

STATE OF LAND DATA & INFORMATION: EAST AFRICA

CATALYZING EAST AFRICA'S LAND DATA ECOSYSTEM

Date: 8-9-10 May 2019

Venue: University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

Group size: up to 40 participants

Context

Availability of accurate and up to date data and information on land rights, tenures and administration as well as on different land uses, such as agriculture, forestry, mining, wildlife, water, housing and infrastructure, is critical to effective land governance and crucial for planning and managing the use of land and land-based resources. The use of available data and information is exacerbated however because the land data ecosystem is an extremely vast and cluttered space. What data exist? What data is up to date? What data is reliable? Who owns the data? Can I use the data without inflicting harm? Who are the data subjects? Many people across numerous sectors struggle with such questions and more on a daily basis.

We are in the midst of a global data revolution which, with the inclusion of several land-related indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has now also reached the land sector. There are many initiatives ongoing to find data to monitor land governance performances in a country, and many initiatives to fill in data gaps. To actually achieve the ambitious goals set forth in the SDGs however, it is paramount that monitoring data is effectively leveraged and used for change to transform the collective goal we are all working towards: inclusive and equitable land governance.

Within this context, it is important for all land stakeholders to effectively work together to catalyze the land data ecosystem to enable more people to access and use data for effective change. The Local Development Research Institute (LDRI), the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition (GODAN) Africa, Research4Life, the Land Governance Program by FAO Kenya and Land Portal Foundation invite key stakeholders to participate in a workshop, to create an active partnership to increase access to land-information and contribute to the data ecosystem on land. Through interactive discussions, we will uncover the land data ecosystem in terms of range of sources, but also in terms of its content, value and use, to work towards an inclusive and democratized land data ecosystem that enables transformative change.

Target audience

The targeted audience for this workshop are data and information providers and users in East Africa, from government, research institutions as well as non-governmental organizations.

Workshop Objectives

- **Uncover the land data & information ecosystem** (including gaps in existence, accessibility or abilities to re-use data) in East Africa;
- Collectively raising awareness and building capacities of participants to **increase access to land data & information and its use** in order to better address identified land rights and open data issues in the region;

- **Facilitating connections & cross-fertilization** among data actors in the land sector across countries in East Africa as well as with other sectors such as the open data & agriculture sectors;
- Collectively raising awareness and building capacities of participants **to gather and communicate knowledge** and information on land rights to reach a wider impact;
- Collectively having participants **adopt and implement an action plan aimed at improving the** East African land data & information ecosystem.

Envisioned Outcomes & Impact

- Concrete **road map** on how to address challenges & barriers identified while mapping the data ecosystem and plan to monitor impact of activities;
- **Commitments of participants** to be part of the information ecosystem and make efforts to increase access to their own information;
- Creating a **community of data sharers** on this subject, that can remain in contact to further share their knowledge and expertise.

Preliminary Outline

- **May 8th: Open Data Festival** (evening)

On May 8th, we will start with a social event, an ‘open data festival’, hosted by the Local Development Research Institute (LDRI), to bring together all those interested in open data. This festival will convene a growing network of regional leaders and initiatives to support and elevate ongoing work, ensure continuity of the open data conversation in East Africa, support an open data culture in the region and connect the range of actors working in the region and internationally.

- **May 9th: East Africa Land Data Ecosystem workshop** (full day)

At the University of Nairobi, we will hold a full-day dynamic workshop to uncover the East African land data ecosystem. Through inclusive discussions, short lightning talks on inspiring initiatives as well as interactive exercises, we will collectively uncover the land data and information ecosystem in the region. What sources of land data? What is being done already? Which actors are involved, and who are *not but should* be? These questions and more are going to be topic of discussions and we need your insights on. We hope to bring it all together in an action plan and commitments from participants to bring together an active partnership on data sharing in the region. We will close the day with a nice dinner!

- **May 10th: East Africa Land Data Ecosystem workshop** (morning)

The final morning of the program, we will focus on a particular type of information, namely legal research and information. Research4Life, and particularly their GOALI initiative, will present their work in Africa on increasing access to legal research, laws and policies and explore how participants at the workshop can become active members to either contribute and/or benefit from increased access to legal research for global justice. This workshop will take place at the University of Nairobi as well.

Organizing partners

FAO Kenya

The FAO programme *Support to the Attainment of Vision 2030 through Devolved Land Reforms in Community Lands of Kenya*, aims at improving food security through equitable and secure access and management of land for better livelihoods and socioeconomic development. The FAO programme recognizes that improving land governance and securing land rights are key ingredients for the attainment of Kenya's Vision 2030, which aims at "providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by the year 2030". Indeed, strengthening land governance is a fundamental precursor to poverty alleviation, achieving food security, sustainably managing natural resources and advancing women's empowerment - all of which are critical elements in the architecture of both the Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Local Development Research Institute (LDRI)

Operational since 2015, Local Development Research Institute (LDRI) is a non-profit action-oriented think tank whose work contributes to the efforts of African governments to end extreme poverty, end hunger and reduce inequalities. With 65% of Africa's labor force employed in the agriculture sector (which contributes approximately 30% of the continent's GDP), and the increasing need to achieve food sufficiency for 1.5 billion people by 2020, it is clear that agriculture will be pivotal to achieving these objectives.

Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition (GODAN) Africa Chapter

GODAN supports the proactive sharing of open data to make information about agriculture and nutrition available, accessible and usable to deal with the urgent challenge of ensuring world food security. It is a rapidly growing group, currently with over 901 partners from national governments, non-governmental, international and private sector organisations that have committed to a joint [Statement of Purpose](#).

Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) is an intergovernmental organization and currently has 20 Contracting Member States in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region. Their mission is to strengthen the member States and our stakeholders' capacity through Generation, Application and Dissemination of Geo-information and Allied Technologies for sustainable development.

Land Portal Foundation

[The Land Portal](#) is a non-for-profit organization based in the Netherlands. Set up in 2009 as a partnership project dedicated to supporting the efforts of the rural poor to gain equitable access to land by addressing the fragmentation of information resources on land, in 2014, the Land Portal became an independent non-profit. Through a variety of initiatives and partnerships, the Land Portal works to create a better information ecosystem for land governance through a platform based on cutting-edge open data technologies.

Donors

We are very grateful for the generous support of our donors, without whom this workshop would not be possible:

