



# Annual Report 2018

[www.landportal.org](http://www.landportal.org)

## OUR MISSION

To build an information ecosystem for land governance that supports better informed decision and policy making at national and international levels.

## OUR VISION

The vision of the Land Portal is to improve land governance to benefit those with the most insecure land rights and the greatest vulnerability to landlessness through information and knowledge sharing.



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## **Message from the Chair of the Board**

**Together we can create a land governance that serves communities with justice and equality.**

I take great pride in serving as the Chair of the Land Portal Foundation. Over the past five years we have witnessed the transformation of the Land Portal from a small United Nations project to become a major player in the land governance sector. I am grateful for the outstanding work of our dedicated team for making this happen.

During this entire process we have also been supported by a committed Board of Directors, a Technical Advisory Group and a Program Advisory Committee. Everyone provides a significant amount of time on a voluntary basis to ensure the continued success of the Land Portal. In particular, I would like to express my personal gratitude to the members of the Technical Advisory Group for their excellent guidance that helps keep the Land Portal not only on the cutting edge, but helps us to ensure that we are meeting the needs of land governance stakeholders.

This is the crux of my message. The Land Portal was not only created to be a website full of bells and whistles to showcase land data. Our purpose is to shine the light on the important work being done by the entire land governance community at the national, regional and international level and to empower these actors to better manage their data and information, and thus be in a position to more effectively contribute to improved land policies. We make every effort to partner with a diverse range of organizations to support this endeavor. Only through effective partnerships are we able to achieve the great accomplishments that we have this past year. We invite all land governance stakeholders to work with us toward this greater goal of securing land rights for vulnerable people.

I would also like to offer our sincere thanks to our donors, and invite other donors to considering adding the Land Portal Foundation to your portfolio. By supporting the Land Portal Foundation, you are increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of your investments, as we support grantees to better manage their information and promote their work.

*Sincere regards,*

**Leon Verstappen**

### **Message from the Land Portal Team Leader**

I am pleased to share our 2018 Annual Report, which features the fruits of our labors to build a vibrant information ecosystem on land that contributes to better informed decisions and policy making on land throughout the world. This report showcases our efforts improve documentation, mapping and monitoring of land governance issues, to promote, inform and enrich global debate on key land issues and to raise awareness on open data principles to strengthen the flow of land governance information at all levels.

We are proud to say that the Land Portal has become far and wide the world's leading source of data and information on land, with more than 30,000 visits a month, a majority of which are from the Global South. The Land Portal now counts more than [760 land-related indicators from 45 datasets](#) aggregated from trusted sources around the world. This great diversity of information feeds into a dozen thematic portfolios and more than 60 country portfolios that combine data with the latest news, relevant publications, organizations and more.

The Land Portal has also played a central role in enriching global debate on land issues, setting the stage for better land policies. In particular, the Land Portal rallied civil society, government officials and key stakeholders in an online discussion on the [Liberia Land Rights Act](#), providing critical energy to support its passage. We have also established the Land Portal as an expert organizer of webinars on key land governance issues, demonstrating another way we can bring together the land community on important subjects. Moreover, the Land Portal dramatically increased the visibility of important land conferences through media partnerships. Another highlight of this year is the [Her Land Her Story](#) campaign featuring champions for women's land rights around the world.

The Land Portal is leading the way on the adoption of open data and making land governance information more accessible. We brought together the land governance community for the [Partnership for Action](#) workshop to set the stage for building an information ecosystem on land governance, resulting in an action plan on data collection, management and dissemination. The Land Portal's approach to capacity building was further refined at a workshop in Pretoria, South Africa, which created a great deal of momentum to adopt open data practices in this country.

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our donors. We are grateful for the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) steadfast support, as well as the support of the Omidyar Network. We are also thankful for the support of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), GIZ - German Cooperation and the collaboration of all of our partners, without which our work would not be possible.

*Kind regards,*

**Laura Meggiolaro**

## JANUARY

The Land Portal has a new look

We launched a completely upgraded, redesigned and reorganized [LandPortal.org](https://landportal.org). The new Land Portal is crafted to better meet the needs of the rainbow of actors in the land community. The new Land Portal is restructured in a user-friendly way to allow users to easily access and interact with country and thematic information, data, publications, discussions, news and blogs.

The new **Land, Climate Change and Environment** portfolio brings together data and 7,205 Land Library Resources on the subject matter and provides a unique entry point for experts, researchers and practitioners to learn more and exchange information on these issues.

Together with the ILC Rangelands Initiative, we facilitated an online dialogue in English, Spanish, French, and Russian on experiences of **making rangelands more secure**, focusing on the challenges faced by rangeland users.

## FEBRUARY

Rangelands around the world have been substantially degraded and are now in critical condition. To provide greater understanding and awareness of these issues, the Land Portal Foundation and the International Land Coalition (ILC) Rangelands Initiative published a thematic portfolio on **Rangelands, Drylands, & Pastoralism**, which puts the spotlight on key issues, data and information from diverse information sources.

We presented the State of Land Information in India report, delivered a **masterclass on open data** and served as media partner for the **India Land and Development Conference (ILDC) 2018**.

We served as media partner for the **First Arab Land Conference** organized by the Government of the United Arab Emirates in partnership with the World Bank, the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat, the Arab League and the Arab Union of Surveyors.



Online dialogue on **Customary Land Recognition: Zambian Approach to Documentation and Administration**, organized in partnership with USAID, generates record-breaking engagement, with 146 comments from stakeholders in Zambia and around the world.



## MARCH

We published a thematic portfolio on **Land and Corruption** to provide greater understanding and promote awareness of the intersection of these critical issues, bringing together a wealth of data and information from Transparency International.

We published an in-depth country portfolio on **Mozambique** in collaboration with Centro Terra Viva, a leading civil society organization focused on natural resource management.

Together with Habitat for Humanity (Solid Ground Campaign), LandMark, Resource Equity and the Rights and Resources Initiative, we brought together stakeholders for a **Partnership for Action: Information ecosystem on land governance** workshop to discuss the momentum around land and data and to determine an action plan to ensure that the data and monitoring initiatives will result in concrete actions that secure land rights.

On 6 March, 2019 we are officially accepted as member of the International Land Coalition (ILC).

Together with the Cadasta Foundation and ten other organizations we launched the **Her Land Her Story Campaign** to advocate for women's land rights by spotlighting the stories of real women from around the world.

## APRIL

As part of the Her Land Her Story Campaign, the Land Portal Foundation, Cadasta Foundation, the Columbia Center for Sustainable Investment (CCSI) and the UN SDSN Network co-host an **interactive webinar** highlighting the critical links between securing women's land rights and promoting sustainable development.



## WEBINAR: STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

Friday, April 20th, 2018

9:30am - 11:00am EDT / 2:30pm - 4:00pm GMT

Register at [herlandherstory.com](http://herlandherstory.com)

Organized by the Cadasta Foundation, Land Portal Foundation, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network featuring stories from the Her Land Her Story Campaign

Raquel Ludermir, Academic & Activist



We served as media partner for the **Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Partners** meeting and organized a side event on partnering for effective communications within the data life cycle in collaboration with FAO and Habitat for Humanity.



## MAY

We co-facilitated an open data and repository management training with GODAN Action and the Southern African NELGA hub, bringing together 25 people to discuss the state of the land information ecosystem in South Africa.

We served as a media partner for the Second Mekong Regional Land Forum in Bangkok, Thailand, showcasing knowledge products and success stories, solutions and results from MRLG projects.



## JUNE

We co-hosted a panel on land and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at LANDac 2018.

**Quantifying Tenure Risk initiative: Assessing tenure risk and providing support to investors and businesses**, a joint research initiative from the ODI and TMP Systems, funded by the UK's Department for International Development Economic Growth team, is hosted on the Land Portal.

