



7 February 2024

Minutes GDWGL Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Etienne Coyette**, *European Commission*
- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO*
- **Jenny Lopez**, *FCDO*
- **Chris Penrose Buckley**, *FCDO*
- **Poppy Rodriguez**, *FCDO*
- **Alexander Strunck**, *GIZ*
- **Dominik Wellmann**, *GIZ*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *the Netherlands*
- **Chantal Wieckardt**, *the Netherlands*
- **Christina Blank**, *Switzerland*
- **Thea Hilhorst**, *World Bank*
- **Jenny Lisher**, *World Bank*
- **Robert Lewis-Lettington**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Karol Boudreaux**, *USAID*

Guests

- **Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro**, *FAO*
- **Muriel Veldman**, *FAO*
- **Regina Orvananos**, *GTLN*
- **Robert Ndugwa**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Dogu Karakaya**, *UN-Habitat*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Sierra Berardelli**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Gemma Betsema (Netherlands)
2.	TOP1: Setting the Scene	Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro (FAO)
3.	TOP2: SDG 5.a.2	Muriel Veldman (FAO)
4.	TOP3: SDG 1.4.2	Regina Orvananos (GLTN)
5.	TOP4: Overall discussion on land indicator SDGs and the GDWGL	All
6.	AOB & Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow up tasks and summary of agreements	Gemma Betsema (Netherlands)

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome & Introduction

- The World Bank Land Conference will take place on 13-17 May, in Washington, DC.
 - TWG Members are encouraged to [contact Jenny Lisher](#), should they still need to confirm their organizations delegations to the conference.
 - The GDWGL will have an in-person meeting in Washington on Sunday 12 May, time TBD.
- The LANDac Conference and Summit will take place on 3-5 July, in Utrecht, Netherlands.
- The third Arab Land Conference will take place in the fall, date and location TBD.

2. TOP1: SDG Land Indicators: Setting the Scene

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro (FAO) to present an overview of the SDG indicators related to land.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The SDG Global Indicator Framework, comprising 232 indicators, was endorsed by the UN General Assembly in July 2018. Annual refinements occur, with two comprehensive reviews in 2020 and 2025, overseen by the UN Statistical Commission, which has designated an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) to lead this effort.
- Each indicator is assigned a custodian international agency with specific responsibilities. FAO, as a custodian agency, leads methodological development and documentation of the indicators, supports countries' statistical capacity, collects and disseminates data globally, and has developed an [SDG Indicators Data Portal](#).
- SDG indicators are categorized into two tiers based on country coverage: Tier I (data available for more than 50% of countries) and Tier II (data available for less than 50% of countries). As of December 2023, roughly two thirds of indicators are in Tier I and one third in Tier II. Tier II land SDG indicators 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 face deletion unless the custodian agency presents an action-plan to increase country coverage to over 50%.
- The 2025 comprehensive review will consider additional indicators for critical or emerging issues not being monitored by existing indicators, delete underperforming Tier II indicators, and ensure alignment with targets through adjustments or replacements. The review intends not to significantly alter the original framework or increase the burden on national statistical systems.
- The 2025 comprehensive review timeline spans January 2024 to March 2025, involving framework preparation, an open call for proposals for indicators, open consultations on indicator changes and a results review, the 15th IAEG-SDG meeting, final proposals, and the 56th UN Statistical Commission in March 2025 to ratify the IAEG-SDG proposal. **[Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro]**

Q&A

- What were the experiences of the 2020 review; were there many requests for changing or adding new indicators? Do you expect significant differences for the 2025 review? **[Gemma Betsema]**
 - The 2020 review focused on 'Tier 3' indicators (indicators undergoing methodological development and approval), and therefore on establishing the methodologies, approving them, and developing countries' capacity to produce and

collect data. However, there was a strict notion to only consider additional indicator proposals if absolutely necessary, which is also to be expected in the 2025 review.

[Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro]

- The conditions for retention have been adjusted. Previously, a 50% country reporting threshold was required, but now, an action plan for reaching 50% coverage suffices, including for land indicators 5.a.1, 5.a.2, and 1.4.2. Is this correct? **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - Falling below the 50% threshold doesn't automatically lead to deletion. A compelling strategy for increasing country coverage will be a key consideration, or if there is an alternative indicator that already has good country coverage and could fill the data gap. With a third of indicators in Tier II, it's unlikely all will be cut, especially without adequate alternatives. **[Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro]**

3. TOP2: SDG Land Indicators: 5.a.2

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For Muriel Veldman (FAO) to present the status, challenges, and opportunities of reporting on SDG Indicator 5.a.2.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- SDG indicator 5.a.2 assesses the extent to which the national legal frameworks (including customary law) guarantee women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.
- There is high demand for proper data on this indicator, which tracks and advances women's land rights, particularly by fueling dialogue, initiating reforms, and guiding programming.
- The legal assessment and process on measuring this indicator necessitates buy-in, extensive coordination and legal expertise, and includes six data proxies, including: joint registration of land; spousal consent for transactions; equal inheritance rights; financial allocations; recognition of customary law; and quotas for women's participation.
 - The indicator is measured by questionnaires facilitated by designated institutions, focal points, and experts (including FAO and the SDG coordination mechanism).
- Halfway through the 2030 Agenda, 76 countries have reported on 5.a.2, with an additional 15 expected to submit shortly. There remain issues of data collection in terms of capacity, political willingness, and the lack of a flexible funding facility. There is also limited capacity for data accessibility, with dissemination being a recurring issue. These problems are widespread, though in some regions and countries more than others.
 - The proposed flexible funding facility would be critical in supporting post-reporting action planning and integration in national processes. **[Muriel Veldman]**

4. TOP3: SDG Land Indicators: 1.4.2

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For Regina Orvananos (GLTN) to present the status of reporting on SDG Indicator 1.4.2 on behalf of the World Bank and UN Habitat.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- SDG indicator 1.4.2 observes the proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, a) with legally recognized documentation and b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure. Indicator 1.4.2 has tier II status, with 46 countries currently reporting.
- A joint methodology was developed by the data custodians FAO, UN-Habitat and World Bank, together with a network of partners which includes the GDWGL, to integrate land modules into existing national surveys, allowing for simultaneous data collection on multiple

indicators. Additional data collection approaches include analyzing existing census and DHS data and providing capacity building support to national statistics offices (NSO) to facilitate country level adoption and inclusion of land indicators in SDG priorities.

- In 2023, the data custodians conducted a survey of all SDG focal points reporting on SDG 1.4.2 and received responses from 65 out of 165 countries contacted. Among the responses, 37 countries intend to report their data, while 27 do not plan to report. Additionally, UN-Habitat conducted a data request questionnaire for 2023/24, receiving responses from 43 countries as of January 2024 with additional responses expected in February. The data is classified into three categories: countries that have officially reported SDG 1.4.2 (88 countries/41%), countries where information can be modeled from 5.a.2 reported data or other surveys (63 countries/29%), and countries that claim to have reported but have not reached the official channel yet or where data needs to be verified (64 countries/30%). Population coverage analysis shows excellent coverage in Europe and Northern America (over 95%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (70%), while other regions like Northern Africa and Western Asia range from 16% to 20%, and the lowest coverage remains in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Oceania.
- To reach the 50% reporting threshold and Tier I status, increased global reporting of 20 more countries representing 961 million people is needed. To increase reporting, focus countries will be those with the largest populations such as India, Brazil, Bangladesh and China. The next steps are to compile new country feedback from the 2023/24 updates, complete survey analysis and submit data to UN stats, follow up with countries who intend to report, and support advanced reporting in underreported regions. **[Regina Orvananos]**

