



Minutes GDWGL Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Hélène Julien**, *AFD*
- **Maria Wichmann**, *BMZ*
- **Etienne Coyette**, *European Commission*
- **Benjamin Davis**, *FAO*
- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO*
- **Jenny Lopez**, *FCDO*
- **Chris Penrose Buckley**, *FCDO*
- **Poppy Rodriguez**, *FCDO*
- **Alexander Strunck**, *GIZ*
- **Dominik Wellmann**, *GIZ*
- **Jill Pike**, *MCC*
- **Gemma Betsema**, *the Netherlands*
- **Therese Arnesen**, *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- **Ombretta Temptra**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Robert Lewis-Lettington**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Karol Boudreaux**, *USAID*
- **Mika-Petteri Törhönen**, *World Bank*
- **Thea Hilhorst**, *World Bank*
- **Victoria Stanley**, *World Bank*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Sierra Berardelli**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Gemma Betsema (Netherlands)
2.	Work Plan	Gemma Betsema (Netherlands)
3.	Member Updates	All
4.	AOB & Closing	Gemma Betsema (Netherlands)

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome & Introduction

- The GDWGL met in a hybrid format at the World Bank Land Conference in Washington, DC.
- Gemma Betsema (Netherlands) joined as Chair for the last time and will transition to regular membership. GDWGL commended the Netherlands' leadership and dedication over the last years.
- Ward Anseeuw (FAO) will take over as Chair for 2024-2026. Members interested in holding the Vice-Chair position are invited to contact Ward or the Secretariat for more information.

2. Work Plan

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To review the 2022-2024 Work Plan accomplishments and decide priority aspects of the 2024-2026 Work Plan.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Work Plan serves as a guiding framework for the group's priorities. Activities and engagements over the last two years included: regular member updates for improved national and global coordination, involvement in the Global Land Agenda (GLA), contributions at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA), an updated and improved [GDWGL website](#), exchanges with Food Systems Summit tracks and Rio Conventions through UNFCCC and UNCBD, updating the Land Governance Programme Map, celebrating the VGGT 10-year anniversary, the Evidence Summit, discussions on SDG land indicators, and input to the State of Land Governance preparatory study. **[the Netherlands]**
- Building on the preceding Work Plan, the group will continue to engage in the following priorities:

1) Exchanges between members on land work.

- Exchanges during regular calls are helpful, especially to find opportunities for coordination and identify the right people to contact at country levels. **[USAID]**
- The group considered deep dives in the past, which could be revisited to allow for more external participation. **[BMZ, FCDO, the Netherlands]**

2) Global advocacy.

- The group could coordinate around funding platforms such as the Forest Tenure Funders Group, especially ahead of pledges at COPs. **[FCDO]**
- The group could be used more strategically to align member activities and messaging for common narratives around important global events such as the G7 and G20 and to get land into the policy baskets and food systems frameworks. **[BMZ]**
 - In this way, GLA presents an opportunity to play a coordinating function for the group to get priority messages into documents such as G20 agricultural documents, where land is not currently mentioned. **[USAID]**
 - The GDWGL could consider connecting with UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. **[BMZ]**
- While the GDWGL cannot actively contribute to the land-related SDG indicators, it could raise awareness, mobilize funds, and support countries in reporting. In view of the SDG assessments early 2025, the GDWGL could revisit this topic this year and

