



**Making research more  
accessible and visible**

Romy Sato

NELGA Info Session

7th Dec 2023

The Land Portal works to enable an open, inclusive and democratic land information ecosystem to help decision making at all levels

## Who we are

### Inform

Improving documentation, sharing and monitoring

of land governance issues through a widely used platform providing data, structured information, tools and services.

### Open

Democratising the information ecosystem

by supporting the creation of a standards-based data infrastructure and building the capacities of information providers, to strengthen the flow of land governance information, from all perspectives and all levels.

### Debate

Promoting, informing and enriching the global debate and practice

on key land issues while raising the visibility of national, regional and international partners.

# Why communicating research is so important

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- Validating and enhancing research
- **Contributing to collective knowledge**
- **Impact and recognition**
- Ethical and contractual obligations
- Funding and support

Open science, openness in the whole research cycle

- Influencing policy & practice
- Encouraging engagement from society

# NELGA - Land Portal collaboration

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- Background: Land Portal → Support from SLGA programme, mandate to collaborate

NELGA researchers as guest writes to LP Knowledge Products



Skills development,  
visibility & influence



Implementation of the AU  
agenda on land



Fresh, country-based  
knowledge



Open, inclusive, democratic  
land information ecosystem

# What to Read digests



# What to Read digests

- The state of the debate or research on a particular topic
- To non-academic readers
- Contextualize a specific policy or research question and recommend readings
- Time needed: ca. 2-3 days



The screenshot shows the Land Portal website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Countries, Issues, Join the Debate, Data, Library, News & Events, and Community. The main content area features the article title "Are pastoralists and their livestock to blame for climate change?" dated 20 April 2023. Below the title is a large image of a pastoralist with a herd of cattle and a "What to Read" banner. The author's name, Dr. Rick de Saeger, is displayed next to a small profile picture. A list of tags includes Sub-Saharan Africa, Rangelands, Drylands & Pastoralism, climate change, livestock, biodiversity, pastoral land rights, and pastoralists. The introductory text of the digest is visible, discussing the complexity of understanding climate change impacts on pastoralism and the role of the Land Portal digest in providing accessible, contextualized information.

View all digests

<https://landportal.org/what-to-read>

# Framing

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- The key issue, question addressed
- Written in first person, blog style
- Intriguing, provocative

## Are pastoralists and livestock to blame for climate change? WTR digest, April 2023

*As humanity grapples with understanding the causes and consequences of the mounting climate crisis, there can be a **tendency to oversimplify issues** in a bid to identify solutions. Such oversimplifications have stemmed from a broad-brush analysis which **identifies all livestock production and animal products as key drivers of climate change**.*

*This What to Read digest seeks to show a deeper understanding of pastoral livestock systems and how, given context-specific conditions, they can actually respond to climate change threats while lowering the risk of conflicts over natural resources.*

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# Publications review

- The **most recent** or the **most relevant** publications to analyse the selected issue
- Summary + why these publications are relevant
- Publications should be **open access**
- Non-academic publications also considered

## Are livestock always bad for the planet? Rethinking the protein transition and climate change debate

By Elizabeth Houser and Ian Scoones, 2021

The preface to this 67-page report notes how urgent climate challenges have triggered calls for radical, widespread changes in what we eat, pushing for the drastic reduction, if not elimination of animal-source foods from our diets. The report argues that these high-profile debates are based on patchy evidence and crucially fail to differentiate between varied landscapes, environments and production methods. This has resulted in relatively low impact, extensive livestock production, such as pastoral systems being lumped in with industrial systems in the conversation about the future of food.

As a result, inappropriate policies may be developed based on assumptions about livestock emissions, derived from studies of intensive, contained, industrial systems which are extrapolated to apply to extensive livestock production. The report warns how such a misreading could do great damage to livelihoods, landscapes and the life chances of people reliant on extensive livestock production, including pastoralism.

[Read the full publication](#)



## Livestock, climate and the politics of resources: A primer

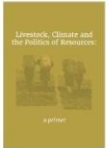
By Ian Scoones, 2022

In this primer, prepared in the run-up to COP-15, Ian Scoones, professor at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, sets out the evidence that pastoralism should be better understood as a "highly productive, modern system, and an extraordinarily well-tuned 'infrastructure' for making the most of variable settings". Scoones provides an accessible and global review of diverse pastoral livelihoods in settings ranging from Africa to the Arctic. The primer identifies the different pressures facing pastoralists worldwide and examines the lessons we can learn from them about coping with uncertainty in the context of rapid climate change.

