2016
ANNUAL REPORT

LAND PORTAL FOUNDATION

landportal.info

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FOREWORD

The year 2016 proved to be a landmark year for the Land Portal Foundation as we embraced the challenge of transformation. Transitioning to a fully operational and independent organization enabled us to take advantage of a world of opportunities and to begin playing the role among the land governance sector as the leading source of land data and information as well as providing innovative solutions to knowledge management for local and global organizations alike.

The Land Portal Foundation is at the center of the paradigm shift from all rights reserved, copyright and closed systems, to open access, open data and creative commons. People are beginning to understand that public investments should not be encumbered by restrictive intellectual property regimes. This year, the Land Portal became the primary advocate among the land governance community for linked open data and sharing, while building capacity in the Global South and beyond to better manage information.

A lack of information on land to base their decisions upon continues to be a key factor that undermines the rights of vulnerable peoples in the developing world. Indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups may face expropriation without fair compensation. Government officials may bend to corruption as a result of a lack of transparency and clear rules. Women and girls continue to lose their rights to land due to traditional systems that trump legal systems. In 2016, the Land Portal made significant strides in helping to overcome these tendencies by providing data and information on indigenous and community land rights, forest tenure and women's land rights.

But this is just the beginning. We have an ambitious agenda for making data and information on land as open and transparent as possible. Working in partnership with the entire land sector, we aim to create what we call an information ecosystem on land that serves the interests of all.

This report clearly demonstrates the collaborative efforts the Land Portal Foundation is undertaking to lead the way on Linked Open Data and to amplify the voices from the Global South. As we move forward, we will expand and streamline these efforts, which we see as being key to helping those with the most insecure land rights and the greatest vulnerability to landlessness.

Prof. mr. dr. Leon Verstappen

Chair of the Board of Directors

Land Portal Foundation

ABOUT THE LAND PORTAL FOUNDATION

The Land Portal Foundation works with cutting-edge linked and open data technologies, providing services and support that **improve data access**, and that build a more inclusive information landscape. The Land Portal Foundation works to create a **better information ecosystem for land governance**, operating through a core and trusted platform and wide-ranging partnerships. Our work is based on an open development approach.

The Land Portal is an **online information platform** that collects and disseminates data, information, and resources at the global and local level. The Land Portal delivers a core platform made up of a set of linked tools, focusing on data, information and communication for better land governance. This platform powers our online hub, LandPortal.info, and is used to support partner projects in local regions and thematic areas. To build upon our core platform, we provide a number of freely available data, knowledge, research and communication services, all based around a flexible partnership model.

Land Portal Foundation is funded by the generous support of the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

The views presented here are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by the agencies that have generously supported this work.

INTRODUCTION

Twenty-sixteen (2016) was a **breakthrough year** for the Land Portal Foundation. Through transforming its layout and key features, forming exciting new partnerships, and promoting an enormous diversity of new content, we achieved significant progress towards becoming the world's leading online destination for information on land. Demand for the Land Portal was higher than ever, with unprecedented global interest in data and information on land governance. The number of Land Portal website visits increased considerably, with consistently **30,000 visits per month** as of December 2016. Notably, the Land Portal maintained a consistent percentage (over 40% per month) of visitors from the Global South.

The Land Portal Foundation is now a leader in the **Linked Open Data (LOD) movement** and playing a key role in aligning the land sector with this movement. Through networking and collaborating with a broad range of organizations, the Land Portal played an influential role in promulgating a shift towards a LOD approach in the land sector, maintaining a visible presence at key international events devoted to this subject. Towards this end, the Land Portal has also promoted and LOD capacity among local organizations in the Global South and produced guides and tutorials on making open data user-friendly and accessible. The result of this work is that the Land Portal has published 21 datasets with 391 separate indicators in LOD format.

The Land Portal celebrates an enormous **increase of visitors** throughout 2016, with 30,000 visitors per month as of December 2016. A notable **40% of the visitors** to the website are **from the global South**.

The Land Portal has a **fresh new look**. The website is faster, better organized, and more reliable than ever before. The layout of the Land Book has been completely transformed. It now has the full capacity to usher in and disseminate an enormous amount of land-related content from a broad range of global and local sources.

