



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

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Travelers:

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Date:

19.03.2017 – 24.03.2017

Destination:

Washington DC, USA

Purpose and expectations:

Attend the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2017

Persons met/participants:

All participants of the 9th physical meeting of the GDWGL, Marketa Jonasova (World Bank), Christopher Brett (World Bank), Sanaa-Liisa Taivalmaa (World Bank), Nichola Dyer (GAFSP), Iftikhar Mostafa (GAFSP), xxx (UN Women)

Background

The World Bank Conference on Poverty and Land is an important convening place for the Global Donor Working Group on Land which aims to improve land governance and enhance transparency and coordination of its currently 24 bilateral and multilateral members with each other and with external governments, non-governmental and private sector stakeholders. Every year, the group holds a session as part of the official conference programme, and also holds a physical meeting of its members.

This year, the Global Donor Platform and its working group on land were repeatedly referenced at the conference, particularly in their substantial role to secure the inclusion of a land indicator in the SDG framework. The Group is currently supporting the process to move the land indicator 1.4.2 from Tier III to Tier II by the next meeting of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on the SDGs, in October.

World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty – 20-23 March 2017

The conference includes several sessions. The secretariat attended those of most importance to the GDWGL. Some emerging themes from the sessions attended are as follows:

Monitoring land use change

There were a number of events, including the opening ceremony which focused on the power of geospatial data and monitoring systems to tackle deforestation and other environmental and social-



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related impacts. Geography has been ignored within development in the past, but now it shown to be significant in providing data and evidence such as demonstrating deforestation. It also offers future projections which are important for informing policy and transforming how companies, governments and civil society will work on these issues.

As a case study, Izabella Teixeira, former Brazilian Minister of Environment focused her presentation on the new challenges for sustainable protection and production in Brazil and the use of remotely sensed information to diagnose challenges to sustainability. Among the short term challenges identified were reducing and controlling illegal deforestation in the Amazon, law enforcement and new constituency for Public Private Partnerships, and a political framework to act and to react. She discussed a number of information systems used in Brazil, as an example of policy value of investing in data. Some of these included the national strategy of *Monitoring all Brazilian Biomes and Rates of Deforestation*, the *New Forest Code (NFC)* and the *Rural Environmental Cadaster (CAR)*, the latter explained to being the ID of rural properties, which allows authorities to have an overview of rural land use in Brazil (private and public). The registration through CAR is mandatory for all rural properties and land occupation, including as a condition to obtain agricultural finance.

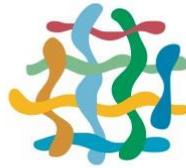
While the focus was very much on good examples and successes, the challenges of getting to that level of robust monitoring systems was not addressed enough. As this topic is gaining international momentum, a better understanding of the challenges is also an important part of using the Brazil case as a guide.

VGGT's

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests continue to be of high priority in land discussions. In one session organized by BMZ, it was highlighted that the VGGTs have brought along with them good governance and transparency which opens an opportunity for many other development outcomes beyond land, fisheries and forestry, as it helps build a culture where the formulation and implementation of policies is necessarily participatory, transparent and with clear accountabilities. FAO discussed the movement into a new phase of VGGT implementation as defined by donors, which among other priorities looks to Increase the Use of the VGGT among CSOs and Grassroots Organizations (Belgium) or at the global level focus on capacity development products, partnerships, monitoring, agricultural investments and Indigenous Peoples (United Kingdom). For FAO between 2016 – 2020 two priorities are Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA) - Cadastre and registration functions and services and Open Tenure - Crowd sourcing approach to the collection of tenure rights.

Inclusive business

Inclusive business was another theme of a number of the sessions at the land conference. In one session titled “Inclusive Business Agreement: Are the Benefits Shared?” two presentations offered insights into how countries (in this case, Colombia and Peru) are dealing with the expansion of agribusiness contracts while trying secure fair benefits for poor families. In the case of Colombia, the presenter talked about



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how the changed narrative of food security (from national to a more global network of food production) in the aftermath of the peace agreements is changing the country's policies and directives with significant impacts on land governance – namely, the country's openness to foreign land investments as a key development driver. In the case of Peru, the presenter shared details of a mining investment, where the government engaged in a long, but quite well-structured consultation process with small communities that would be affected by the investment. The experience has helped to spread the perspective amongst the government that prior consultations with communities should not be conceived as another administrative step to obtain the approval of projects, but as an opportunity to generate a genuine dialogue with indigenous peoples that allows them to integrate their visions of development in the national agenda.

SDG Land Indicator meeting, 20 March 2017

This parallel meeting to the WB Conference was co-organised by the GDWGL and Omidyar Network to provide an update on the SDG land indicator 1.4.2 and discuss any support needed by the donor community and other stakeholders to ensure that the indicator is qualified to remain in the SDG framework. The indicator 1.4.2 is currently classified under Tier III, which means that there is yet no globally agreed upon methodology and metadata based on which countries will have to report on progress with regard to land tenure under Goal 1. For the land indicator to be reclassified under Tier II by October 2014 (next meeting of the IAEG), the custodian agencies (UN-Habitat and WB) need to organise at least 3 Expert Group Meetings and a consultation with member states on the proposed methodology and metadata. By initiative of the GDWGL, a "Friends of the Custodians" Committee was established during the Group's physical meeting, which will support the custodian agencies in organizing these meetings – possibly by funding participants to attend these meetings and connecting custodians with groups and individuals who could add value to the EGMs. The ultimate goal of this committee is to leverage buy-in from member states and other stakeholders.

