

Land Rights for Sustainable Development: The Role of Data



INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

land
portal



LAND MATRIX

**Why should we be worried – what
does our data say?**

...

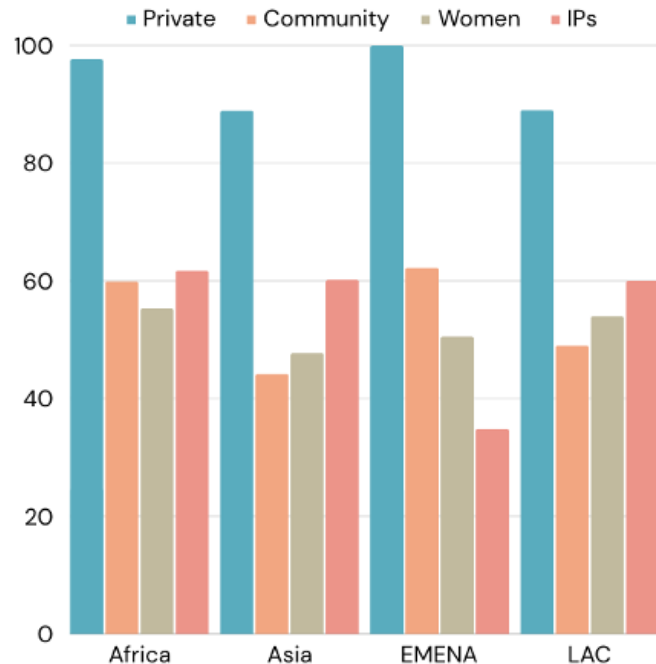
NOT ALL TENURE TYPES ARE

PROTECTED

EQUALLY

- CERTAIN GROUPS ARE BETTER POSITIONED TO MITIGATE ADVERSE CLIMATE OUTCOMES, BUT THEIR RIGHTS ARE NOT EQUALLY PROTECTED
- REVIEW OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ACROSS 30 COUNTRIES SHOWED IMPORTANT DISPARITIES WITH DIRECT IMPLICATIONS FOR CLIMATE

Legal Framework by Tenure Type and Group



Source: Four Years of People's Data on Land, LANDex, 2023

ATTACKS ON ENVIRONMENTAL

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEFENDERS

- CHARACTERIZES RISK TO THOSE WHO DEFEND LAND, TERRITORIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: KILLINGS AS TIP OF THE ICEBERG
- INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND ORGANISATIONS OVERREPRESENTED IN ATTACKS, GREEN TRANSITION RISKS REPEATING PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE

