GLOBAL LAND GOVERNANCE INDEX

LANDex

Info Note
LANDex: Global Land Governance Index

November 2019

1. What is LANDex?

LANDex is a tool for people-centred land governance monitoring, developed in consultation with members and strategic partners of the International Land Coalition (ILC). As an accessible tool that can be used by all individuals and sectors of society, LANDex democratizes processes of land monitoring while giving visibility to the people and populations underrepresented in official data.

People-Centred Data: LANDex allows all stakeholders to contribute to land governance monitoring through an open, online platform. The tool is built on common indicators and methodologies that were indicated as priority by members of the Coalition. LANDex promotes the inclusion of diverse data sources that highlight issues, communities and perspectives that are often missing in official discourse.

Contributing to Global Goals: In addition to measuring progress towards people-centred land governance, LANDex allows users to monitor the implementation of important global development frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGTs).

Data for Advocacy: The LANDex platform (www.landexglobal.org) includes an appealing, user-friendly interface with interactive and fully downloadable datasets. The platform is intended for policy and change-makers, the media and the general public. Beyond results, the site showcases stories behind the data and provides people-centred data for evidence-based policy.

2. What is the rationale behind LANDex?

The ILC Roadmap for Implementation of the ILC Strategy 2016-2021 clearly states the need for a tool that would enable country platforms to capture the shifting status of land governance with respect to the 10 Commitments of People-Centred Land Governance (PCLG). See box at right.

Overcoming Fragmentation: The concept behind LANDex emerged in 2016 during the "Land and the Data Revolution" event at the CIVICUS International Civil Society Week (ICSW) in Bogotá. Discussions centred on the important role of civil society in land

1. **Secure tenure rights**
2. **Strong small-scale farming systems**
3. **Diverse tenure systems**
4. **Equal land rights for women**
5. **Secure territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples**
6. **Locally managed ecosystems**
7. **Inclusive decision-making**
8. **Transparent and accessible information**
9. **Effective actions against land grabbing**
10. **Protected land rights defenders**

monitoring and resulted in a scoping paper focused on the same.[1] From this, a fundamental question emerged: What could ILC do to consolidate land monitoring efforts at the country level, particularly those related to PCLG?

It was in respond to this question that an initial proposal for a "dashboard" emerged: a tool that would offer a set of common monitoring tools that could be used to monitor land governance. The concept behind the development of LANDex is described in greater depth in the Concept Note. In elaborating this proposal, a number of considerations were made.

Local Monitoring, Global Initiatives: As ILC has long supported rights-oriented frameworks such as the SDGs, VGGTs and others, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII), it was important that the eventual LANDex tool would link local monitoring initiatives to larger, umbrella frameworks.

Elevate Ongoing Member Work: There was no need to reinvent the wheel: a preliminary survey identified more than 250 existing indicators and land monitoring initiatives within the Coalition. LANDex draws on and amplifies ongoing member work, offering standardized methodologies and technical support to facilitate replication of best monitoring practices among users.

Leveraging People's Data: LANDex was designed as an accessible tool that would empower any stakeholder, organization or individual to collect and use people-centred data. Indicators were defined in a consultative process and reflect the priority of Coalition members. The platform serves to elevate people-centred data in multi-stakeholder platforms and policy debate.

3. LANDex Development and Design Process

The LANDex tool was developed with members as is meant to respond to their land monitoring needs. The process was inclusive, consultative, and has included several reviews of indicators and methodologies.

Starting from members: LANDex was born from an indicator survey that was distributed to all ILC members. The indicators and initiatives identified within the Coalition became the basis for the long list of indicators considered in the first global experts meeting in March, 2017 (report online). From this list, a shortlist was established and regional consultations began.

Regional consultations: The first regional consultation was held in Lima in May, 2017 with Latin American and Caribbean land monitoring experts. Similar meetings were held in Bogor in August and Addis Ababa in November of the same year. The LANDex tool was also introduced at each of the 2017 Regional Assemblies to ensure feedback from the wider membership.

A bottom-up land monitoring tool: At the end of consultations, all input was documented and combined and a final list of common indicators was established. From the original list of more than 250 indicators, the 33 "core" indicators that now form part of the LANDex tool were identified by members as fundamental to the monitoring of progress towards people-centred land governance.

4. LANDex Indicators, Methodologies and Data Sources

In creating LANDex, the idea was not to reinvent the wheel but instead to identify opportunities to collaborate and align with ongoing initiatives at the local, national and global level.

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[1] Scoping Paper: Monitoring the Status of People-Centred Land Governance at Country Level, draft for workshop purposes, April 2016. Available from ILC Secretariat.

Three levels of indicators: The indicators retained in consultations tended towards three categories: A) legal indicators measuring the strength of the legal and institutional framework, B) implementation indicators that measured to what degree policies or programs had been implemented, and C) outcome, impact or perception indicators that measure the results of interventions.

