

Minutes GDWGL Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Olivier Rukundo**, *CBD*
- **Etienne Coyette**, *European Commission*
- **Ward Anseeuw**, *FAO (Chair)*
- **Antoine Hochet**, *FAO*
- **Aurélie Bres**, *FAO*
- **Chris Penrose Buckley**, *FCDO*
- **Maurizio Farhan Ferrari**, *FPP*
- **Annette Jaitner**, *GIZ*
- **Rikke Grand Olivera**, *IFAD*
- **Eva Hershaw**, *ILC*
- **Jill Pike**, *MCC*
- **Ben Linkow**, *MCC*
- **Chantal Wieckardt**, *the Netherlands*
- **Aoife Ossendorp**, *the Netherlands*
- **Christina Blank**, *SDC*
- **Sasha Alexander**, *UNCCD*
- **Regina Orvañanos**, *UN-Habitat*
- **Thea Hilhorst**, *World Bank*

GDPRD Secretariat

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

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Ward/FAO
2.	GDPRD Annual General Assembly (AGA)	Maurizio/GDPRD Secretariat Ward/FAO
3.	Member Updates	All
4.	Land and COP Engagement	Sasha Alexander, Aurélie Bres/UNCCD Olivier Rukundo, Joji Carino, Maurizio Farhan Ferrari, Eva Hershaw, Johanna Von Braun/CBD
5.	AOB and Closing	Ward/FAO

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome & Introduction

- Ward Anseeuw (FAO) joined as Chair for the first time, holding the position for 2024-2026. Members interested in holding the Vice-Chair position are invited to contact Ward or the Secretariat for more information.

2. GDPRD Annual General Assembly

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To present the provisional agenda of the [GDPRD's Annual General Assembly \(AGA\)](#) and propose a session of the GDWGL.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- This year's AGA will take place on 26-27 November 2024 in a hybrid format, at IFAD HQ in Rome, Italy, and online, under the theme of "[Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and Challenges](#)".
- As usual, the GDWGL is invited to hold an AGA session, which will tentatively be at 10.00-11.15am on Wednesday 27 November. The GDWGL is encouraged to choose a topic which connects to the AGA theme of innovative financing. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- An in-person/hybrid meeting of the GDWGL is proposed alongside the AGA, on Monday 25 or Thursday 28 November. However, the GDWGL may choose to have the in-person/hybrid meeting alongside the CFS Plenary (21 – 25 October), if more members will be available in person. **[Maurizio Navarra, Ward Anseeuw]**

Q&A:

- Is there a deadline for having the concept note ready? **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - A rough concept note should be ready by approximately mid-October. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- Most GDWGL members are not financial experts. Is it mandatory to hold a finance-related session? **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - The topic should first and foremost be relevant to the group, with a connection to financing where possible. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- Do any members have preliminary ideas for the session? **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - Better quality financing and decentralized financing for land, including finance to reach Indigenous Peoples. **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - Tracking finance after COP26 in Glasgow. **[Ward Anseeuw, Chris Penrose-Buckley]**
 - The link between tenure security and livelihoods and the role of access to land in facilitating access to finance. **[Aoife Ossendorp]**

3. Member Updates

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For Members to give short updates on their current work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Donors have begun discussions for a pledge to follow up on the Forest Tenure Pledge launched at COP26, potentially to be launched at COP30 in Brazil 2025. These discussions highlight the desire to focus beyond funding volumes to the quality and mechanisms of funding. Additionally, some donors and philanthropists are interested in signalling this

ambition at COP29 next month. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to get in touch or have interested colleagues do so. There ambition to build stronger linkages between the forest tenure funders group and the GDWGL. **[Chris Penrose-Buckley]**

