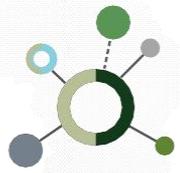




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

INTERNATIONAL  
**LAND**  
COALITION

AFRICA  
AFRIQUE



# 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Land Data and Digitalization Conference (RLaDiC) 2022



Theme:

*Achieving Sustainable and Inclusive  
Land Governance through Data and  
Digitalization*

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Agenda 2063 (the Africa We Want) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prioritize inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security. Achieving these ambitious agendas requires addressing longstanding issues of access to land and secure rights for all citizens, especially vulnerable groups of rural farmers and workers, forest dwellers and pastoralists, residents of informal settlements and many groups affected by disputes and conflicts. Women and indigenous peoples in all these categories are especially challenged. Gaining secure land rights to support these agendas in turn calls for timely and accurate data to inform decisions, enable stakeholders to track progress, and make the necessary adjustments to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services, transparency and mutual accountability. Data on rights and rights' holders, data on the economic and social risks and opportunities facing local communities and data on the biophysical resources are all foundational elements for supporting transformational change in land rights on the continent.

In Africa, the very high level of tenure insecurity compared to the rest of the world is exacerbated by the lack of actionable data to support the recognition of rights of vulnerable groups, the identification of risks and opportunities for economic and social advancement of land holders including food and nutrition security, and the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources including forests and rangelands. Robust geographical, administrative and demographic data are critical for improving the delivery of services to vulnerable land holders. In an environment of limited availability of actionable data, policymakers are struggling to make bold, structural, and sustainable land reform decisions capable of transformational changes and citizens are deprived of the information needed to affirm their rights and protect their resources.

It appears realistic to close many of these data gaps through improving the utilization and interoperability of the many sources of spatial, civil and biophysical data which have become available in recent years, and expanded utilization of the data collection and transmission tools which support these sources. Since the adoption of the African Union Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (AU F&G) in 2009; the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) in the Context of National Food Security in 2012; and other regional and international land governance instruments, there are numerous global land initiatives and organizations that are exploring new ways of collecting tenure security and property rights data that are financially affordable, technically adaptable, more reliable, and comprehensive than ever before.

Expanding data to recognize land rights and provide security to rights holders are foundational elements for the kind of digital transformation envisioned by Agenda 2063. Furthermore, digitalization has become an important trend in Africa in the last decade following the adoption of the Smart Africa Manifesto (the Manifesto) by seven African Heads of State (Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Mali, Gabon and Burkina Faso) during the Kigali Transform Africa Summit of October 2013. The Manifesto was later endorsed by all African Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa in 2014 as the commitment by the African leaders to provide leadership in accelerating socio-economic development through ICT.

An initial partial stocktaking has already identified 54 datasets with relevance for improving security of land rights and land governance, drawn from a wide range of international data sources, and cover an equally broad spectrum of land-related themes and issues. The most known datasets in the region include Afrobarometer, the Landex, LandMatrix, LandMark, Prindex and Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. Many other datasets exist in the form of national surveys, administrative and court records and an enormous amount of high-resolution geographic information on land use and natural resources. However, the lack of harmonized methodologies and tools for land data collection, the failure to capture the social dynamics in land administration and limited access to finance to put efficient land information/administration systems in place continue to hinder the advancement in the land data sector.

In the land sector, and in line with Principles 3 and 5 of the Manifesto, digitalization is translated by the emergence of digital platforms for collecting and storing rights information including many government-sponsored initiatives, as well as private sector-led programs and civil society-led efforts. New experiences with e-land governance and block chain technology are demonstrating potential land data security for transparency and accountability. A few large digitalization programs have flourished in Africa. In Kenya for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development in establishing the National Land Information Management Systems (NLIMS) referred to as Ardhi Sasa, which included digitization of land records, and establishment of GIS laboratories. These efforts are aimed at improving accessibility of land data and information, enhancing the security of land records, and cut down the cost of land transactions, ultimately improving delivery of services. In Cameroon, the African Development Bank funded the Support Project for Modernization of the Land Registration System and Business Climate (PAMOCCA) that aimed at among others developing digital land registry plans and enhancing the Geodesic Network. Many other large-scale collections of digital data are being gathered and improved, including high-resolution aerial photography in many cities and environmental hotspots, and a large quantity of detailed forest inventories.

## ABOUT THE REGIONAL LAND DATA AND DIGITALIZATION CONFERENCE

Now is the time to accelerate and intensify efforts to update the continent-wide understanding and planning to realize the transformational potential of data to ensure land rights, improve land use for economic and social advancement. In addition, it is the time to leverage information about natural resources for improving stewardship and environmental actions including those for climate mitigation and adaptation. The Regional Land Data and Digitalization Conference aims to bring together African governments and other stakeholders in the land sector, including civil society groups, private sector innovators, environmental scientists to discuss how to intensify the generation and use of land data; harmonization and interoperability of data sources; and utilization of accurate, reliable data to help recognize rights, support policy decisions and improve monitoring and tracking economic and social targets, including Agenda 2063 goals. This calls for joint efforts between governments and other stakeholders to establish a common understanding about official data sources, geospatial and cadastral systems in the region as well as surveys, qualitative data and citizen-supported data to consolidate approaches and methodologies for supporting people-centered land governance leading to the achievement of the agenda 2063 goals. Peoples' driven land data is central to informed policies and effective implementation.