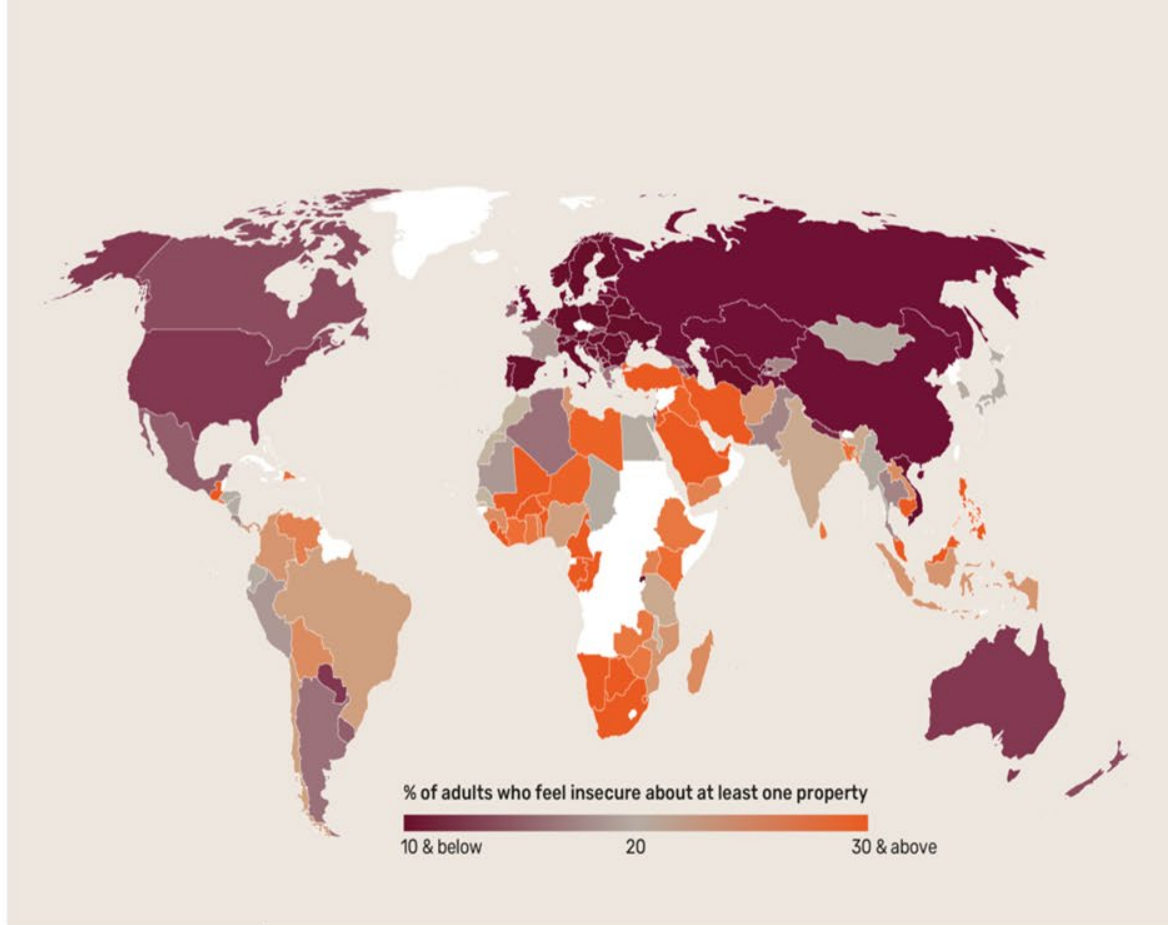
Attacks against ILEDs in Colombia



Source: *Uncovering the Hidden Iceberg*, ALLIED, 2023



Nearly
1 in 5 adults feel
insecure about their
land or property rights



Perceived tenure insecurity - A global dataset: [Prindex.net](https://prindex.net)

