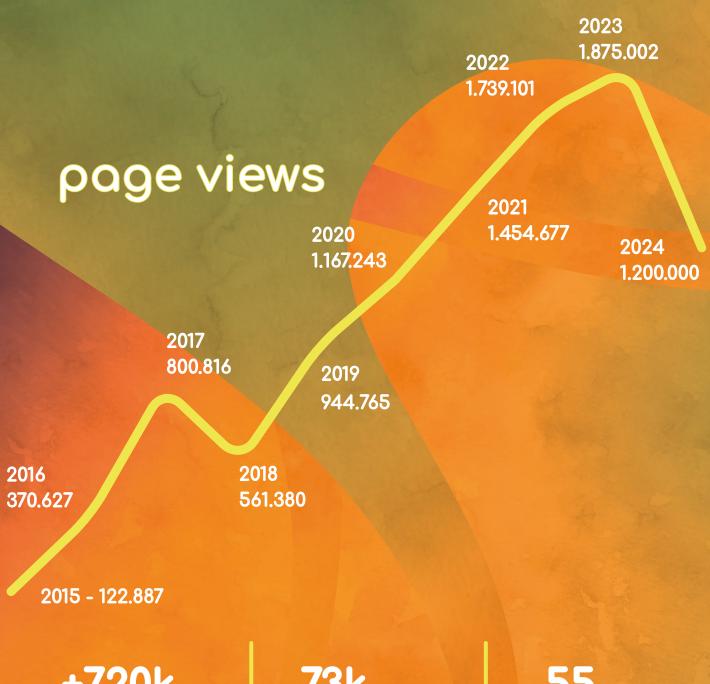
portal
annual report

Celebrating a more open and inclusive land sector



+720k visits

6.500 contributors

2.078 sources of information

73k land library resources

+385
news
articles

+260 blog posts

55 datasets

87 country portfolios

63.2% Global South users

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As the Land Portal celebrated the platform's 15th anniversary, and the Foundation's 10th anniversary, in 2024, we reflected a lot on our past growth and the significant progress we made in advancing our mission and vision. We also debated how best to continue our vital work in a dynamically shifting global context. Since our beginnings, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to making land-related knowledge and information freely, easily and publicly accessible, ensuring it supports the global land, forest, climate, and development communities, and all those with insecure land rights and who are most disadvantaged in terms of access to land.

This anniversary year, the Board focused on strengthening our institutional governance and accountability mechanisms and furthering our commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The Land Portal's Core Team and Board members went through a DEI training programme together, which served as a celebration of the Land Portal's rich diversity as well as a recognition that much remains to be done. The Board approved and introduced several new organizational policies to ensure that our governance aligns with the highest standards of operational excellence, including on DEI.

The Land Portal team has outdone itself again this year:

- aggregating, curating and creating numerous new content and knowledge products;
- completing a platform-wide migration to Drupal 9;
- rolling out our SOLIndex;
- co-hosting and facilitating insightful webinars and media
 partnerships with major global land initiatives; and much more.

In line with our commitment to making land data more open, two highlights stand out for me from 2024. First, we launched an Open Data Champions initiative to celebrate inspiring leaders worldwide who are championing open data practices in the land sector, with a particular focus on those from the Global South. This initiative aims to highlight the power of data to drive progress in securing land rights for all.



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Second, we launched a new series of Data Stories in collaboration with the Network of Excellence for Land Governance in Africa (NELGA), written by land sector practitioners, researchers and activists from the Global South and increasing the diversity of perspectives across our platform's content. I urge you to learn more about both of these initiatives by visiting https://landportal.org/, reading and sharing your reflections on the new Data Stories, and reaching out to our team if you have suggestions for further Open Data Champions you would like us to feature.

As we navigate current global challenges, standing by our mission and vision is more important than ever as we continue to support the many vital organisations advancing land rights worldwide. Our collective efforts are crucial in building a more equitable and prosperous world. We look forward to continuing this journey alongside all of you.

Dr. Elizabeth Daley, Chair, on behalf of the Board

Letter from the Managing Director

The Land Portal marked 15 years in action in 2024!

