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Message from the Land Portal Team Leader

There's been some good things brewing around here at the Land Portal and we are excited to share them with you! We kicked off the first quarter of the year with the dissemination of a user survey that we



launched in order to receive honest and constructive feedback from our users on where we are doing well, and where they believe we can improve.

70% of survey respondents reported that the Land Portal is useful to their daily work. This is underscored by the fact that the Land Portal continues to be the most visited website in the land sector, with over 30,000 visits per month and a community of 3,000 users. These results certainly motivate us to continue our work building an open and transparent information ecosystem on land around the world.

Survey responses came from 60 countries around the globe, and from a variety of backgrounds, including academic, land practitioners and the private sector, among others. In addition to praise, we also received a number of suggestions for improvement, including adding more content areas, making the Land Portal easier to use and improving the design. We take this feedback to heart, and we will strive to continuously improve the Land Portal according to the needs of the community.

In this vein, we have already revamped our **Land and Corruption** portfolio, and we are in the process of developing portfolios on both Land in Post-Conflict Settings and on Forest Landscape Restoration. Moreover, we have established an **Impact Stories** section to provide reflections on how Land Portal partners and stakeholders view their interactions with the Land Portal. Additionally, we recently launched **data stories** section that connect data to real life situations, thus increasing accessibility of the information. Our soon to be launched **spatial platform** will help to make conversations around this data more inclusive.

I am also pleased to announce that we recently hired a web manager, Silvina Rusinek, who is working with us in a full-time capacity in order to improve our search functionality and to improve the overall user experience of the website. Silvina has already begun to make the Land Portal more accessible to our French, Portuguese and Spanish users by ensuring that the user interface is completely translated.

As Land Portal users are as diverse as the land sector itself, we will make every effort to make sure we are meeting your needs, whether you are interested in in-depth research on a particular theme, contributing to or participating in debate or getting the latest news on land and property rights in the country of your choice, all the while elevating the voices of those who are most vulnerable, including women and indigenous peoples.

Finally, the Land Portal would not exist without the steadfast support of our donors. We greatly appreciate funding from the GIZ - German International Cooperation, for supporting our work on land corruption and transparency. We are also thankful for the renewed support of the Omidyar Network to develop the spatial platform and to continue our work on the SDGs, to FAO Kenya for supporting our work on building a land information ecosystem there and of course to DFID for their continued and enduring support of our work through the **LEGEND** programme.

Should you have any spontaneous feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch at **hello@landportal.info**

With sincere regards,

Laura Meggiolaro
Team Leader, Land Portal Foundation

Highlights



Learn more about our capacity building

efforts!

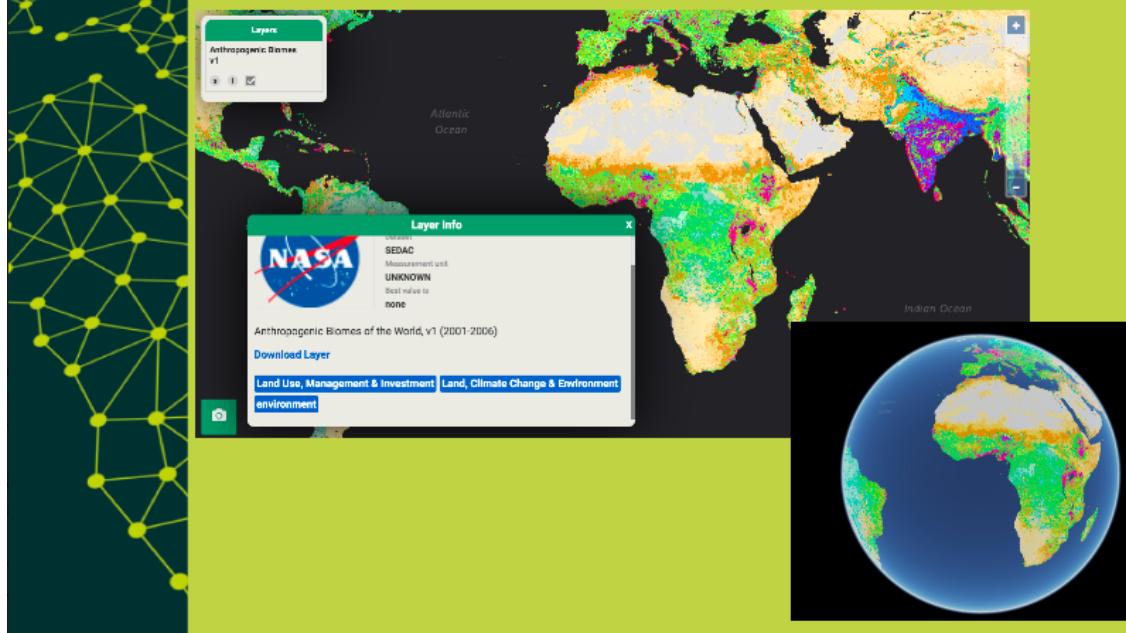
From May 8-10, 2019, we conducted a workshop on **Catalyzing East Africa's Data Ecosystem**. Organized in collaboration with colleagues from a variety of organizations, the overall goal of the workshop was to uncover the land data and information ecosystem (including gaps in existence, accessibility or abilities to reuse data) in East Africa and contribute to fostering a regional policy dialogue on access to data. We've also put together a community of practice to facilitate continued engagement on this front. Please **reach out to us** if you want to join this community and contribute to strengthen the land data ecosystem in the region!



The Land Portal Launches Thematic

Portfolios!

- **Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure Platform:** The **VGGT platform** aims to track data and information that relates to VGGT implementation, provide open access to a wide range of VGGT related documents and organize this wealth of contents to facilitate understanding, access and reuse of this information. This platform is the result of feedback provided by land tenure experts and organizations with a long history of experience in the land governance sector.
- **Land and Corruption portfolio:** A large part of our work on this portfolio has been updating the portfolio's thematic narrative. We've also added dozens of new resources to the page, such as the **Afrobarometer data**, as well as blogs, publications resources and organizational profiles. In the coming months, we will also be organizing an online discussion on the matter, with our colleagues at Transparency International, as well as taking part in the Conference on Land Policy in Africa.
- **Forest Landscape Restoration portfolio:** The portfolio is scheduled to be soft launched in the coming weeks, at the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn, Germany. A Learning Café event, co-organised with GIZ, will also take place at the Forum, in order to stimulate further reflections on the rights-based approach in forest landscape restoration.
- **Land in Post Conflict Settings portfolio:** In the aftermath of war, access to and control of land often remains a sensitive issue. The portfolio is soon to be launched and, in collaboration with our colleagues at McGill University and UNEP, a **webinar** on the matter will be taking place later this month. We look forward to your participation and, of course, your feedback.



Stay Tuned: Land Portal To Go Spatial!

Something exciting is around the corner! Our team is hard at work building a **spatial platform**, fit for the needs of everyday users. We want to be gone with polygons and spatial coordinates being reserved for experts. What we really want is for conversations around data to be inclusive. In the spirit of inclusivity, we will be having a mass testing of the platform and we invite you to stay tuned and join in. We are aiming for the final version of the spatial platform to be ready for the early Fall and are eager to share it with each and every one of you. [Read the full announcement.](#)

The Land Portal Welcomes New Web

Manager!



Welcome to Sivlina Rusinek, Web Manager

Silvina Rusinek joined the Land Portal as Web Manager in March 2019. She has worked in web design, development and management for more than twenty years. She is experienced on computer sciences, communications sciences and digital graphic design issues. She is interested in multilingual sites, accessibility and SEO.



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