



## Message from the Land Portal Coordinator: 2017 Year in Review



Since the Land Portal became an independent organization back in 2014, we have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to establish a vibrant information ecosystem on land, in partnership with organizations from the Global South as well as key organizations and institutions working internationally. With hard work come rewards and although we have a ways to go, we have made a great deal of progress. Without the openness and willingness of so many organizations whom we have worked with over the last few years, the culture of sharing structured and transparent information on land, which we have aimed to build, would not exist today. First and foremost, we would like to thank you.

The Land Portal makes information more accessible and understandable, breaking down the information barriers and promoting the work of communities most affected by weak land governance systems, from indigenous communities to those fighting for women's land rights. It is no surprise then that we were all

ravished to hear the victorious news this past November, when the Inter-Agency Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators voted to reclassify SDG Land Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.2 from Tier III to Tier II status. In the run-up to this major meeting, the Land Portal – in close partnership with GLTN - [established an interactive platform devoted to monitoring land-related indicators in the SDGs](#) as well as a [section devoted to Prindex](#) and perceptions of land tenure security. The land community enthusiastically participated in these efforts by taking part in our [SDGs Blog Series](#) as well as our [webinars](#) and online discussions devoted to the [future of land related indicators in the 2030 Agenda](#). We are all in this together and are humbled by the fact that our collective efforts can contribute to big steps forward, the successful reclassification being one of them. We are grateful to the Omidyar Network for supporting this work.

In an effort to increase awareness, transparency and understanding, we have also continued to develop country and thematic portfolios in partnership with local and international organizations over the past several months. We recently released a portfolio on [Land Conflicts](#) together with the FAO and on [Land and Food Security](#) together with IFPRI. With a range of partners and experts we have also launched country portfolios for [Bangladesh](#), [Brazil](#), [India](#), [Kenya](#), [Rwanda](#), [South Africa](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Uganda](#). We will continue to build upon and diversify this array of portfolios, which feature detailed narratives combined with data visualizations and related blogs, news, library resources, organizations and other pertinent information.

Our team is hard at work and the Land Portal is continuing to build the information ecosystem by linking together diverse datasets and repositories all around the world and making metadata openly available for reuse. Examples of additional databases we added to our country and thematic portfolios are [Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index](#), [food security](#) and

[land use](#) indicators from the FAO, [VGGT indicators](#), India's [Land Conflict Watch](#) and others. We are also proud to announce that the Land Library now holds 45,857 resources from 1156 different publishers all around the world, with special attention to small information providers in the Global south. Over the past few months we have also managed to integrate thousands of resources from big global databases such [FAOLEX](#), the [FAO Documents Repository](#), [AGRIS](#) and the [CGSpace database](#), the database for the CGIAR research consortium.

In an effort to make more voices heard in the Land Community and contribute to a dynamic ecosystem of information providers, we have also piloted the hosting projects on the Land Portal, which gives projects greater visibility and provide access to fully functional microsites that benefit from our full information architecture. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) [Land: Enhancing Governance for Economic Development \(LEGEND\)](#) program is now hosted on the Land Portal, as is the Mekong Region Land Governance (MLRG) [Mekong Land Information Knowledge and Engagement \(MLIKE\)](#) Platform. Looking to the future, we look forward to offering project hosting to an increased number of entities. Please do contact us if you feel that the Land Portal could be the right solution for your project!

The Land Portal continues to serve as a dynamic space for dialogue. Effective discussions on [Women's Land Rights in India and the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), [Responsible Investments in Land: perspectives from Tanzania and globally](#), [Measuring perceptions on land tenure security](#) and [Responsible Large Scale Agricultural Investment in the Mekong Region](#) are just a few of the discussions we have held, which have served to stimulate interesting interactions and have brought local voices to the forefront of the global community.

As mentioned above, we are especially thankful for the engagement of partners with the Land Portal. We are here to support and promote the work of the land governance community. We are indebted to DFID for their unwavering financial support for our work.

We also take this moment to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Laura Meggiolaro  
Coordinator, Land Portal Foundation





**This past September, the Land Portal and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) launched a [platform focused on Land and Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). After months of diligent preparation, the platform was designed in order to make information about land-related SDGs widely available and to engage stakeholders.**

The platform covers a variety of indicators including 1.4.2 on land tenure security including perception of tenure rights, 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 on smallholder farmers, what they earn and how much they produce, 2.4.1 on agriculture area, 5.a.1 on ownership and share of land rights of women, 5.a.2 on legal frameworks for women's land rights, 11.1.1, 11.3.1 and 11.7.1 relating to sustainable urban tenure and open spaces and 15.1.1, 15.1.2 and 15.3.1 relating to forest areas, biodiversity and degraded lands, respectively.

To complement this initiative, the Land Portal Foundation, the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Thematic Network on Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources are also launching a [Blog Series on Land and the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). The blog series has so far been successful in gathering a variety of view points from colleagues in the land sector, resulting in increased momentum and sustained interest on the matter.