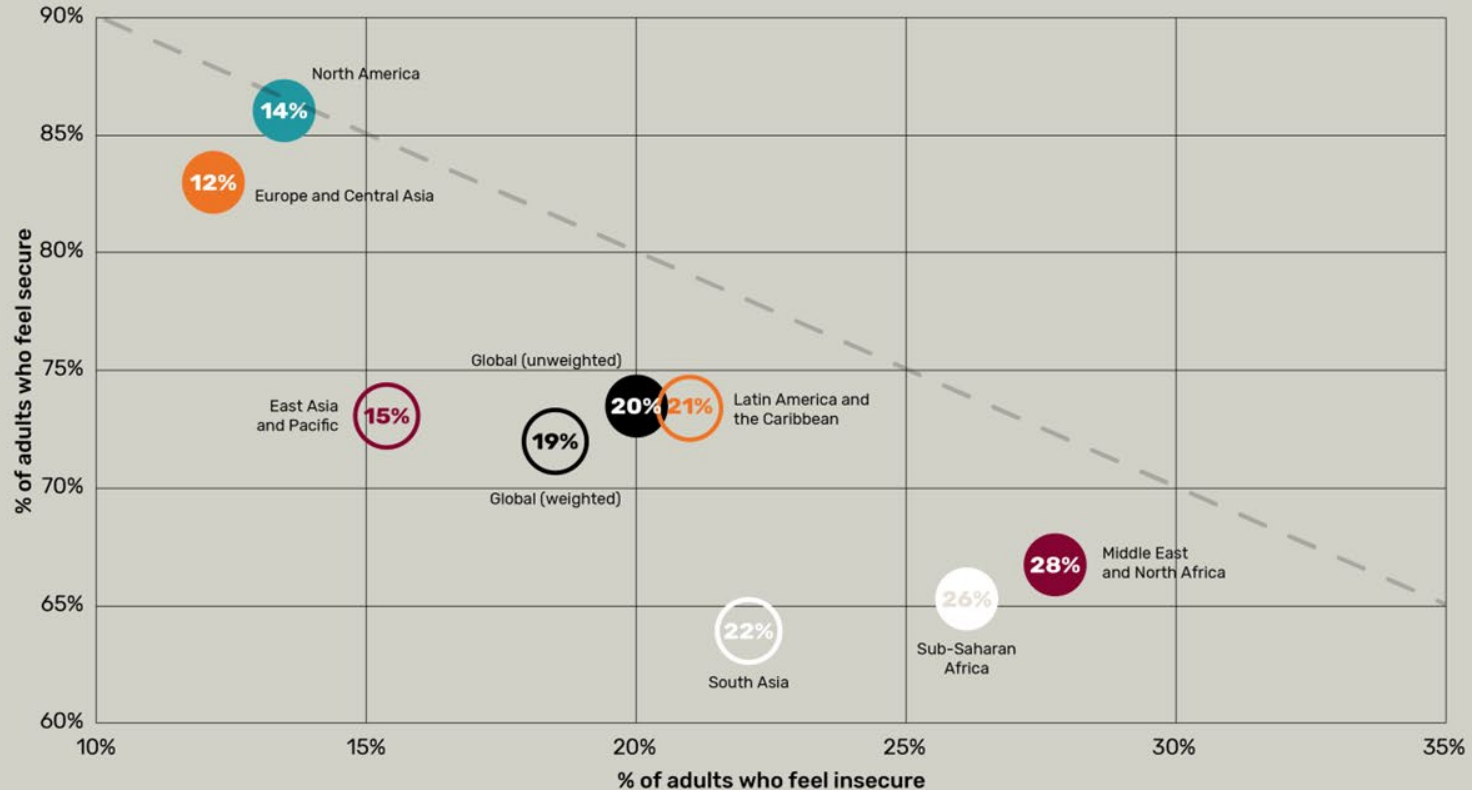


almost

1 billion

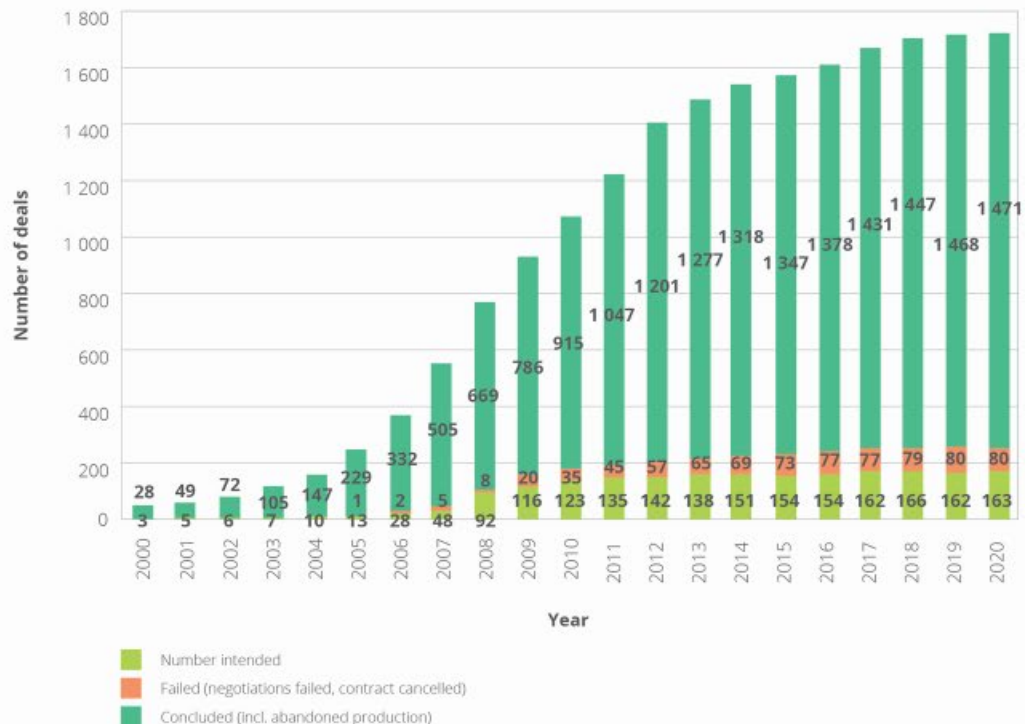
people

Where Which regions are most insecure



Pressure on land and the global agricultural land rush

Figure: Cumulative global number of deals over time



- Since 2000, the LMI has recorded agricultural deals with a total size of 33 million ha
- Slow-down since 2015
- BUT: New pressures arise ...

Notes: Calculations based on Land Matrix data. The number of concluded and failed deals are under-reported in this dynamic illustration (as compared to the static 'current' number of deals per negotiation status) because deals for which information on the specific year relating to the negotiation status is lacking are excluded. Conversely, the number of intended deals is slightly over-reported because the few deals which have been concluded in an unknown year are included here as 'intended'. For detailed information on how the dynamics are calculated, see Box 1.

New pressures on land from climate action

- Energy transition requires significant areas of land to set up wind parks and solar farms
 - Wind parks can cover extensive areas: E.g. 60 000 ha land concession for Turkana wind park in Kenya (currently uses 16 000 ha)
 - Solar is less land-intensive
- Increased demand for transition minerals (e.g. lithium, copper) is affecting land demand in the mining sectors
 - More than half of these resources are located on or near the lands of indigenous and peasant peoples (Owen et al. 2023)
- Most land-intensive: “Nature-based” carbon removal
 - Almost 1.2 billion ha of land are required to meet national climate pledges and commitments (Dooley et al. 2022)
 - Dynamic voluntary carbon market but also setbacks in the wake of the “Verra” scandals that questioned the integrity of carbon markets (Bain & Company 2023, West et al. 2023; Guardian 2023)

Ever bigger carbon offsetting projects: The “global land rush” 2.0?

Land deal in 2007: Katchung Forest (Uganda), Deal #3156

→ Size under operation: **1,972 ha**. Recognized as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project, but severe land conflicts.

“Repurposing” of land deal for forest logging into carbon offsetting schemes in 2018: Somicongo (DRC), Deal #8906

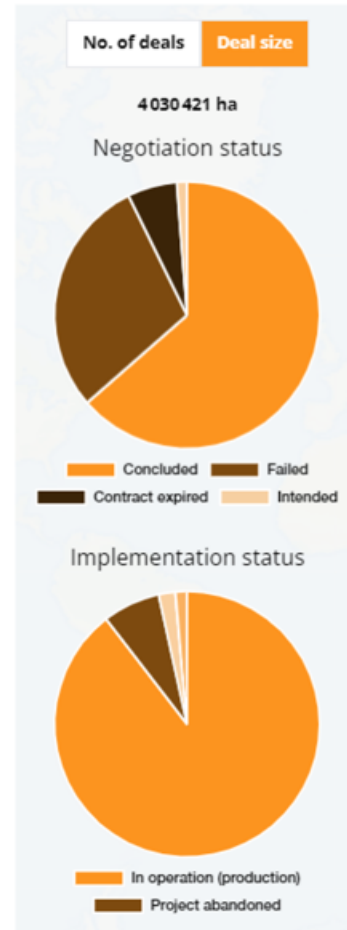
→ **300,000 ha**. REDD+ project in 2018, but poor consultation with local communities.

