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Message from the Land Portal Team Leader

At the Land Portal Foundation, we strive to keep our platform on the cutting edge for the management and sharing of data and information on land. We are strong believers that structured systems enable not



only increased sharing of information, which is vital, but that this also multiplies the possibilities for exploring data, leading to increased understanding of the underlying factors at play.

Ultimately, land data is spatial by nature. From land administration and cadastral systems to land use and customary tenure systems, spatial data on land is becoming increasingly important for documenting environmental degradation, identifying areas of conflict, ushering in land reforms and protecting community land rights, among many other possible benefits. That's why, **thanks to financial support from the Omidyar Network**, we will soon begin developing a spatial component of the website that will complement and enhance our existing data architecture, making it possible to visualize many of the hundreds of indicators already on the Land Portal and open up a world of possibilities. Stay tuned for exciting new developments in the coming months.

We greatly value the input of our users, who confirm that repackaging and presenting information in a comprehensive way increases its usefulness to them while facilitating greater understanding. That's why we are proud of our **country** and **thematic** portfolios, which provide users access to a combination of data, detailed narratives and fresh multimedia content, while showcasing new and emerging voices on specific issues. We are delighted to undertake these activities in partnership with local and global organizations as well as the leading experts from around the world.

Country data assessments and data gap exploration and analysis are increasingly becoming a core part of our work. Before launching new data monitoring initiatives, it is critical to get a clear sense of the state of information on land. Thanks to the support from the Kenya office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), we will soon release our first State of Information Report for Kenya in both English and in Swahili, which will provide a comprehensive scoping of the information landscape, an open data compliance assessment and recommendations for improvement in information management practices. We undertake this work in close collaboration with country data experts and validate it in workshops with local data providers. Additional assessments for other East African countries, South Africa and India also underway.

We are also thrilled to announce our participation as media partner for the 2019 India Land and Development Conference (ILDC) in New Delhi, India. Amplifying local voices and the issues that are important to country actors is a crucial part of our strategy. Through interactive webinars, blogs, interviews and a strong global social media presence, and by co-organizing a data-sharing workshop that builds upon our **Partnership for Action workshop** towards building an information ecosystem on land in Washington earlier this year, we hope to contribute to better land governance in India.

You may have noticed that over the past few months we have organized a number of webinars. In case you haven't participated, we are striking forward with an innovative and dynamic model of webinars that is more like a virtual talk show than a series of traditional presentations. We work closely with partners and panelists to provide a format that gets to the bottom of the issues and provides ample room for discussion. We offer this service to international organizations and companies that are eager to discuss land issues in an enterprising and inventive way. For all the details, visit our page describing **Land Portal services**.

We are a small Dutch NGO that is strongly committed to overcome data silos and supporting an open, democratic and transparent data landscape. At the same time, open data and disclosed information is only valuable when stakeholders know how to use it to generate change. To measure the impact of open data and the change it can potentially drive, the Land Portal Foundation, in partnership with Wageningen University, will undertake an impact assessment exercise over the coming years that will contribute to a broader understanding of the role of data and information- as well as its management and communication - to better land governance.

Finally, I am delighted to announce our new website section featuring **impact stories**, which showcases successful examples of collaborations and good practices towards the democratization of data, data sharing, and open dialogue. These stories demonstrate that the ecosystem we imagine is possible if you are open with your data.

All of this work would not be possible without the financial support of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) as part of their **Land: Enhancing Governance for Economic Development (LEGEND) programme**.

