

# Study visits

We recently welcomed several international delegations at Kadaster.

## Jordan

From September 2-5, the Department of Lands and Survey in Jordan (DLS) visited us to learn how to integrate global frameworks, international standards and approaches, such as the ISO Land Administration Domain Model, the United Nations Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), and Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration (FFP LA). They explored practical implementations in the Netherlands and concluded the week by developing a joint action plan for follow-up.



## Benin

From September 9-13, a delegation from Benin's national cadastre visited Kadaster to prepare for scaling up the National Cadastre. They focused on Kadaster's operations, geodetic infrastructure management, and the acquisition and dissemination of cadastral data. This visit provided the delegation with valuable insights from Kadaster's expertise and included meetings with Dutch authorities to discuss potential funding for the future.



## Albania

From October 28-30, the State Authority for Geospatial Information (ASIG) from Albania visited Kadaster. One day of their study visit focused entirely on innovations in the topographic mapping process at Kadaster. Participants also received updates on improvements to the Dutch geoportal PDOK, cybersecurity measures, and the Dutch cables and pipeline information centre (KLIC).

# Events

## Malaysia

Kadaster participated in the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Commission 7 Annual Meeting on Cadastre and Land Management, held in Malaysia, from September 23-26. This event was part of Malaysia GeoWeek and included the LADM/3D International Workshop and GLTN/STDM sessions, attracting over

250 delegates. Kadaster, in collaboration with ITC (University of Twente) through the School of Land Administration Studies, also hosted a productive side event on 'Climate Action and Land Administration' with attendees from the Asia Pacific region.

## Mexico

During the 7th High-Level Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management in Mexico,

participants shared key insights on geo-information and its applications. The theme, 'Accelerating implementation: achieving resilience', emphasised the urgent need to tackle climate change, leverage local knowledge, and promote inclusivity. In a panel discussion on future digital infrastructure, Frank Tierloff, chair of Kadaster, highlighted the critical importance of data quality and its availability for the success of AI initiatives. He noted that governments play a vital role in fostering an ethical and inclusive environment. The forum underscored the power of collaboration and dialogue across various sectors, aiming to shape a future built on reliable data and innovative technologies.



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# SPATIAL II: Successful cooperation in the Western Balkans



## National mapping and cadastral agencies (NMCAs) in the Western Balkans face similar challenges in building their national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI).

These challenges include acquiring the right skills and technical expertise, engaging stakeholders, and aligning with EU rules and accession regulations. By addressing these challenges, the NSDI-platforms provide society with more reliable and improved access to information about land. The challenges were addressed in different ways, leading to valuable use cases. To facilitate the exchange of knowledge among the different project partners Kadaster organised regional workshops and expert visits to Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, as well as study visits to the Netherlands.

### Project results

The project achieved significant outcomes, including:

- enhanced understanding of geospatial information among authorities
- strengthened relations between the NMCAs in the Western Balkans and the Netherlands
- increased knowledge about professional access to land information.

Specific results include:

- upgraded national geoportals, leading to increased usage of the portals
- updated NSDI strategies to provide direction and focus

- improved processes contributing to more efficient topographic mapping production
- improved skills in areas like property valuation, business analytics, and open data standards.

### Project numbers

- four regional workshops and two online seminars on land consolidation and e-services, featuring participation from NMCAs from Sweden, Denmark and Norway
- five study visits to Kadaster and other Dutch institutions, including the Netherlands Council for Real Estate Assessment, the Municipality of Zwolle, Tribuut (a tax collecting agency), and SOMA (a training center for registration of cables and pipelines)
- over 40 expert missions, both online and onsite, covering NSDI-related topics
- one closing event.

### Key takeaway

The shared professional interest in geo-technical matters served as a common thread that united participants in this project. The exchange of ideas, best practices, and collaborative solutions led to meaningful progress, tailored to the pace of each organisation.



## Editorial

At Kadaster International, we recognise that the true value of our work lies in the strength of our partnerships. While our primary focus is on government-to-government support, we understand that sustainable progress requires collaboration with the private sector, academia, and civil society.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential for creating a sustainable and equitable planet. They help us align efforts, overcome barriers, and engage in meaningful discussions. When everyone contributes their best and collaborates willingly, synergy is created, leading to substantial impact.

In this newsletter, we highlight our commitment to SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals. These stories showcase how collaboration drives sustainable development across governance, data and technology, and capacity building.

We are dedicated to nurturing these relationships and look forward to strengthening our partnerships further. Together, we can achieve our shared goals and make a lasting impact.

Paula Dijkstra | Director Kadaster International

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## Protecting indigenous land rights in the Amazon rainforest

In the next 6 months, Kadaster will collaborate with the Brazilian organisation IG Terras and the Dutch Embassy in Brazil. We will support indigenous communities in the Lower Tapajós region with mapping and surveying land.

### Local traditions and nature under threat

Indigenous people from various ethnic groups have lived in this part of the Amazon rainforest for centuries, preserving their culture, traditions and the forest. The Brazilian government has established several indigenous territories to protect these communities and their culture. However, in recent years, these territories have been threatened by illegal land claims, deforestation and activities like soy production, fishing and mining. This undermines the land rights of indigenous communities and negatively impacts the environment.

### Training forest guardians

The project supports the Foundation for National Indigenous People (FUNAI) in gathering evidence against these abuses by mapping illegal land claims. Several forest guardians, who are indigenous community members protecting these territories, will be trained to map the areas and make the data accessible. Responsible authorities can use this data to identify land claims that violate indigenous land rights and enforce land protection.