DFID LEGEND meeting, 20 March 2017

DFID held a meeting on their [LEGEND programme](#) which aims to build policy coherence globally and encourage innovation across civil society, private sector and sector at country and local levels to improve the quality and impact of land investments. The two main discussions at the meeting were how to better encourage private sector engagement and how to increase outreach and communication. The feedback on private sector engagement included the importance of viewing their engagement no longer as CSR but actually as due diligence. There are also existing private sector actors or partnerships that can be engaged such as Grow Africa. It was also encouraged that the communication focusses on the evidence of the cost of not working with responsible land rights and the benefits to businesses working with legally titled farmers. In terms of outreach, one of the suggestions was to use networks like the donor Platform to raise awareness of the programme.

IFPRI and LPI meeting, 20 March 2017

The secretariat attended a meeting of IFPRI and LPI on the topic of a tool developed in line with the AU declaration on land which aims to back the political commitment as a continental tool to guide national implementation. The aim of the meeting was to give a first outline of the tool (draft to be provided in a month's time) and receive feedback from participants. The key recommendations were to ensure that



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the tool has sufficient synergies to the VGGTs, takes lessons from LGAF and has capacities to sustain long term implementation. More information should be available in the coming months from IFPRI and LPI.

Meeting with Marketa Jonasova and Christopher Brett (WB focal points), 21 March 2017

The meeting was used to update the WB colleagues on the results of the IAB Workshop in Brighton and to learn of their interest in engaging in this work stream. The WB expressed their wish to work more systematically with the Donor Platform in promoting the Responsible Agricultural Investments Principles (the RAI). In this regard, they are expecting to publish in September 24 briefing notes targeting the private sector, as well as a website to share these materials. Also of interest is their recent publication on [Linking Farmers to Markets through Productive Alliances](#), which shares the Bank's 15-year experience with the productive alliance approach adopted by 21 projects in 10 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. This material, as well as the Bank's report on [Enabling the Business of Agriculture](#) could be presented and discussed in webinars of the Platform's Inclusive Agribusiness work stream. The Bank is increasingly engaging in the topic of rural-urban linkages and particularly of urban food systems. Marketa will attend a related meeting in Bonn in May and will contact the Secretariat to share any relevant updates in this area, or opportunities for the various Platform work streams to engage.

Meeting with Sanaa-Liisa Taivalmaa, 22 March 2017

The secretariat met with Sanna Liisa Taivalmaa (Gender focal point at the World Bank) to touch base on issues of gender. It was shared that there are 3 case studies – Tajikistan, Senegal and Nepal - that the World Bank and FAO are working on together on the topic of agricultural feminization. This is an important nexus area for the Platform under its strategic initiative on agenda 2030 and rural transformation. A Platform [information note](#) was released in January on this nexus. Sanna Liisa also shared two reports by IFC on gender and agribusiness, the first on [Investing in Women Along Agribusiness Value Chains](#) and the second on [The Business Case for Women's Employment in Agribusiness](#). These are especially relevant as the Platform is currently undertaking an analysis on Women's Economic Empowerment in agribusiness. The World Bank also shared that it has been operating under a new [gender strategy](#) 2016 – 2023 with a focus on gender equality, poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

Meeting with GAFSP, 23 March 2017

The secretariat met with Nichola Dyer and Iftikhar Mostafa to learn more about how the GAFSP operates, and synergies between that and the work of the Platform and have a brainstorm on how best to make use of one another's networks to pursue the objectives of knowledge sharing, networking and advocacy. During the discussion it was found that a number of Platform focal points are also part of the GAFSP steering committee, and the GAFSP is playing an important role in reaching out to smallholders and projects which would not typically get funded through their missing-middle programme, using these grants to improve catalytic reactions and reduce risk by offering guarantees. Their work is country led and country driven, and among the requirements for qualification for grants are private sector and civil society involvement as well as alignment with CAADP processes such as the NAIP refresh. This was especially interesting as the Platform is engaging much more on CAADP issues both in terms of framework and implementation. Other crossing areas of GAFSP and the Platform are agribusiness, land



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tenure, gender, climate and nutrition. There was an agreement to keep each other informed about upcoming events and webinars as an entry point for collaboration.

GDWGL side event on migration and land tenure dynamics, 23 March 2017

The session by the GDWGL was titled “Migration and land tenure dynamics – What are the challenges and perspectives for policies and interventions?” The session aimed to provide a better understanding of the land - migration nexus but also to identify recommendations for meaningful donor support on land governance in post conflict situations. A web article of that event can be found at:

<http://donorplatform.org/world-bank-conference-on-land-and-poverty.html>

9th Physical Meeting of the GDWGL, 24 March 2017

Amongst other issues, members of the GDWGL discussed: 1) how to better support national donor platforms (or multistakeholder land platforms) at the national level, 2) a plan to engage with development financing institutions on due diligence, and 3) provided informal feedback to the land component of a G20 initiative on rural youth employment. A great part of the meeting, however, was dedicated to the SDG land indicator, following up on the earlier meeting that week. The main decision was to establish a *Friends of the Custodians* committee, composed both of donors and non-donors to support the custodian agencies in securing the reclassification of the land indicator.

The full minutes are available in [GDWGL’s page](#).