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## Message from the Land Portal Team Leader

It is my pleasure to share the work of the Land Portal over the past four months. 2018 has thus far been a banner year for our work, which increasingly revolves around strong and dedicated partnerships



throughout the land governance community to democratize the information landscape by making land data and information more accessible.

We are committed to continuously improving our service to valued users such as yourself. Your opinion is very important to us, so we hope you will give us 5 minutes of your time to complete **our user survey**.

We are pleased to announce that the Land Portal Foundation has been awarded a grant of £ 1.3 million as part of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) **Land: Enhancing Governance for Economic Development (LEGEND)** programme, which ensures the continuity of our work for at least three more years. We greatly appreciate the support of the British people. We will use these resources wisely to stimulate policy coherence in land governance while safeguarding rights and opportunities of the most vulnerable people in both rural and urban areas — and especially women.

One of the highlights of the last four months was the World Bank Conference in Washington, D.C., in March, where the Land Portal had a significant presence this year. Not only did we have the chance to meet our highly valued colleagues and partners, old and new, but we also had a chance to present no less than four papers. Our particular highlight was the **Information Ecosystem for Land Governance workshop**, organized together with LandMark, Resource Equity, the Rights and Resources Initiative and Habitat for Humanity. We were thrilled to welcome 45

participants from a wide range of organizations, local and global, and spend two days together having **very valuable discussions** on the way we all deal with data in all aspects of the data cycle - from collection to use and feedback - and how the land sector as a whole can work together more effectively when it comes to data. We are excited at the opportunities to join forces with colleagues that came out of the conversations, which undoubtedly will set the tone for the upcoming three years of our DFID supported work.

These are only snapshots of the many exciting events and activities the Land Portal has participated in over the last four months. In this newsletter, my team and I are happy to share with you other exciting activities for this period. You can find more information on the Her Land Her Story campaign, our work around land and open data with the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) Action consortium, our media partnerships, our travels to New Delhi and Nairobi, and all the many updates on the website and data ingestions.

Let me finish my message by highlighting a matter that has undoubtedly reached your email inbox several times this month: the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). As a data-centred organization, we are fully committed to protecting your personal data and to use it for no other purposes than those which you explicitly agreed. You will find that we have updated our **Privacy Policy** on the website and have requested all our subscribers to **confirm their willingness to keep receiving our messages**.

We sincerely hope you will stay in touch with us and give us the pleasure of keeping you informed of land issues in our three-weekly news digests and the Foundation's activities in our newsletters.

With sincere regards,

Laura Meggiolaro  
Team Leader, Land Portal Foundation

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## Activity Highlights



### Land Portal User Survey

Thanks to the financial support of the Omidyar Network and with the technical support of Acumen - a company leader in the sector - we are currently running a survey of Land Portal users, and we would love to hear your voice, too. If you have not already done so, please take 5-10 minutes to complete the **short survey**. With

your guidance and support, we will be able to ensure our activities serve your needs in the best possible way while helping us to evolve and grow as an organization and platform.



## Her Land Her Story Campaign

A high point of this period has been the **Her Land Her Story** campaign, which we co-organized together with the Cadasta Foundation in partnership with ten other organizations, to feature the stories of 26 real women from around the world with the aims of advocating and raising awareness of women's land rights issues. The campaign culminated in a **webinar** co-hosted with the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Thematic Network on Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources.

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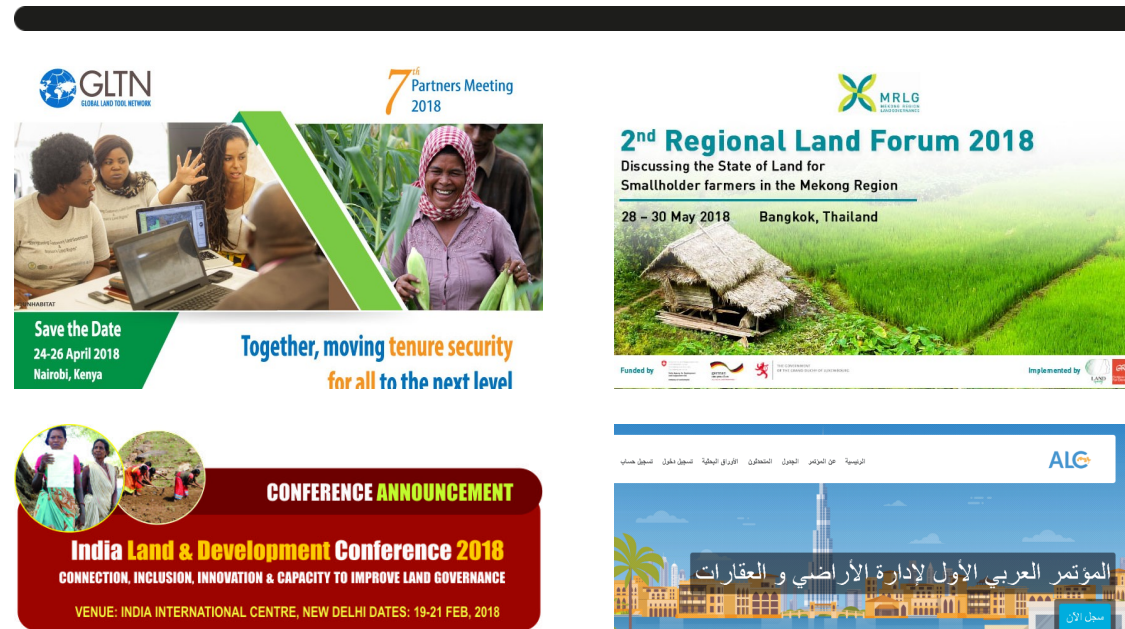


