OUR VISION

The Land Matrix is a global and independent land monitoring initiative. Our goal is to develop and nurture an open development community promoting transparency for land deals, where affected communities, researchers, policy-makers and technologists can mutually benefit and collaborate to improve land governance.

We support the establishment of Land Observatories, interactive platforms that provide a ground-level view of land-based investments that concentrate on a specific area of interest:

Global Observatory (www.landmatrix.org)
Transnational data and visualisations

National Observatories
Data from five pilot countries: - Cambodia, Laos, Madagascar, Peru and Tanzania

Thematic Observatories
Data from rangelands, including traditional patterns of drylands management and pastoralism

Regional Observatories
Currently in development in Africa in collaboration with the Land Policy Initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

The Land Matrix is facilitated by a partnership of organisations with an interest in promoting transparency and accountability in decisions over land and investment through open data. It aims to provide a permanent observatory to which any user can contribute information.

INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION

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UNIVERSITÄT BERN

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German Institute of Global and Area Studies
Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien

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Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

AN
OPEN
COMMUNITY

FOR
TRANSPARENCY

ON
LAND

BACKGROUND

The Land Matrix arose from the need for more accurate information about land deals globally. Since 2010, an international group of researchers has been working to compile data on transnational land acquisitions. This was a major attempt to systematically examine and aggregate data on where land is being bought and sold, and present it to the public through an online platform (www.landmatrix.org).

The need soon became apparent for a more decentralised, bottom-up approach to data collection with geospatial referencing tools, giving rise to the sister pilot project called the Land Observatory (www.landobservatory. org). The project is currently being tested in five pilot countries: Cambodia, Laos, Madagascar, Peru and Tanzania. New software is being developed based on in-country needs, allowing for customisable observatories that can be administered by partners.

Independence
The Land Matrix is a public tool independent from any single interest group other than a common belief by its partners in the importance of open data and the need for inclusive and evidence-based decision-making over land resources. The diversity of views and sources is key to the promotion of transparency and open debate on the issues involved. Sources are traceable, however user privacy is respected by default. The Land Matrix encourages the submission of public comments to discuss and improve the quality of data and stimulate dialogue.

WHAT WE DO

We are developing a software platform that provides an integrated system of geo-referenced land-related data collection, verification and visualisation. New tools are being tested extensively in the field through the Land Observatory pilot countries, as well as through the Global Observatory visualisations and datasets.

Our team of researchers, practitioners and communication specialists is actively involved in running the Global Observatory through data collection, analysis, reporting and communication.

The Land Matrix partnership is also taking on a stronger support role for partners in Africa, Latin America and Asia, providing services that help groups set up their own custom regional or national observatories and use them as crowdsourcing tools, as well as assisting on strategy and analysis of land data.

Openness
The Land Matrix data and visualisations are available for anyone to use, for any purpose, at no cost. As such, the Land Matrix can be easily linked to, shared, processed and talked about. It will nurture open data and open source communities focused on land deals by assisting volunteer, civic-minded developers contributing to our codebase, as well as actively encouraging innovation with the data. The Land Matrix aims at providing a comprehensive package for independent multiplications of the model, and will incorporate innovations by its open source community.

THE FUTURE

The Land Matrix will only be effective if it is relevant for users, and only as strong as its actively involved participants and co-creators. The Land Matrix partnership will become a service provider, offering support on data collection and research, decentralised crowd-sourcing strategies and strategic use of data for policy influence.

The Land Matrix has the ambition of becoming one of the most innovative and relevant players in a growing movement towards "open development" - allowing for greater public involvement in decisions over land that affect the lives of people across the world.

Decentralization
In order to provide an unbiased, updated and representative observatory of land deals, the Land Matrix relies on a decentralised data collection strategy. This is achieved through the creation of regional and national networks of information providers, as well as through crowdsourcing. This requires a strong outreach strategy, both online and offline, good communication and continuous engagement. Regional coordinators of data collection are responsible for quality control and sustainability of the monitoring initiatives.