Together with Mokoro and Transparency International, we hosted a webinar on **Sextortion and Land Governance** - What is it and how can it be tackled?



## JULY

GODAN Action webinar on **Data Interoperability: The Land Portal experience of open data management** showcased efforts to build an information ecosystem on land.

We provided media promotion for the SDGs Momentum Group at the **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)**.

The Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), Landesa and the Land Portal Foundation co-facilitated an online discussion on **Liberia's Land Rights Bill (LRB)**, providing critical energy leading to its passage by the Liberian National Legislature.



We co-hosted the webinar Bridging the Gap on Land Governance and Tenure along the Urban-Rural Continuum together with the Global Donor Working Group on Land and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

## SEPTEMBER

The Land Portal Foundation participated in the International Land Coalition's **Global Land Forum** in Bandung, Indonesia.

## OCTOBER

Together with the FAO, the Government of Kenya, the Kenya Land Alliance and the European Commission, we organized a webinar on the **Land Reform Agenda for Kenya** to review land reform process in Kenya and address a range of challenges, with a view to defining a path forward that will lead to equity and justice in land reforms.



We co-hosted at a Committee on Global Food Security (CFS) side event on **"Realizing the VGGTs and SDGs"** along with the FAO, ILC, IFAD, GLTN, Global Donor Working Group on Land, Prindex and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.



The result of a collaboration between the Land Portal Foundation and GODAN Action partners, a MOOC on **Open Data Management in Agriculture, Nutrition and Land** was attended by over 1000 participants.



A section devoted to **impact stories** to critically assess Land Portal's work on open data as a means for improving land rights is launched.

Online discussion '**What can we do to achieve sustainable pro-poor land reform in South Africa?**', co-hosted by Phuhlisani and the Land Portal Foundation, received 84 comments from numerous experts.

We held the webinar '**An introduction to Prindex**' together with Prindex partners, which attracted extensive interest, with 194 people registering.

The GIZ LandHub 2018 took place, where the Land Portal participated in a panel discussion about "Land & Transparency" and hosted a masterclass on "Open Land Data for Improved Land Governance".

**DISCUSSION**

**Refocusing the South African Land Debate**

**What can we do to achieve sustainable pro-poor land reform in South Africa?**

**NOVEMBER 19 - 30, 2018**

Organized by:



The image is a promotional graphic for a discussion. It features an aerial view of a densely packed informal settlement with colorful roofs. The text is overlaid on this image. At the top, it says 'DISCUSSION' in bold black letters. Below that is the title 'Refocusing the South African Land Debate' and the subtitle 'What can we do to achieve sustainable pro-poor land reform in South Africa?' in bold black letters. The dates 'NOVEMBER 19 - 30, 2018' are in blue. Below the dates, it says 'Organized by:' followed by the logos for 'phuhlisani' (with the tagline 'clear thinking for change') and 'land portal'.

**WEBINAR**

**AN INTRODUCTION TO PRINDEX**

**November 28, 2018**

**8:30 ET, 14:30 CET, 16:30 Nairobi**

Co-hosted by:



The image is a promotional graphic for a webinar. It features a photograph of three women in a rural setting. The text is overlaid on this image. At the top, it says 'WEBINAR' in large red letters. Below that is the title 'AN INTRODUCTION TO PRINDEX' in bold black letters. The date 'November 28, 2018' is in red, and the times '8:30 ET, 14:30 CET, 16:30 Nairobi' are in bold black. Below the times, it says 'Co-hosted by:' followed by the logos for 'Prindex' (with the tagline 'Measuring global perceptions of land and property rights') and 'land portal'.

# Our Impact

Land Portal users have a broad range of issue area and content interests, which vary by sector engagement. Land Portal users come from around the globe, with 60 countries represented in our most recent survey. Most users come from the Academic / Research sector (26%), NGOs (17%), or the Private Sector (12%).

