



# Land

-concept note-

**Land** is a people-centered, open-access toolkit with both online and offline components that puts local people at the heart of landscape restoration. It includes a platform for gathering information so that both professionals and local communities can contribute data. This data will then be fed back into the local communities by both informing local projects focussed on landscape restoration, as well as providing NGOs and policy-makers with real-time data. **Land** encompasses many features with the potential for expansion over time.

The platform is designed to continuously gather and update existing data sourced from partners active in the area of interest. This is accomplished by enabling people in local communities to provide indigenous knowledge and data on their local environments by offering a free app connected to the platform. This continuous cycle of real-time data will then be provided to organizations engaged in restoration projects as well as the local community to empower under-represented groups, gather gender disaggregated data, and encourage sustainable solutions.

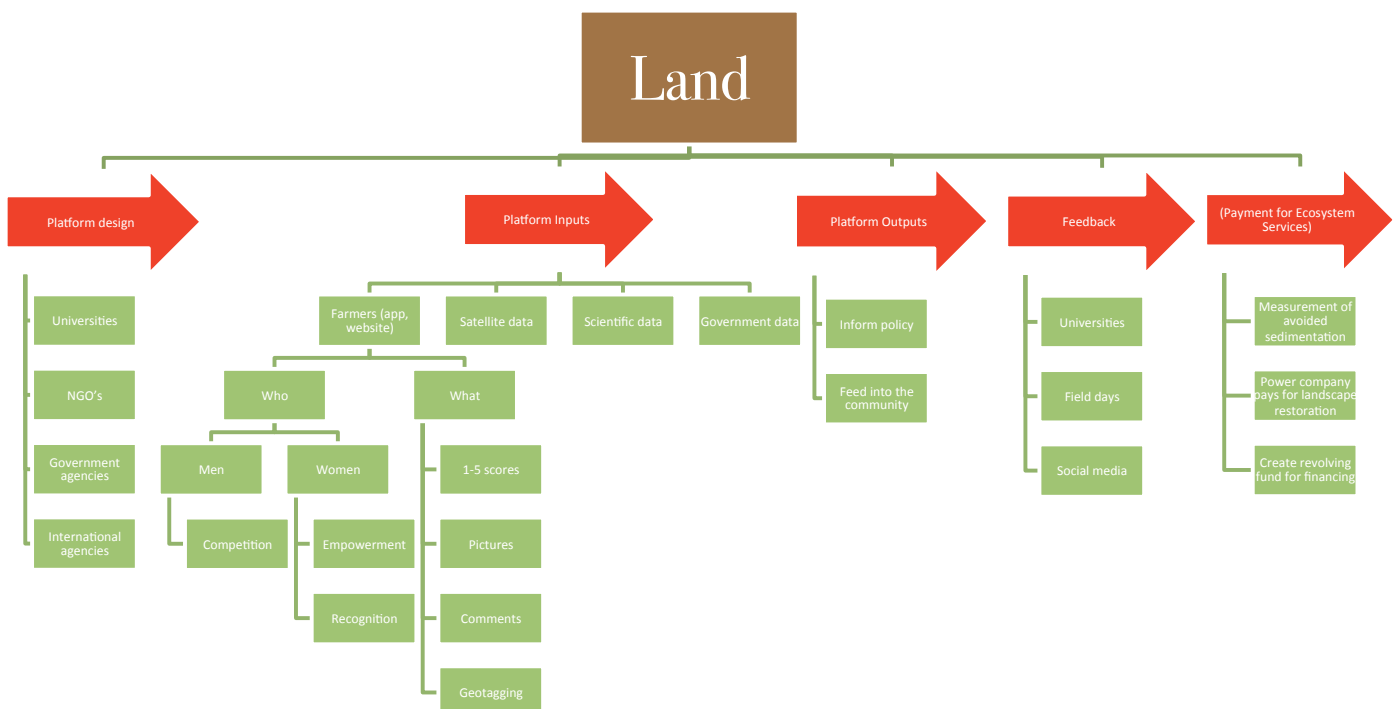
At the moment, little information about the state of the landscape and the impact of restoration efforts is available. This makes it very hard to develop further restoration efforts and to measure the success of the existing ones. **Land** meets this important need by

providing real-time data to organizations, particularly those involved with restoration projects.