In 2016, the Land Book published a multitude of stimulating content, which users can access by clicking on the categorized country and thematic portfolios. In September, Land Book published five new **editorialized portfolios** for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. These portfolios were the product of a successful partnership with Open Development Mekong and other land related organizations in the Mekong region. In November, the Land Book launched three new Land Book thematic portfolios: Indigenous & Community Land Rights, Forest Tenure, and Land & Gender. These innovative portfolios were produced in

collaboration with Landesa, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The Land Portal has become a go-to source for the **latest land related blogs and news stories**. These blogs and news stories are now accessible in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

The **Land Book country and thematic portfolios** show a broad diversity of global databases and Land Library resources from global and local organizations. The Land Book presents users with highly unique infographics, which visualize the World Bank's Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) data, LandMark data on the tenure security of Indigenous and community lands, the Rights and Resources Initiative's Forest Tenure Data, and data on national level adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure.

The **Land Library** and **Land Debate** went through redesigns and renovations in 2016. The new designs and layouts enable users to easily navigate the website and find information at the click of the mouse. In 2016, the Land Library broke the threshold of 20,000 resources from over 490 sources. In response to growing demand, the Land Portal initiated a process of integrating local sources, while manually curating metadata to enhance the discoverability and accessibility of data and information. The Land Debate hosted five successful online discussions with partners from around the world and published hundreds of blogs, news articles, and other media content. Overall, the Land Library and Land Debate are more user-friendly and capable of connecting fragmented information from a broad range of sources.

The Land Portal became fully operational as a Netherlands-based, **independent organization in 2016** after a transitional year as an International Land Coalition (ILC) partnership initiative in 2015. Still in its infancy, the Land Portal Foundation is emerging as a key actor in the community of stakeholders engaged in land governance.

This Annual Report provides insight on the main outcomes of the Land Portal in 2016, and presents a forward-looking vision for a young organization that is now up on its feet and hitting the ground running.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Partnership and collaboration are at the core of the Land Portal. By prioritizing collaboration and support of partner organizations, the Land Portal has positioned itself as a unique intermediary and facilitator of dialogue among a wide variety of stakeholders.

Department for International Development (DFID)

The Land Portal Foundation is grateful for the generous contribution of the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UKAid). As a partner of DFID's "Land: Enhancing Governance for Economic Development" (LEGEND) program, the Land Portal has had the opportunity to support and collaborate with the wide variety of LEGEND partners. The Land Portal has promoted their work, and networked extensively to ensure more collaboration takes place, including with mutual local partners in the Global South. In 2017, the Land Portal will launch a separate webpage for the LEGEND partnership, so that interested stakeholders can learn more about the LEGEND activities, including the LEGEND Challenge Fund Grants.

Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)

In 2016, the Land Portal collaborated with the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN). During the first few months of this year, the Land Portal hosted an online discussion, facilitated by GLTN, on the GLTN's Gender Evaluation Criteria, which took place on Land Portal's Land Debate page. The debate was simultaneously held on the OECD's Wikigender website and was promoted widely by the Food and Agricultural Organization Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum). The ILC served as facilitator for the event. Besides the online discussion, the Land Portal has integrated over 100 key publications by the Network and enhanced the discoverability of that content by enhancing and enriching its metadata. Throughout the year, Land Portal and GLTN cross-promoted each other's work online. The Land Portal is honored to work with GLTN, and plans to expand this partnership in 2017.

Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)

As a partner in the **GODAN Action** consortium, the Land Portal successfully completed the inception phase of its collaboration with the consortium. Through cooperation with organizations such as the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Alterra, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) and others, the Land Portal worked on mapping and assessing standards used in the agriculture and nutrition sectors, including in the land sector, as well as awareness raising and capacity building activities relating to Open Data. The Land Portal initiated vocabulary standards and developed a classification scheme for the land sector, and also produced a gap analysis report on the use of these standards, which were submitted to the VEST/Agroportal Map of Standards. As part of the GODAN Action program, Land Portal co-hosted the Linked Open Data capacity building workshop at Habitat III in Ecuador in October 2016. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity Latin America and the Caribbean.