## Positive feedback from Land Portal users

“Information provided by Land Portal is all real-life issues backed by practical suggestions and solutions that are evidenced-based.”

“The information it offers because both the news and the analytical documents are of great importance for working with rural communities. I always follow their results.”

“We have emulated the Land Portal’s way of curating information and shared learning.”

“It is a good platform and online repository of land administration research and information. A good one for anyone.”

## How has the Land Portal impacted the quality of work?

### 53% experienced increased access to information

“I now have most of the info and data I need all in one place and freely accessible.”

### 30% gained knowledge or capacity

“Through the information on the Land Portal I was able to better understand the problem of access to land in countries of sub-Saharan Africa.”

### 14% were able to engage with peers.

“I am better connected to different actors in the land community.”

## Examples of Impact

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“The topics of online discussions are what really peaked my interest in interacting and finally, getting involved. The first discussions I took part in were the discussions around **perceptions of land tenure security**, as well as the discussion regarding **customary land systems in Zambia**. These online discussions afford those working in the land sector, including myself, the possibility to gain a deeper understanding of different topics, to share ideas amongst colleagues and to be on a path of continuous learning. While this can be done in a board room or in an office setting, online tools allow those working around the globe, to chime in, learn and discuss together from our various vantage points.”

- **Jur Schuurman, Researcher with LANDac, the Netherlands Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development**

“Many of the land conflicts occurring in Latin American cities are dubbed ‘silent conflicts’, as they are often compared to ‘louder conflicts’ which involve war, that perhaps may receive more attention from international community, such as conflicts Syria for example. As a result of the discussion on **Urban Land Conflicts in Latin America and the Caribbean**, Habitat for Humanity was later invited to participate in the GLTN Land and Conflict Coalition, **to provide a regional perspective on the issue.**”

- **Raquel Ludermir Bernardino, PhD candidate, researcher and independent consultant**

“Capacity-building and collaborative discussion and formulation of proposals and demands through Land Portal virtual discussions, while not replacing face-to-face actions, is particularly useful as a tool in a region that brings together countries from four different continents, such as the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.”

- **Ms. Joana Rocha Dias, the coordinator of REDSAN-CPLP**

# Land Portal People

## Our Board of Directors



**Dr. Leon Verstappen – Chair**  
Professor of Notary Law,  
University of Groningen



**Timothy Fella - Treasurer**  
Global Business  
Development Manager for  
Land Administration, ESRI



**Magdalena Anna  
Kropiwnicka**  
Food and Land Policy  
Advisor, Food and  
Climate Consulting



**Dr. Ritu Verma**  
Anthropologist,  
International Development  
Expert and Civil Engineer

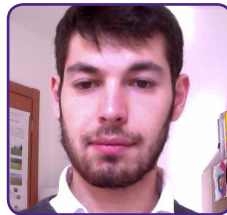


**Annette Jaitner**  
Land Programme Lead,  
*Transparency International*

## Our Team



**Laura Meggiolaro**  
Team Leader



**Marcello De Maria**  
Data Analyst



**Lisette Mey**  
Information Management  
Officer



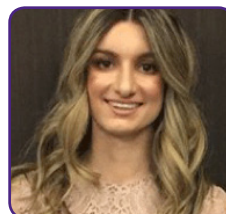
**Neil Sorensen**  
Communications  
Specialist



**Tagliarino** Research  
Analyst



**Carlos Tejo Alonso**  
Data Officer



**Stacey Zammit**  
Communications Officer

## Our donors

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Land Portal is grateful for the generous support of our donors:



# Land Portal in numbers

**276.442** visits

**561,380** page views

**3,116** Land Portal users

**6,160** Twitter followers

**1,779** likes on Facebook

**967** blog posts

**6,826** news articles

**58,441** Land Library Resources

**1,426** sources of information

**760** indicators

**45** datasets

**60%** of Land Portal users  
are from the Global South

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## LAND PORTAL FOUNDATION

Bakboord 35, 3823 TB Amersfoort, The Netherlands

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