Moreover, **Land** it is a toolkit that helps communities involved in the restoration process to adaptively manage their restoration efforts. **Land** recognizes that this an offline process with people at the heart of it. Therefore, **Land** is an offline toolkit for people, with an online component for data processing. Although all users can access and input data, not every **Land** user needs to be an active user of the app, as data-entry can be aggregated.

To allow for a wide offline user-base, the toolkit requires little formal knowledge on landscape restoration. Instead, it measures a wide set of indicators on a 7-point scale. Using visual references, users can easily provide information on indicators such as vegetation cover, soil erosion, litter, infiltration, etc. In addition to those user-inputs, **Land** integrates other data sources such as scientific reports and Remote Sensing. Through our algorithms, analysts can calibrate data-sets to improve accuracy.

**Land** is a toolkit for new and on-going restoration projects and can easily be integrated within different project types. It delivers cost-effective monitoring and allows for adaptive management of restoration projects.



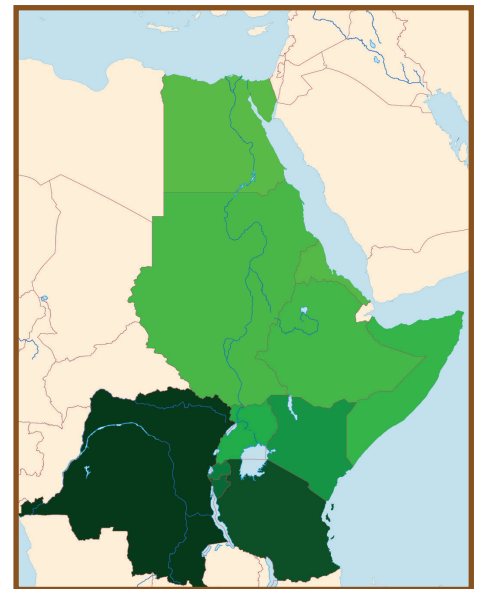
## Nile River basin

Land will initially focus on the highlands of Ethiopia, where the Blue Nile starts, as degraded lands here have both significant impacts on local communities and knock-on effects for the over 200 million of people living downstream.

Millions of hectares are planned for restoration in this area over the next years, in accordance with the Bonn Challenge. To effectively restore the Nile basin qualitative and quantitative data is needed to inform adaptive management.



The Nile River basin spans eleven countries:  
DR Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea and Egypt.



## Next steps?

This two-pager is a concept note. The toolkit needs further development before it can be used. We aim to move forward by partnering with a project partner with an on-going restoration project within the Ethiopian highlands. Together, we can provide proof of concept and test the usability of both the offline and online components.

## Costs

We have estimated the costs for the development of **Land**. These can be financed by the partner project organisation or a third-party grant provider.

Activity	Costs
Feasibility and scoping	\$25.000
Offline component <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of process, manual, training</li> <li>Testing within existing project</li> <li>Travel costs</li> </ul>	\$50.000
Online component <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of methodology</li> <li>App development</li> </ul>	\$150.000

## Team



Noor Nasir



Daniel Zarate



Olivier Rousselle



Henri van Soest



Diego Aranda



Marie Longnecker



Minase Tamrat Faye



Estefania Ruiz Martinez



Daan Jochem Groot



Claudio Castro

**Land** is a product of the Landscape Restoration Team working as part of the Youth in Landscapes Initiative with the Global Landscapes Forum as well as with support of the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems and the CGIAR International Water Management Institute.