What began as a simple project to aggregate fragmented land data is now a strong, independent organization. Looking back, I can state with pride that the Land Portal has stayed true to the original goal of improving land governance through knowledge-sharing. But we haven't stayed static. Tackling issues through independent research, connecting land to other development agendas, bringing cutting-edge data principles to land information, fostering vigorous debates – the Land Portal has evolved into an anchor for the land governance community.

From the beginning, the Land Portal's unique differentiator was our embrace of the open knowledge movement – the idea that knowledge should be free to use, reuse, and redistribute with as few legal, social, and technological restrictions as possible. The start-up approach is in the DNA of the Land Portal, and it's what allowed us to leverage our open data beliefs to embark on another ambitious programme in 2024 – to benchmark the state of land information at country level. The State of Land Information Indicator (SOLIndex), launched in December, sheds light on the level of completeness and openness of public sector land data around the world to foster more conversations.

What I am most proud of is that we have built a community based on trustworthy and unbiased information. The data and information landscape has changed in the last 15 years and will continue to evolve at an ever increasing pace. More organizations than ever before are collecting land data, outpacing their ability to analyse and use it. With the rapid growth in large language models, there is a risk that Al tools may increasingly be used for decision making, with uncertain outcomes.

We celebrated our history in 2024, but our energies are concentrated on the future. We'll continue to ask ourselves what we can do better, where we can improve in serving our users, and how we can innovate.

Thank you to all the users and donors who have supported the Land Portal throughout the years. We are grateful for the trust you have in our work and our integrity as an organization. We are working harder than ever to uphold this responsibility.

Laura Meggiolaro,

Managing Director

Land Portal's 15th Anniversary

We were thrilled to receive many written reflections and videos for the 15th anniversary, including from some of our earliest supporters.

Leon Verstappen was a co-founder and first Chair of the Board of Directors for the Land Portal and played a central role in its transition from a small UN project into an independent foundation.

Iris Krebber, then working at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, was the first person to fund the Land Portal as an independent organization.

Madiodio Niasse and Mike Taylor are two former directors of the International Land Coalition, which, along with the landtenure.info initiative, had joint oversight over the first iteration of the Land Portal.

Ritu Verma, a two-time board member, pushes us still not to lose sight that we need to serve the most vulnerable people who suffer from violation of land rights.

All the videos and written messages are available on our website.

We offer a special thanks to the Cadasta Foundation, Forest Trends, Landesa, and the Rights and Resources Initiative, who invited us to the Swedish embassy in Washington D.C. to celebrate the anniversary during a joint event focused on securing tenure rights for climate action As our work with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities grows stronger, it was an especially meaningful collaboration.

We also produced **a short video** made for the anniversary in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. We're grateful to all who supported us and joined in celebrating this journey.





In Focus: Our Pillars

The Land Portal has three primary pillars underpinning our activities that target the challenges faced in land governance systems around the world.

Pillar 1: Inform

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

Pillar 2: Open

Democratize the information ecosystem by supporting the creation of a standards-based data infrastructure and building the capacities of information providers to strengthen the flow of land governance information from all perspectives and all levels.

Pillar 3: Debate

Promote, inform and enrich the global debate and practice on key land issues while raising the visibility of national, regional and international partners.



Inform One of the second seco

At the Land Portal, we strive to enhance understanding of land governance across the globe. Much of land governance data remains fragmented, poorly organized, and presented in highly specialized language, reducing the likelihood that people searching for land data will find what they need or be able to use the data. In response, the Land Portal aims to ensure that land governance issues are documented in a centralized but interoperable platform, with a description of the context and various types of supporting data. Our goal is to create an inclusive and comprehensive information landscape where anyone can contribute their data and information, especially less visible and accessible resources from the Global South.

The Land Portal has become a true game changer and catalyst of transformation. This is through its role in making key data and information available and accessible, stimulating and facilitating debate about policy and learning from the evidence from the local to the global level, delivering impact at scale, proactively managing risks and trade-offs around the complex political economy of land, and, finally, helping to hold ourselves and key actors accountable for progress, including for the benefit of and through the Sustainable Development Goals.

