



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES GLOBAL DONOR WORKING GROUP ON LAND

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PARTICIPANTS

- Karol Boudreaux, USAID
- Chris Penrose-Buckley, FCDO
- Jonas Kramp, GIZ
- Christian Messmer, GIZ
- Harold Liversage, IFAD
- Ombretta Tempa, UN-Habitat
- Wael Zakout, World Bank
- Willi Zimmerman, Arab Land Initiative
- Lisette Meij, The Netherlands
- Etienne Coyette, European Commission
- Patrick Olson, European Union-Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (EU-SDC) Programme on Land Governance in Africa
- Fransisco Caranca, FAO
- Ambarak, FAO
- Francesca Romano, FAO
- Amy Regas, Place Fund
- Adriano Campolina, FAO
- Maria Marealle, AfDB
- Thea Hilhorst, World Bank

GDPRD Secretariat:

- Monique Amar
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AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Karol/USAID Chris Penrose-Buckley, FCDO
2.	Evidence Summit	Karol/USAID
3.	Country-level donor coordination	Karol/USAID
4.	Global advocacy at UNFCCC COP 27	Karol/USAID
5.	Arab Land Initiative	Ombretta/UN Habitat
6.	Update from FAO	Adriano/FAO
7.	GDPRD Annual General Assembly	Karol/USAID
8.	Miscellaneous/Other Business	Karol/USAID

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- This meeting of the GDWGL is a hybrid meeting, where participants at the Global Land Forum 2022 are gathered in Amman.

2. EVIDENCE SUMMIT

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Thea Hilhorst, Jenny Lisher, Karol Boudreaux, Caleb Stevens and Jolyne Sanjak have been in conversations about organizing an Evidence Summit in October, around the timing of the CFS meetings. The objective of the conference is to present various impact evaluations or other rigorous research undertaken by donors.
- The best approach, given the continuing changes to health situations, is to hold a two or three day virtual event. A proposed itinerary for the meeting has been produced. A number of evaluations will be finalised in time for the Summit.
- Researchers and donors will present materials, and the presentations will be grouped based on thematic areas. Anyone with research which can be presented are welcome to do so. The event will create a good basis for the next Conference on Land and Poverty, and a good opportunity to talk about how the evidence base has changed over the last ten years.

[Wael Zakout]

- Suggested to reconsider the name of the event, since a Land Summit will be held in 2023-2024, to not confuse others and exhaust the organization of Summits.

3. COUNTRY-LEVEL DONOR COORDINATION

[Karol Boudreaux]

- In the previous meeting, a discussion was held on how to strengthen country-level coordination. Matthew from AFD, suggested that we might put together a brief on lessons learned around donor coordination. A draft outline was developed and this will be shared with the group for review. The group is encouraged to contribute with brief materials that demonstrate donor coordination.
- Potential countries for focusing donor coordination have been identified. USAID is involved in land-related programmes in Tanzania, along with other members in the TWG. Senegal, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mekong regional coordination were also suggested. Opportunities for joint programming should be explored.
- A quick note that USAID's current programmes on land are coming to an end in 2023, so new land programming will be developed over the course of the next year.
- As noted, an outline for a brief to post on the website will be shared, to showcase experiences from coordination in a few countries.

[Adriano Campolina]

- There are opportunities for renewed conversations about policy reforms. A potential area of coordination for this group could be to include an update on country investments, to start defining the process of engagement as early as possible – and identify potential partners.
- In the VGGT programme, two strands of work are coming to an end. The Steering Committee of the VGGT programme would ensure coordination at the global level. This group will meet

again in September to reflect on lessons learned on several projects of involvement.

- A sharing process on lessons learned can be complimented by a mapping of emerging opportunities for coordination. FAO is finalising a process of review of all their country engagements on land tenure in Africa.

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- A few years ago, there was talk of a land service programme. One component focusing on responsible land-based investments in countries in Africa and Southeast Asia, was started during COVID last year. The focus is on government investments, and technical assistance and land reform for governments.