### Scaling-up modern methods

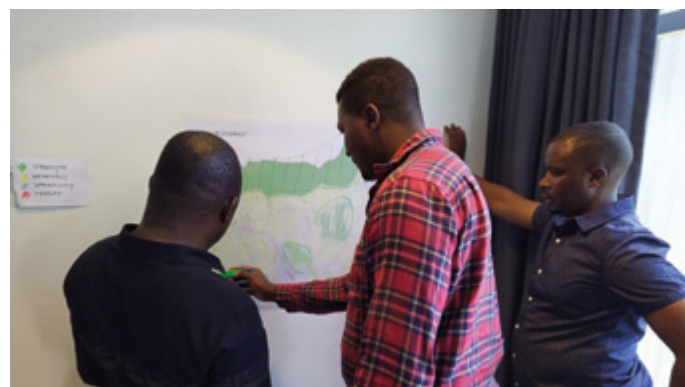
We will apply fit-for-purpose methods using modern technologies to ensure an inclusive approach to collecting reliable data. Kadaster will work closely with the relevant government institutions in Brazil to help scale-up and integrate these land rights mapping methods.



## Developing postgraduate courses in Rwanda

A component of the Rwandan Land-at-Scale project focuses on building the capacity of individuals, institutions, and networks that contribute to the land administration knowledge ecosystem in Rwanda.

On the ground, we implement both short-term initiatives, such as staff training and webinars on geo-ICT, and longer-term strategic actions. These include assessing capacity gaps in the land sector, collaborating with the National Land Authority (NLA) and tertiary institutions to develop domestic master's programs, and establishing a comprehensive steering committee for the land sector to ensure a sustainable talent pipeline.



### Assessing capacity gaps

In recent months, we have made significant progress on these fronts. We completed an extensive review and strategy document to identify capacity gaps in land administration information system development and maintenance. The report reveals that there are only a handful of experts available in the country to undertake this work, posing a significant risk to system continuity.

### Creating a sustainable talent pipeline

To address this challenge, we are partnering with INES Ruhengeri, a university in Musanze, to develop postgraduate courses in geoinformatics and land use planning. These will be the first degrees of their kind in Rwanda. While the business case is strong, there are challenges related to staffing.

Additionally, we have created a blueprint charter for the proposed steering committee on land sector capacity development in Rwanda. This charter will serve as both an anchor and a pathway for key actors to share knowledge, collaborate, and take action to ensure a sustainable talent pipeline in the sector. Given the scarcity of resources, collaboration is essential.

## Supporting Moldova's National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)

Together with KU Leuven, and Epsilon Italia we completed a project with the Agency for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (AGCC) in Moldova. This project aimed to strengthen Moldova's National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) by implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and aligning with European INSPIRE standards. By working towards a Centre of Innovation and enhancing data standardisation, the project improved Moldova's ability to use geospatial data to address key societal and environmental challenges.

The main goals of the project were:

- Implement the NSDI action plan, business plan, and business model.
- Develop practical NSDI use cases to demonstrate the value of geospatial data in decision-making.

### Achieved results

Key achievements included the development of a comprehensive NSDI communication strategy, data standardisation aligned with INSPIRE, and the creation of a data quality management plan. Use cases were developed to demonstrate the practical applications of geospatial data in real-world scenarios. Data management was another focus, with



Joep Crompvoets (KU Leuven) noted:

“Despite limited resources and the challenges of the geopolitical situation in Moldova, AGCC has a very positive drive to enhance their geospatial ecosystem.”

actions to improve data findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability, including the development of rich metadata, operational services, dataset harmonisation, and access documentation. Key recommendations included improving data management practices, supporting use case development, and implementing a comprehensive NSDI monitoring and evaluation methodology.

## Innovative solutions for land security in Chad

A consortium led by Oxfam Novib, Oxfam Intermon, Kadaster, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) aims to address Chad's severe land tenure crisis through the Land-at-Scale programme. This partnership leverages scientific expertise, local knowledge, and stakeholder networks to create socio-technical systems that secure land rights in Bahr Linia and a second pilot area. The consortium's mission is to promote equitable and sustainable land governance, enhance food security, foster social cohesion, and support economic growth.

Land conflicts account for 85-90% of Chad's court cases, driven by outdated laws, land speculation, population increase and climate issues. Chad's land law features conflicting state and customary systems, creating gaps that allow for corruption and impunity. In response, the government is revising its land law and formulating a national land policy to clarify land rights, encourage sustainable natural resource management, and promote socio-economic development.

### Addressing challenges

Key challenges include insufficient governance mechanisms, inadequate land administration and ineffective cadastral mapping.

The consortium's innovative approach directly engages with the government and community stakeholders, ensuring alignment with local social structures and governance systems.

### Long-term land reform

National consultations in May 2023 recommended several legal and administrative reforms, such as abolishing the concept of vacant land, recognising customary rights, and introducing anti-corruption measures. The consortium's model will test land governance methods in two pilot regions, providing insights to improve land management policies nationwide. Kadaster brings knowledge in the field of Fit-for-Purpose land administration. This means that in addition to traditional methods of data collection, alternative methods will be tested. With extensive experience and resources, the consortium partners are well-positioned to contribute to long-term land reform, informed by Chad's complex social and political context and driven by inclusive, evidence-based solutions for land security.