The implementation phase of the Land Portal's partnership into the GODAN Action consortium will occur in 2018. The Land Portal is excited to continue to working with these inspiring partners and bringing Linked Open Data technologies higher on the agenda in the land sector.

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The Land Portal has worked with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for many years. In 2016, FAO and the Land Portal Foundation have collaborated in the area of Open Data and knowledge management, and in particular in regards to **Agrovoc**, the agriculture thesaurus managed by FAO. The Land Portal Foundation contributes to the list of land terms in Agrovoc and enriches this list of terms with the help of its local partners. To read more about the list of land terms in Agrovoc, "LandVoc", please see page 17.

The Netherlands Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development (LandAc)

The Land Portal has collaborated with LandAc since its early stages. LandAc brings together academia working on land in the Netherlands and elsewhere. LandAc is a valuable partner because it helps the Land Portal link academic information on land, which is often dispersed, costly, and subject to restrictive use licenses. The Land Portal is excited to be an official member of of LandAc Steering Committee. The Land Portal will contribute to the **LandAc's second phase, LandAc II**.

Other collaborations

The Land Portal established and maintained many informal partnerships with global organizations in 2016. While harvesting and enriching metadata from various sources, the Land Portal continues to connect with information providers on global and local levels. On the global level, these providers include the World Bank, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Landesa, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), LandMark, Namati, Resource Equity, and other organizations.

In addition to the global partnerships discussed above, the Land Portal is also supporting **local organizations** by promoting their publications and data, and manually curating their metadata to enhance the discoverability of their content (see discussion of "Localization Strategy" on p. 14). These partnerships include Open Development Mekong, Habitat for Humanity Latin America and the Caribbean, Sulá Batsú, Instituto para el Desarrollo Rural de Sudamerica (IPDRS), Natural Resource Management Consultants Center for Land Governance, and other organizations. The Land Portal found added value in developing a systematic process for publishing large quantities of data and resources. In 2017, the Land Portal plans to scale up these efforts with several new partnerships with local organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

LAND PORTAL SERVICES

After developing new designs and a fresh look for the website in 2015, the Land Portal was successful in transforming the layout and the usability of its features in 2016. The website is now faster, easier to navigate, and more reliable. Since 2012, the Land Portal has worked to become a platform on which a diverse and vibrant online community of civil society, advocacy, government agencies, researchers, and media players can contribute content and share information. As a gateway between a diverse range of information providers, the Land Portal aims at maintaining its reputation as a credible, neutral, and reliable entity.

At the core of the Land Portal website are the three services it provides: the **Land Book**, **Land Debate**, and **Land Library**. The Land Book presents comprehensive country and thematic portfolios and pages, which were redesigned completely in 2016, with Linked Open Data on land from diverse providers around the world. The Land Debate serves to stimulate debate with others in the land community through sharing news and events, blog posts and online discussions. The Land Library is a virtual repository of land-related information, including peer-reviewed publications, policies, maps and multimedia content.

LAND BOOK

COUNTRY PORTFOLIOS
In September of 2016, the Land Portal launched its newly designed country portfolios. The look and usability of these portfolios has significantly improved. The first five editorialized country pages that the Land Portal launched were for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. These portfolios were enriched in partnership with Open Development Mekong, which provided detailed country narratives and content from organizations with local perspectives on land governance.

The country portfolios were launched through a live webinar, showing the users how the country pages can be used by a range of stakeholders. On Land Portal, users can also find tutorials to guide them how to make use of the various features the portfolios offer.

With the help of its local partners, the Land Portal intends to further expand these efforts and to launch more country portfolios in 2017.

THEMATIC PORTFOLIOS

In addition to country portfolios, the Land Portal also launched its first three thematic portfolios in November 2016: Indigenous & Community Land Rights, Forest Tenure, and Land & Gender. These portfolios were also launched through a webinar, with an engaged audience and many people viewing the video on Youtube afterwards.

The thematic portfolios enable users to easily access and utilize a broad range of relevant data, primary and secondary literature, news articles, online discussions, and events specific to these subjects. The narratives for these portfolios were written by leading organizations in the land governance sector; the narrative for indigenous and community land rights was written by Land Portal and the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), Landesa and their Center for Women's Land rights authored the narrative on gender and land, and experts at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) wrote the narrative on forest tenure.

