karol/USAID
2.	World Bank (WB) Update	Wael and Klaus/World Bank
3.	Update from the Secretariat	Maurizio/GDPRD
4.	GDWGL Work Plan 2022/23	Karol/USAID
5.	Update from FAO	Adriano/FAO
6.	Miscellaneous/Other Business	All

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Patrick Olsson from the Swiss agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) joined the call for the first time, and Nora Boehm from BMZ, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development joined after a break. She was joined by two GIZ colleagues: Jorge Espinoza and Sondra Wentzel (Sector Project Rural Development, Land Governance team). Jenny Lisher joined the GDWGL call for the last time, since she will be leaving MCC at the end of April.

## 2. WORLD BANK UPDATE

[Klaus Deininger]

- In 2023, it will be 20 years since the first Land Policy Research Report was launched, and thus, an update is necessary. This analytical report by the World Bank (WB) summarizes literature on key topics, informed by WB's operational experience in close collaboration with the WB Research Department and other partners.
- Insecure tenure continues to be a major constraint on economic and social development, especially in terms of gender empowerment. As 2030 is approaching, key issues such as climate resilience, gender equity and conflict continue to be challenging. An updated report will describe the critical role of land for cross-cutting issues, through 5 chapters:
  - Chapter 1: Land institutions  
Institutions affect the security and transferability of land rights, and need to be built for indigenous rights.
  - Chapter 2: Land rights for sustainable urbanization  
Investment incentives are provided by secure land tenure rights.
  - Chapter 3: Land rights to support structural transformation  
Appropriate land use planning and regulation that minimizes inequalities and allows public goods for sensible structural transformation.
  - Chapter 4: Land rights to address climate challenges  
Renewed interest in land due to its centrality in protecting biodiversity and its use for renewable energy in the fact of rising commodity and energy prices
  - Chapter 5: Challenges & opportunities for implementation  
The political economy of land is central to more effective institutions and to understanding the resistance against transparency in land issues
- The WB will hold a series of regional workshops for partners to provide lessons learnt and strategic regional challenges. More information about the dates for each regional workshop will be shared with the group.
  - In October, an in-person consultation will be held to discuss the chapter content, background research and policy recommendations.
- The aim is to launch the report in April/May 2023.
- Cooperation with FAO has been important, to ensure alignment and avoid overlap between the WB report and the State of Land Governance and Tenure Report (SLGR).

[Wael Zakout]

- This report aims to: (1) capture the research agenda on lessons and experiences on land programmes; (2) document the operational experience by capturing the experience of WB engagement; and (3) build on partners' experiences.
- GDWGL members who would like to present on their programmes at the regional consultations can contact WB colleagues.

### 3. UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

[Maurizio Navarra]

- On Tuesday 5 April, the GDPRD white paper on [“Transforming Food Systems: Directions for Enhancing the Catalytic Role of Donors”](#) was released. The paper charts directions on how donors can support food systems transformation to follow up on the Food Systems Summit and accelerate progress toward the SDG’s, providing options with seven practical and feasible action pathways.
- The white paper will be presented on 20 April during a high-level event on [“Increasing the Imperative for Resilient Food Systems in Times of Crisis: What can donors do?”](#) Emergency measures are necessary to address the short-term consequences of the many crises we are facing today, but these current crises also further cement the need for long-term investments into resilient food systems, in order to combat and avoid such crises in the future.
  - The keynote speaker is Jennifer Clapp, Vice Chair of the HLPE. Leonard Mizzi from the European Commission and Rhoda Peace Tumusiime from the African Union Commission are some of the panellists for this event.
- On Tuesday 5 April, the 2021 Annual Report of GDPRD was also launched, including a section on GDWGL. The Secretariat is grateful to the Chair and Vice-chairs of the TWG for their contributions to the report.
- The TWG on Rural Youth Employment is organizing a webinar on “Green Jobs for Rural Youth in Agri-Food Systems” on 25 April.
- The SDG2 Roadmap working group held a workshop in February with the Ceres2030 team, to plan a potential phase two of the report and follow up on its recommendations.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The [SDG Land Indicators](#) pages on the website have been updated with help from the World Bank, GLTN and Secretariat colleagues. The group is encouraged to continue to share content for the website, to ensure that it continues to be updated and refreshed.

### 4. GDWGL WORK PLAN 2022/23

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The Group’s previous work plan was developed by Chris/FCDO in 2019 and ran for two years. The work plan now needs to be reviewed, revisited and updated. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs have done the initial work to update the work plan, using the former plan as a foundation.
- In previous meetings, the group agreed upon themes that are of interest to all members. These topics include: ensuring investments in rural and urban land are inclusive and sustainable, land as an important pathway for addressing climate adaptation and mitigation with nature-based solutions, gender issues and social inclusion, and links between land and peace, stability and security.
- The Framework for Action (F4A) has been referenced in the new work plan as a potential way to organise the group’s actions and priorities.

