

Authors: Ikageng Maluleke¹, Angela Harding², Wytske Chamberlain², and Ward Anseeuw^{2,3}, Saliou Niassy¹

¹Land Matrix PSU, Postgraduate School of Agriculture and Rural Development University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20; Hatfield 0028, South Africa

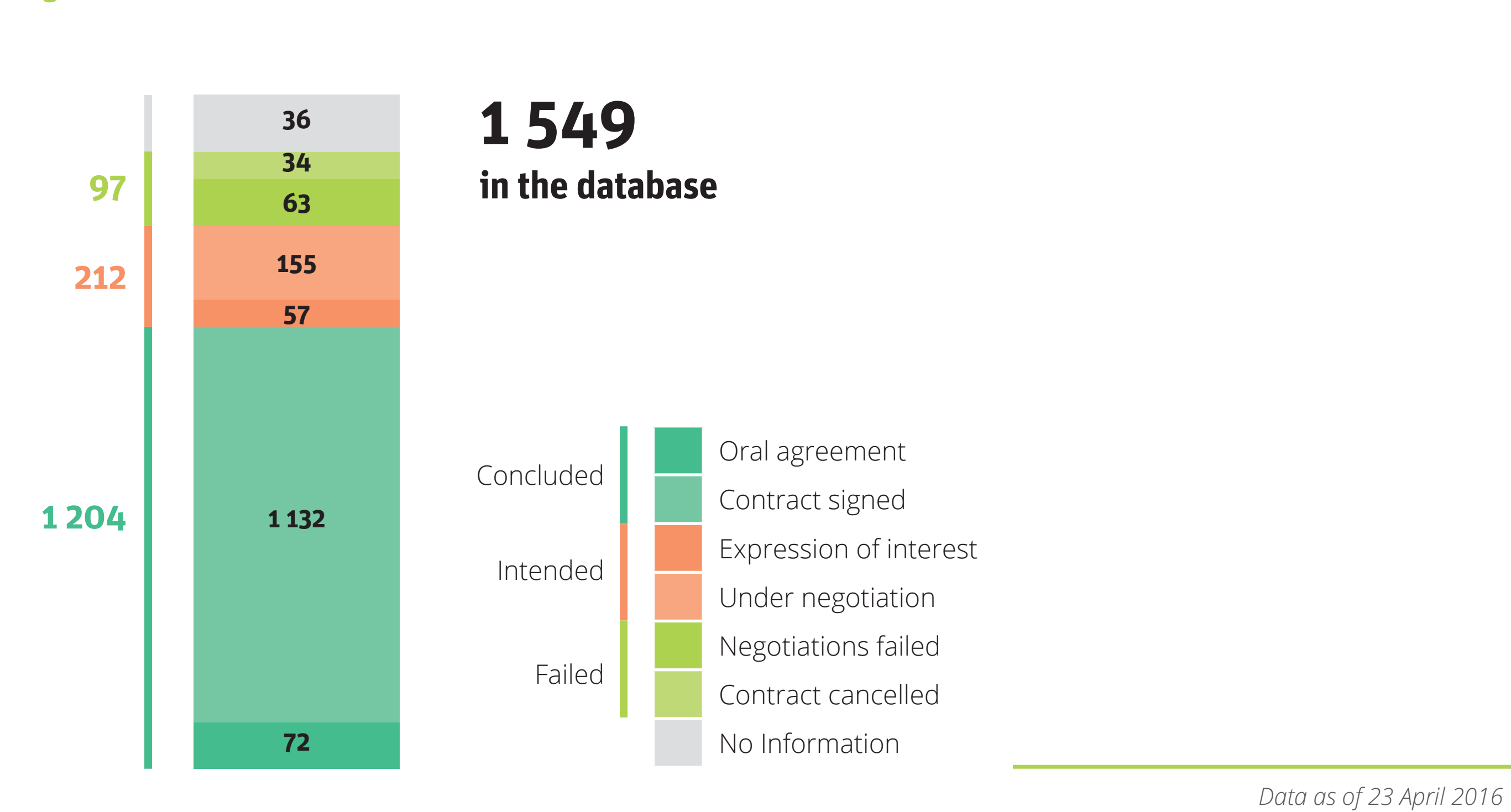
²Land Matrix Africa Focal Point

³Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)