DATA INGESTION

In addition to the newly designed country and thematic portfolios, the Land Book was populated with significantly more datasets and indicators in 2016. As of the end of 2016, the number of data sources published on the Land Portal reached 21 datasets published in Linked Open Data format, with 391 separate indicators. This includes:

> The Land Portal's Land Book published **21 datasets** in Linked Open Data format, with **391 indicators**, including Land use and Gender databases and the World Bank's LGAF data.

> » the Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI);

> » the Global Donor Platform Map of Donors;

> » the Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) Agriculture Census, Food Security,

> » Land use and Land and Gender databases;

> » the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Global Hunger Index;

> » LandMark's indicators of the legal security of indigenous and community land and national-level percentages of formally recognized indigenous and community land;

> » Land Matrix data on large-scale land acquisitions;

> » Nicholas Tagliarino's (PhD Candidate, University of Groningen) legal indicator data on the adoption of UN Voluntary Guidelines principles on expropriation, compensation and resettlement;

> » OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index Database;

> » Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)'s Forest Tenure Data;

> » UNDP's Human Development Index;

> » World Bank Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) data

LAND DEBATE

LAND NEWS AND NEWS DIGEST

News, events and blogs are continuously posted on the Land Debate from diverse contributors and sources. The Land Portal sent out news digests every three weeks in 2016, and continues to do so. The Land Portal expanded its reach with these services by working together with partners in the Global South to bring a more local perspective to the information posted on the Land Portal and to also offer more content in Spanish and French. Moreover, with the Land Portal's partnership with Actuar, the Land Portal also launched a Portuguese interface in 2016, and now sends out news digests in Portuguese.

The Land Portal reaches over **15,000 people** with its news digests, **41%** of which are **from developing countries.**

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

In 2016, the Land Portal's online discussion platform, the Land Debate, stimulated a robust and diverse dialogue on land governance policies and practices in order to respond to the reality that not all knowledge is captured in written publications and documents. The Land Portal hosted five successful Land Debates in 2016:
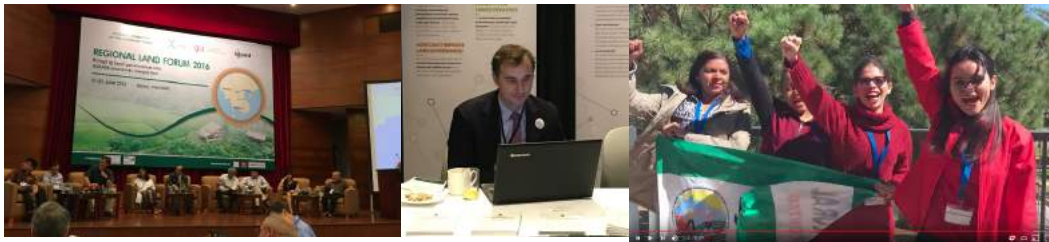
> » Sharing Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Supporting Women's Land Rights: A Debate on the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC);

> » Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security;

> » Collective property in South America, challenges and prospects;

> » Open Data and Land Governance: Increased accountability and transparency as a   means to overcoming poverty?; and

> » Debate on land valuation and fair compensation.

The Land Portal has scheduled many more online discussions in 2017 in collaboration with its partners in the Global South. The Land Portal is exploring opportunities for scaling up Land Debate participation among actors in the Global South.

landportal.info   ⅄ CADASTA

JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON OPEN DATA & LAND GOVERNANCE
SEPTEMBER 6-28, 2016

MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS

The Land Portal piloted new media services in 2016. As media partner for events, the Land Portal promoted events through social media, Land Portal blogs and announcements, and emails. The Land Portal interviewed numerous participants, posted footage from the conference on YouTube, and created a Storify story for the conference. The Land Portal did this for five events in 2016: the World Forum on Access to Land in Spain, the Mekong Region Land Forum in Vietnam, GODAN Summit in New York, the launch of the International Property Rights Index, and the Rethinking Expropriation Law Conference on Land Compensation. The Land Portal will continue to offer and improve these services in 2017.