With sincere regards,

Laura Meggiolaro
Team Leader, Land Portal Foundation

Highlights

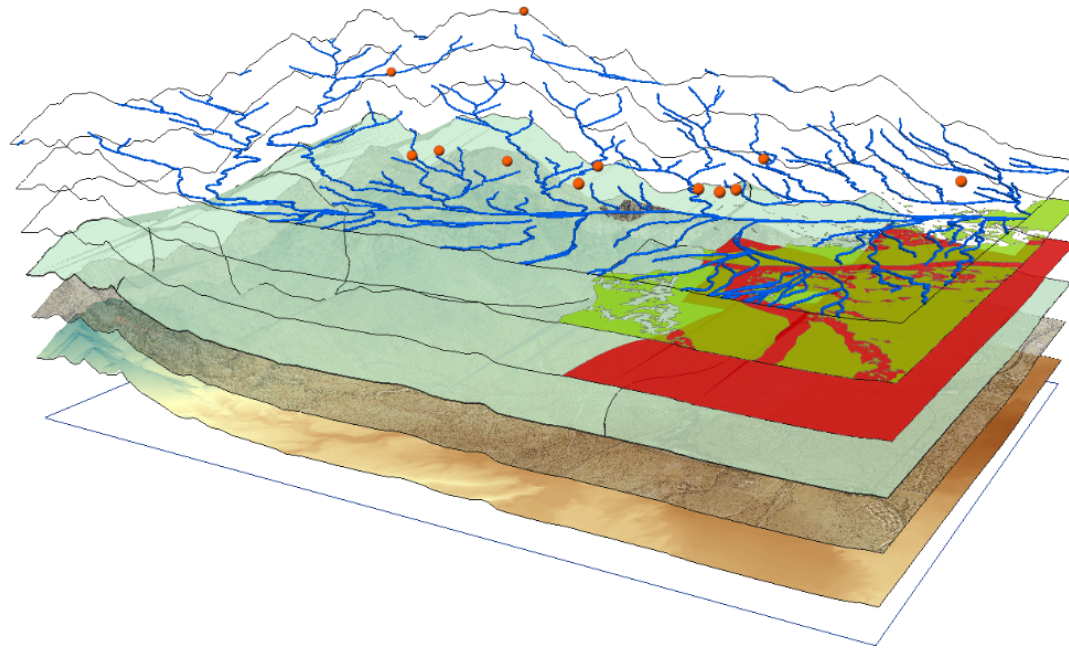
"Mozambicans are curious about technology and online platforms to discuss their concerns with regards to land rights, and are eager to continue learning more."

Manuela Wing

Coordinator of the Communication and Dissemination Unit at Centro Terra
Viva

The Land Portal Launches Impact Stories Section

At the Land Portal, we are in the business of building an information ecosystem for land governance that supports better informed decision and policy making at national and international levels. In order to show the importance of this, we have designed a section of the Portal that documents real impact in the form of stories. The section aims to critically assess where we do well in terms of using open data for improved land rights, and where there is room for improvement. **Read the full announcement.**



Announcing Move Towards Spatial Data with \$400,000 Omidyar Network Investment

We are honored to announce that the Omidyar Network has renewed its support of the Land Portal Foundation with an investment of \$400,000 to support the integration and visualization of spatial data and the dissemination of SDG-related data and information, as well as provide core funding for institutional enhancement, over the next two years. This funding will enable us to stay on the cutting edge of land data and information management, and will help us to play a catalytic role in the land governance community with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **Read the full announcement.**





Annual Land Portal Foundation Board and Team Meeting

From 2-4 October, 2018, the Land Portal Board and Team met in Rome for the annual meeting. Board members Annette Jaitner, Dr. Ritu Verma, Leon Verstappen and Timothy Fella were present, with Magdalena Anna Kropiwnicka participating remotely. The meeting was also an opportunity to gain feedback from the Technical and Policy Advisory Committee members.



The Land Portal at the Committee on Food Security (CFS)

During the 45th session of the CFS in Rome from 15-19 October, the Land Portal co-organized the event **Realizing the VGGTs and SDGs: The role of data ecosystems, people-centered monitoring and impact evaluation in achieving global development goals**. Speakers and participants discussed the growing ecosystem of data and how to further improve collaboration among actors, make people-centred data and monitoring tools more accessible, and further democratize information surrounding the VGGTs and SDGs. Read this **blog post** based on Laura Meggiolaro's presentation.

From left to right: Ward Anseeuw (ILC), Harold Liversage (IFAD), Laura Meggiolaro (Land Portal Foundation), Jennifer Lisher (MCC), Everlyne Nairesiae (GLTN), Anna Locke (Prindex)



Co-hosted by:



Webinar: An Introduction To Prindex - 28 November, 2018

Join our webinar on 28 November (8:30 ET, 14:30 CET, 16:30 Nairobi) to find out how Prindex is measuring perceptions of land tenure security.



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

19–30 November, 2018

In February 2018, South Africa's National Assembly passed a resolution to establish an ad hoc Constitutional Review Committee to explore and debate the need for a constitutional amendment to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation in the public interest. This moderated online dialogue facilitated by Phuhlisani NPC in association with the Land Portal is in search of solutions.

Contributors to the dialogue will discuss and debate the content of a pro-poor programme of land reform. **Join in the discussion!**



Coming Soon: New Section on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure (VGGT)

Since the UN Committee on World Food Security officially endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) in 2012, an extensive amount of work has been done to ensure that they are adopted and implemented at regional and country levels. Nonetheless, information about if and how countries are adopting the VGGT remains fragmented, difficult to locate, or not easily accessible. At the Land Portal Foundation, we assume that by making VGGT-related data, and tools widely accessible and disseminated in a user-friendly manner, the adoption and implementation of the VGGT can be tracked and monitored more effectively at global, regional and country levels. This is why we are in the process of establishing an interactive platform devoted to the VGGT on the Land Portal in close

collaboration with land experts. If you are interested in being a part of creating this platform, please let us know!



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