- The Land Facility Programme has launched and is in the middle of the Inception Phase, with a TetraTech-led consortium identifying priority countries for work. Conversations are ongoing for how to coordinate between the land facility programme and the World Bank, the Netherlands and GIZ. **[Chris Penrose-Buckley]**
- The Global Land Agenda has established a streamlined Steering Committee (SC) to facilitate more effective work implementation. Between 12 and 15 organizations are represented across different constituencies and have met twice to date. Presently, the SC is developing the concept note, with ambitions to share during the upcoming plenary of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). A side event at the CFS was proposed and is now being designed with other partners on engaging with the Rio Conventions, with participation of the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil. **[Ward Anseeuw]**
- The Steering Group and Advisory Group of the Global Land Observatory recently met to discuss the Global Land Governance Report, which is progressing well. Participants highlighted the necessity to track uptake of VGGT principles and other global frameworks related to inclusive and equitable governance of land. The report will be complete by the end of the year, and potentially launched at the CFS52 in 2025, to allow for institutional sign-off. The [World Bank Land Conference](#) and the Global Land Forum of the International Land Coalition (ILC) in May and June 2025 respectively will be used as platforms for broad final consultations. Conversations are to continue bilaterally on how to strengthen input into the CFS. **[Ward Anseeuw]**
- MCC continues implementation of land programmes in Togo, Solomon Islands, Kenya and Malawi and is closing implementation in Morocco and Niger. The MCC is currently developing a paper for the 20th Anniversary, celebrating 20 years of land evaluations and land projects, to be released in late 2024 or early 2025. The largest ongoing land project is in Malawi, focused on improving national and local government system revenue collection and financing to ensure that land institutions have the resources they need to operate well. This may support other ongoing work from colleagues on the connection between financing and land. **[Jill Pike]**
- The Netherlands is currently continuing the implementation of Phase 1 of the Land-at-Scale Programme, to be completed by mid-2025. Lessons learned documentation is in development for projects in Somalia, Mozambique, Colombia and Burundi, and will be available on request. Additionally, the Netherlands will be participating at the Arab Land Conference in Morocco, February 2025 and invite connections with any other members participating. **[Aoife Ossendorp]**
- UN-Habitat is working on updating indicator reporting for engagements in Uganda, DRC, Nepal and others. Other projects include strengthening engagements with Cadastral Organisations in South America, and the connection between land and adequate urban housing. **[Regina Orvañanos]**

4. Land and COP Engagement

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To discuss the engagement of the GDWGL within the agenda of the upcoming COP16 on Biodiversity in Colombia in November, and the UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- An overview of the agenda and related events was shared for COP16, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Colombia, November 2025.
 - There will be a specific agenda item at COP16 on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review. This includes indicators that have language on land rights, which are important for colleagues to consider on the implementation of the Global Framework, as well as for traditional knowledge (TK) indicators. There will be two working groups: one will take a high-level view, and the second a more technical approach. **[Olivier Rukundo]**
 - Prior to COP16, there will be a Subsidiary Body on Implementation meeting (SBI5), which will review budgetary and administrative issues as well as update the International Biodiversity Framework. **[Olivier Rukundo]**
 - During the COP16 events, there will be an event centered on a discussion of a new programme of work related to Article 80, relating to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Members are encouraged to follow these discussions due to their relevance to issues related to land. Additional side events of interest include the Science and Biodiversity Forum, Finance and Biodiversity Forum, and Women's Forum. The High-Level Segment on 29-30 October is an opportunity to share messages with Ministerial participants. Anyone interested in participation should pre-register. **[Olivier Rukundo]**
 - Four Traditional Knowledge indicators have already been adopted, related to linguistic diversity, traditional occupations, land-use change and land tenure, and full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). COP15 in 2012 established an ad-hoc technical group on indicators. Those indicators will be negotiated in COP16, following a positive outcome of the technical and scientific review of the indicators in May 2024. In addition to the monitoring framework, the agenda includes the adoption of an enhanced multinational approach to planning and monitoring. Countries will begin to compile monitoring data next year, due for the February 2026 Report. Furthermore, following a scientific and technical review, there is currently a strong opportunity to introduce this indicator as a headline indicator, meaning that reporting is mandatory. **[Maurizio Farhan Ferrari]**
 - Traditional knowledge indicators on land have been approved as part of the GBF Plan of Work, and land indicators sit across a number of goals and targets. The land indicator currently proposed as a headline indicator for COP16 has two components: land use change and land tenure. These were developed on the basis indicators from the SDGs, adapted to Indigenous Peoples and local communities and territories / units of measurements, methods and data sources, and to be used with precise georeferenced data and combine multiple sources of data. This data enables visualization and analysis including cross-referencing perceptions of tenure security with the proportion of land held by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, at global, national, and subnational levels. This creates a framework for monitoring data which is to be proposed at COP16 regarding how it can be applied and operationalized at the national level. **[Eva Hershaw]**
 - The data framework created is invaluable to institutionalizing the centrality of land within biodiversity. Given the linkages with SDG indicators, this presents an opportunity for cross-fertilization of reporting. **[Ward Anseeuw]**
 - A one-pager will be developed and circulated to support information dissemination and to provide guidance notes for representatives at COP16 who may be less familiar with land issues. **[Ward Anseeuw]**