[Christian Messmer]

- In Ethiopia, donors meet twice a year through the Environment programme, to coordinate. GIZ, the World Bank, the Finnish corporation and USAID are a part of this programme. The work plan can be shared.

[Etienne Coyette]

- The EU contributes to the programme in Ethiopia through the same global programme as in Uganda and Lao People's Democratic Republic, where there might be room to engage with others. A screening of proposals from the EU delegation for new programmes has led to programmes in Kenya and Zambia. Information about this screening can be shared to coordinate on country-level.

[Ambarak]

- Through the efforts of EU and FAO, a development partner group is coordinating in Kenya. They meet two times a year. There are some good cases for best practices to share from this coordinating work.

[Maria Marealle]

- The African Development Bank is developing a programme, focusing on climate resilience in countries along the Zambezi river: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana and Tanzania. These countries share water resources within the same basin. Land is a key area, with a focus on land restoration, land rights and land degradation. A programme has been prepared in Rwanda together with FAO and ICRAF.

[Patrick Olson]

- European Union-Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (EU-SDC) Programme on Land Governance in Africa is starting a third phase on strengthening land governance project in Myanmar, and are coordinating with GIZ.

4. GLOBAL ADVOCACY AT UNFCCC COP 27

[Karol Bordereaux]

- Following up on last year's COP 26 in the UK, preparations are in progress for COP 27 in Egypt. An open question was made on how the group wants to coordinate at the upcoming COP. What activities are pursued, and are there commitments around land?
- There is potential to continue the discussion around indigenous peoples and local communities.
- COP27 will likely focus on food security and sustainable food systems, given the rising food crisis, bringing opportunities for the group to coordinate in multiple ways.

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- FCDO are planning follow-up events/side-events to report back on the COP 26. Creating

space for indigenous leaders and local teams will be important, to emphasise their role in climate mitigation and the importance of tenure security.

- It is likely that there will be a high-level political forum launched to follow up on the Glasgow Forest Commitments, which would then meet annually
- The theme of the Egyptian Presidency will be food, food systems and agriculture. In the context of the current crisis, there is an opportunity to highlight the importance of land to issues of agriculture.

[Wael Zakout]

- The Egyptian presidency will probably not put land tenure security on the agenda. However, the prime minister of Egypt is a land expert, but the political context of land issues is complicated. Therefore, it is suggested to continue focusing on forest tenure and indigenous people – continuing the discussion of COP 26. A follow-up will be important to measure the commitments and ensure that pledges are delivered. It will be important to develop some kind of framework for measuring progress to uphold accountability.
- Because of the rise in food prices and the conflict in Ukraine, land tenure security can be linked to the agricultural sector and conversations about food security.

[Ombretta Temptra]

- UN Habitat and Japan are planning to have an event focusing on the Arab Region, connecting land governance and climate change. A report has been produced to document the work that has been done by different partners in countries in the region. There are also new guidelines coming out on land degradation. Hopefully, this will ensure a good participation from the Arab region. The aim is to raise the profile for land tenure security and land governance related to climate.

[Francisco Caranca]

- Added that NPO has a climate change division with whom could integrate the guidelines launched in Abidjan.
- The issue of forest tenure and indigenous tenure rights should be added to the group's agenda.

[Harold Liversage]

- The Near East and North Africa Division of IFAD is positioning around COP 27 along with the team on climate change. In terms of indigenous people, there are strong engagements with indigenous people's organisations. An engagement on RPLC was welcomed.

[Karol Bordeaux]

- USAID will hope to put together a side-event around gender and women's land rights. This is an important issue in the MENA region. To summarise: Indigenous Peoples land and forest tenure, land degradation and gender would be a good way to diversify presentations at COP 27.