Iris Krebber

Head of Civilian Stabilisation Group Operations
Office for Conflict, Stabilisation and Mediation (OCSM)
UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Country and thematic insights

Through in-depth country and thematic portfolios, we explored key issues, challenges, and opportunities for strengthening land governance. Notable highlights included refreshed profiles for Egypt, Uruguay, Morocco and Laos, alongside key issue pages on Forest Tenure, Land & Climate Change, Urban Tenure and the Framework & Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa.

We continue to translate complex land governance research into accessible formats through data stories and What to Read digests. Growing attention to cross-cutting issues—such as women's rights, rural youth, and climate justice—were reflected in the three What to Read digests released last year. These digests have become an integral part of our webinar programming, offering valuable background and complementary resources. One example is **Decoding Loss and Damage**, which accompanied the Land Dialogue on the same topic, deepening discussions on land and climate resilience.

Data stories

Land Portal's data stories blend powerful storytelling with interactive visualizations to deepen understanding of complex land governance challenges. In 2024, we published two data stories that shed light on critical, often overlooked issues. The first explored land rights in post-conflict Burundi, where overlapping claims and decades of displacement continue to hinder peace and development. Through data and personal narratives, we illustrated how land remains central to identity and survival in one of Africa's most densely populated countries. Our second data story examined the growing wave of carbon offset projects in Africa and their hidden tenure risks. As voluntary carbon markets expand, questions around land rights, community consent, and benefit-sharing have become increasingly urgent. Drawing on case studies from East and West Africa, we showed how insecure land tenure can undermine both climate and development goals. These stories exemplify our commitment to accessible, data-driven content that elevates land issues on the global agenda.

NELGA guest writers initiative

In 2024, the Land Portal Foundation launched the NELGA Guest Writers Initiative, a collaborative effort to amplify the voices of Africa-based land researchers and strengthen their communication skills. In partnership with the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA), we selected four researchers to develop original knowledge products – What to Read digests and data stories – designed to make academic insights more accessible to a broader, non-academic audience. With one-on-one mentoring and editorial support, participants enhanced their ability to communicate complex land governance issues effectively and engage global audiences. Two researchers from Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo developed a What to Read digest and a data story, offering new perspectives on biodiversity conservation and local mechanisms to secure land tenure. This initiative both supports individual professional growth and advances our objective to highlight local perspectives and expertise in the land information ecosystem.



PILLAR 2

Open

The Land Portal is at the forefront of creating an inclusive and transparent land information ecosystem that values diverse viewpoints equally and fosters an environment where data and information drive constructive change in land governance.

We are responding to the challenge that poorly managed data leaves information inaccessible and underutilized. We aim to build and strengthen an open and democratic standards-based data infrastructure within the context of an increasingly digital society, that enables the flow of land information across all perspectives and levels.

Introducing the State of Land Information Index (SOLIndex)

Over the past year, we have made remarkable strides in documenting land information systems across Latin America and Africa. Our efforts culminated in the successful launch of the State of Land Information Indicator (SOLIndex), which included data for 15 countries in Latin America and 27 in Africa, providing a robust foundation for understanding land governance and access to land information across diverse regions.

We successfully aligned the **SOLIndex** with international frameworks, including the Global Data Barometer, International Land Coalition's Landex, FAO's Global Land Observatory, and Transparency International's Corruption Index. This integration has been instrumental in advancing a comprehensive and unified indicator for land information, reinforcing our commitment to improving land governance worldwide.

The SOLIndex has been of immediate and obvious value to the International Land Coalition membership. One of the Coalition's 10 Commitments to People-Centered Land Governance calls for transparency and accountability through unhindered and timely public access to information that would facilitate informed decision-making around land. The SOLIndex provides a clear measurement of progress to this end, and the work has been integrated into LANDex as an indicator of completeness and openness of publicly available data and information on land. In coming years, we look forward to using SOLI data with our members to call for greater transparency and accountability through land data.

Eva Hershaw

Data and Land Monitoring Lead ILC Secretariat at IFAD

Supporting Data Literacy and Advocacy

The Land Portal supports data literacy and capacity building efforts to help governments and practitioners move from good data policy to good data practice. We are active in contributing presentations at partner conferences, workshops, and training events to improve data literacy and advocacy.

Among the highlights in 2024 was the paper we developed with the Cadastre and Land Administration thesaurus (CaLAThe) team and FIG Commissions 7 and 2. The paper, focused on LandVoc, was presented at the **12th International FIG Workshop in Malaysia**.