Land deal in 2022: BaCaSi project (DRC), Deal #9812

→ Size under contract: **55,000 ha**. To be certified under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), not yet implemented.

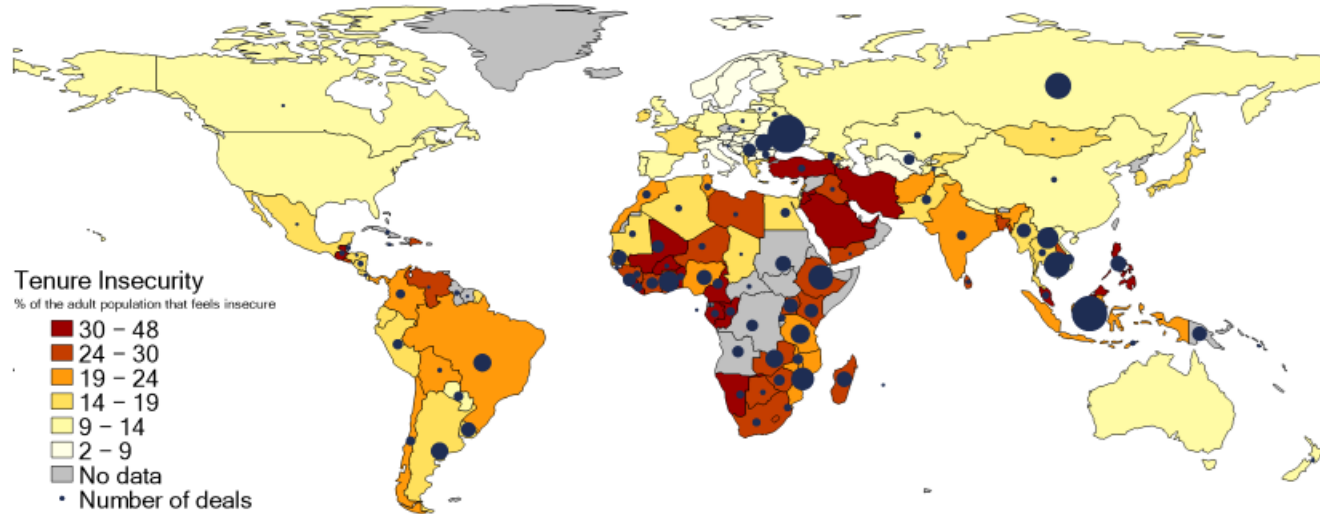
“Mega” land deal in 2023: Blue Carbon investments (multiple African): NA

→ Intended size: **24 million ha**. Little information but Dubai-based investor targets currently a land size similar to the UK



Reason to worry: Land deals under weak land governance systems

Figure: Prindex data on tenure insecurity and large-scale land deals



- Large-scale land deals occur regardless of the degree of land tenure security (Prindex), carbon offset projects do not seem to be an exception
- Our data show that land targeted by investors is frequently used by smallholders and pastoralists communities and IPs under weakly protected tenure

Why should we be worried?

There is plenty of data related to land.
Very little of it is available and accessible as a public good.



Land-related data is consistently ranked lowest to be open, compared to data about the climate, public finances, public procurement, and health.

What can we do?



**Monitor the state of land information at the country-level.
Work with governments to open up land data for the public.**

We assess the state of land information and data by country.

The Land Portal's State of Land Information program includes longform country reports, a global index, and national-level collaboration.

In particular, the SOLIndex evaluates the completeness and openness of public sector land information to provide globally comparable indicators. It complements existing land governance monitoring systems from partners. It is a diagnostic tool.



What did we find?

Land administration data is not open.

Four categories of data assessed in 15 countries in Africa:

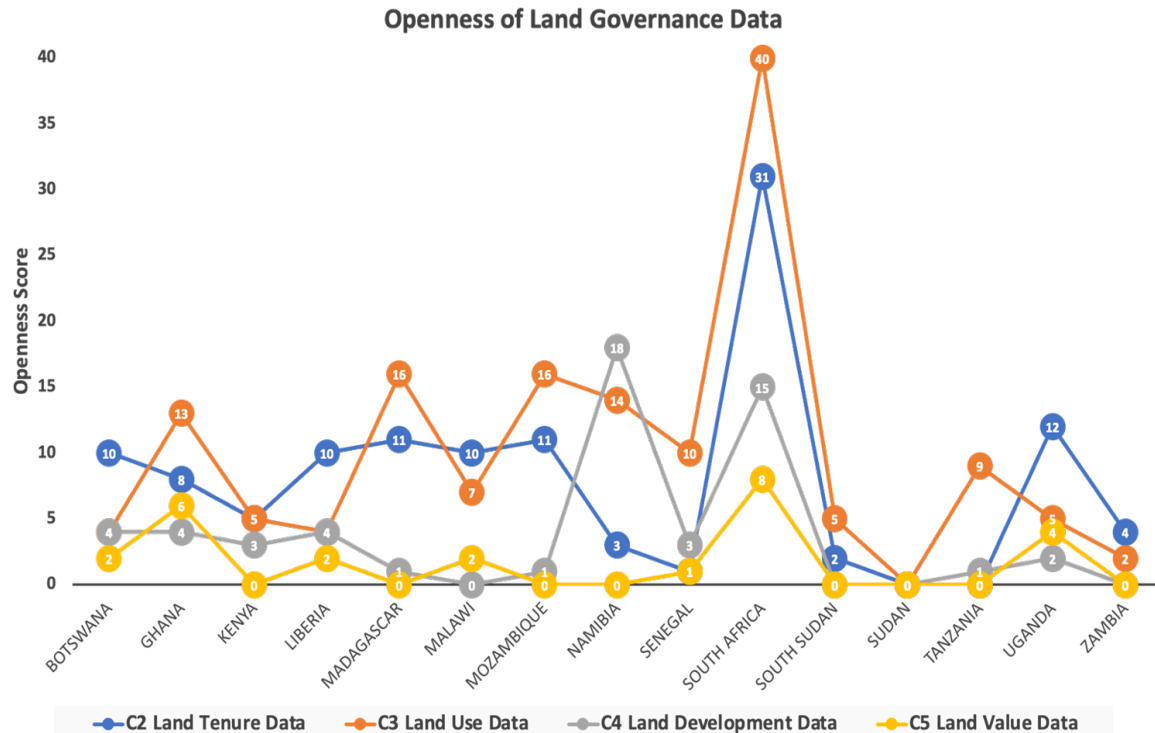
- Land Tenure, Land Use, Land Development, Land Value

Data on **Land Tenure** and **Land Use**, while still low, tends to be slightly more open.

- TENURE AVG Score - **8**
- USE AVG Score - **10**

We simply do not have open data on **Land Value** and **Land Development**.

- Development AVG Score - **4**
- Value AVG Score - **2**

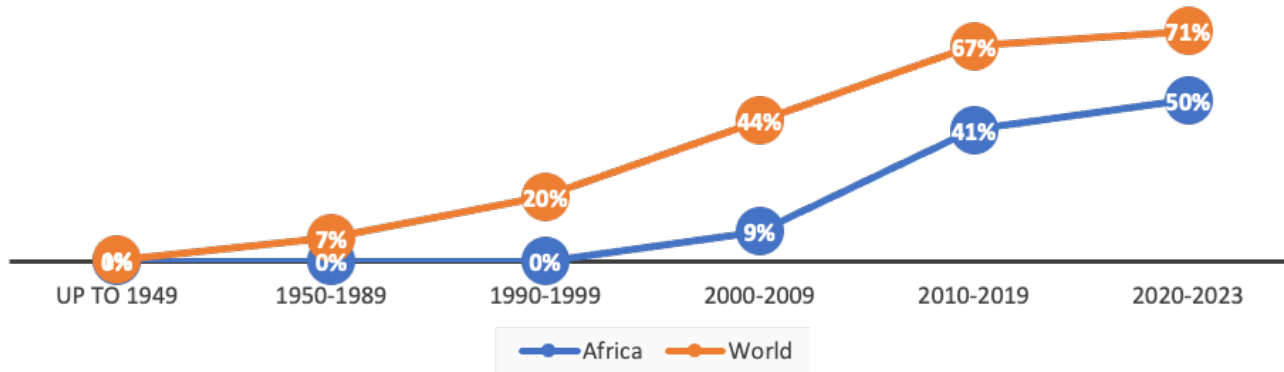




What does the data say?

**Commitment to Access to Information (ATI) is improving.
ATI is the first step towards opening up data as a public good.**

**% of Countries that have enacted
Access to Information (ATI) Legislation**



**Using land data to support
environmental challenges and
guide an evidence-based response
to climate change**

...

