



GLTN
GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK

GLOBAL LAND INDICATORS INITIATIVE



BRIEF



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Developing a common framework for tracking progress on land issues



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BACKGROUND TO THE GLOBAL LAND INDICATORS INITIATIVE

Over the past decade, development agencies and stakeholders concerned with land and property rights globally (referred to henceforth as the “global land community”) have seen shifts in knowledge and understanding and a growth in consensus that land tenure security for all and equitable land governance are foundations for sustainable economic development and the elimination of poverty (UN Habitat / GLTN, 2014). This consensus is reflected in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, Forests and Fisheries (FAO, 2012) and other related regional and global instruments. The international donor community has also paid renewed attention to land governance in responding to the new wave

of private land acquisition and land-based investment in the global South, seeking to improve their potential to drive agricultural growth and economic development. Effective monitoring is central to ensuring that changes in land governance result in improved conditions and sustainable development opportunities for all, especially for the poor. In particular, better knowledge and understanding are needed of a) the extent to which people benefit from secure land and property rights; and b) the effectiveness of land-related policies and land administration systems in helping to deliver tenure security for all and achieve sustainable use of land resources.

GLII



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In 2013, the G8 group of countries committed to supporting greater transparency in land transactions, including the responsible governance of tenure of land, increased capacity in developing countries, and the release of data for improved land governance. The United Nations High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda report has proposed a target on “secure rights to land, property, and other assets” as a building block for people to lift themselves out of poverty. Discussions on the integration of land into the framework for measuring progress towards a set of post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are now actively underway. These developments have created the need for a core

set of land indicators that have national application and are globally relevant and comparable. This led to collaboration between UN-Habitat, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the World Bank in 2012, facilitated by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN was initiated and hosted by UN-Habitat), to establish a Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) to develop a set of core land indicators to measure tenure security globally and at country level (UN-Habitat / GLTN 2014). This initiative has now grown to 45 partners, including non-government organizations, multi-lateral agencies, academics, research institutions and training institutions actively working to reach consensus on a set of core indicators.

BENEFITS OF THE TOOL

GLII has identified 10 specific, inter-related objectives for effective monitoring systems to deliver tenure security for all and strengthen land governance global, regional, national or sub-national levels:

- To build common understanding of what current policies and programmes are achieving, and what they are not; and assist with consensus in problem diagnosis and set the basis for well-informed debate and decision-making about land.
- Contribute to feedback loop by providing “real time” feedback that identifies areas for improvement (at national, global, local or project levels).
- To promote a “race to the top” by the different United Nations Member States by identifying and recognizing effective policies and related good practices that help to achieving positive outcomes.
- To encourage and agree on common and harmonized standards for the assessment of progress and performance in land governance, and in extending and improving tenure security.
- To promote better understanding of gender and social (in)equalities in land rights and the effects of land governance practices and arrangements on different social groups, through a disaggregated monitoring approach.
- To inform formulation of land policy, design of programmes, budgeting and allocation of funds.
- To identify specific responsibilities in relation to land governance of different branches of government, civil society, academia, and private business, and contribute to better integration across government and amongst stakeholders in dealing with land and land rights.
- To contribute to learning by decision-makers and stakeholders about what works, what does not, and why, and in deepening understanding of the importance of land to development in different contexts.
- To provide information to assist in planning for national and local government, multilateral and bilateral development agencies and civil society organizations concerned with land, and private business (ranging from large-scale corporations, medium-scale enterprises and small-scale businesspeople, traders and farm producers) so as to be better able to meet their own objectives and fulfil their social responsibilities in relation to land rights and sustainable resource use.
- To promote greater transparency and access to information about land ownership, land use and planning of land developments, and greater public accountability of governments, private investors and of large-scale and institutional landowners in decision-making over land.

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