

# LM data export: Read first

## **Brief introduction to the Land Matrix data and data export files**

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The Land Matrix is an independent land monitoring initiative that promotes transparency and accountability in decisions over large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) in low- and middle-income countries (according to the World Bank classification 2010) by recording and sharing data about these land deals.	
<a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)   What is a land deal?</a>	
This file/zip-folder contains a data export of the Land Matrix database formatted as XLSX or CSV. Date and time of the data download: Date: [YYYY-MM-DD] (ISO8601) Time: [HH:MM:SS] UTC	
To download data from the Land Matrix database please visit: <a href="https://landmatrix.org/list/deals/">https://landmatrix.org/list/deals/</a>	
Please note that the <b>filter settings</b> selected on our website before the data download determine which deals are exported to the xlsx- or csv-files. The URL linked to the download button contains a listing of all activated data filters.	
This file/zipped folder was downloaded from the following URL: <a href="https://landmatrix.org/api/legacy_export/?subset=PU&amp;BLIC&amp;negotiation_status=ORAL_AGREEMENT&amp;negotiation_status=CONTRACT_SIGNED&amp;negotiation_status=CHANGE_OF_OWNERSHIP&amp;format=csv">https://landmatrix.org/api/legacy_export/?subset=PU BLIC&amp;negotiation_status=ORAL_AGREEMENT&amp;ne gotiation_status=CONTRACT_SIGNED&amp;negotiation _status=CHANGE_OF_OWNERSHIP&amp;format=csv</a>	

**IMPORTANT:** Only part of the Land Matrix data can be considered systematically collected. Land Matrix data collection traditionally focuses on transnational land acquisitions (involvement of a foreign investor / filter "Deal scope" = "transnational") for agriculture and forestry. Only for these data subsets the Land Matrix is strategically working on compiling datasets with a complete census of all respective land deals as defined by the Land Matrix (see row 3), acknowledging that in some countries the transparency is very low. Since 2024, there has been an additional focus in Land Matrix data collection on "green deals", and more specifically on land acquisitions for wind farms, solar parks, and carbon offsetting projects. Here too, the Land Matrix aims to cover all land deals as defined by the Land Matrix (see row 3). However, this part of the Land Matrix database is still under construction and thus data collection is not yet complete.

Land Matrix data is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution International \(CC BY 4.0\) license](#). If you wish to use and reference the data, please cite as:

**Land Matrix [year]. Data downloaded from [specific download URL] on [date of data download].**

**TABS/FILES** in this xlsx-file/csv-zip-folder:

**Variable descriptions tab/file**

Lists all variables and their definitions, data types, and formats.

**Deals tab/file**

Lists all land deals (one deal per row) that have been exported from the Land Matrix database to this file according to the selected data filter settings. This tab contains the majority of all deal variables. Deals are linked to investors through the "Operating company: Investor ID"(column BI)/"Operating company: Name"(column BJ) and the "Top parent companies" (column K containing investor names and investor IDs). A deal may have one operating company but multiple top parent companies. If no parent company has been recorded for the operating company, the operating company and the toparent company are identical. The investor network behind the operating company can be derived from the Involvement tab/file.

**Locations tab/file**

Lists all locations (one location per row) recorded for the deals listed in the deals tab. A deal can have multiple locations. The locations and their IDs are linked to deals through the Deal ID.	
<b>Contracts tab/file</b>	
Lists all contracts (one contract per row) recorded for the deals listed in the deals tab. A deal can have multiple contracts. The contracts and their IDs are linked to deals through the Deal ID.	
<b>Data sources tab/file</b>	
Lists all data sources (one data source per row) recorded for the deals listed in the deals tab. A deal can have multiple data sources. The data sources and their IDs are linked to deals through the Deal ID.	
<b>Involvements tab/file</b>	
Lists all direct involvements/holdings (one involvement per row) of one investor in another investor (parent-child investor relation) that are recorded in the Land Matrix database.	
<b>Investors tab/file</b>	
Lists all investors (one investor per row) recorded in the Land Matrix database.	

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