



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# Platform Policy Brief

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## Donor Land Group's Position on Taking Stock of VGGT Implementation

### About the authors

This policy brief was prepared by members of the Global Donor Working Group on Land. The views and opinions expressed in this policy brief are solely those of the Group and do not necessarily represent the views of member states of the CFS.

### About the Global Donor Working Group on Land

In 2013 the Global Donor Working Group on Land was established to support and enhance delivery on improved land governance worldwide. The Working Group is facilitated by the [Global Donor Platform for Rural Development](#) and currently chaired by USAID.

### Members of the Group

ADA, AFD, BMEL, BMZ, DFID, EC, GIZ, MoFA-Austria, MoFA-Denmark, MoFA-Finland, MoFA-France, MoFA-Netherlands, SDC, Sida, FAO, JICA, IFAD, MCC, USAID, DFATD-Canada, UN-HABITAT, WB and IFC.

[donorplatform.org](http://donorplatform.org)

On May 9, 2012, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) adopted a landmark document laying out principles and internationally accepted standards on land governance and tenure security - the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)*. Members of the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) actively supported both technically and financially the inception of the VGGT and their formulation. Since that time, the global land tenure community, including the CFS, has worked to put the VGGT into practice.

The [Global Donor Working Group on Land \(GDWGL\)](#), a network of 24 bilateral and multilateral donors and international organizations committed to improving land governance worldwide, praises the work and achievements to date by a large range of stakeholders all over the world to promote, disseminate and implement the VGGT. Now, four years after the adoption of the VGGT, we applaud the CFS' initiative to organize a stock taking event during CFS 43 aimed at sharing and discussing inspiring actions undertaken so far in the application of the VGGT.

### Who We Are and What We Have Done to Promote VGGT Implementation

With a global portfolio of 714 projects in 134 countries<sup>1</sup>, the GDWGL aims to strengthen land governance worldwide and drive implementation of the VGGT through selected initiatives that foster transparency, responsibility and accountability by all stakeholders at international, regional, national and local levels. We think that exchange of information, lesson learning, coordination among donors and cooperation on joint actions wherever suitable is key to contributing to the implementation of the VGGT, linking VGGT with other high level processes such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI), and improving global land governance.

To achieve this objective, members of the GDWGL have adopted a three-year road map (2014-2017). The following activities highlight the contribution of our group to the implementation of the VGGT:

#### **Graphical Representation of VGGT-Related Programming**

The GDWGL has developed an online database and map called the "[Land Governance Programme Map](#)." The database contains information on the location, duration, funding and scope of each donor-funded programme related to VGGT implementation, as well as on the specific chapters of the VGGT that it supports.

<sup>1</sup> For details, please see the Land Governance Programme Map: <http://landgov.donorplatform.org/>

### **GDWGL Commitment to Foster On-The-Ground Coordination and Training on VGGT Implementation**

As part of our road map, we are selecting pilot countries in which to catalyze on-the-ground coordination among donors and between donors and other stakeholders so that government counterparts are better able to advance the application of the VGGT. The goal of this effort is to move cohesively towards designing, implementing, and reporting on programmes that line up with specific principles of the VGGT. As a complement to this initiative, we are, with the help of FAO, deploying VGGT-centered training to our local government and donor counterparts.

### **Workshop on the sidelines of CFS 42 on VGGT promotion**

Last year, we organized a workshop on the sidelines of CFS 42 on the “Promotion of the VGGT and Their Integration into Donor-Supported Activities”. This was an opportunity to share experiences on how donors, private sector, civil society organizations and others help implement the VGGT on the ground. We identified key factors of success (multi-stakeholder support, dynamic process of communication, etc.) and challenges (addressing land conflicts, development and monitoring of action plan, etc.)

### **GDWGL Commitment on Responsible Land-Based Investments, per VGGT Section 12**

- GDWGL members have financially supported the FAO for the production of a private sector capacity development package (technical guides and learning programmes) to foster adherence to the VGGT.
- Donors have also prepared an analytical guide for the implementation of the VGGTs (the [Analytical Framework for Land-Based Investment in African Agriculture](#)), specifically centered on Section 12 of the VGGT and aimed at private investors. Several of our members are currently piloting this guide. We likewise advocate for the alignment of our own ODA-supported investments with the VGGT.
- We advocate on guidelines and standards for VGGT compliance in our own countries and agencies for public and private investments anywhere. For example, some GDWGL members have launched multi-stakeholder dialogues at home aimed at stimulating the application of the VGGT.

## **GDWGL Position on Taking Stock of VGGT Implementation**

The GDWGL believes strongly that in order for the VGGT to be implemented effectively, there must exist a system for taking stock of where the VGGT are being implemented, by whom, and how VGGT implementation contributes to positive impacts on the ground. This is no easy task, as implementation is worldwide and there is no standard measure or indicator for how this agreement should be rolled out. However, through its strong and interconnected network of donors working in the land governance space, the GDWGL believes it can offer some assistance in this task. The GDWGL believes the following initiatives may assist in effective stock taking and active strengthening of VGGT application:

- **Building Out and Analyzing the Land Governance Programme Map.** The Land Governance Programme Map is the only resource so far that attempts to aggregate all VGGT-related programming worldwide. The GDWGL proposes that the information contained in this map be verified through stakeholder interviews and project documentation research, in order to gain an up-to-date and comprehensive picture of which programmes are implementing which sections of the VGGT, and how each programme is faring.
- **Developing a Framework for Stocktaking on VGGT and Establishing a Baseline.** There is no current framework for monitoring or taking stock of implementation of the VGGT. The GDWGL can contribute to the establishment of such a framework, which can be used to collect a baseline of VGGT implementation, and can subsequently be used for periodic reporting.
- **Tying VGGT Reporting in Relevant Part to Country-Level SDG Reporting.** Countries will soon begin gathering baseline data for SDG-related reporting. While SDG indicators do not comprehensively track the VGGT, they address important components of the VGGT, specifically through Indicator 1.4.2 and Indicator 5.a. The GDWGL proposes to capitalize on country-level reporting on these indicators, in order to simultaneously report on certain aspects of VGGT implementation, such as gender equality and legal recognition of rights.
- **Joint Monitoring or Learning Partnerships for Responsible Investment.** The GDWGL can use the *Analytical Framework for Land-Based Investments in African Agriculture* as a baseline tool for assessing the adherence of investments with the principles codified in Section 12 of the VGGT. This type of stocktaking would involve liaising not only with private investors, but with host state investment promotion agencies.