The primer argues that:

- Over half the world's land is rangeland, where non-pastoral livelihoods and food production are often impossible.
- Millions of people in hugely diverse groups around the world engage in pastoralism.
- As climate change and other forms of uncertainty intensify, pastoralists have unique knowledge and skills to respond flexibly and effectively in such turbulent conditions.
- Mobility is central to pastoral practices and a key part of pastoralists' responses to variability.
- Pastoralists produce high-quality, nutritious animal products, which supply high-density protein and micronutrients to diverse populations through local sales and wider trade networks.
- Livestock grazing and browsing can enhance biodiversity and these practices can far exceed the benefits of 'protecting' these ecosystems through exclusionary conservation.
- In contrast to intensive systems, extensive and mobile livestock production can be climate neutral or even climate positive.
- The social, cultural and environmental values of pastoralism remain unrecognised by markets and policy makers.

[Read the full publication](#)





# Visibility & impact

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## Mailchimp 2022-2023 - EN

**5,305** opens/campaign

**281** clicks/campaign

## Website - 2022

**1,524** pageviews

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*“...excellent both in content and writing style. I think this sort of review/synopsis of existing research is a great idea, particularly the way you muster unconnected but thematically linked research to tell a compelling story with a clear central argument.”*

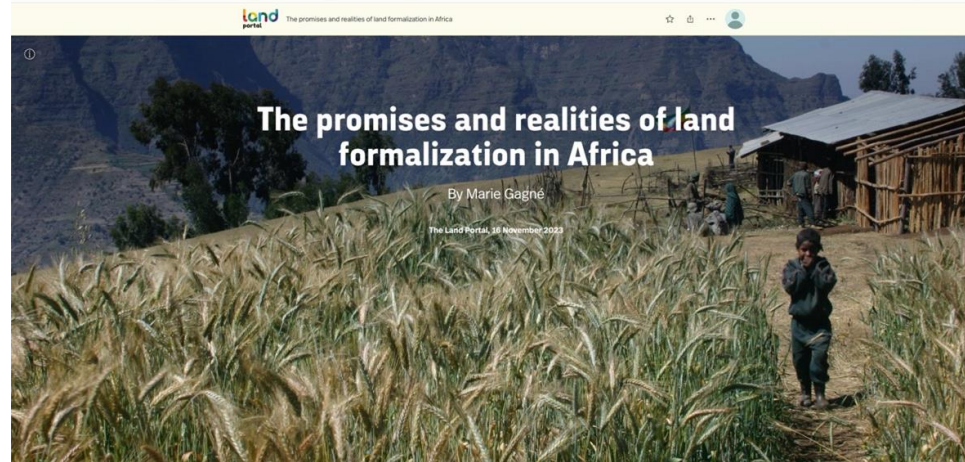
*Emeritus Prof. Philip Hirsch, University of Sydney,  
co-author of the book Powers of Exclusion*

# Data Stories



# Data Stories

- Visual narratives with arcgis *storymaps*
- Analysis about trends, case studies, to unpack relevant research findings and data → the context behind the data
- Interactive and multimedia (photos, maps, graphics, audio etc.)
- Time needed: 5-8 days, depending on topic, data availability, research phase



View all data stories

<https://landportal.org/data/stories>

# Visibility & impact

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## Mailchimp 2023 - EN

**5,794** opens/campaign

**316** clicks/campaign

## Website - 2022

**4,300** pageviews

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*“I just saw that the story is widely shared within RVO, up to the highest management teams of International Development. The reactions are really positive and they said they found it very insightful.”*

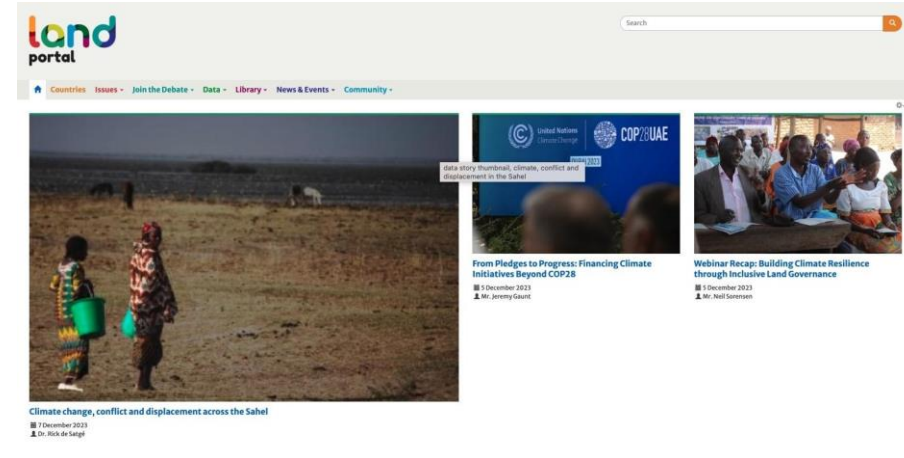
*Lisette Meij, Advisor at the Land-at-Scale Programme, RVO,*

