



abroad

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**SPECIAL
EDITION**

The ambition of the land administration sector is bold: realising land rights for all within one generation. But are we succeeding? Can we show improvement? Yes we can. This special issue of Abroad shows several impactful initiatives. They have created progress, they show the way forward. By sharing these examples, we hope to inspire you to join, partner up and start initiatives that make a difference.

Land rights for the world: progress in action

Sustainable Development Goals

The majority of the world population has poor registered land rights. Or none at all. In many countries a large amount of land disputes is not solved properly or not in time. Meanwhile the world population keeps growing, especially in cities. Fortunately, the land administration sector is putting effort in improving land rights for all: governments, NGOs and the private sector, all in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Proving progress

Much has been done already. Knowledge has been generated and exchanged. Standards, methods, guidelines and tools have been developed, keeping track with the fast developing technology for data collection, management and exchange. Infrastructures and information services are being built. Professionals initiate new partnerships and financing possibilities, showing leadership. All this impact proves that progress is being made; it can be measured, it is there for all to see.

Sharing and feeding the ambition

There is not just one single perspective or truth in realising the ambition of land rights for all. Neither does it depend on one sector or organisation to take the lead or to make it happen. This special issue is far from a complete coverage. If you feel you should have been in this magazine as well, your work is probably as important as the invited contributions. We truly hope that you consider this special issue as colleague inspiration to team up and share your successes with the world as well.



Kees de Zeeuw and Chrit Lemmen Kadaster

An open platform for documenting land and resource rights

A secure and trusted registry and cadastral system is a critical cornerstone of any economy. However, for the majority of citizens around the world the registry and cadastre remain opaque, difficult and expensive to access, only relevant for an urban elite. Since Cadasta Foundation's launch in January 2015, we have been developing Cadasta Platform: an open source online tool set that makes documenting land and resource rights available to users all over the world. We anticipate to reach 10,000 households by the end of 2016, working through 10 partners in at least four countries.

Our focus is twofold:

- providing the repository and tools necessary to document the rights of the poor and marginalised;
- providing an open platform for recording, managing and visualising open data sets in land and other resources, such as extractives and agricultural investment concessions.

The Cadasta Platform features customisable settings; this allow users to store and backup data, including history, on a secure cloud-based platform. Cadasta's terms of service and privacy settings empower communities by letting users decide who can view and change records, and which projects and data are made public. We are also working to allow for integration with a variety of applications, such as FieldPapers and OpenTenure. Furthermore, users can freely access a global image repository.

The initial iteration of the Cadasta Platform is currently being field-tested by select partners in a variety of contexts and locations. The Beta-version is scheduled for release in June 2016.



Frank Pichel
Cadasta Foundation

How the Netherlands' Government actively strengthens land governance

The Netherlands' Government actively advocates good land governance, both in the Netherlands and abroad. Strengthening land governance is crucial to addressing major challenges like inclusive economic development, food security, gender equity, natural resources management, stabilisation and climate change.

We support multi-stakeholder activities at various levels. At country-level, we support developing countries, mainly through Dutch embassies. At global level, we support and partner with international knowledge networks and platforms, like the Global Land Tool Network. At home we participate in:

- strategic partnerships with consortia of Dutch non-governmental organisations, strengthening the lobby and advocacy capacity of partners in emerging countries;
- LANDac, an initiative active in knowledge generation and dissemination, training and supportive services;
- the Land Administration for National Development (LAND) partnership with Kadaster, providing advisory services for implementing Fit-For-Purpose land administration systems;
- the Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in which parties such as Dutch banks, pension funds and government agencies work on application of globally

agreed standards and guidelines.

We are keen on having a maximum impact of these activities on the lives of as many men and women as possible. That is why we measure progress and strengthen joint action. We inform Dutch Parliament on an annual basis. For instance on how many men and women receive secure land tenure security and how many hectares of land are covered with better land rights. We are very happy the efforts have successfully resulted in relevant targets and indicators on better land governance being part of the 2030 Global Goals agenda.



Frits van der Wal
Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Integrated land information, transparency and certainty

Ever since its foundation in 2002, EuroGeographics has dedicated its efforts to develop an integrated European Spatial Data Infrastructure. The main goal of which is to help Europe make sound decisions based on authoritative land data and geo-information. Our recent survey has shown that our efforts are yielding results throughout Europe. EuroGeographics unites 61 geo-information organisations from 46 countries. In the survey we asked our members if public-law restrictions were documented in their countries, and if they could be linked to their land ownership records.

The results showed that 22 countries – out of 25 countries replying to the survey – not only documented public-law restrictions, but also integrated them in their cadastral systems. 16 of them provided open online access to the data to users such as buyers, sellers, public authorities and financial organisations. Four respondents said the information



A global tool box to improve land tenure security

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is an alliance of global, regional and national partners contributing to poverty alleviation through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure. This is realised particularly through the development and dissemination of pro-poor and gender-responsive land tools. During the past decade, we have finalised 30 such tools. Some of our more mature tools are at work in over 40 countries. Thus, they are already contributing to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through coordination of the Global Land Indicators Initiative, the GLTN has been advocating for the inclusion of land tenure as an indicator in the SDGs.

The GLTN has been developing several tools that are at various stages in their cycle of development. All tools have the potential to improve land governance and contribute to the

implementation of both policies and institutional frameworks. One of our already implemented tools is the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC), used in over 40 countries. The GEC specifically address the gender responsiveness for a better integration of women's need for tenure security in both stages of land policy development and implementation.

