2015 Cadasta’s Founding
Founded in 2015 with support from Omidyar Network (ON) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID)—now the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)—Cadasta was created with a mission to achieve a world where even the most marginalized individuals and communities can benefit from the opportunities afforded by secure land and resource rights.

2015–2017 Cadasta 1.0
Cadasta’s first two years focused on addressing the gap in technology access in the land sector by building a free, open-source mapping platform for vulnerable communities to map and document their land and property rights. The Cadasta 1.0 in-house technology stack was built and tested with a small number of partners. In 2017, based on the need for better quality tools and more partner services, and the significant cost of software development, the organization decided to move away from an in-house open-source software solution to building on top of an existing, commercially supported GIS solution that would meet partner needs and allow for greater scale and functionality.

By the end of 2017, 477,516 people and 79,586 households were documented on the Cadasta Platform.

2018 Leadership & Technology Transition
During an interim year, new partner outreach was conducted, and an agreement was signed with the GIS software company, Esri. The scale-up of our partnership with Tata Trusts in India was the first large project on the new Esri-based Platform. In June 2018, a new CEO was hired to lead Cadasta through this pivot and build a team and an organization that could fulfill its ambitious vision.

By the end of 2018, 1,017,010 people and 203,402 households were documented on the Cadasta Platform.

2019 Cadasta 2.0
In March 2019, Cadasta publicly launched its new three-year strategy and technology Platform to better position the organization for success and impact. The leadership focused on building a capable and diverse team, including an international training curriculum and team; processes for partner onboarding; data privacy and security policies; financial, risk, human resource, and governance policies; and a clear pathway to impact and scale.

By the end of 2019, 1,708,560 people and 284,760 households were documented on the Cadasta Platform.

2020 The Year of COVID-19
In 2020, the world changed and adapted to a new reality in the face of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Cadasta quickly shifted gears to remotely support current partners with their COVID response, onboard 25 new partners, and train 40 partners. Cadasta launched an online partner Training and Support Center and the Global Impact Dashboard 2.0.

By the end of 2020, 4,930,634 people and 917,177 households were documented on the Cadasta Platform.

2021 Setting an Audacious Goal
Cadasta is the world’s leading global, enterprise-level mapping Platform enabling vulnerable communities and partners to affordably and easily document and secure inclusive land and resource rights at scale. And we have only just begun. These significant accomplishments sparked our board and team to envision an even more audacious goal: By 2040, Cadasta will catalyze land systems change, leading to inclusive land and resource rights for half the world’s one billion tenure-insecure people.

By the end of 2021, 5,682,663 people and 1,058,588 households were documented on the Cadasta Platform.

2022 Expanding our Reach
In 2022, Cadasta’s network of 99 implementing partners leveraged Cadasta’s tools and training to increase tenure security, improve livelihoods, empower women and Indigenous communities, and achieve better climate outcomes. We formed five government partnerships, resulting in 179,389 formal documents issued. In addition, a partnership in Brazil enabled the issuance of 3,000 titles to women-led households in a matter of hours. Lastly, we received the Esri Sustainable Development Award for helping partners utilize Esri technology to meet global sustainable development goals.

By the end of 2022, 6,329,668 people and 1,287,144 households were documented on the Cadasta Platform.