The Land Matrix Initiative (LMI) is a global and independent land monitoring initiative that promotes transparency, accountability, and greater public involvement in critical decisions that affect the lives of land-users around the world. www.landmatrix.org is LMI's Global Observatory — an open tool for collecting and visualising information about large-scale land acquisitions. The Global Observatory is coordinated by a Project Support Unit hosted at the University of Pretoria. The partnership comprises 10 partners including the International Land Coalition (ILC), Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Asian Farmers' Organisation for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), Jasil a Mongolian NGO; the Argentinian CSO Fundación para el Desarrollo en Justicia y Paz (FUNDAPAZ), the University of Pretoria and the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine (NECU).

Figure 1: Data overview



The LMI partners are:



View South African investment deals here:
http://www.landmatrix.org/en/get-the-detail/by-investor-country/south-africa/?order_by=&starts_with=5



SOUTH AFRICAN LAND INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA AS PER THE LAND MATRIX

South African foreign land investments in the continent

Africa is the most targeted continent for Large Scale Land Acquisition. Most land transactions occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where an area of the size of Spain is believed to be leased to foreign investors. Both investors and sellers claim that these land acquisitions are meant to reduce poverty and hunger. However globally, Large Scale Land Acquisition raise many concerns about their local economic impact, human rights and fueling social tensions in already fragile states. Like many rich countries in the world, South Africa ranks among the top investors in some African countries. Being a targeted country itself, there are limited quantitative studies that describe South African land investments on the continent. Furthermore the motive and implications of such investments are poorly studied. The Land Matrix reports a total of 47 South African land deals covering an intended size of 2 485 241ha, with contract size amounting to a total of 781 013ha as of June 2016.

Table 1: Dynamics of international large-scale land acquisitions according to negotiation status

	NUMBER OF DEALS	INTENDED SIZE (HECTARES)	SIZE UNDER CONTRACT (HECTARES)
Concluded (Contract Signed)	30	1 189 441	757 492
Concluded (Oral Agreement)	3	469 155	23 521
Concluded	33	1 658 596	781 013
Intended (Expression of interest)	1	318	0
Intended (Under Negotiation)	5	233 307	0
Intended	6	233 625	0
Failed (Negotiations Failed)	7	583 020	0
Failed (Contract cancelled)	1	10 000	0
Failed	8	593 020	0

Out of the 47 South African deals on the Land Matrix, only 33 are concluded corresponding to an intended area of 1 658 596ha. However; the size currently under contract only covers 781 013ha. There are 6 intended deals covering an area of 233 625ha. Land Matrix reports 8 failed deals covering an area of 593 020ha (Table 1).

