The South African Land Observatory

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Outline

- Background
- Sources of structured & unstructured data
- Land observatory overview
- Derived information
Evidence-based and inclusive decision-making over land resources in South Africa is becoming increasingly important in view of the land reform proposals and the National Development Plan.

Unless land data is generated, analysed and made available, inclusive decision-making on land at national and decentralised levels may not be realised and that would exacerbate challenges that already exist on issues related to land.

Data, particularly of good quality, are essential for national governments and institutions to accurately plan, fund and evaluate development projects.

To be of value, such data must be accurate, timely, disaggregated and widely available.

Urgent need to rethink data generation, data accessibility and data usability in South Africa.
Sources of data
Land ownership

• Deeds registry
  – Component of DRDRLR
  – Updated continually

• Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)
  • Updated continually
  • Restricted availability
• National Geo-spatial Information (NGI)
  – Component of DRDLR
  – dating back to 1930's & updated continually

• United States Geological Survey

• Landsat
  – 16 day repeat coverage
  – 15m resolution
High resolution geospatial data

• Spot 6/7
  – 12 months repeat coverage
  – 1.5m resolution

• Aerial photos
  – 3 years repeat coverage
  – 50cm resolution
Cadastral spatial data

- **Surveyor General’s office**
  - Component of DRDLR
  - All surveyed and approved land parcels
  - Farm boundaries
  - Key land use information

- **Spatial Planning and Land Use Management (SPLUM)**
  - Component of DRDLR
  - Data on Land claims, Community Property Associations & Tribal areas
Aims at facilitating evidence-based and inclusive decision-making over land resources in South Africa by generating, analysing and making available land-based information and by widening participation to all stakeholders

**Objective 1:** To build an evidence base for informed decision-making on land and land-based activities in South Africa  
**Outcome:** A complete and extensive evidence base for informed decision-making on land and land-based activities in the country. Provide a basis for information generation and monitoring at national level

**Objective 2:** To establish a knowledge portal for improved and inclusive decision-making on land at national and decentralised levels  
**Outcome:** Open-data and open-source, online hub for informed debate and interaction at different levels - national & decentralised
September 2016, SALO website live

Opened with the following 5 tools;
- **Land DATA**: an interactive map of land data
- **Land DOCS**: presenting links to everything that is published on land related matters (from media, research reports and opinion pieces to policies and parliamentary debates)
- **Land EVENTS**: an interactive calendar
- **Land FORUM**: space to feed the debate on any land-related topic judged relevant
- **Land COMMUNITY**: a directory of all stakeholders in the land sector – it also offers these stakeholders a platform to create their own webpage or link
NOTE: We are currently developing the platform

Please note that the platform is currently being developed and susceptible to frequent changes and improvements. A pro-active process to introduce it to land stakeholders in South Africa and to engage with them in developing the land community around the platform is on-going.

If you are interested in contributing or in giving us your opinion: contact@salandobservatory.org.
For updates follow us @landobsSA

YOU ARE THE LAND OBSERVER: CONTRIBUTE!
Publish your content about LAND in SOUTH AFRICA

New on the SA Land Observatory

Docs
“Mandela museum site ‘land grab’” – dispatchlive

Docs
“ANC land-grab plot to crash DA in Tshwane” – Times Live

Docs
“ANC plot to sabotage the DA in Tshwane: report” – BusinessTech

Docs
“ANC is behind Johannesburg land invasions – Mashaba” –

Docs
“Land reform: ‘Acknowledge the horrors of apartheid,’
The Land Data system overview

Manual data collection → Data store

Government records → Data processing & aggregation → Data store

Geospatial data → Data store

Land Observatory Website

Government users

Public users
Relationships in the data

- Race
- Nationality
- Gender
- Age
- Location
- Size
- Value
Derived information
Where we are going?
Free State: Ownership by race

Area: Free State Province

- White
- Black
Free State: Ownership Demographics

- **Nationality**:
  - South African: 30%
  - Foreign: 70%

- **Race**:
  - White: 28%
  - Black: 72%

- **Gender**:
  - Male: 35%
  - Female: 65%

- **Age**:
  - 20s: 32%
  - 30s: 19%
  - 40s: 9%
  - 50s: 14%
  - 60+: 26%

Area: Free State Province
Reports by area

Ownership by Nationality

- South African
- Foreign

80% 20%
Where we are

• Lejweleputswa and Cape Winelands pilot districts
  – Farm boundaries
  – Deeds data
  – Satellite imagery
  – Land use data
  – Land capability

• National
  – Farm boundaries
  – Provincial & municipality boundaries
  – Satellite imagery
  – Land use data
  – Land capability
  – Water resources
Provincial and municipal boundaries
Farm boundaries and farm data
Farm boundaries, farm data and land use classes in 2013
Farm boundaries, farm data and satellite imagery data
Interactive report showing number of farms per size category for a selected area

Number of farms per size category (fully within the selected area)

Total number of farms: 1332

- 0 - 500 m²
- 500 - 1000 m²
- 1000 - 2000 m²
- 2000 - 5000 m²
- 5000 - 10 000 m²
- 1 - 2 ha
- 2 - 5 ha
- 5 - 10 ha
- 10 - 20 ha
- 20 - 50 ha
- 50 - 100 ha
- 100 - 200 ha
- 200 - 500 ha
- 500 - 1000 ha
- 1000+ ha

Farm data
- Farm name: Olyenbult
- Area: 1336.643 ha
- Timestamp: 2008-06-22
- Parcel ID: T0000000000000100000
- Major code: T00000000
- Major region: I0
- Province: NORTH WEST

Report Options
- Select or draw an area on the map to generate the report
- Land use classes
- Farm sizes

Generate | Close Report
Challenges with data access

- **Costly data**
  - Deeds R11/deed: R10 million national coverage
  - Initial database cost + periodic updates

- **Data not accessible to public** e.g. company beneficiaries

- **Data useability**
  - Outdated
  - Accuracy
  - Cross-checking
  - Automatization
Summary and Conclusions

- To answer the land question, categorise land according to personal attributes i.e. race, nationality, percentage share, gender, etc.

- Data is available in different places and forms.

- Require wider stakeholder participation in data development and establishment of knowledge portals.

- Surveys for ground truthing and filling in data gaps.
Website activity

- Total views to date: 6,352
- Best ever: 317
- Consistently:
  - Land Docs
  - Home page
  - Land Data
  - Land events

Twitter & Newsletter responsible for links
Thank you!