5. TOP4: SDG Land Indicators: Overall Discussion

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To discuss how the GDWGL can support the survival and advancement of the land-related SDG indicators.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- On Indicator 5.a.1: There are almost 50 countries reporting to IAEG-SDG, with most of the data from Africa. The first challenge is timeliness. It takes time to integrate questions into a national survey and be part of survey planning. If the indicator is not a priority (for example, in cases where the countries are busy with other survey programs), there are no options since the process relies on national stakeholders to collect data. In some cases, it is challenging to produce accurate and reliable statistics due to the quality of currently available data. Last year, an online survey was sent to SDG focal points of 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 but the response rate was very low: only about 60 countries answered whether or not they have any data on these indicators or if they need support. There has since been an assessment of this survey to contact the countries that requested support to produce the estimates. **[Ward Anseeuw, on behalf of Yonca Gurbuzer, focal point for 5.a.1]**
- The presented results of 1.4.2 are quite positive, but there appears to be a discrepancy between the publicly available data on the website and the data shown today. **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - The numbers presented today include data that has been reported and being validated, data that is expected to be reported shortly, and data that has not been reported but is publicly available. **[Regina Orvananos]**
- Why is there a lower reporting rate on 1.4.2 in the LAC region? **[Karol Boudreaux]**
 - Because there are so many small Caribbean islands that do not report or lack coordination between statistical agencies to report. **[Thea Hilhorst]**

- Reporting is often better in low-income countries (particularly in Africa), while there is minimal reporting in middle and upper-middle-income countries. **[Regina Orvananos]**
- For 5.a.2, there is not an overall challenge in reporting for a specific region, but rather challenges in areas with conflict or tense political environments. **[Muriel Veldman]**
- Is there an effort by bilateral donor agencies to contact their respective country missions for missing data? **[Karol Boudreaux]**
 - If any TWG Members have high-level contacts in countries, it would be greatly appreciated if they could put them in contact with the regional statistical coordinators, as the World Bank only has country staff, not regional staff. **[Thea Hilhorst]**
- There are some issues in methodology with 5.a.2, which requires FAO to conduct legal assessments; this is a problem as there is little capacity for this type of work. An online reporting tool is being created to hopefully address this issue. **[Muriel Veldman]**
- The status of the indicators seems more positive than earlier; is there still a pressing danger that these SDG land indicators, particularly 1.4.2, will be eliminated? **[Dominik Wellmann]**
 - There is a lot of work for UN-Habitat and the World Bank to do in terms of data analysis and assessment. However, all SDG indicators (including non-land) are missing critical data so it is unlikely they will all be eliminated. **[Thea Hilhorst]**
 - The risk is being mitigated, but there is still the major issue of resource limitation and lack of capacity for data analysis. **[Muriel Veldman, Regina Orvananos]**
- Since the TWG has been working with Land Portal to update the program map, perhaps the indicator custodians could contact the bilateral donors who are present on the map to see if they have contacts in those countries who could help with reporting. **[Gemma Betsema]**
 - Similarly, the custodians could send a map or work plan to donors, so that donors are aware of the areas of work, gaps, etc. Exchanging this data both ways would hopefully help with convergence and collaboration. **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - There is a good example of this in Nigeria, where USAID funded an extra module in an ongoing survey, in order to acquire more land data. **[Thea Hilhorst]**
- Is it possible for complementary data to be mobilized for these indicators? **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - Indicator data is only valid if reported by statistical agencies. **[Thea Hilhorst]**
 - Bringing in complementary data might complicate data review and validation processes because of multiple methodologies. **[Robert Lewis-Lettington]**
- While this is still underfunded, the benefit is that even very small amounts of funding make huge positive differences. Unfortunately, there is still competition and a lack of coordination between agencies on which questions make it into questionnaires. **[Robert Lewis-Lettington]**

6. Miscellaneous/Other Business

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For members to discuss other pressing issues.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ward Anseeuw (FAO) announced his availability to Chair the TWG. As per usual practice, members have two weeks to comment, on a no-objections basis. If approved, Ward (FAO) will serve alongside the Netherlands as Vice-Chair until May, and then assume duties as Chair in May.
- Members are still encouraged to consider Co-Chairing the TWG starting from May, and are

invited to contact Gemma, Chantal or the Secretariat for further information. [*Gemma Betsema*]

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Contact the Secretariat or Chairs should you have country-level contacts that may be helpful to the SDG land custodians.	N/A	All
2.	Consider Co-Chairing the TWG, starting in May.	ASAP	All