Concluded Deals Over Time



Figure 2: Concluded deals over time

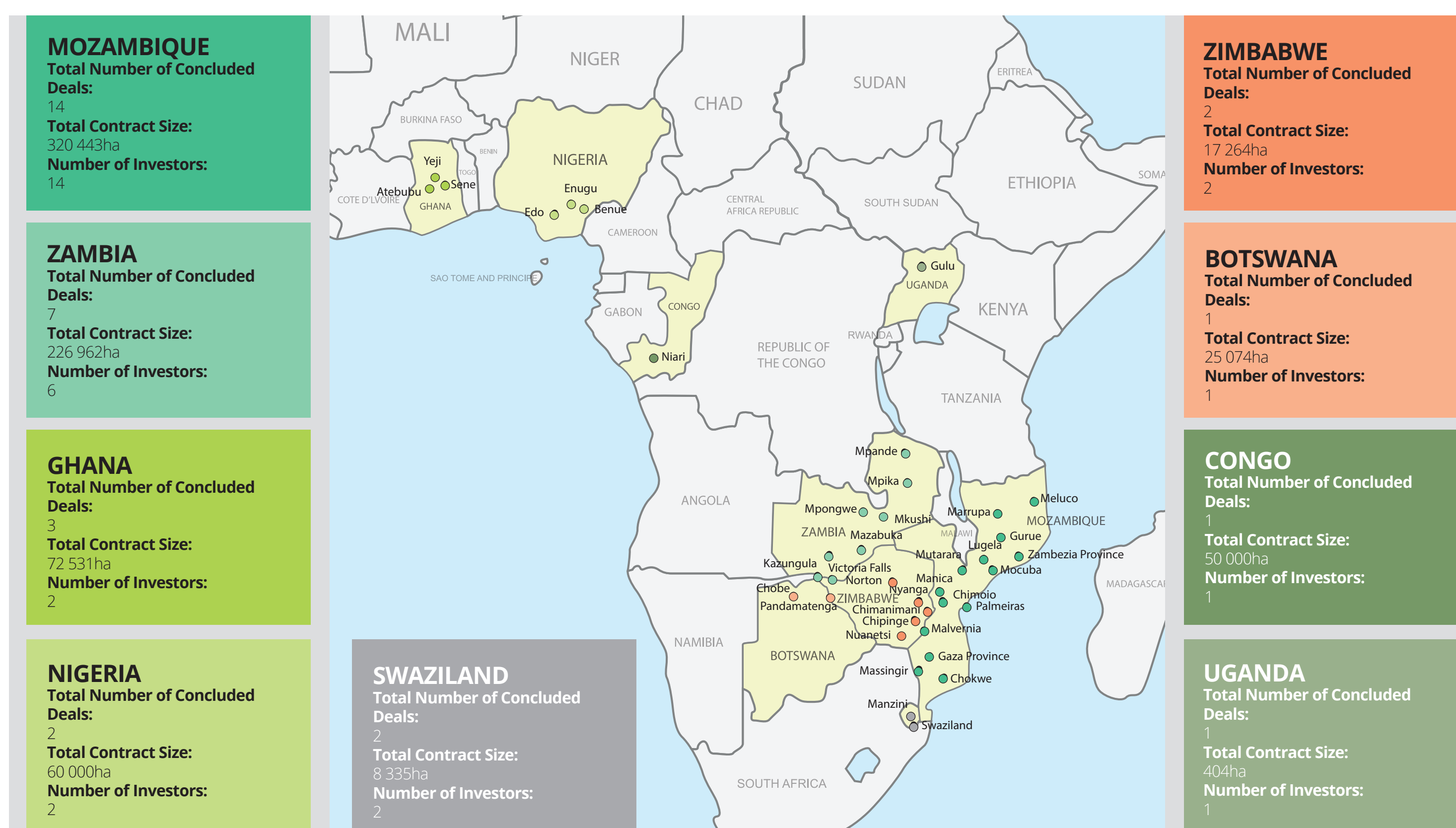
The Land Matrix contains South African deals from 2004 with the highest number of deals (8) concluded in 2009, covering an area of 300 000 ha. A few number of the land deals were acquired between 2010 and 2014 with a constant rate of 2 - 3 deals concluded per year (Figure 1). It is important to note that the database report a number of deals with limited information on the year of agreement, covering an area of 773 354ha.