LAND LIBRARY

By the end of 2016, the Land Library held over 20,000 resources. In 2016, the Land Portal developed a new, systematized ingestion process by which resource importers are extensively documented and published on Github for others to re-use under open software licences. This process will enable the entire land governance community to benefit from the work done and thus contribute to the establishment of the land information ecosystem.

Partners and collaborators in the land sector are enthusiastic and supportive of our approach to Linked Open Data. In response to growing demand for Land Portal support, the Land Library initiated a process of integrating local sources beyond the formally established partnerships into the Land Portal, while manually curating metadata to enhance the discoverability and accessibility of data and information. For example, the publications of 10 organizations in the Mekong Region were manually added and curated with proper reference to the information providers.

> The Land Library is a **free and highly curated** repository which gives access to open access publications, laws and regulations and multimedia items, aggregated from **490 different sources** as of December 2016.

In 2017, the priority will be to increase the number of sources and resources available through the Land Library.

LOCALIZATION STRATEGY

One of the Land Portal's primary goals is to implement its localization strategy, which seeks to incorporate local perspectives on land governance in the Land Portal's global offer. The aim is to partner with many local organizations to stimulate improved local knowledge, data collection and usage at the country level through interaction and engagement with local partners. The Land Portal Foundation helps promote the work of local partners, and enhances the accessibility and usability of these organization's national-level data and information. The ultimate outcome will be the creation of a global "information ecosystem" on land.

In 2015, the Land Portal formed its first local partnership with Open Development Mekong. Since then, the Land Portal released several calls for expressions of interest in an effort to find new local partnerships. The Land Portal received an overwhelming number of interesting applications upon which several successful new partnerships could be established.

OPEN DEVELOPMENT MEKONG

The Land Portal's first collaborative partnership was with Open Development Mekong in 2016. This collaboration achieved several successful outcomes, such as the development of the five new country portfolios on the Land Book with narratives written by Open Development Mekong. These narratives describe country-level land governance challenges and highlight key information on land governance. Open Development Mekong also contributed to the enrichment of the Land Portal's LandVoc vocabulary by translating the 270 concepts and definitions into Thai, Vietnamese and Khmer. Land Portal's partnership with Open Development Mekong is a great example of how like-minded organizations can work together to promote Linked and Open Data in and generate an information ecosystem. Thanks to Open Development Mekong, the Land Portal's Land Library is enriched with well over 300 resources. Open Development Mekong harvested these resources from over 35 local organizations. Open Development Mekong also provides their users with the global information on the countries through a WordPress Widget in their website, which is available without licensing restrictions.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

One of the Land Portal's remarkable partnerships in 2016 was with Habitat for Humanity Latin America and Caribbean-offices (LAC). In light of Habitat for Humanity's Suelo Urbano (Solid Ground) campaign, the Land Portal and Habitat for Humanity LAC exchanged information from global and regional perspectives. In addition to the information exchange, both organizations co-organized an Open Data workshop at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador. The workshop raised awareness among policy makers about the advantages of Linked Open Data.

Habitat for Humanity held an online discussion on Urban Land Conflicts in Latin America in early 2017 and provided a narrative for the Land Portal's Urban Tenure Thematic Portfolio, which launched in early 2017. The Land Portal and Habitat for Humanity LAC are exploring the options to expand the partnerships beyond the initial pilot countries.

INSTITUTO PARA EL DESARROLLO RURAL DE SUDAMÉRICA (IPDRS)

The Land Portal Foundation and the Institute for Rural Development of South America (IPDRS) collaborated extensively to publish country portfolios for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru that describe land tenure systems, historical context, trends in land use and key challenges and problems facing each country. These country portfolios represent the culmination of a partnership between the Land Portal and IPDRS as a local data hub in South America. In the context of this partnership, the Land Portal worked with the IPDRS to build their capacity and transform their knowledge systems into Linked Open Data, and in doing so substantially enhanced and improved the metadata of 589 Land Library resources, resulting in their increased discoverability and interoperability.

A key component of this collaboration was a discussion on Collective property in South America, challenges and prospects. The IPDRS and the Land Portal would also like to announce the publication or a report on this debate (in Spanish), which can be downloaded on the Land Portal or the IPDRS website.