Another tool, the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), is a set of rules based on the open source approach for uniformly registering the people-to-land relations. In this way, STDM contributes to achieving tenure security and consequently helps address the land information issue within the SDGs. STDM is already being used in parts of Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo and it has received recognition and support from both national and local governments.



Oumar Sylla
Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)



Information helps increase certainty

was available to the parties involved in the registration process.

"In most countries, people who own land cannot simply use it as they wish, but must comply with specific regulations", says Dr Daniel Steudler, Chair of EuroGeographics Cadastre and Land Registry Knowledge Exchange Network. "Public-law restrictions are often enforced by different agencies. In the past, this meant collecting all the relevant information from each separate organisation; a complex and time-consuming process."

By integrating data and making them quickly and easily available through a single point of contact, our members are helping to increase market transparency and efficiency as well as the degree of legal certainty in the real estate sector.



Mick Cory
EuroGeographics



Raising awareness and realising political commitment

The United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) promotes the use of geographical information to address key global challenges. At its fifth session, August 2015 in New York, the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts has committed to realise, measure and report progress regarding people-to-land relationships in all its forms. Doing so, UN-GGIM claims a leading role in taking action to realise land rights for the world.

The Committee of Experts acknowledged the importance and need for geospatial information as an essential base for an effective and efficient land information system. Such a base supports the administration of land policy frameworks, customary rights, security of tenure, property rights, sustainable development and overall environmental, economic and social well-being. The Committee further expressed the need to take a leading role in raising political awareness at policy level. This includes highlighting to decision makers the need for timely and Fit-For-Purpose land administration, management and capacity development, particularly in developing countries and vulnerable regions.

The Committee has also committed to sustain partnerships and joint actions



with UN entities, including UNECA, FAO, UN-Habitat/GLTN and the World Bank. They monitor and report progress of the land indicators within the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, the Committee has also endorsed the establishment of an Expert Group on Land Administration and Management. These experts will advance the activities regarding land administration and management, strengthening the use of geospatial information for good land governance. At the sixth session of UN-GGIM, August 2016, the Terms of Reference and Action Plan will be presented.



Gregory Scott
United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

Open data standards for land administration systems

The OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) is committed to making open standards for the global geospatial community. The free availability of the standards improves sharing of the world's geospatial data. Recognising the importance of land administration in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, OGC is setting up a special Domain Group on Land Administration. Channelling the land-related activities will help enable nations to address their needs in less time.

The Domain Group will pursue several activities addressing key land administration issues. It will not only examine the current land administration system landscape, but also identify best practices in open standards, including ISO and others. The aim is to address key data integration, management and share challenges. The Domain Group will also help the technology and user community in land administration to understand and align on open standards.

Attention will be paid to cost and effort through standards-based implementations, and dialogue on the integration of emerging information resources and/or technologies to assist nations in leapfrogging capability. The objective is to support improving the interoperability, effectiveness and efficiency of land administration systems through the optimised use of OGC and complementary open standards. The Domain Group will identify and recommend interoperability initiatives to unite the technology and user communities in the testing, demonstration and validation of standards best practices and operational prototypes.



Mark Reichardt Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

From aid to trade

The transition from aid to trade is seen as the engine of sustainable and inclusive growth by the Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Lilianne Ploumen. How does it work in practice: synergise trade and development policy? How can Dutch geo businesses contribute and gain in international trade relations with emerging countries?

Looking at the work of Kadaster, it is clear that there are many possibilities to strengthen international geo-businesses. Not only from a general trade point of view, but also specifically related to contributions regarding land administration and the Fit-For-Purpose approach. We believe that active involvement of the geo-business society is vital to achieve inclusion of the 75% of the current world's undocumented people-to-land relationships in society.

GeoBusiness Nederland is the trade and business organisation for the Dutch private geographical sector. Together with Kadaster, we are exploring possibilities for cooperation in several countries, such as Surinam and Mozambique. Although economic conditions in Surinam are a setback, we are identifying economic geo-opportunities for Surinam and the Netherlands through mutual study visits. During a reconnaissance visit, we have met young and ambitious entrepreneurs in the field of IT and geo, eager to expand their businesses. We are currently looking for a match between the private geo- and IT sector in Surinam and the Netherlands with the objective to establish cooperation between both countries.



Camille van der Harten
GeoBusiness Nederland

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Scaling up land governance



'Responsible land governance at scale' was the theme of the 2016 edition of the annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty. Closing the gap between legitimate and legal rights requires working at scale, mainstreaming proven innovations and sustaining investments made. The conference pointed towards many new ways to do so in ways that are more cost-effective, inclusive, and transparent than has been possible in the past. Routine performance monitoring is central for scaling up efficiently and effectively. It is the basis for transparency and accountability, and will support SDG progress measurement on land tenure.

An example of working at scale is Rwanda. By selecting a pragmatic Fit-For-Purpose approach and taking a year for rigorous piloting, the country was able to complete tenure regularisation in about four years, covering the entire country. Evaluation has been part of the programme from the start, which now helps the government to measure impact and identify challenges in time, like for gender. Interoperability is aimed for, and land information systems are now connected with the Ministry of Agriculture (land use efficiency, water permits), Justice (dispute resolution) and the financial sector (mortgages). As a result, the land administration system produces extra benefits for the economy at large, in addition to tenure security. Experience of countries like Rwanda shows that achieving scale quickly is possible, but requires treading carefully and preparing well, working incrementally, being agile, but firmly anchored in a monitoring system and a learning spirit.



Thea Hilhorst
World Bank