Table 2: Concluded deals according to implementation status

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS	NUMBER OF CONCLUDED DEALS	SIZE UNDER CONTRACT (HA)	AVERAGE SIZE UNDER CONTRACT (HA)	CURRENT SIZE UNDER PRODUCTION (HA)	AVERAGE SIZE UNDER PRODUCTION (HA)
Project not started	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Start-up Phase	3	230 103	76 701	n.a	n.a
In Operation	23	366 679	15 943	45 243	1 967
Project abandoned	1	11 000	11 000	n.a	n.a
No information	6	172 531	28 755	n.a	n.a
TOTAL (deals or ha)	33	780 313	132 399	45 243	1 967

23 deals are currently in operation with 45 243ha under production, the average area under production is 1 967ha per project. Three projects are in start-up phase corresponding to 230 103ha with average area under contract being 76 701ha. There is only one project of 11 000ha which is abandoned. The Land Matrix contains six deals for which the implementation status is not known.

Target countries for SA foreign land investments



Note: Deals for Zimbabwe, Botswana Nigeria have multiple locations.

Figure 3: Spatial representation of SA investments in the continent

Intentions of foreign land investment by South Africa

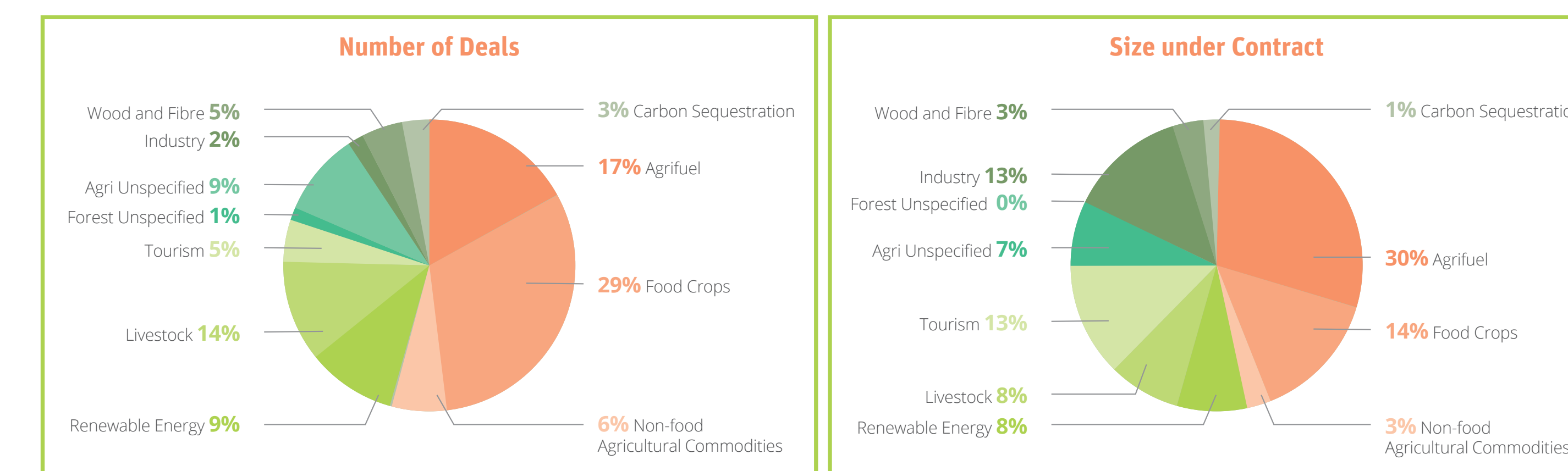


Figure 4: Importance of deals

In order of importance, South Africa invests in the following categories: Food crops, agrifuels and livestock, as far as number of deals are concerned (Fig 4A). In terms of size under contract, agrifuels occupy the largest area, followed by food crops and tourism. Livestock crops represent only 8% of the area size under contract (Fig 4B).

CONCLUSION

South African investors contribute to the global phenomenon of large-scale land acquisitions. The dynamics of these acquisitions suggest a strong commitment on the African continent. The high percentage of deals in the production stage underline this commitment. Whereas deals are located across the continent, the focus lies on neighbouring countries in the SADC region. Intentions encompass both food and non-food activities. Thus, improving food security either for South Africa or the target countries does not seem to be the sole driver.

Report land deals: www.landmatrix.org

