LANDac
The Netherlands Land Academy

LAND GOVERNANCE IN TRANSITION

How to support transformations that work for people and nature?

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Theme 5b:
Technologies in Land Governance

PANEL

Uniting global and hyper-local data for land

Rory Bowe (TIMBY) & Kate Dodgson (Data Science Initiative)

CONTACT: Rory Bowe rory@timby.org

Lots of global data sets are now available to help us both assess and predict when land violations will happen, to name a few: The Land Matrix, Global Forest Watch, Moabi, MapHubs, high temporal and spatial satellite imagery from places like Airbus and Planet Labs and more.

These are incredible resources, but we advocate that they can be even more powerful if they are put into packaging that works for stakeholders on the ground.

TIMBY (This is My Backyard) is a set of digital tools that equips local groups working on land-based issues with global data, empowering them to do more effective monitoring. This data can then be fed back through channels of influence (paralegals, policy makers, government and journalists) for impact. Hague Data Science Initiative and Jusi.Py are exploring how machine learning can be used to predict vulnerability to land-grabbing. This tool could be used by NGOs in their programming and research, and by ethical investors to assess risk for land purchases.

This panel will discuss the tools and technologies being used both on the global and hyper local levels for land issues and strategies to make them work more effectively together. Discussion will also cover the importance of including local groups (who often are in offline areas and have limited digital literacy) in evidence gathering, not only technically but also ideologically.

This session does not invite abstract submissions, yet welcomes active participation.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Land Lost In Translation: Interactive workshop

Lisette Meij, Land Portal Foundation (& discussing with Jean du Plessis, GLTN)

CONTACT: Lisette Meij lisette.mey@landportal.info

Land is a topic that is debated in many languages, across different (academic) disciplines and in all parts of the world. Furthering our collective agenda, sharing and learning from knowledge and perspectives from other contexts or transitioning technological innovations from one country to the other is complicated by - among many other aspects - language and terminology barriers. Many attempts have been made in the past to find common definitions and terminologies for any and all issues related to land, but a wide consensus or adoption has never been reached. Understandably so: one can only imagine the heated and controversial discussion to reach agreement on what we mean exactly when we use the word 'property'. It is a daunting and arguably an impossible task to reach global consensus.

We would like to argue though that terminologies and land concepts can be standardized without needing to reach a consensus on each definition or way to name a particular land concept. Land is different from context to context, thus so is its terminology. Rather than trying to harmonize all difference in one concept or definition, we propose to embrace and highlight the richness of these differences. There is no need to find <u>one</u> accepted phrase or definition of 'property', but highlighting the various different ways it is used across the world, will further our collective understanding and awareness of the many nuances behind this one concept.

Within the sphere of research repositories and among librarians, the notion of a 'standard vocabulary' has been around for many years. For agricultural research, FAO's agriculture vocabulary, AGROVOC, is a commonly accepted and widely used vocabulary for any concept relating to agriculture. The technical infrastructure behind such a standard vocabulary allows for integration of all these nuances of a concept into one concept with an infinite number of translations (more than one per language), definitions and relationships between terms. Think of only how many ways we know to name a certain plant or crop! The FAO has offered this infrastructure to the land community, to enrich, enhance and organize the land terms within this agriculture vocabulary to make it more useful to the land sector.

The Land Portal would like to facilitate an interactive workshop, together with partners and anyone who is interested to help us build a hierarchy, assess the 'inheritance' of concepts and translations from AGROVOC and build a practical tool for the land sector - to be used in apps, data repositories or as a reference tool - while embracing land issues for what they are: extremely rich, diverse and different in each context.

