



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Platform infoNote

For Platform members

// September 2014

Global Donor Working Group on Land

Background

Increasing food prices and volatility, the rapid expansion of land use for biofuels and ever more present climate change impacts have increased the interest in land in emerging-economy countries. These developments prompted governments and development partners to increase their efforts to coordinate land administration and resource governance. In this context the Global Donor Working Group on Land was established in 2013 and is facilitated by the secretariat of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.

// Goal and tasks

The main goal of the Group is to improve the land governance transparency and enhance the coordination between efforts of different multilateral and regional governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The Group serves to advance the information sharing on best practice initiatives and to highlight the existing challenges.

- Exchange information, help to coordinate and, where possible, bring together work to develop a global indicator framework on land governance, e.g. to feed into CFS reporting on VGGT implementation, in particular by showcasing successful country efforts;
- Develop, launch and ensure regular updates for the Land Governance Programme Map;
- Coordinate views and inputs into the global debate on a post-2015 agenda for land and property rights and develop joint views wherever possible;
- Take forward new G8-facilitated partnerships on land announced in 2013, coordinate work with others, seek synergies, and added value, and expand and deepen these partnerships where possible (also beyond G8).

Achievements

// Land Governance Programme Map

The 'Land Governance Programme Map' was launched on 22 January 2014 at the Platform's Annual General Assembly in Paris. USAID led this data collection and visualisation project that gathered information from around the world. The database retains 532 projects from 126 countries with a total value of 6.4 billion dollars. Projects have been submitted by Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union, FAO and the World Bank.

The aim of this initiative is to support the Global Donor Working Group on Land's tasks and the implementation of the VGGT. The interactive interface offers an overview of detailed information of recent and current activities, projects and initiatives in the area of land and resource governance. Members of the Group also have the opportunity to add links to supplemental resources, as well as reports from their activities. This information can be viewed by all the members and incorporated into their efforts to improve food security and nutrition, reduce land-related conflicts and promote economic growth.

// Land in a post-2015 framework

The Group issued two policy briefs with recommendations regarding the inclusion of a land target and indicators into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process. Iris Krebber (DFID), first Chair for the Working Group until September 2014 commented that this decision is of extreme importance, if the Group and the international community want “to deliver on better land rights protection and overall better land governance”. The indicators supported are proposed by the Global Land Indicator Initiative (GLII) and “can then be specified at the concrete regional, sub-regional, national level to measure specific outcomes in line with the international context and still have the opportunity to aggregate that into negotiated and agreed global targets”.

// Land partnerships

The Global Donor Working Group on Land has agreed to support the land partnerships, initiated at the G8 ‘Open for Growth’ event on 15 June 2013, through pro-actively sharing lessons learned, progress, and accountability reports. A [web space](#) with information on the land partnerships has been created and a session led by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development entitled ‘[Partners' and country's support to the VGs & land governance: How to exploit synergies & measure impact](#)’, was held at the 2014 World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty.

//Road Map 2014-2017

The Group’s newly developed road map 2014-2017 includes as priorities:

- (1) Land related information exchange, coordination and cooperation strengthened in priority areas;
- (2) Country partnership model to support improved land governance expanded and deepened;
- (3) Private sector supported to contribute to improved land governance through their core business procedures;
- (4) Donor governments supported to contribute to improved global land governance through joined-up cross-government approaches and
- (5) Global coordination and impact deliver for better land governance strengthened through single open and accessible hub (cross-cutting).

The specific activities result from priorities identified by members and show significant donor commitment to work together more closely on clearly identified priorities and describe how roles and responsibilities are allocated for the next 3 years.

// Members

Initial members of the group are the members of the EU Working Group on Land - ADA, AFD, BMELV, BMZ, DFID, EC, GIZ, MFA-Austria, MFA-Denmark, MFA-Finland, MFA-France, MFA-Netherlands, SDC, SIDA and also FAO, JICA, IFAD, MCC, USAID, DFATD-Canada, UN-HABITAT and World Bank as founding members, who participated in the Donor Roundtable Meeting in Washington at the World Bank on 12 April 2013, where the Working Group was initially established. Later the IFC also joined the group. Chair of the Group is held on rotating basis. In October 2014 Germany (BMZ) took over the Chair from the UK (DFID).

// Working Arrangements

Members of the Global Donor Working Group on Land meet physically at least once a year during one major land related event, e.g. the annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty in April and the session of The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October. Between the physical meetings, the group meets regularly online or via phone conference calls. The conferences are organised by the secretariat of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.

**This infoNote is compiled by the Platform Secretariat for the members
of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.**