Mokoro Newsletter
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Dear Reader,

Please find below our latest news, with a range of articles from Mokoro staff and consultants, as well as links to our recent assignments. We also have links to the latest publications added to our Land Rights in Africa Resource Pages.

New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Malawi

Mokoro Associate, Hannock Kumwenda, has been working as the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition Country Facilitator in Malawi since October 2014. The New Alliance is a shared commitment to achieve sustained inclusive, agriculture-led growth in Africa. It has mobilised a group of energetic stakeholders in government, donor community, private sector and civil society to come together and create a conducive environment for doing business with fair market returns for smallholders; increase access to water and basic infrastructure; improve productivity, storage of produce and its packaging; and increase the uptake of nutritive foods and diets so as to reduce malnutrition disorders. In this article Hannock looks at some of the obstacles already faced, and yet to come, in Malawi, in meeting targets to graduate 2 million people out of poverty come 2022.

Read the full article.

Tracking finances for cross-sectoral priorities

Sectors are the spinal column of the public sector, offering an orderly and pragmatic way of arranging public sector affairs and dicing up resources. The boundaries between them however, are more arbitrary than is commonly acknowledged. This has become more apparent in recent years, as a number of issues, such as nutrition and child protection, which don’t fit comfortably in any of the ascribed boxes have risen up the global development agenda. In this article Mokoro’s Stephanie Allan looks at the challenges faced in financial tracking when working on cross-sectoral issues, which have arisen in two recent Mokoro assignments: the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement evaluation and an assignment for UNICEF developing a methodology for measuring public expenditure on child protection to form the basis of a cross-country comparison benchmark to be used for advocacy.
Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2015

The annual World Bank Land and Poverty Conference is one of the major events in the agenda of all those who work on land and related development issues. It brings together technical specialists, academics, government officers and development experts from all corners of the globe. Mokoro Principal Consultant, Chris Tanner, attended the conference to present his paper, 'Legal Empowerment And Access To Justice As Instruments For Good Land Governance', and to represent Mokoro, as a consulting company in the land and natural resources areas.

Read the full article.

Full Carbon Analysis for Forestry - Rethinking some Fundamentals

Forests are often presented as the lungs of the planet, sequestering large amounts of carbon dioxide. Sadly for lovers of forests, this is incomplete and misleading. Mature natural forests on drained soils exist in ‘carbon equilibrium’, breathing out as much carbon through decomposition as they breathe in through photosynthesis. Only in wetlands is there a significant net accumulation of carbon. But in wetlands, the accumulation of soil carbon is at least partly offset by some methane emissions and the net carbon impact is unclear. In this article Mokoro Principal Consultant, Kit Nicholson, addresses the need to consider the whole carbon cycle when analysing the impact of land use on carbon balance.

Read the full article.

Mokoro News

The final report of the Independent Comprehensive Evaluation of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement led by Mokoro has been published on the SUN website homepage.

Chris Tanner, one of Mokoro’s land experts, attended the Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty in March. He presented a paper titled ‘Legal Empowerment and Access to Justice as Instruments for Good Land Governance’, which he wrote with Marianna Bicchiere and Margret Bidar from FAO. The paper and presentation are available on our website.

Mokoro’s Robin Palmer has been invited to be a keynote speaker at the LANDac International Conference on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development which will take place on 8 - 10 July 2015 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The Conference is organized by the Netherlands Academy on Land Governance (LANDac) and its partners and aims to present state-of-the-art knowledge on how land governance may contribute to equitable and sustainable development, as well as setting the agenda for future research and fostering new collaborations for research, policy and practice.

A Mokoro team led by Stephen Turner have recently returned from three weeks of fieldwork in Tanzania where they are conducting an evaluation of the World Food Programme's portfolio (2011-2014) in the country. The image below shows a dam built with WFP food for assets labour in Arusha Region.

Recently Completed Assignments

DFID Project Completion Review - Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Programme

UNDP Mid-term Review of the Strengthening the Governance of Climate Change Finance to Benefit the Poor and Vulnerable in Asia and the Pacific project (2012-2016)

UNICEF Assessment of the Transition Funding Modality: a pooled funding mechanism for social sectors in Zimbabwe

Land Rights in Africa: Latest Resources

Mokoro have hosted the Land Rights in Africa website since 2012. The intention is to publicise the work on land rights in Africa. The site is managed by Robin Palmer, who feels strongly that there is a need to disseminate arguments in favour of pro-poor land reform. The website has grown considerably over the years and is updated frequently.

Agro-industrial investments in Cameroon: Large-scale land acquisition since 2005
Source: IIED (Samuel Nguiffo and Michelle Sonkoue White)

Secure and equitable land rights in the Post-2015 Agenda - A key issue in the future we want
Source: Action Aid, IIED and others