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**PRIndex.**

**In October, the Land Portal launched a dynamic and interactive representation of the Global Property Rights Index (PRIndex).**

In collaboration with Land Alliance, Inc., the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Gallup, and with the support of the Omidyar Network and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), The Land Portal has [created a platform](#) that breaks down the methodology, the status and the main findings of PRIndex, and links this to key news and information related to perceptions of tenure security. The Land Portal presents two dynamic and interactive dimensions of PRIndex survey results, including the level of [perceived tenure security](#) and whether they feel secure, somewhat insecure or insecure and the [rate of property documentation](#) by country and urban and rural sectors, further analyzing the results among homeowners and renters. If you haven't done so already, we invite each of you to take a look and explore.

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**Welcome to the Land Portal Team!**

**Stacey Zammit**



Stacey has been a communications consultant for the Land Portal since June, 2017 and is currently a graduate student at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), with a specialism focusing on natural resource management and thesis work looking at women's management of natural resources and the potential linkages to peace building processes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). Prior to joining the Land Portal, Stacey was working as a communications consultant for the International Land Coalition (ILC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome.

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## Annual Land Portal Board and Team Meeting

The [Land Portal Board and Team](#) met in Rome for their annual gathering, from 17-18 October, 2017. The meeting was hosted by the International Land Coalition (ILC) at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) headquarters. These meetings are an essential part of team building and critical to gaining important feedback for the year ahead. We look forward to future gatherings!

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## New Country and Thematic Portfolios on the Land Portal

### Thematic Portfolios:

- In July, the Land Portal published a [Thematic Portfolio on Land Conflicts](#) together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- In September, with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Land Portal published a publishing a [Thematic Portfolio on Land & Food Security](#).

### Since April, 2017, the Land Portal has published the following Country Portfolios:

- [Bangladesh](#) was published in partnership with [Uttaran](#), a people centered organisation using a rights based approach to alleviate poverty, diversify livelihood opportunities and empower poor communities
- [Brazil](#) was published together with [Habitat for Humanity International](#).
- [India](#) was published with [NRMC](#), a technical and managerial advisory firm in the development sector that provides evidence-based solutions for sustainable, equitable and inclusive development.



- [Kenya](#) was produced together with the [Land Development and Governance Institute \(LDGI\)](#).
  - [Rwanda](#): The narrative was authored by [Mireille Biraro](#), Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Land Administration and Management at INES - Ruhengeri.
  - [South Africa](#) was published in partnership with the [Association For Rural Advancement \(AFRA\)](#), a land rights advocacy non-governmental organisation (NGO) working since 1979 to support marginalized black rural people.
  - [Tanzania](#): the narrative was authored by [Godfrey Massay](#), an independent consultant and expert in land issues in Tanzania.
  - [Uganda](#) was published together with [Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment \(ACODE\)](#), an independent public policy research and advocacy think tank.
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AGRIS



**The Land Library now holds 45,857 resources from 1156 different publishers!**

**New databases imported into the Library since April, 2017:**

- An additional 3,523 resources were imported into [FAOLEX](#), the FAO Legal Office database of national legislation and international agreements concerning food and agriculture.
- 3,127 resources from the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\) document repository](#) were imported.
- 231 new peer reviewed articles added to the Library from the [Land Journal database](#), an open access journal.
- 8,049 new resources from [AGRIS \(International System for Agricultural Science and Technology\)](#), a global public database providing access to bibliographic information on agricultural science and technology, were imported.
- 631 new resources from the [World Bank](#) were imported.
- Over 6,000 resources were ingested from [CGSPACE](#), a repository of agricultural research outputs and results produced by different parts of CGIAR and partners.



**The Land Portal organized a successful Side Event at the 44th session of the Committee on World Food Security on the SDGs, Food Security and Tenure Rights and we would like to thank all those who participated and attended!**

The event include contributions by (from left to right):

- Laura Meggiolaro, Land Portal Foundation
- Caleb Stevens, USAID
- Everlyne Nairesiae, Global Land Tool Network (Facilitator)
- Chris Penrose-Buckley, UK Department for International Development (DFID) (Keynote Address)
- Malcolm Childress, Land Alliance, Inc.
- Jesse Coleman, UN SDSN Thematic Network on Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources UNSDSN



The [Land: Enhancing Governance for Economic Development \(LEGEND\)](#), DFID's global programme designed to mobilise knowledge and capacity for design and delivery of new country programmes, improve land governance as an essential and inclusive basis for economic development, and strengthen land and property rights at scale, is hosted on the Land Portal. The microsite was designed in concert with the Core Land Support Team (CLST), which is

managed by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the Natural Resources Institute (NRI — University of Greenwich) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

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In concert with Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG), the Land Portal hosts the [Mekong Land Information Knowledge and Engagement Platform \(MLIKE\)](#), which aims to facilitate information-sharing, learning, analysis, dialogue and problem-solving on land issues, between a wide range of people and organizations, in the Mekong region.

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