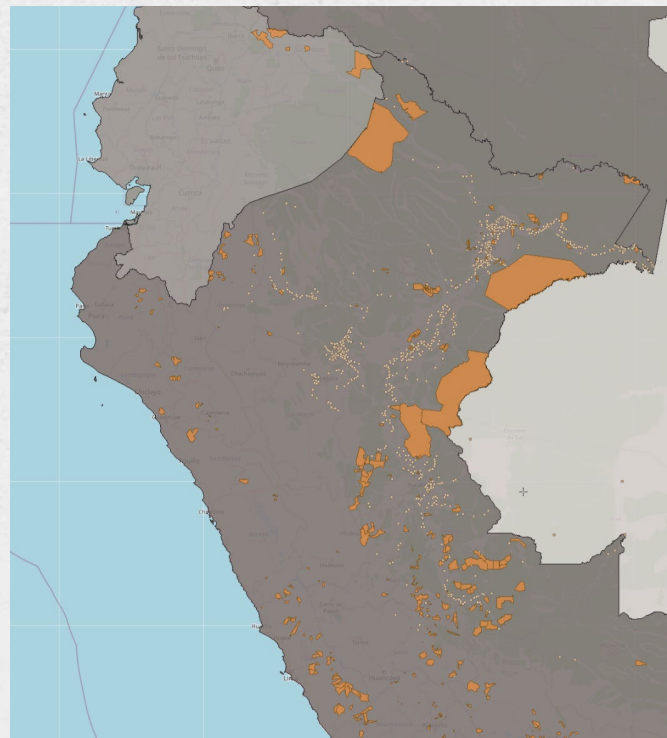
MAPS AND DATA FOR IMPROVED

VISIBILITY

OF FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY CUSTODIANS

- **HELPING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ADVOCATE FOR THEIR LAND RIGHTS, VITAL FOR THE CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEMS**
- **ONLINE PLATFORM HIGHLIGHTS LAND AT RISK, DRIVERS OF INSECURITY AND PRESENCE OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES, AMONG OTHER VARIABLES**

**Indigenous Land Held or Used
Not Acknowledged by Government**



Source: LandMark, 2024

DATA REFLECTING

TARGET GROUPS

FOR BETTER CLIMATE POLICIES

- **DIVERSE DATA AND METHODS NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND KEY POPULATIONS**
 - OFFICIAL DATA
 - COMPLEMENTARY INITIATIVES
 - FOCUS GROUPS
- **MONITORING ROLE OF LAND IN INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY**

INCLUSIVE DATA AS A BASIS FOR IMPROVED POLICIES



PSA Director Navarro welcomes the participants of the learning event.

Source: Philippines, Inclusive Land Tenure for the SDGs, IFAD and ILC, 2023

Mapping & Monitoring Tenure Security for Climate and Environment

Aim: inform programmes and policies on mitigating climate change, supporting sustainable land use, and protecting and restoring biodiversity, through:

- Identifying insecurity hotspots in carbon sinks and vulnerable ecosystems
- Developing methodologies to capture collective rights
- Unpicking relationship between tenure (in)security and environmental outcomes

PRINDEX: BROADER ACTIONS ON DATA



WE WILL DELIVER



WORLD'S LARGEST 3-POINT TIME SERIES ON LAND RIGHTS

- pre-Covid (2020) baseline
- 2nd global dataset (2024)
- 3rd global dataset planned



NEW EVIDENCE ON GENDER, CLIMATE & CONFLICT

- new analysis of land's role in dev issues
- leveraging established dev communities



RAPID SCALE-UP OF PRINDEX DATA VIA PARTNERSHIPS

- decentralisation/franchising of our methodology
- more studies on specific groups, issues & locations



A NEW NARRATIVE & COORDINATED ACTION ON LAND

- convening & building broader partnerships
- more ambitious, creative communications