## GODAN Action

The Land Portal is proud partner of the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) Action consortium, which aims to enable the effective use of open data in tackling food security, nutrition and agriculture challenges more broadly. In 2018, the program focuses on land data with the Land Portal as the lead partner. We kicked off this exciting year by launching the briefing paper **Necessity for Open Data on land and property rights** and hosting a **record-breaking webinar**, introducing the many opportunities but also the very real challenges when it comes to open land data.

We are very excited to work with this incredible group of Open Data experts and explore how we can collectively improve the information ecosystem on land. Our work will focus on the relationship between the global and local stakeholders: are data efforts at a global level useful for actors at the local level, and are the global efforts actually contributing to improved land governance and secured tenure rights for all, or are there gaps in the linkages? We hope to provide insight to these very challenging but important questions through extensive research into current data practices on all levels, with a specific focus on data standards, targeted capacity building of various stakeholders and many in depth interviews with partners. Stay tuned to hear more on this work as it progresses - we firmly believe this is an

essential element to our own, and to anyone's work that deals with data in any way, shape or form.



## Media partnerships

The Land Portal strives to serve the needs of the land governance community. One way we do this is by serving as media partners for conferences and by taking every opportunity to promote better land information management practices.

For the second year running the Land Portal collaborated with NRMG on the **India Land and Development Conference (ILDC) 2018**. We were also pleased to bring greater visibility as a media partner to the **First Arab Land Conference** organized by the GLTN and the World Bank. As a proud Partner of the GLTN, we helped to increase the profile of the **7th GLTN Partners meeting** in Nairobi at the end of April. Most recently, we served as media partner for the **Second Mekong Regional Land Forum**,



which took place in Bangkok, Thailand at the end of May, organized by Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG) and the FAO.



## New country and thematic portfolios

We have continued to build and diversify the range of issues and countries profiled on the Land Portal. We published three additional thematic portfolios - **Land, Climate Change & the Environment**, with a narrative written by Nayna Jhaveri, **Rangelands, Drylands & Pastoralism**, published in partnership with the



International Land Coalition (ILC) Global Rangelands Initiative and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and **Land & Corruption** in collaboration with Transparency International. Moreover, our portfolio on **Mozambique** (with Centro Terra Viva) marks the 20th addition to in-depth country portfolios on the Land Portal.

These incredibly rich knowledge products with diverse data and information on the Land Portal would not be possible without strong collaboration and partnership with local and global organizations and institutions. For example, as part of creating the **Rangelands, Drylands and Pastoralism** portfolio, we incorporated the **Global Livestock Production Systems in Rangelands Dataset**, which is part of a joint initiative between the FAO and ILRI. On the **Land & Corruption** portfolio, users can access descriptions of and links to Transparency International's **publications and guidelines** on Land & Corruption. The Land Library now proudly hosts metadata from the very rich **South Africa Land Observatory** and the Online Burma Library, with accumulated metadata of well over 47,000 resources from almost 1,300 different data publishers all over the world.



## Online discussions

Although a lot of information can be found in datasets and publications, local knowledge often remains inaccessible. At the Land Portal, we constantly endeavor to tap into and learn from the tacit knowledge of land governance communities. We are

very happy to see that the platform we offer to host online dialogues remain valued by the land community, and are becoming increasingly more successful each time. At the beginning of this year we held two of the most successful dialogues in the history of the Land Portal. A dialogue on **Customary Land Recognition: Zambia Approach to Documentation and Administration**, hosted in partnership with USAID, generated 146 contributions, while **Making Rangelands Secure**, organized in partnership with the ILC Rangelands Initiative, received 117 contributions from a wide ranges of experts in English, French, Russian and Spanish.



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