- The UNCCD COP16 will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December, dealing with land degradation, drought resilience and land restoration.
 - The agenda is structured around seven thematic days with an action agenda to bring stakeholders together, enable governments to hear from stakeholders, provide space for the voices of Indigenous Peoples, women, private sector and youth, and create opportunities for cross-fertilization of perspectives. **[Sasha Alexander]**
 - Day 6 (Governance Day; Friday 6 December) recognizes the centrality of tenure security to achieving the goals of the COP and the UNCCD. Pre-consultation was conducted to consider how the VGGT can be better integrated with Land Degradation Neutrality initiatives, resulting in a technical guidance document. Governance Day covers three focus areas: land tenure, urban-rural linkages, and integrated land use planning across plenary and side events.
 - There will be over 300 side events at the COP in December, many of which are integrated with governance topics. In particular, the Action Dome Plenary sessions (Women’s Land Rights; Policy and Legal Frameworks, led by FAO; and Inclusive Governance for Rangelands and Pastoralists, led by FAO) create the opportunity for high-level participation. Additionally, FAO, UNDP, UN-Habitat and GIZ are collaborating on a high-level event on tenure security as an enabler of land restoration and sustainable food systems. The GDWGL is invited to express interest in presenting during that event. **[Sasha Alexander]**
 - UNCCD and FAO have collaborated on a Joint Initiative to: support countries with the integration of land tenure and gender into sustainable land management policies, build on tools and methodologies developed from over 10 years of VGGT implementation, and work with partners on lessons learned. Over 30 countries have requested support for national consultations through the initiative, and five national consultations have been conducted, the results of which will be presented at UNCCD COP. **[Aurélie Bres, FAO]**

5. AOB & Closing

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For members to discuss other pressing issues.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- A hybrid meeting (Rome, Italy/Zoom) of the group is proposed, either alongside the upcoming plenary of the Committee on World Food Security (21 – 25 October) or the GDPRD AGA (26 – 27 November). A poll will be shared via email to confirm preferred options.
- Benjamin Linkow (MCC) has expressed interest in the role of Co-Chair for the GDWGL; bilateral discussions are ongoing to take this forward.
- A session on the World Bank Land Conference is proposed for the next GDWGL meeting.

Summary of action points

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ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Share proposals for GDWGL AGA Session with Ward Anseeuw	Mid-Oct	All
2.	Share concept note for the GDPRD AGA 2024	ASAP	GDPRD Secretariat
3.	Share one-pager on land engagement at COP	ASAP	Ward/FAO Eva/ILC, Maurizio/FPP
4.	Choose date of GDWGL hybrid meeting (poll shared via email)	ASAP	All