- organize a follow-up on the SDG meeting held in February. **[World Bank]**
- There is opportunity for collaboration with the CBD, UNCCD, AND UNFCCC. **[FAO, FCDO, the Netherlands, World Bank]**
 - The CBD COP (Colombia) and the UNCCD COP (Saudi Arabia) are critical for integration of land indicators in various global frameworks. During the UNCCD, there will be specific land and governance days, when the GDWGL could advocate for land and tenure issues. With regards CBD, the land indicators will be voted at the COP. **[FAO]**
 - GDWGL and SDG land custodians can also share lessons learned around reporting on land indicators, what works and what is challenging. **[World Bank]**
 - The GDWGL could advocate for women's land rights at the CFS in October, given that there will be a strong focus on gender. **[USAID]**
 - The group could also advocate for including land in the upcoming CFS inequalities report. **[BMZ]**
 - The GDWGL could work jointly with the Brazilian government on a CFS side event on land guidelines, if this is not already present in the CFS plenary. **[FAO]**
 - The GDWGL could focus more on the interaction between land rights, housing, and crisis situations, starting with the World Urban Forum in November. **[UN Habitat]**
 - Relevant upcoming events include the Desertification and Drought Day and the UNCCD's 30th anniversary on 17 June, the Global Landscapes Forum, the G20, and the Conference of the G20 Global Land Initiative in March 2025. **[BMZ]**
 - GDWGL could help embed land in the EU's Global Gateway work. **[European Commission]**
 - The GLA is a framework for actionable land needs and aims to facilitate a clear narrative on land tenure across different stakeholders. The GLA Reference group met earlier during the Land Conference, to track progress and raise ambition.
 - The State of Land Tenure and Governance report will be published next year; a first overview is planned for the CFS this year.
 - The GLA reference group will transform into a multi-stakeholder steering committee.
 - Three representatives from the GDWGL should be part of the steering committee.
 - A "hub" (e.g., small team of dedicated land staff) will take forward the GLA campaign with event organization, setting up a website, etc.
 - GDWGL members may consider dedicating funds, in-kind contributions, etc. toward this hub. Funding proposals will be shared with the GDWGL in the coming months. **[FAO, FCDO]**
 - The GDWGL could act as a sounding board for GLA. **[BMZ]**
 - What is the difference between GLA and GDWGL? The GDWGL focuses on joint work as a group of donors, whereas GLA brings together donors, international organizations, civil society and others in a multi-stakeholder setting. **[FCDO]**

3) Country-level coordination.

- The GDWGL could prioritize in-country coordination in specific countries, or learning from existing experiences. This has been happening between GDWGL members working in Senegal, Sierra Leone, Burundi, and Zambia. **[the Netherlands, USAID]**
- After a request at the African Land Conference last year, a group of donor partners and country experts have been coordinating national projects on simple Excel sheets. This technique could be used more broadly for national land coordination. **[FAO]**
 - It would be helpful to have an up-to-date tracker of all our land projects. While

group emails could also be used for this purpose, a shared spreadsheet might be better to limit excess emails. The Land Portal could also think with us on how to better use the updated land programme map. **[FCDO, Netherlands]**

- Making national embassies aware of the GDWGL's existence and work could facilitate better coordination. **[Netherlands]**
- There is already existing coordination on humanitarian land-related issues, overseen by UN-Habitat and the Norwegian Refugee Council. This could be expanded. **[UN Habitat]**
- The World Bank wants to work more in synergy with all GDWGL – to ensure that our programming really builds on one another. **[World Bank]**

3. Member Updates

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Members gave short updates on their current work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) recently closed programmes in Morocco and Niger. Ongoing programmes in Malawi, Lesotho, Solomon Islands, Togo, Kenya and Mozambique focus on land formalization, institutional investments, land-based revenue, urban planning, and tourism. Together with Land Equity International, MCC developed a Land IT Systems Decision Tool, which is designed to help stakeholders make decisions on risk when investing in records management, transaction management systems and rural and urban based real estate markets. **[MCC]**
- UN Habitat Global Land Tool Network has secured funding, allowing an extension until the end of next year while preparing the new phase. Countries of focus have not been selected yet, but could include Kenya and Zambia, in addition to Uganda. The Arab regional programme, besides its regional activities, will focus on Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon. The upcoming board meeting of the Arab Land Initiative will focus on programming interventions on coordination, knowledge and capacity development. The work will shift towards working more with local organizations and private sector. Morocco will host the third Arab Land Conference in February 2025. GLTN – aside from its Arab regional programme - is operational in Uganda (main), Nepal and DRC Congo, and efforts are being made to connect climate and displacement agendas, with ongoing work on policy solutions and lessons learned for internal displacement. For land registration in conflict-affected countries, land administration models must be adapted to be more fit-for-purpose rather than aiming for a unified system. An expert group meeting is being planned on this topic in the coming year. **[UN Habitat]**
- USAID is launching a new land and resource governance framework. It includes more attention for critical minerals, with recommendations for governments on how to manage resources sustainably. The land team has been working to incorporate tenure language into various USAID strategies, including the global food security strategy, climate strategy, biodiversity strategy, and resilience policy. A new global mechanism now up and has been running for 6 months in Zambia, Dominican Republic, Malawi, Ghana, and Cote d'Ivoire, with potential further engagement in Mozambique and Ethiopia. The land team also refreshed the land and conflict toolkit for USAID last year, alongside the development of water and conflict and food security and conflict toolkits. **[USAID]**
- In Brazil, GIZ has two projects on indigenous rights and biodiversity, and another on land and environmental management, aiming to integrate currently disconnected digital systems.