5. ARAB LAND INITIATIVE

[Ombretta Temptra]

- Gave a presentation on the Arab Land Initiative, its outcomes and the way forward. The analysis done by the Initiative, led to a change model. Currently, the 22 countries in the region experience increasing poverty in youthful populations, with high concentration of people on small parts of land. 21,2 million people are displaced by violence internally and externally, in addition to 40 million migrants and 8.9 million refugees. The region generates many refugees,

but does also act as a buffer for refugees coming from surrounding areas. This is an important factor from a land perspective – what is done on land has to intersect with housing, land and property rights.

- Dealing with land issues as a prevention, mitigation and resolution of conflict, requires consideration for land-related conflicts and the political, environmental and climatic fragility of the region. Water scarcity is an important factor, with the region being the most water scarce in the world. This leaves the governments with a large number of priorities, and with less capacity to focus on structural reform, like the one that is required in the land sector. Challenges remain for land administration, gender inequality and the shrinking space for civil society to engage in land governance. The international funding scenario is focused on humanitarian response, with a short time frame, limiting the long-term vision on land governance.
- The change model for the initiative is based on developing the capacities and empowering land governance champions (regional individuals and organizations). This is operationalised through conferences, research, advisory services and supporting process led by partners. The type of partnership that is promoted mirrors the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), engaging with civil society, professionals, bilaterals, multilaterals, training and research institutes, universities and the private sector. There is a need to influence power dynamics, facilitate national discussions and support coalition development on key topics, but also to engage with international land governance processes in other regions.
- The Initiative focuses on capacity development and empowerment of partners, through job training, training sessions, visits from professors, arrangements with universities and training institutes. The aim is to increase alignment, coordination and collaboration, share knowledge and develop capacity, while supporting country-level interventions. The regional level works as a safe space to bring lessons from the field to discuss topics that are sensitive, such as women's land rights or land data sharing.
- A reference group meets annually to give direction to the initiative, and will meet in Beirut in July. BMZ dedicated financial support, which helped the network scale up their work. UN Habitat country offices provide content and partnerships to the initiative, while also hosting their website. The website has a well-developed knowledge-repository database.
- The Arab Land Conference was held in February last year focusing on women's land rights. It was a great success with great representation and attendance.
- A capacity assessment of 11 countries in Middle East will be published this year, looking at strengths, weaknesses, and potential for work on land governance. The results showed that there is a lack of focus on land tenure, land value and land dispute resolution at universities in the region.
- The initiative is working to mobilise support for the way forward. There key areas are women's land rights, land for climate change and resilience, food security fit for purpose and land administration. The aim is to keep the regional initiative, but catalyse land governance work in selected countries

[Wael Zakout]

- The World Bank has land programmes in many countries and regions. However, the only country in the Arab region with a programme was Palestine, which was unsuccessful. Land issues are prevalent in the Arab region, and there is a need to create awareness of such and promote discussions on the role of land as part of the social and economic development of the region while recognizing the many challenges.
- The Arab region is characterized differently from the rest of the world, considering the structure of the state, with weak capacity, accountability and reform processes. The state plays a major role in land control and distribution. Many of the countries in the region are desert, experiencing urban expansion and agriculture development – the state's land

management contributes to the political structure of the region.

- A prominent issue with great potential for progress is women and land in the Arab region. Currently, only about 5% of women own land, and most do not have their names on the title and do not get their inheritance, even with laws in place.
- Displacement and conflict are prevalent issues in the Arab region, with recent conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. The initiative is generating debate and discussion and putting pressure on the region's political structure.
- These issues are complicated, but they are areas where progress can be made. Issues are donor centred, but it is necessary to encourage local institutions to provide support, including participation from Arab organizations, NGOs, and civil society.

[Harold Liversage]

- It is necessary to look at experiences from other regions when looking for opportunities for progress in the Arab region. The African Land Policy Initiative comprises good initiatives in North Africa, and we should consider connecting to other organizations that are strong examples to draw on.
- IFAD would be interested in linking women and youth to their work on food security and agriculture development. There has been a success in doing so in countries like Sudan. COP 27 could be an opportunity to discuss these issues and climate change agenda and pastoralism further.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- This region could use additional attention, and it is an initiative deserving of support. The focus on women's land rights in the region is important and an area to make progress on, so everyone is encouraged to find ways to support such activity.
- Will follow up with Ombretta/Wael on the potential for a COP 27 side-event on women's land rights in the MENA region— all are invited to contribute.

