

India Land & Development Conference 2020



Geospatial Round Table on Land Tenure: Scoping Space for Geospatial Ecosystem in Land Administration

01st March 2020 (Pre-Conference Event)
Kamala Devi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi

This is a call to leaders and executives from the GeoSpatial world to join and discuss business opportunities around land tenure mapping in India and why it is important to build a symbiotic partnership ecosystem. This half-day round-table on the side line of 4th India Land and Development Conference (ILDC), is exclusively organized for geo-spatial agencies willing to explore land tenure mapping opportunities around India's diverse land administration landscape. This event seeks to build a sustainable business case around inclusive land tenure mapping by rationalizing the scope of partnership ecosystems of geo-spatial players and land tenure actors.

Secure land tenure is critical to alleviate poverty, augment food security, help adapt to climate change. Land tenure security is often equated with clear, transparent and updated land records; documenting the personal, parcel and tenure information under prevailing legal regime. However, less than 50% of countries have mapped or registered private land in capital cities, and less than 30% of countries maintain digital land data for effective urban decision-making (Deininger, 2018).

In India,

- ☀ About 1.5 billion parcels either remain un-updated or un-surveyed, as per our estimate.
- ☀ Lack of land record updating is attributed as the cause of 2/3rd of conflicts in Indian civil courts.
- ☀ Aim of conclusive titling to improve ease of doing business, improve land market and ensure inclusive growth remain a distant dream in absence of updated digital land records.
- ☀ DILRMP, has made substantive progress with
Computerization of > 86% of land records
Digitization of ~ 50% of cadastral maps
However only 2% villages have been resurveyed.
- ☀ Forest Rights Act (FRA) has the potential to recognize the rights over 40 million ha; most of remain unmapped and digitized, though some rights have been recognized.
- ☀ About 15 million ha in North East lies largely un-surveyed and without land records, so as uplands in central Indian tribal geographies.
- ☀ New rights on homestead and agriculture lands to tribal, Dalits, landless and women not yet mapped.
- ☀ Regularization urban informalities like slums and unauthorized colonies require mapping solutions.

India Summary report of Land Governance Assessment Framework (2015) underlines the importance of investing in mapping pilots to address the tenorial heterogeneity, with clear criteria to assess success or failure, time frames, cost-effectiveness and strategies for up scaling of successful approaches.

Rapid advancement of technologies and their increasing accessibility, of late, has become a focal point of enabling change. Traditional surveying methodologies are now considered too expensive, too elitist and exclusive and hence, too unrealistic (Enemark, Bell, Lemmen, & McLaren, 2014). A 'third-generation' of land tools are now emerging to make the technical aspects of titling and registration cheaper, easier and more responsible (Bennett et al., 2017). These include point cadastres, digital pens, unmanned aerial systems and machine learning for boundary recognition (Koeva et al., 2017; Stöcker et al., 2019; Zevenbergen, De Vries, & Bennett, 2015) and EO. Governments, NGOs and businesses welcome them with legal reforms, institutional innovations and investments. Innovative land administrative platforms, now integrate personal information, spatial location and parcel characteristics, such platforms offer positive development-externalities beyond land records, viz. around land use planning, multi-purpose cadastre etc. From Ghana to India, global and local agencies are piloting and upscaling such mapping, through innovative partnership-ecosystems and social-entrepreneurships.

Geo-spatial actors in land administration in India, however, have remain scattered, isolated, siloed and limited. The demand is poised to grow with mapping requirements in un-surveyed areas as well as to keep pace with expanding land market and property transactions every year. While the advances of geospatial technology, tools and platforms simultaneously expand opportunities, the complexities of India's plural land tenure systems and evolving legal, social, cultural and ecological concerns, buttresses interdisciplinarity. Growing recognitions of ethics, data privacy, free and prior informed consent as well as human rights issues associated with land tenure digitization and mapping, implicate their strategic embedding to address inevitable sustainability, participation and inclusion. Imperative of a partnership ecosystem with symbiotic connections among geo-spatial actors and land tenure professionals from lawyers, academicians and civil society, is increasingly becoming imperative for sustainable business. With land governance institutions at Centre, state and local level have a legitimate role in deciding and implementing land administration matters, active interfaces with these actors are also critical.

Global developments around land administration and property rights spaces, points to indispensability of such inter-disciplinary partnerships of multi-stakeholders to unfold geo-spatial business opportunities with impactful mapping solutions. Close to home, such disruptive innovations are also started flourishing. Government - Philanthropy - investor-technology - academia - civil society partnership around Odisha Slum Dwellers' land rights and liveable habitat project is one such partnership ecosystem.