Various regional projects are taking place in 41 countries, including Senegal, Laos, Ethiopia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Madagascar, Uganda and the Philippines, as well as a global project on strengthening capacity on land governance in Africa through NELGA. **[GIZ]**

- BMZ is identifying follow-up processes on land rights within its engagements in the Rio Conventions. The current flagship project, covering eight countries, is being redesigned to better align with global agendas, to focus on private sector engagement and responsible investments, and to implement the EU deforestation regulation. The new approach is still in early planning stages, with potential operationalization by 2026. **[BMZ]**
- FCDO's work on responsible land-based investment is ongoing in Zambia, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone, with the goal of supporting governments in implementing reforms for more responsible land-based investments. There are three components in the Global Land Governance Programme: (1) the land facility; (2) responsible land-based investment; and (3) tenure reform, partnering with organizations like Cadasta and the Tenure Facility to provide support to IPLC-led organizations through direct grants and capacity building. The UK published an [international development white paper](#) in November, which includes commitments on land and forest governance. **[FCDO]**
- The FCDO land team moved division, from economic development to humanitarian, migration and food security. The new Land Facility will work with governments on capacity building to implement national tenure reforms and increase coordination. **[FCDO]**
- The World Bank just launched a [flagship publication](#) on African policies. A global index on the state of land administration institutions is being developed and covers four topics: (1) Land record digitization (Progress with land record digitization, introduction of electronic workflows for land administration and access to information on land records); (2) Digital data interoperability between property registry and other state registries, and automation of verifications (3) Taxation of urban property (coverage tax roll, valuation, exemptions, payment); (4) Public land management (mapping, registration, monitoring, privatization). The index is being tested with data from 80 countries, with the goal of establishing a comparative status of institutions globally and facilitating the sharing of best practices. **[World Bank]**
- The World Bank is committed to holding this Land Conference annually. The World Bank is currently involved in 50 land-related lending operations globally. The highest funding volumes are in Asia Pacific and Africa, with some new projects in East and North Africa, and South Asia. Many are dedicated to tenure security for smallholder farmers, with particular attention to climate change issues and women's land rights. **[World Bank]**
- In two months, AFD will allocate 200 million EUR to support a post-conflict plan in Colombia, focusing on integrated rural development. An additional 2-3 million euros in grants will be available for technical cooperation and land issues. An African thinktank focusing on land issues received a grant from the French Minister to continue for the next three years. **[AFD]**
- The Land Tenure Team at FAO is restructuring and have recently finalized a first draft of new strategy for 2024-2030, which will be circulated for an external consultative process. **[FAO]**

4. AOB & Closing

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For members to discuss other pressing issues.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- A representative from UNCCD is interested in joining the group. This needs follow-up discussion in the next meeting.

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Share interest in Co-Chairing the TWG with FAO or the Secretariat.	ASAP	All
2.	Draft 2024 – 2026 GDWGL Work Plan and share with Members for approval.	ASAP	FAO, with Secretariat
3.	Consider setting up a shared GDWGL spreadsheet for country-level coordination.	N/A	All
4.	Share GLA Hub funding proposal/request with group members.	Next 2 months	FAO, FCDO
5.	Consider being part of the GLA steering committee.	TBD	All