LandVoc was developed by our team as a multilingual land governance thesaurus to establish a common vocabulary for classifying land data and information. The paper reinforced the connection between the two controlled vocabularies — LandVoc and CaLAThe — and their relevance to FIG's extensive network of land surveyor professionals. The Land Portal also presented the SOLIndex at FIG Working Week.

At a webinar organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Working Party on Land Administration, we contributed a presentation on opening up land administration data for improved digital security. Our data advocacy continued at the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Forum in Namibia, organized by the Namibia Statistics Agency, with a presentation on the state of open data in the country by the Land Portal. The Forum targeted geospatial professionals, policymakers, scientific and academic institutions, development partners, private sector enterprises, and end-users from the government.

In Kosovo, the Land Portal participated in a discussion sharing experiences on land data innovations. The conference was organized by the Kosovo Cadastral Agency and provided a unique opportunity to share knowledge and discuss the transformative impact of digitalization on cadastral systems in the Balkans.

The Land Portal conducted three Regional Data Training sessions in partnership with the International Land Coalition. The training showcased the use and application of data from the Land Portal.

Aggregating and Archiving Resources

In 2024, we added seven datasets spanning statistical, spatial, and bibliographic data to our data portfolio. These ranged from smaller datasets with 32 observations to large-scale collections with nearly 4,000 data points. Notable additions included the Human Development Index (statistical data), community lands of Mozambique Madico portal (spatial data), and bibliographic resources from the Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs, African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences, CGIAR publications, and the World Bank Conference 2024 materials.

As a way to bring users additional value from the publication of State of Land Information (SOLI) reports and the associated SOLIndex, we implemented a pipeline for adding bibliographic resources from the SOLI research. In 2024, we added nearly 500 bibliographic resources for Sudan, Kenya, Senegal, Madagascar, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Namibia.

Debate

The ability to access land governance information translates into power, with implications for vulnerable communities striving for secure land rights. The Land Portal is dedicated to enhancing, informing, and contributing to the international discourse on best practices for open and transparent land governance

information systems. We aim to amplify the visibility of our diverse range of partners at national, regional, and international levels, advocating for a more equitable

and informed approach to land governance.

Global Engagement

In 2024, we collaborated with individuals and organizations worldwide, helping each other share land-related stories with the Land Portal's global audience. Through strong partnerships—both with organizations in the Global South and international entities—we contributed to the growth of communities engaged in diverse aspects of land governance and beyond.

Our platform experienced significant growth over the year. From January to early November, the number of registered users increased from 5,623 to more than 6,500. Our mailing list subscribers also grew, from 25,742 to 26,505, with notable interest in key thematic areas: more than 10,000 subscribers focused on Indigenous Peoples and local communities, more than 6,000 on climate change, nearly 5,000 on land investments, and nearly 3,000 on open data. Over the course of the year, we published 260 blogs and 385 news items, offering diverse perspectives in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

A major milestone in 2024 was the launch of the **Open Data Champions Initiative**, which recognizes leaders advancing open data in the land sector, particularly in the Global South. The pilot included champions from Uganda, Namibia, Liberia, and Senegal.

Webinars and media partnerships played a crucial role in our knowledge-sharing efforts. In 2024, we organized ten webinars. Through our media collaborations, we amplified content and insights from key global events, including the LAND-at-scale Knowledge Exchange, LANDac-IOS Fair Transitions Conference, 4th CIGOFA conference on land and youth, and the 8th India Land and Development Conference.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge, and strengthening networks in the land governance sector.

Webinars

In 2024, the Land Portal Foundation, in partnership with CCSI, IIED, and Namati, organized two impactful webinars as part of the Advancing Land-based Investment Governance (ALIGN) series. This series focuses on practical strategies to improve land-based investment governance in the Global South, highlighting the role of open data in promoting transparency, accountability, and equitable outcomes. The first webinar, When Carbon Markets Go Wrong, examined the risks communities face when carbon offset projects violate land rights and explored avenues for remedy, with direct input into the UNFCCC's Article 6.4 grievance mechanism. The second, Land Rights and Critical Minerals, addressed the land governance challenges associated with the energy transition, emphasizing the importance of protecting Indigenous and community land rights in the face of critical mineral extraction. Both events showcased real-world insights, promoted rights-based approaches, and reinforced the need for inclusive, data-informed land governance as the foundation for just and sustainable development.