It is in that context that Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Land Coalition (ILC) Africa and Global Land Alliance, and other partners under the auspices of the Government of Kenya (GoK), are jointly organizing the first ever Regional Land Data and Digitalization Conference for discussions around the following broad thematic areas.

- ❖ Centrality of land data as an enabler for sustainable governance of land and resources including:
  - robust land data collection and analysis for effective land use, securing land tenure, proper planning, and development while adopting/customizing good regional and global practices;
  - closing gaps in land and natural resources data and knowledge generation;
  - harmonized methodologies and tools for land data collection;
  - promoting inclusivity in land governance (i.e., considering gender, youth & marginalized groups) through data; and
  - partnership and collaboration in financing and building common platforms to access

(open) data

- ❖ Digitization of land and resources records, processes and documentation including:
  - digital transformation - good practices for efficient land governance;
  - enhancing participatory and inclusive land governance by bridging the digital divide;
  - promoting accountability and transparency through digital land administration; and
  - harnessing the power of digital technologies in addressing climate change and restoration of biodiversity

## OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE

The overall objective of the 2022 Regional Land Data and Digitalization Conference is to bring together all key actors in Africa and beyond to share on good practices in data technologies and digitalization in the land sector.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the 2022 Regional Land Data and Digitalization Conference are to:

- ❖ share good experiences in land data collection, analysis, storage, management, dissemination and use;
- ❖ create an understanding on emerging digital technologies that can be leveraged to enhance land governance;
- ❖ promote greater transparency and access to information about land ownership, land use, and land development planning; and
- ❖ develop a roadmap for coordination and collaboration in land data processing and digitalization.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of the 2022 Regional Land Data and Digitalization Conference are as follows.

- ❖ Enhanced knowledge on land data and information management and digital technologies
- ❖ Increased understanding on ways digitization and digitalization of land data reduces corruption in the land sector
- ❖ Improved synergy and coordination among data and digitalization actors
- ❖ Enhanced coordination and collaborations among partners on land data and information management and digital technologies

### EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected outputs of the 2022 Regional Land Data and Digitalization Conference are as follows.

- ❖ Experiences and lessons learnt in data generation, analysis, sharing and use in the region and beyond documented.
- ❖ Experiences and lessons learnt on the use of digital technologies/methodologies documented.
- ❖ A roadmap for coordination and collaboration in land data processing and digitalization developed.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The RLaDiC will be a three-day event to be held from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in Mombasa, Kenya. RLaDiC will be a hybrid conference where participants will attend the proceedings of the conference either virtually or in-person. This is expected to give both audiences opportunity to ask questions and follow the content and interact with each other. Discussions will be informed by inputs from various partners and experts in an inclusive and participatory manner. The findings of the assessment study on the status of the land sector data and digitalization in Africa will provide further insights to the discussions. The three days conference is structured into thematic areas including keynote presentations, panel sessions, plenary discussions, side events as well as exhibitions. At the exhibition, stakeholders will get an opportunity to showcase their work especially on land sector data and digitalization.

## **DELEGATES AND PARTICIPANTS**

The Conference is expected to bring together more than 1000 in-person and virtual participants drawn from organizations and institutions across Africa and beyond, with interest in land data generation, analysis and use. The participants will include regional bodies, governmental institutions, development partners, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, Research Organizations and Academia, (high) tech companies working on data and digitalization, among others.

## CO-ORGANIZERS, HOSTS AND PARTNERS

### Co-organizers and Hosts

The Regional Land Data and Digitalization Conference is co-organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILC Africa and Global Land Alliance (GLA) and hosted by the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development.

#### About FAO:

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO's goal is to achieve food and nutrition security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives. With 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.

This particular conference is in line with the EU-FAO Digital Land Governance Programme's main outcome: 'Improved security of tenure and equitable access to land and natural resources for enhancement of livelihoods and sustainable socioeconomic development', and the first Output: Enhanced efficient and effective land governance through the digitization and digitalization of land records and processes.

#### About the Government of Kenya:

The Government of the Republic of Kenya (GoK) is composed of national and 47 County governments which are distinct and interdependent. The counties, through the Constitution of Kenya, have been empowered to take over, among other functions key aspects of land administration. Additionally, the constitution 60(1) provides that land in Kenya shall be held, used and managed in a manner that is equitable, efficient, productive and sustainable. The conference is hosted by the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development.

#### About ILC Africa:

ILC Africa is a network bringing together 95 member organizations from 28 African countries. It is a regional platform of the International Land Coalition, a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together to put people at the center of land governance. The shared goal of ILC's over 300 members is to realize land governance for and with people at the country level, regional and international levels responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities who live on and from the land.

### Partners

The Conference is organized in partnership with organizations and institutions with interest in land data and digitalization. Partners directly contribute various resources for the successful organization of the forum and include among others: Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Global Land Alliance (GLA), Cadaster Foundation, Cadaster International, Transparency International, AUDA-NEPAD, IGAD, UEMOA, AUC and national statistics institutions from various African countries.