[Chris Penrose Buckley]

- The work stream on Framework for Action (F4A) on Land Tenure Security began 1.5 years ago. Its objective is to bring land higher on the global agenda by emphasizing the importance of land access and tenure security for climate change and prosperity
- The framework can be used in combination with other initiatives such as the SLGR, the World Bank report and the Evidence Summit.
- The document is at the stage of finalization. The next step is for organizations to endorse it.

[Karol Bodreaux]

- As a collective unit, there is an opportunity to amplify the work of the framework through a variety of pathways, some of which have been laid out in the 2022/23 work plan on topics such as biodiversity loss, climate change, protecting lands from urbanisation and challenges around critical minerals.

[Wael Zakout]

- It might be challenging to obtain endorsement of the F4A from individual organizations; therefore, an option is to endorse it as the GDWGL group.
- The F4A propose activities and priorities for individual organizations, but certain activities will require organizations to work together (for instance to organize the Evidence Summit, which the GDWGL should support).
- A platform to convene donors, private sector, civil society and governments to discuss land issues should be explored. Once this working group has been established in 2-3 months, the GDWGL could be an arena for giving feedback and comments on the new platform.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The proposed work plan is focused on continued engagements for information exchange such as presenting our organizations' individual projects and priorities, which offer opportunities for more collaboration and exchange.
- The global advocacy efforts of the TWG for the next 18 months focus on three things:
  - Recognize and celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the VGGTs
    - Assess how the VGGTs prompted other important land documents
  - Use the GDWGL, particularly the new website, as a tool to promote land governance through a variety of channels (e.g., webinars, blog posts, etc.)
  - Support the proposed evidence summit this autumn
    - Reflect on the past 10 years' evidence on land governance to see what is working and what is still to be accomplished.

[Jenny Lisher]

- On the proposed evidence summit:
  - Many land evaluations have occurred, such as by MCC, USAID, GIZ, FCDO. It will be helpful if we can see all the results together. Gap analyses and systematic reviews can shape the evaluations.
  - Currently the summit is proposed for two days but may need to be expanded to three days depending on participation levels.
    - Day 1 will focus on two gaps that were discovered in the gap analyses. First, data about women, and second, policy, institutional, and legal reforms.
    - Day 2 will focus on evaluations, and how they can be improved. Two key areas will be using administrative data and geospatial data
  - Feedback is welcome for evaluations to be included, and for additional topics for a potential third day of the summit.
- MCC will continue to be part of the GDWGL with Jill Pike as the representative.

[Thea Hilhorst]

- The proposed summit is stocktaking activity, but is also very forward-looking. Focuses will be on making methodologies cheaper and faster, and on funding and building capacities.

[Chris Penrose Buckley]

- Question on the evidence bar for evaluations, if less rigorous assessments are welcome.

[Danilo Antonio]

- Maybe a discussion on when is the best time to do a proper evaluation? For a long time now,

there is a tension between the donors and projects around this challenge.

[Jenny Lisher]

- It will not just be focused on impact evaluations. As long as the data has rigorous quantitative elements and not just qualitative, it will be considered.
- It is challenging to know when to do evaluations and this is a long-term conversation. A panel at the summit could be focused on this issue, i.e., when to collect data and evaluate.
- Encouraged all members to send any upcoming evaluations for inclusion.

[Frits Van Der Wal]

- Summit could focus on trying to get more evidence in multiple pathways within land governance, such as food security, shelter, conflict mitigation, climate mitigation, etc. Possible panels could focus on evidence within those tracks, to link land tenure to these other topics.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Country-level coordination will be a focus of the GDWGL this year
- A follow-up exchange with the food systems agenda secretariat will be held
- There is opportunity for collaboration with the TWG SDG2 Roadmap
- USAID is interested in work on conflict and climate migration
- Opened the floor for comments and additions to the work plan

[Danilo Antonio]

- It will be good to continue to promote country level coordination. As a suggestion, we should encourage those institutions who are implementing substantial programmes in the country to initiate the formation of donor coordination groups in the country, in partnership with government authorities and key stakeholders.

[Chris Penrose Buckley]

- It would be good to mention the F4A in the specific priorities of the global advocacy section and support it as a group
- The country-level coordination work is difficult to organize but should be kept in the work plan
- Has personally worked on the food systems follow up and is not convinced that it is a worthwhile place for the GDWGL to engage because of how complex it is and how many other groups are competing for attention in the forum.