2024 Webinars

- 1. Women's participation in land governance in the Mekong: moving beyond quotas to meaningful inputs and influence
- When carbon markets go wrong: how to ensure access to remedy for land tenure violations
- Leading the way: how Indigenous youth combat climate change through land rights
- 4. Gender, biodiversity, and how Indigenous and local community women safeguard nature
- Breaking new ground: insights and stories on the impact of land corruption on discriminated groups in Africa
- 6. Pathways to customary land and forest rights in the Mekong
- 7. Inclusive land governance and fit-for-purpose land administration: whose purpose?
- 8. From commitment to action: enabling direct funding for Indigenous Peoples in multilateral climate and biodiversity initiatives
- 9. Land rights and critical minerals: what's necessary for a just energy transition?
- 10. Navigating loss and damage: a path to justice for Indigenous People

The Land Dialogues is a webinar series with the mission to have Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples and their land rights be front and center in the climate agenda. We published a case study of the Land Dialogues webinar series timed to Climate Week NYC, describing how the initiative has responded to a need for engagement and community and has become a well-known destination for dialogue between and with Indigenous communities.

In 2024 Land Portal and Tenure Facility began co-hosting each webinar with Indigenous and local organizations. The Youth initiative for land in Africa (YILAA) co-hosted the webinar on Indigenous youth combating climate change and the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) co-hosted the webinar on gender and biodiversity (June 2024). In September, the Land Dialogues headed to New York Climate Week 2024, where the webinar on multilateral climate funding was presented live for the first time in the series' four-year history. The last webinar of the series focused on navigating loss and damage.

World Bank Land Conference 2025

After a four-year hiatus, the World Bank Land Conference took place again in Washington, D.C. last May, convening one thousand government, civil society, and land stakeholders in person and thousands more online. The theme of the 2024 conference was "Securing Land Tenure and Access for Climate Action," an exciting and meaningful frame for discussing an issue near to our hearts – open access to land information.

The Land Portal team, represented by Laura Meggiolaro, Neil Sorensen, Lilian Lee, Romy Sato, and Charl-Thom Bayer, participated in three sessions. We organized a panel on building a robust and open land information infrastructure for tenure security and climate action in Africa.



In another panel, "Open and inclusive land governance data for climate action and accountability," we joined partners from Land Matrix, Prindex, and the International Land Coalition to discuss why open land data mattered for climate action. The four organizations represent the Land Data Partnership, supported by the European Union.

We also spoke at a panel co-organized by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) about how (open) data initiatives can support stakeholders to mainstream land tenure in sustainable land management activities.

The team took the opportunity of being in Washington D.C. with members of the land community to celebrate our 15th anniversary in-person at the House of Sweden, at the invitation of the Rights and Resources Initiative.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)'s Land Facility Programme

As a recognized global public good in the land sector, the Land Portal is the Land Facility's selected partner for online dissemination of programme learning and results and relevant global communication activities. The Land Portal began supporting the Land Facility programme as a communications partner in late 2024 and contributed to the development of the Global Communications Strategy. We are hosting the **programme page** on our site and will play a central role in the online communication of Land Facility programme learning and global community engagement.

Land Portal People

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Our Donors

With heartfelt appreciation, we extend our thanks to the donors who have contributed to furthering the mission and expanding the global influence of the Land Portal over the last year.













Netherlands Enterprise Agency

The Land Portal's dedication to enhancing land data transparency is truly commendable. Through its collaboration with the Global Data Barometer, the Land Portal brings invaluable expertise in assessing the completeness and openness of land data, ensuring that the GDB's Land Data Management cluster is robust, comprehensive, and relevant. By aligning the SOLIndex with the GDB's framework, the Land Portal strengthens the foundation for evidence-based policymaking and supports data-driven advocacy. Their commitment to making land data more accessible and actionable is a testament to their leadership in the field, and their contributions are essential in advancing a more transparent and equitable data ecosystem.

Silvana Fumega
Director, Global Data Barometer



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