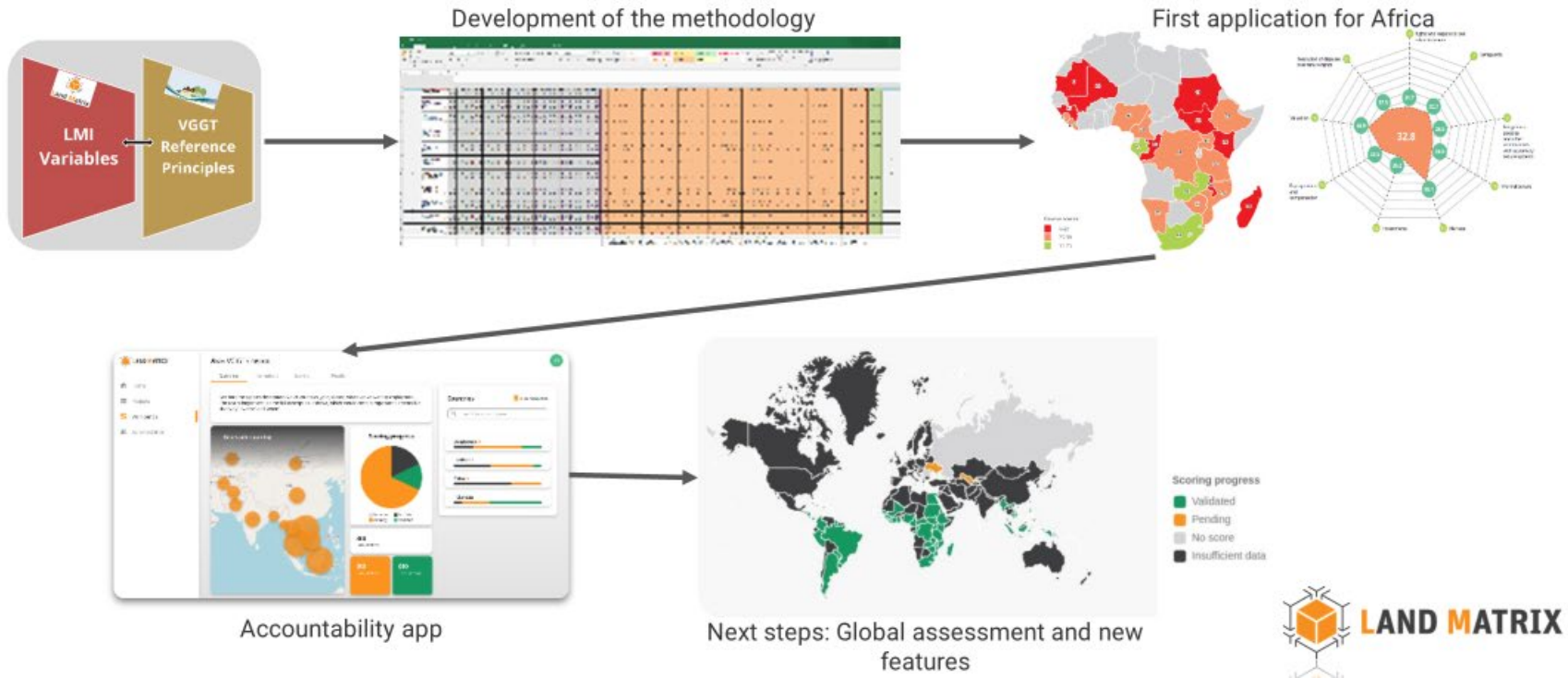
INFLUENCING IN PRIORITY HOTSPOTS

- demand-led evidence for policymakers & campaigners
- technical support & guidance

Accountability work

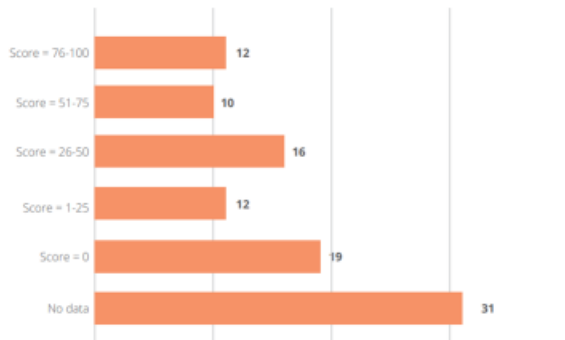
More than 10 years of the VGGTs guidelines → **How far do the practices in land-based investments including also land-intensive climate action reflect compliance with the VGGT?**

Development of a methodology to **align the Land Matrix variables to the VGGTs articles**.



Limited VGGT compliance in Africa within large-scale land deals

Figure: Almost 80% of the land deals show unsatisfactory compliance

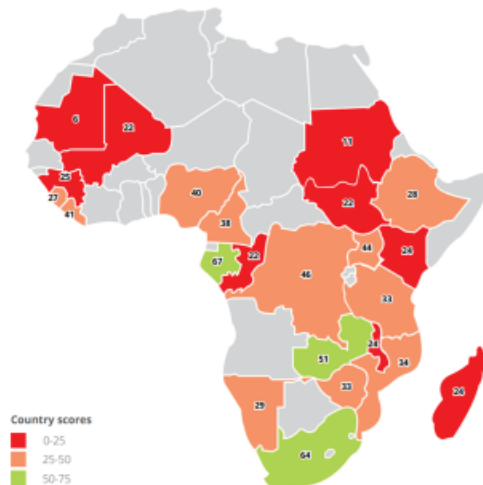


Main reasons for unsatisfactory compliance of deals include:

- Weak or non-existent consultative processes (VGGT chapter 9)
- Low regard for legitimate tenure rights (VGGT chapter 10)
- Lack of safeguards, unlawful expropriation (VGGT chapter 7)
- Minimal application of agreed-upon compensation measures (VGGT chapter 16)

Even after 10 years of monitoring, a recurring issue across all deals in Africa is the continuous lack of data and the dire state of transparency.

Figure: In only three countries do the majority of deals comply with VGGT



→ In most countries large-scale land deals in the past two decades are not compliant with the VGGT. Will it be business as usual for carbon offsets?

Accountability application

The LMI designed an accountability web-application that evaluates the compliance with the VGGT based on land data:

Figure: Example of evaluation methodology for 3 VGGT chapters



LAND MATRIX VARIABLES USED TO MONITOR VGGT ARTICLES

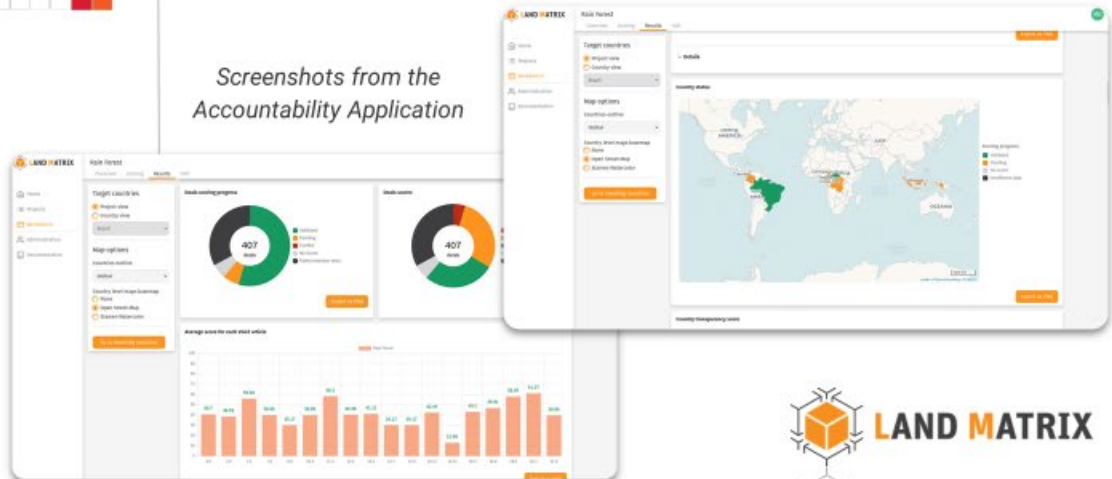
- Status of community land tenure
- Displacement
- Consultation of local community
- Community reaction
- Promised compensation
- Received compensation
- Presence of land conflicts
- Organisations and actions taken
- Materialised benefits
- Negative impacts for local community
- Gender related information
- Purchase price
- Leasing fees

The **Regional Focal Points** of the LMI rate the articles and chapters using three degrees of compliance violation:

- Severe compliance violations reported
- Partial compliance violations reported
- No compliance violation reported

→ Increase accountability for carbon offset projects in the LMI database (further will be added in data campaigns)

Screenshots from the Accountability Application





Data – for what purpose?

We inform. We open. We debate.

Improving documentation, mapping and monitoring

of land governance issues through a widely used platform providing data, structured information, tools and services.

Advocating and implementing open data principles

to ensure that land data is interoperable, open, and fully accessible by the public.

Promoting, informing and enriching the global debate and practice

on key land issues while raising the visibility of national, regional and international partners.

How is land data fundamental to climate discourse?



Issues / Land & Climate Change

Land & Climate Change

Land use, land tenure, and climate change are closely intertwined. The effects of climate change, manifested in either rapid or slow-onset ways, has altered how land and natural resources are accessed, used, and contested. As a result, global warming also contributes to destabilizing existing land and resource governance institutions and property rights.



Jump to SDGs page...

Tier status for SDGs indicators

- Tier 1: Established and data being produced
- Tier 2: Established but no regular data
- Tier 3: No established methodology

	1.4.2	Tier 2
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80 country profiles on the Land Portal are gateways to understanding land governance in a given country.

Land Projects and Programmes

Search featured projects by theme

- *Urban Tenure*
- *Indigenous & Community Land Rights*
- *Land & Investments*
- *Land & Corruption*
- *Forest Tenure*
- *Land & Gender*
- *Land & Climate Change*
- *Forest Landscape Restoration*
- *Rangelands, Drylands & Pastoralism*
- *Land & Conflicts*
- *Land & Food Security*
- *Land Degradation & Tenure*

Making sense of pressing issues in climate change



LAND DIALOGUES

*Carbon markets and Indigenous lands:
The importance of free, prior and informed consent*

14th September 2023 15:00 - 16:00 CET



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH INCLUSIVE LAND GOVERNANCE

30 November, 2023

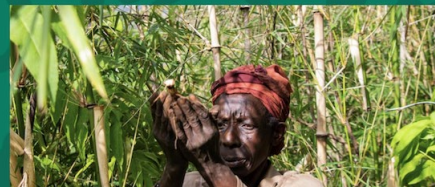
14:00-15:30 GMT | 15:00-16:30 CET



LAND DIALOGUES

Climate funding and COP28: Turning pledges into action

28th November 2023 15:00-16:00 CET



FORDFOUND



ALIGN

Advancing Land-based
Investment Governance

Webinar Series

**When carbon markets go wrong:
How to ensure access to remedy
for land tenure violations**

COMING UP!

8 February, 2024

14:00-15:30 CET | 8:00-9:30 ET



With the support of:



Conclusions: do we need to be worried?

1. Land tenure insecurity is widespread and persists
2. Different groups enjoy varying levels of land rights protection
3. Climate solutions put additional pressures on land under insecure tenure and risk perpetuating violations and dispossession – with “mega-land-deals” re-emerging
4. Access to land data remains limited and intransparent

Conclusions: can land data can be used to guide an evidence-based response to climate change?

1. Good land data needed to tackle climate change and broader environmental challenges .
2. Good data: robust and trusted, covering all types of land users and tenure regimes, and openly available to all.
3. From a variety of sources - government and citizens - to enable inputs of different perspectives in climate policies and programmes.
4. With strong, participatory monitoring to ensure compliance with global frameworks on land governance.

Ways forward

How can this data translate into support for governments fulfilling their national and international commitments and aspirations - and hold them accountable on these?

- a. Frameworks we can report to: SDG; UNCCD; CBD; VGGTs
- b. National Land Coalitions
- c. Global accountability mechanisms: FAO - GLO being developed as a way to harness all existing data.
- d. What can the EC do?
 - i. Continue supporting data initiatives
 - ii. Use data at country level to inform discussions with governments and in programme design