Conference theme: Consultation, advocacy and access to justice

Potential speakers: Land Portal, Jean du Plessis (GLTN)

This session does not invite abstract submissions, yet welcomes active participation.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

New Responses to New Challenges: A Land Technology Sandbox

Yuliya Panfil, New America, Director, Future of Property Rights Program

CONTACT: Yuliya Panfil panfil@newamerica.org

Format: Lightning talks followed by interactive group problem-solving sessions

Despite significant technological advances over the last decade, a quarter of the world's population still has insecure property rights. In the past, recording rights relied on labor-intensive methods carried out by a tiny caste of licensed professionals. Consider Uganda, where 15 million land parcels are unregistered: it would take the country's few dozen licensed surveyors more than 1,000 years to finish the job. But with modern technology, making quick, accurate maps and creating trustworthy documents is no longer rocket science. The technology is here, yet it's not being used. Why?

One culprit is the fundamental disconnect between policymakers and technologists. Actors in the land governance space – often lawyers, policymakers, and economists – may not have experience with emerging technologies. At the same time, many technologists fail to understand political and infrastructure challenges, and so their technologies are not as useful as they claim. This leads to a cycle of mistrust and cynicism.

Breaking this cycle requires a non-threatening environment in which these two groups can freely discuss and ask questions: a sandbox, if you will. In this low pressure space, lawyers can tinker with the tech toys, and the technologists can ask questions that may feel basic for political scientists. We propose such a sandbox for the LANDac conference. During this interactive session, five land technologies are introduced through a lightning talk, and then participants will break into groups to demo the technology on a live use case and come back together to discuss their findings and constraints. The technologies will range from more basic to more sophisticated and will include:
• Drones
• Mobile mapping platforms
• Blockchain
• Earth observation
• Digital ID tools

Outcomes: Better understanding of the technologies by the policy-makers; better understanding of institutional and regulatory constraints by technologists; a workable land sandbox model that can be scaled in other environments (e.g. through academic networks, during the design of land projects, etc.).

Potential invitees:
• Drones (WeRobotics, MicroAreal Enterprises)
• Mobile mapping platforms (Cadasta, MAST, Meridia)
• Blockchain (Chromeaway, Consensys, BitFury)
• Earth observation (Radiant Earth)
• Digital ID tools (Everest)
This session welcomes abstract submissions.

PANEL

Geo-information management for land administration: innovation, transitions and stability

Dimo Todorovski & Jaap Zevenbergen, Faculty ITC, University of Twente

CONTACT: Dimo Todorovski d.todorovski@utwente.nl

Developments of digital geo-information technologies have influenced many domains of governance; and the land administration domain is no exception. While some surveying technologies are stable driven by norms and designs written into the laws and procedures of administration, others have been added in recent years, for instance through initiatives like fit-for-purpose land documentation initiatives, new means for data collection through remote sensing technologies, and online data platforms that focus on the publication of land and land rights information.

For this panel we invite presentations of research and development projects that focus on studying, changing and/or supporting a country's or region's land administration through geo-information management. We want to discuss the kinds of geo-information technologies that are being introduced, by whom and for what purposes, the reasons for uptake and/or resistance to these technologies on part of administration, as well as the anticipated and observed societal changes in shorter or longer run.

Geo-information management is quite loosely defined for our panel. It may involve mobile mapping apps, geographic information systems, remote sensing hardware and software, but also the techniques of analysis and interpretation of digital geographic data.

Given the conference theme we ask presenters to include two parts in their presentations:
1. Provide a descriptive overview of their research, project, or initiative; including successes and challenges
2. A critical reflection on at least one of the following questions based on your experience in the project or as explicit research findings:

   - What makes the geo-information management that you study, promote or develop especially important to support land administration in your view? Who shares this view with you / or not based on the development and/or research process so far?
   - What kind of assumptions guided the introduction of the geo-information technology in a given land administrative context; and did these assumptions change? How did they change through time; and why?
   - What do the research participants and/or main actors involved in the initiative perceive to be the greatest promises and the greatest risks related to geo-information management for land administration?

Presenters are most welcome to choose another question for critical reflection. Presentations should not exceed 10 minutes for both parts combined in order to leave enough time for Q&A and discussion.

This session welcomes abstract submissions.