India Land and Development Conference is the biggest land convergence platform in India for land-professionals and actors from Government, CSO, Academia, Private Sectors, entrepreneurs, media, and international institutions. Since its inception in 2017, ILDC convenes and promotes partnerships among land actors across sectors, disciplines and geographies with an aim to build symbiotic ecosystems for mutual synergy to ultimately contribute to inclusive land tenure security.

Taking advantage of assemblage of local and global land tenure professionals at ILDC, we are organizing this convening to provide an opportunity to geo-spatial actor to converse and connect with them to trigger strategic and sustainable business opportunities and partnerships.

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Participants



SATELLITE IMAGERIES



GPS/GNSS/DGNSS



DRONE/ UAV



MACHINE LEARNING
/DEEP LEARNING/
FEATURE EXTRACTION



LAND ADMINISTRATION
APPLICATION/PLATFORM

Geo Spatial Actors

Land Tenure Professionals



LAND
ADMINISTRATOR



ACADEMIA



CIVIL SOCIETY



TECHNOLOGY
PLAYER



MEDIA

Potential Experts



Dr T Haque
Ex-Chair, Land Policy Cell, NITI
Aayog & Chair, Infrastructure
and Miscellaneous Projects
and CRZ, MoEFCC



**Mr Vinod Agrawal, IAS
(Retd)**
Ex- Additional Chief Secretary,
Telangana & Chair, Conclusive
Titling, NITI Aayog



Mr Tim Hanstad
Chief Executive Officer
Chandler Foundation



Amy Coughenour Betancourt
Chief Executive Officer
Cadasta Foundation



Frank Pichel
Chief Programs Officer
Cadasta Foundation



Pranab R Choudhury
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Narayana A
Professor,
Azim Premji University



Ruchika Singh
Director - Sustainable
Landscapes & Restoration
WRI India



Safia Agarwal
Forestry Officer,
The Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)



Megha Datta
Director - Global Development
Agenda at Geospatial Media
and Communications

4th India Land and Development Conference is being organised at India International Centre, during March 02-04, 2020. As India moves a decade closer to meet 2030 UN Goals and gears up to sustain economic growth, ILDC2020 invites attention on critical dimensions of institutions, innovations and information around land governance and seeks to deliberate on how they connect and can contribute to local and global development more inclusively and sustainably.

ILDC, has become the biggest and only annual inclusive Land Convergence platform in India and South Asia. Established by a collaborative initiative of local and global land-institutions, it promotes inter-sectoral, inter-disciplinary and multi-level conversations on land and development. ILDC helps researchers, practitioners, governments, businesses, entrepreneurs and professionals working around and at interface of land in different geographies, across scales around diverse issues to come together and interact at an open and inclusive platform. It aims to further, intensify and change land conversations, catalyse cross-learning and amplify innovations. By triggering connections and facilitating networking among land-actors and institutions, it contributes to coordinated and impactful research, innovations, advocacy and actions for improving land tenure security and achieving sustainable development goals.

In the 3rd ILDC organized last year with theme 'Partnerships for Enhanced Inclusion and Impact', we had more than 300 participants from government, academia, civil society, private sector, international agencies and media learning, sharing and networking around land and development in India. More than 30 partners came together from India and abroad to organize this 3-days event, which witnessed interdisciplinary and intersectoral conversations over 24 thematic sessions, 6 master classes, one innovation fair, a political forum on Land Manifesto, lightning talks along with pre and post conference events online and offline. Details of this and older conferences are available here.

(<https://centerforland.org/proceedings-ildc-2019/>)

ILDC2020 expects to have about 40 partner institutions: local and global joining together for enriching and interdisciplinary land-conversations over platforms that would include more than 30 technical sessions and panel discussions, two conclaves around SDG land indicators, a common's day, a political panel, two plenaries with key notes and release of a status of land report. Along with intellectual deliberations and engagement, ILDC2020, will also host cultural and artistic expressions around land-connections. There are also exciting pre and post conference events which brings together different land actors around potential convenings for action.

Registration

For meaningful interaction, number of participants will be limited to 30. Registration is free, but first cum first basis, with preferential allocation to ensure diverse representation. We encourage registration for ILDC2020. Registration link is available here.

<https://centerforland.org/ildc2020-registration/>

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