Juan Pablo Chumacero, Principal Researcher for IPDRS, spearheaded collaboration with the Land Portal, energized by the goal of enhancing the flow of land information in Bolivia and the region as a whole. "*When we first got involved with the Land Portal, we had no idea what Linked Open Data means. A year later, we came to realize the potential of Linked Open Data as a standard methodology for enabling improved access to and comparison of land information*", said Juan Pablo. "*This work has brought us to an entirely new level in making the work we do available to the public, and the adoption of the Linked Open Data model made this possible*". He emphasized the importance of harmonizing taxonomies and their translations into Spanish and local terminology, as well as the expansion and promotion of Linked Open Data to their networks, as critical factors in the success of the partnership with the Land Portal.

Guillermo Reaño, a renowned Peruvian author, journalist, social communicator and educator, has collaborated extensively with IPDRS. IPDRS is in the process of collecting a thousand stories of peasant, indigenous and Afro-descendant populations who, through their struggles and sacrifices, have consolidated ownership of their lands. Guillermo developed four of the stories, including one on Santa Catalina de Chongoyape community. He explains how the community defended their territory even before the intervention of local authorities, to counteract illegal mining in the region. As a result of the collaboration with the Land Portal, these and many other stories are achieving much greater visibility throughout South America

SULÁ BATSÚ

In May 2016, the Land Portal entered into a partnership with Sulá Batsú, a gender-focused development organization based in Costa Rica. This partnership entailed the exchange of information and resources on land and contributed towards the land information ecosystem. The Land Portal supported metadata curation and capacity building for Sulá Batsú. In early 2017, Sulá Batsú facilitated an online discussion around gender and land issues in Latin America.

LINKED OPEN DATA

The Land Portal is a major supporter of the Linked Open Data approach to development. The Land Portal makes it priority to publish structured data in machine readable, standardized formats under open licenses that allow for re-use by anyone. Through the pursuit of more transparent and open information on land governance, the Land Portal seeks to become a leading example of open development in action.

In this regard, the Land Portal Foundation became an official partner of the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) partnership. Through the GODAN partners, the Land Portal worked with the leading people and organizations on Open Data and its advantages, with a special focus on standards and capacity

LANDVOC - THE LINKED LAND GOVERNANCE THESAURUS

As part of GODAN Action, the Land Portal conducted a scoping study on the use of topical standards in the land sector, which concluded that knowledge and use of standards in the land sector are either limited or non-existent. Additionally, many organizations have no classification scheme for the content they upload to their websites, and none of the organizations were found to use any type of land-related standards.

LandVoc is a **controlled vocabulary** of 270 land-related terms to topically classify land-related information. LandVoc is available in **multiple languages** and **enriched with synonyms** to reflect local usage of terms.

In response to this conclusion, the Land Portal developed "LandVoc – the Linked Land Governance Thesaurus", which is a thesaurus of 270 land-related concepts. LandVoc is a component of the Food and Agricultural Organization's Agrovoc, a thesaurus of agricultural-related concepts. LandVoc has become the backbone of the Land Library's infrastructure. LandVoc is available to download and use, and many local partners are already making use of LandVoc concepts in their knowledge management infrastructure.

In 2016, the Land Portal asked its local partners to review the LandVoc list of concepts and to add synonyms to reflect the local usage of terms in multiple languages. Open Development Mekong, Instituto Para el Desarollo Rural de Sudamérica and Habitat for Humanity Latin America verified existing translations and added translations to the LandVoc concepts. The long-term goal is to transform LandVoc into a product that can be widely used by the land sector.

CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2016, Land Portal started its capacity building efforts. The first training on "**Open and collaborative platforms for responsible land governance**" was organized in collaboration with the Land Portal's international partners Habitat for Humanity, the Global Land Tool Network and the Cadasta Foundation. The workshop was held on October 16th in Quito, Ecuador at the global **Habitat III conference**., and was sponsored by the GODAN Action consortium. The Land Portal selected 30 participants among more than 50 applicants; participants included directors and policy enablers working for civil society or grassroots organizations.