[Mathieu Boche]

- The UN COP15 on combatting desertification (UNCCD) is missing from the key dates in the work plan, as land governance is one of their main topics.
  - This could be a good place to promote the framework for action and advocate for different guides or tools that have worked well.
  - The momentum behind the Great Green Wall in Africa will help drive attention to this
- Agreed that country-level coordination is difficult but should be kept in the work plan
  - Suggested working in small groups to discuss lessons of success in specific countries. The joint operation manual for the Ivory Coast was a good successful example.

[Adriano Campolina]

- Agreed on the importance of the UNCCD, and noted that FAO was involved in the development of guidelines and manuals that will be presented at COP15.
  - There is also opportunity for further collaboration with the VGGTs in this area
- Point C of coordination should stand alone in the work plan and not be merged with A
  - This point is critical as the group should strongly commit to advancing coordination.

The priority can be to map opportunities where coordination can occur, such as in specific countries.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The group has thus suggested to keep points A and C separate.
- Karol, Gemma, and the Secretariat will follow-up on a specific country-level coordination plan.

[Frits Van Der Wal]

- There are gains to be made and lessons to be learnt with more country-level coordination. Some group members work with partners in a way which more donors could join. For example, in Mozambique, five bi-laterals worked together in one program. Multi-donor programs should be supported for better coordination.

[Jenny Fisher]

- MCC and many other agencies operate on five-year programs. One issue is that with decentralized institutions, once records are digitalized, new institutions then come in and then the information system is not continued. More coordination between donors can help sustain these information systems over longer periods of time, not just during 5-year projects. Better sequences must be accomplished.

[Chris Penrose Buckley]

- There is a lot of general focus on demand-driven approaches to land registration so the group should thus focus more on this.
- A code of conduct was established in 2019 so it should be revisited to assess its relevance now.

[Mathieu Boche]

- There is a concrete example on coordination. In 2008, a decentralized land information system was created in the Senegal River Valley. Different organizations have picked it up, expanded it, and improved it over the years. This sequencing has worked very well over the 15 years of this project. This example of better sequencing and coordination could be further developed and replicated.
- Announced that starting in September, he will be based in Senegal.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The group should develop short papers that explain what worked and did not work in specific examples of coordination and sequencing. These papers could be disseminated on the website and beyond. Asked participants to contact herself or Gemma if interested.

## 5. UPDATE FROM FAO

[Adriano Campolina]

- Key milestones for the VGGT 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary:
  - GFFA was held in January. Land governance was central to the agenda and a related CFS high level event and side event were held.
  - Global Land Forum in Jordan, May 23-26. Multiple VGGT related panels.
  - High level event at FAO HQ, to be confirmed for 27 May. It will include a celebration of the VGGTs and a recommitment session for VGGT pledges.
  - In October, either before or after the CFS session, a technical in-depth event on reflection of the past 10 years of VGGTs, in addition to a potential formal CFS session
- Key publications this year:
  - Stocktaking report of the past 10 years, renewal of commitments, and new set of recommendations (combined effort of many organizations)

- Individual policy briefs by many organizations
- World Bank and Global Observatory reports
- There will be strong focus on communications and cross-referencing this year, in order to keep the VGGTs high on the agenda
- On the State of Land Governance and Tenure Report
  - Agreed to be published as a periodical publication, possibly every 3 years depending on data availability
    - 2 sections: overall tenure and governance data analysis and one in-depth issue
  - It will part of a larger initiative called the Global Land Observatory Initiative. FAO and ILC will be part of the leadership, along with other organizations.
    - The Observatory will also produce other products which can be discussed in further meetings.
  - A steering group and advisory group will give guidance on the SLGR
  - Based on the World Bank presentation, there is opportunity for collaboration: cross-referencing, feedback, sharing background materials and studies.

## 6. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- There is a Forest Tenure Rights group meeting quarterly, and there are opportunities to collaborate
- Four main initiatives of the group: dialogues with Indigenous peoples and local communities, a funding review to better understand the gaps on action, a policy dialogue with top forest country governments and ministers, and COP27 follow-up events like a high-level roundtable.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Encouraged all participants to use the collective space of the GDWGL to raise awareness of the issue and collective action

[Gemma Betsema]

- The Land Portal submitted a proposal to take over the land programme map. The costs will now be lower and data will be linked to IATI reporting. A smaller meeting at the end of the month will be organized to discuss this- attendees are encouraged to reach out if interested in participating.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Thanked all for participation.
- May be at the Global Land Forum meeting and encouraged all participants who are attending the forum to meet together.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda Item	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person
2	Share more information about regional consultation for WB report	ASAP	Wael/World Bank
3	Continue to share content for the website		All
4	Revisit 2019 Code of Conduct to ensure relevance		All
5	Keep group updated on the Land Observatory Initiative and the SLGR		Adriano/FAO
6	Organize meeting about the Land Programme Map	End of April	Gemma/the Netherlands