6. UPDATE FROM FAO

[Adriano Campolina]

- FAO will hold a hybrid event on Friday, 27 May celebrating the VGGT 10th anniversary. The key objectives are to give visibility to the VGGT, recognize what has been learned in the past ten years since the CFS endorsed the guidelines, what were the most significant impacts of the guidelines, reflect on challenges faced and what should be priorities moving forward, and to renew commitments to the process. Renewed commitments will be collected from May through October to bring the VGGT to the centre of the political agenda.
- FAO asks for a dedicated slot in the next meeting to discuss the Land Governance Report.
- The development of the global land observatory, in which the global land report is the main product, is currently being finalized. The report will identify key indicators to observe how land tenure and governance evolve, reflecting on the relationship between land inequality, poverty, and rural transformation.

7. GDPRD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The GDWGL's AGA session should reflect on the group's collective work over the past ten years concerning responsible land investments, which were in part responses to the food crises of 2007-2008 and 2011, and just after—requesting a few members who worked on this issue to present a brief speech on their work on responsible land-based investment at the AGA.
- The session should discuss responsible land-based investment and the issue of large-scale land acquisition again during the current crisis, considering how to reduce the potential for

harm, what can we do now to prepare, and have we done enough to prevent potential for harm?

[Christian Messmer]

- GIZ Ethiopia can contribute to the session. Responsible agriculture investment has been a focus of their recent work and is also a top priority of the Ethiopian government.

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- FCDO will contribute if it works logistically.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- The Netherlands and USAID will also contribute.

8. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- The forest tenure funders group had a meeting to create a work plan of key priorities to take forward. The pledge concerns accountability and monitoring and will ask donors to return their report next month, including financials. It will focus on the question of how we can change how we fund, addressing bureaucratic challenges that community groups face.
- Ford Foundation is commissioning a review on current funding mechanisms for indigenous peoples and local communities to better address them and the initial findings should be finished by early autumn.
- This is not a closed pledge, other donors may join, including in the quarterly meetings and as part of the discussion.
- A dialogue is taking place with IPLC concerning the global alliance for territorial communities - a meeting will occur around September to discuss collaboration in funding and influencing engagement.

[Wael Zakout]

- While the 1.7-billion-dollar pledge during the COP 26 is very important, it will not reach the scale needed. The pledges should be fulfilled but the money be used to leverage additional resources available in multilateral and bilateral organizations.
- The World Bank is increasing its commitment over the next several years to about \$60 billion and these pledges must leverage the resources from the World Bank and others.

[Chris Penrose-Buckley]

- In agreement, 1.7 billion is great, but it is only a fraction of what is needed globally, and it is only concerning forests. This group presents a great opportunity to have conversations with the World Bank and other multilateral and international organizations on leveraging more resource initiatives.

[Secretariat]

- The GDPRD is hosting the Annual General Assembly of 2022 on 14 and 15 June in hybrid form, on “Implementing National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation to Accelerate Progress Towards the SDGs in Times of Crisis and Conflict”. All are encouraged to register online or virtually.

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Everyone is encouraged to join the event on Friday and to send a blurb for the GDPRD website in celebration of the VGGT, to be sent to Michelle ASAP.
- USAID will also hold an event on 7 June celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the VGGT.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
3	Share the outline for a brief on country-level donor coordination	After meeting	Karol/USAID
5	Follow-up on a potential COP 27 side event on women’s land rights in the MENA region	TBC	Karol/Ombretta/Wael
6	Schedule time in the next meeting to discuss the land governance report	After meeting	Lise
8	Schedule time in the next meeting to discuss the Global Land Forum	After meeting	Lise
8	Submit a brief blurb for the GDPRD website in celebration of VGGT to be sent to Michelle	ASAP	Everyone