Moreover, the Land Portal had the opportunity to present an open data awareness raising session as part of **Habitat for Humanity's strategic meeting** that brought together more than 50 country directors to discuss the advantages of open data. Consequently, numerous country and regional offices expressed interest in incorporating a Linked Open Data strategy in their programs.

LAND PORTAL GOVERNANCE

STRATEGY 2017-2022

Twenty-sixteen (2016) was the final year of Land Portal's 2014-2017 strategy, which resulted in several noteworthy outcomes, including the establishment of independent, Netherlands-based organization and the launching of innovative country and thematic portfolios. Through implementing the 2014-2017 strategy, Land Portal Foundation developed a reputation as knowledge management expert in the land sector. With this successful period coming to a close, Land Portal is undergoing a strategy refresh and brainstorming new goals and ideas. The Land Portal Board and Team are finalizing an ambitious five-year strategy (2017-2022), which will be published in 2017. We hope the new strategy will increase awareness and understanding of Land Portal's long-term goals and ambitions.

LAND PORTAL BOARD

The Land Portal's Board of Directors consisted in 2016 of four members: Leon Verstappen, Magdalena Anna Kropiwnicka, Terry Parnell, and Joan Carling. Francisco Sarmento resigned as Treasurer in 2016 due to a conflict of interest in a new position. The Land Portal Foundation has released a call for expression of interest for new board members late 2016, receiving many interesting applications. The Land Portal Board of Directors selected new board members in early 2017.

LAND PORTAL TEAM

The Land Portal team consists of Ms. Laura Meggiolaro (Coordinator) based in Rome, Italy; Mr. Neil Sorensen (Communications and Resource Mobilization Specialist), based in Paris, France; Mr. Jules Clement (Technology Officer), based in Berlin, Germany; Mr. Marcello de Maria (Researcher and Data Analyst), based in Reading, United Kingdom; and Ms. Lisette Meij (Administrative Officer and Librarian), based in Groningen, the Netherlands.

Three new members joined the Land Portal Team in 2016. In January, Carlos Tejo Alonso joined the team as the Land Portal's Data Officer; he is in charge of the Open Data policy and the data curation and ingestion into the Land Portal's Land Book and Land Library. To strengthen the linkages with the Portuguese-speaking countries, the Land Portal worked with Actuar, a civil society organization focused on Lusophone countries, to provide Portuguese content on the Land Portal, including sending out the three weekly news digests in Portuguese and preparing the partnerships and online discussions with Portuguese-speaking organizations. Finally, in September 2016, Nicholas Tagliarino, PhD Candidate

at the University of Groningen, joined as the Land Portal's Research Analyst. Nicholas Tagliarino works part-time for the Land Portal and is contributing to the development of the country and thematic portfolios as well as indicators from his PhD-research, focusing on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure principles regarding expropriation, compensation, and resettlement.

LAND PORTAL TEAM 2016

LOOKING FORWARD

The year 2016 was the Land Portal's first year as a fully operation and independent organization, and already its success is visible in many parts of the world. This past year the Land Portal scoped and pilot-testing a range of new knowledge products, services, and initiatives. It now has the proper framework in place to scale up its role as a valuable amplifier the many voices informing the world about land governance.

Over the next few years, the Land Portal intends to **refine its core platform and products** based upon findings from user research. It will implement a user-centered process of prioritization and design. The Land Portal also intends to **widely promote LandVoc**, a standardized vocabulary on land governance, as the common classification scheme for land. Through this classification scheme, the Land Library can integrate hundreds of sources of open access data, research and analysis.

Moreover, the Land Portal also plans to **develop the Land Book** to incorporate further indicator data, including indicators relating to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure. Land Portal will also launch several more Country and Thematic Portfolios in 2017.

The Land Portal will **deepen and diversify its partnerships**, adopting a mix of models for two-way information exchange, and addressing data divides through capacity building, mentorship and support. Finally, Land Portal will develop an **enhanced research and communication offer**, bringing together data and debate to create knowledge products that address key land governance issues.

By working with its many partners, the Land Portal will continue to make progress on **building a better information ecosystem on land**. With enhanced access to key land-related information, policy makers, development agencies, academic researchers, practitioners, and the public can help influence reforms that address the many land governance challenges facing the world today.

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