# Channels & Audience



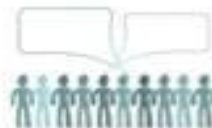
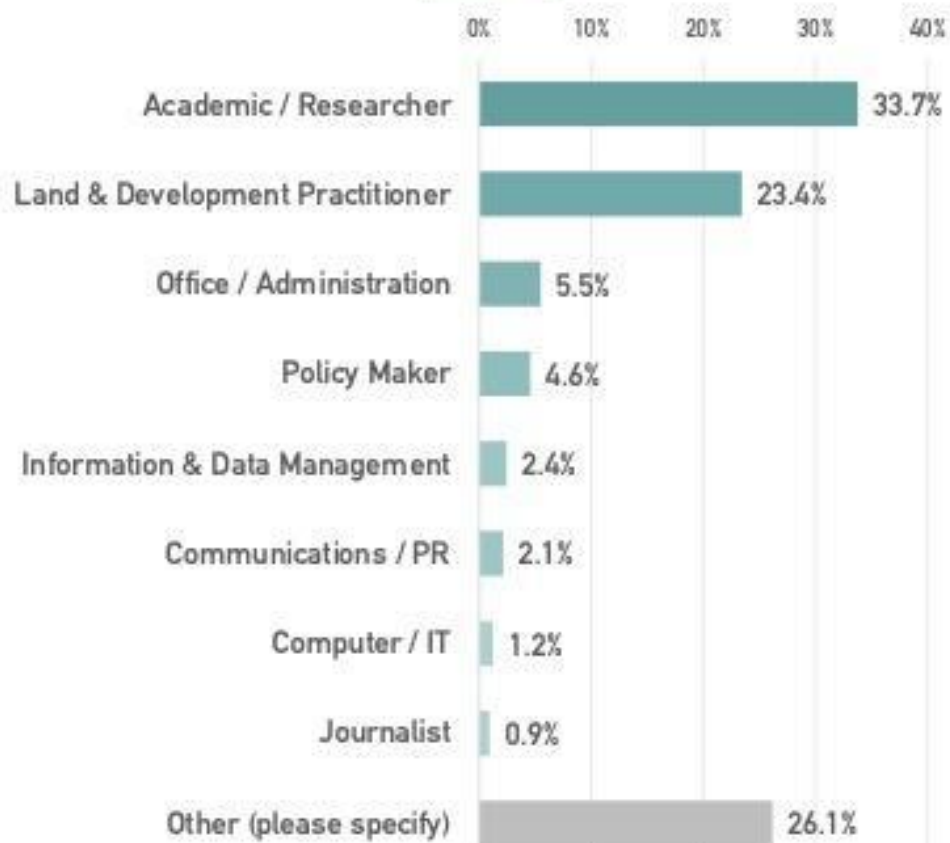
# Our channels and audience

- **Website:**
  - In 2022 we had **1,7 million pageviews**, up from 1.4 million in 2021
- **Mailchimp sent to 25,720 subscribers**
- **Social media**
  - **8,600 followers** in Twitter / X
  - **2,800 followers** in LinkedIn
  - **2,700 followers** in Facebook



# Respondents by occupation

[N=329]