Four kinds of methodology: For each indicator, existing methodologies were identified or developed in the case that none existed. In general, the methodologies fall into four categories: i) people-based assessments, which draw on the experiences of individuals, ii) calculations, which depend on best available data, iii) survey-based, which are drawn from third-party generators such as PRIndex, and iv) crowd-sourced, which is used to collect data for 10C on violations against defenders.

Diverse Data Sources: LANDex promotes the use of diverse data sources, which include but are not limited to a) administrative data, such as that found in official statistical publications, b) household surveys, carried out by national governments or third-parties, c) people-based assessments, including the perspectives of unaffiliated individuals, and d) participatory or community-generated data.

By broadening the sources of data that can be used to fulfil its indicators, LANDex offers a more nuanced understanding of land issues and gives priority to people-centred data.

5. Promoting Broad-Based Contribution

LANDex is a tool to be used by all stakeholders in the land sector and is intended to reflect the diversity of experiences, perceptions and data that reflect progress towards people-centred land governance.

Implementation via existing platforms: The LANDex tool will be progressively introduced to all Coalition members through ILC's National Engagement Strategies (NES). These multistakeholder platforms contribute to the legitimacy of the tool and guarantee broad engagement. In countries where other (non-NES) platforms exist, these can be used as a means to organize data collection.

Building capacity for expansion: In 2019, a series of six regional trainings were held in order to capacitate members on LANDex in all of the countries where the Coalition works. Training materials were developed and distributed and can be made available to others upon request. Once all national and regional leaders within ILC have been equipped to use the LANDex tool, webinars will be offers to a broader public.

Tool made available to all: In its second year, interest in LANDex has extended beyond members of the Coalition. LANDex indicators and methodologies have been made publicly available online to any organization, initiative or individual who is interested to know more. Likewise, for those wishing to directly contribute to the platform, submission forms for each indicator are open, online, and available to all.

6. Global and Strategic Links

LANDex is uniquely positioned to build bridges between local, regional and global land monitoring initiatives, aggregating locally generated data that is comparable on a global scale.

Local to global – partnerships for data generation: Because LANDex employs indicators and methodologies from several other initiatives, data collected via LANDex can contribute to existing global datasets: the FAO Legal Assessment Tool, the ActionAid VGGT Toolkit and the Indigenous Navigator are all examples of initiatives to which LANDex can contribute directly.

Links to broader development frameworks: LANDex indicators are also aligned with global land frameworks and monitoring initiatives such as the SDGs, VGGTs, and UNDRIP, as mentioned above. Through LANDex, the Coalition can contribute directly to the monitoring of these frameworks, generating parallel reports to be for advocacy purposes.

Alignment with global indicators: Of the 33 LANDex indicators, 17 correspond to an indicator or target of the SDGs, 19 correspond to principles of the VGGTs, 14 correspond to Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa (MELA) indicators, 8 correspond to GLII indicators, 7 correspond to Land Matrix variables and 4 correspond to UNDRIP and Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) indicators.

7. Products and Uses of LANDex

LANDex at its most fundamental is a Global Land Governance Index intended to track global trends in land governance over time. But there are several other uses of LANDex and products that can result from its implementation.

Land governance indices: The LANDex platform generates easy-to-use global, country-level and commitment-level indices on land governance. Set on a 0-100 scale, these can be used by the general public and the media and leveraged in public policy debate. While indices represent aggregated data, all information on the site will be disaggregated to the highest level possible.

Data for advocacy: LANDex data can be filtered, visualized and downloaded in full to serve specific advocacy and campaign purposes. Automated filters can be applied per indicator, commitment, country or region. The online platform also allows users to filter data according to a specific range of time or by indicators that correspond to the SDG and VGGT frameworks.

8. 2018 Pilots and 2019 Expansion Countries

In 2018, the full LANDex tool was piloted in Colombia, Nepal and Senegal. In 2019, six additional countries will begin full implementation of the tool with full coverage of ILC countries expected by 2021.

Pilot implementation: In 2018, the full set of LANDex indicators was implemented in Colombia, Nepal and Senegal with the explicit goal of better understanding how the tool works in three different regional contexts. The tool was implemented by ILC members with experience in land monitoring in a process that was closely coordinated with the existing multistakeholder platform (NES and non-NES).

First results and dissemination: Preliminary results from pilot countries were released in March, 2019 when the online platform was first unveiled. Local validation workshops were held in each of the pilot countries, ensuring broad engagement with the results. On the global level, a launch event was held on the sidelines of the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in Washington D.C.

Global expansion – looking to 2021: In 2019 and 2020, an additional 20 countries will fully implement LANDex, while a number of regional and thematic-based platforms are expected to adopt specific indicators that align with their work plans. By 2021, we expect to see voluntary uptake of the tool in all of the 35+ countries where ILC multistakeholder platforms are operational.