Some possible information sources

1. The tool provides gender-sensitive evaluation criteria within the framework of the evaluation tool.
2. The tool is gender-disaggregated and provides gender-sensitive evaluation criteria.
3. The tool and its implementers are gender-balanced.
4. The tool involves women and men in its development and implementation.
5. The tool addresses both women’s and men’s land rights.
6. The tool includes a gender perspective in its implementation.
7. The tool includes women and men in its development and implementation.
8. The tool is implemented consistently with a gender perspective.
9. The tool involves women and men in its development and implementation.
10. The tool provides gender-sensitive evaluation criteria.
11. The tool is gender-disaggregated and provides gender-sensitive evaluation criteria.
12. The tool involves women and men in its development and implementation.
13. The tool and its implementers are gender-balanced.
14. The tool and the tool's impact are evaluated gender-disaggregated.
15. The tool is gender-disaggregated and provides gender-sensitive evaluation criteria.
16. The tool involves women and men in its development and implementation.
17. The tool is gender-balanced.
18. The tool and its implementers are gender-balanced.
19. The tool involves women and men in its development and implementation.
20. The tool is gender-disaggregated and provides gender-sensitive evaluation criteria.
21. The tool involves women and men in its development and implementation.
22. The tool and its implementers are gender-balanced.

22 evaluation questions to tell us whether a tool is responsive to both women and men.

This table shows the progress by GLTN so far and will be further refined during further piloting of the evaluation questions in 2009-2010.

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is focused on establishing a continuum of land rights and the creation of innovative, pro-poor, scalable and gender-sensitive land management and land tenure tools. It achieves this by a range of activities including organizing workshops and e-forums to facilitate a wide range of stakeholder inputs. The goals, values and priorities of the GLTN underpin the need for all tools to be gender-sensitive, as does the process of tool development itself. Gender is a central aspect of the Network through a gender mechanism, of which this work on gender evaluation criteria is a part (see www.gltn.net).
The evaluation questions need to capture both formal and informal knowledge. The evaluation framework must be flexible enough to be applicable in a variety of contexts and situations. The final indicators used for a question need to be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. Women, who have for long been discriminated against and disadvantaged, have an interest in developing and implementing gender-responsive tools. The process of designing the evaluation criteria itself also needs to be gender-responsive—taking into account different voices from grassroots to land professionals, to make sure we find out what we need to know.

The way forward

Initial testing of the evaluation questions have already been done during the e-forum by looking generally at whether information can be found to answer the questions, and relate them to indicators, for different land tools. Similarly, a number of case studies were examined.

The next step is to run pilots to test the gender evaluation criteria in different countries, to refine the evaluation questions, design local indicators, find appropriate information sources and collection methods and see if the method works. The piloting exercise will need to decide:

- Which questions and indicators are appropriate for the particular situation, country and tool being assessed?
- How new tools being developed could be more responsive to gender?
- Which stakeholders are driving the gender agenda, as this will change which questions and indicators are prioritized?
- What scale is being used, at different questions and indicators will be more appropriate for different scales (for example, at city or national level).

Women, men and land

Women often face discrimination under formal, informal and customary systems of land tenure. In many parts of the world women face large barriers in obtaining land because social customs or patrilineal tenure systems prevent them from holding rights to land. As women often gain access to land through male relatives, their rights are vulnerable to breakdowns in relationships, divorce or to the changing priorities of male land owners. The adverse impacts of commodification of land and globalization also disproportionately affect women. Many women experience low status and economic dependence because of their general inability to access property rights.

Land tools (defined as practical ways of achieving objectives set by laws and policies) have often been designed to serve male interests and priorities. To be effective, these tools need to be developed to also incorporate women’s experiences, needs and participation. This means recognizing that tools may impact differently on men and women. It also requires that women and men are actively involved in the design of the tool, implementation and evaluation processes. In addition, the diversity of women has to be recognized, with special attention given to, for example, female heads of households, widows and refugees.

Creating a gender evaluation framework

While many of us know these facts, we may differ on what we think are the best ways to tackle these gender inequalities in access to land. We need to objectively try to assess if land tools have been, more or less, gender-responsive. Then we must review (or consider, if at the design phase) how well these tools work for both women and men, and areas that may need to be improved. To acquire this information requires a set of gender evaluation criteria.

Once we have devised the criteria, it can be used to evaluate existing land tools, and to identify steps that should be included in the design of new land tools to meet the needs of both men and women.

The process of designing the evaluation criteria itself also needs to be gender-responsive—taking into account different voices from grassroots to land professionals, to make sure we find out what we need to know about land tools, such as land titling, land taxation, enumeration or city-wide slum upgrading.

What should the framework include?

Land tools are evaluated from many angles. The assessment of a land tool from specifically a gender perspective is likely to complement, or be part of, other, wider, evaluations. As such, it needs to be designed to specifically capture what a tool means in terms of gender, and be user-friendly enough to be used both by gender experts and non-specialists.

When discussing gender relations, one quickly comes to realize that it is about power, society and culture. The evaluation criteria recognize these deeper issues, but focus specifically on how a land tool can influence gender inequalities. Deeper, systemic changes have to take place in parallel, and cannot be evaluated by an examination of a land tool by itself. A tool is only one piece of the much larger puzzle. To see if a land tool meets the criteria, other questions have to be asked and answers found through indicators, or specific sub-questions. Some responses will be qualitative, and others quantitative. Some strive to deliver gender equality, while for others, equity is the starting point.

Gender evaluation criteria for large-scale land tools

How can we judge if a land tool is responsive to both women and men’s needs?

Despite progress on women’s rights, rights to land and security of tenure are not enjoyed equally by women and men in many parts of the world. This goes against international human rights, and also impacts negatively on households and the economies.

Gender issues related to land are complicated. They involve sensitive social and cultural territories and challenge deeply rooted power structures. At the same time, we know that for a land tool to be effective, it needs to go beyond a technical lens and also consider social dimensions such as gender.

The Global Land Tool Network’s work to date on criteria for designing new, or evaluating existing, land tools from a gender perspective is presented in this brochure. The gender evaluation criteria framework explores how to judge whether a large-scale land tool is sufficiently gender-responsive, to identify where more work needs to be done, and possible entry points to make a tool equally beneficial to women and men.