## Key Insights



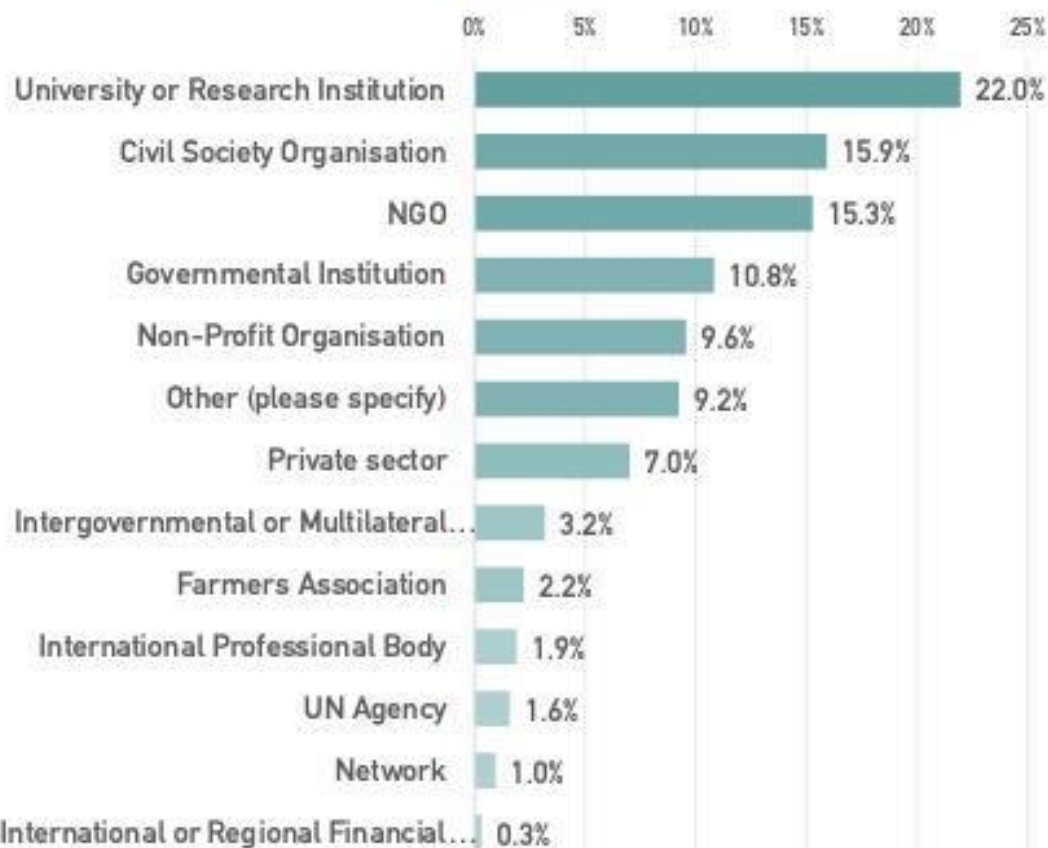
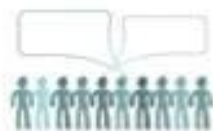
**For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, practitioners and researchers are the top occupations, jointly representing 57.1% of the sample (stable compared to 57.6% in 2022)**



**More than a quarter of the sample selected "Other" occupation**  
This category includes freelance consultants (19%), activists (15%), social workers (15%), and coordinators, directors and executives (14%).

# Respondents by organisation

[N=314]



## Key Insights



**The composition of respondents by organisation shows some changes from last year**



**While the top organisations are similar, both research institutions (22%) and governmental institutions (10.8%) increased compared to 2022, while NGOs (15.3%) and non-profit organisations (9.6%) decreased**





# Geography of the responses

[N=315]



**India (4.5%) and USA (4.4%) are the most represented countries** followed by Ethiopia (3.6%), Kenya (3.5%), Liberia (3.2%), Uganda (3.1%), Ghana (2.9%)



**Respondents come from 92 different countries**  
This is the highest number of countries ever recorded in a LP annual survey.



**44% of respondents are based in Africa**  
Representing 34 different countries in the continent



**Over 75% of responses come from the Global South (Non-OECD countries)** This value is stable from last year

# Collaboration

- Up to 4 guest writers
- Support and supervision from our core team and researchers
- Dissemination - mailchimp and social media
- Web-analytics



*Dr. Anne Hennings*



*Dr. Nieves Zúñiga*



*Dr. Rick de Satgé*



*Dr. Marie Gagné*



*Romy Sato, editor*

# Tentative schedule

Timeframe	Action
Feb - Mar 2024	Brainstorming ideas, sharing guidelines, Q&A session about format, style etc.
Apr 2024	Publish piece by guest writer 1
Jun 2024	Publish piece by guest writer 2
Sep 2024	Publish piece by guest writer 3
Nov 2024	Publish piece by guest writer 4

Continuous supervision  
& feedback on drafts

*Next step:*

Send us an email to indicate interest + your ideas!



**Let's collaborate!**



**Romy Sato**

Knowledge Network Coordinator  
[romy.sato@landportal.info](mailto:romy.sato@landportal.info)