

**LANDac Annual International Conference 2022**

**'Governing land for the future – What (r)evolutions do we need?'**

**PROGRAMME**

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# Welcome

## Welcome to the LANDac Annual International Conference 2022!

LANDac – the Netherlands Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development – brings together researchers, policy makers, development practitioners and business professionals in the field of land governance and development. This year’s conference ‘Governing land for the future - what (r)evolutions do we need?’ focuses on the future of land governance. More than a decade into the ‘land grab’ debate it is time to ask ourselves some tough questions and discuss what it takes to address today’s and tomorrow’s land issues. Do we need further evolution of current approaches, or rather a revolution in land governance thinking? While the early wave of mega land deals seems to have waned, on the ground alienation and dispossession continue unabated, if in more diverse and stealthy ways. Pressures on land and other natural resources seem to be increasing, authoritarianism is omnipresent, and the violence against territorial defenders and human rights activists is increasingly worrying. As we review our efforts to address these issues the question arises: Should we tune the instruments at our disposal (“evolution”)? Or do we need a more radical re-think (“revolution”)?

We are looking forward to meet you on location or online, and to the fruitful discussions and hybrid sessions.

The Organising Committee,

Joanny Bélair (Utrecht University and LANDac), Wytse Chamberlain (LAND-at-scale, LANDac), Gemma van der Haar (Wageningen University and LANDac), Mayke Kaag (Leiden University), Divyani Kohli (ITC Twente), Ezra Litjens (LANDac), Lucy Mc Nally (LANDac), Guus van Westen (Utrecht University and LANDac).

## LANDac Partners

Utrecht University, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Studies Centre Leiden, Agriterra, ITC University of Twente, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Land Portal Foundation, Oxfam Novib, Royal Haskoning DHV, VNG International and Wageningen University and Research.



We are pleased to announce that the [Land Portal Foundation](#) is the key media partner for the

LANDac Annual International Conference 2022!

## Website

[www.landgovernance.org](http://www.landgovernance.org)

## Twitter

@LANDacademy  
#landac2022

## LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/landac>

## Registration and fees

Registration for the conference are still open until mid-June 2022.

The fee to join the full conference on-site is €200. If you would like to join us for a dinner, you pay an additional €25 as a contribution.

For students and a limited number of other participants we are able to offer a reduced conference fee. Please contact us at [landaconference2022@gmail.com](mailto:landaconference2022@gmail.com) if this applies to your situation.

The fee to join the conference online is €50.

## Schematic Programme LANDac Conference 2022

<b>Wednesday 29 June</b> <i>Location: Paushuize, Utrecht</i>	
<b>10:00-12:00</b>	Launch of the IOS Platform Fair Transitions
<b>10:00-12:00</b>	PhD session
<i>12:30-13:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>13:30-14:45</b>	- Welcome & Opening - Key note speech and Q&A 1
<i>14:45-15:00</i>	<i>Short break</i>
<b>15:00-15:45</b>	Key note speech and Q&A 2
<b>15:45-16:30</b>	Key note speech and Q&A 3
<i>16:30</i>	<i>Drinks</i>

Ethics, due diligence, and responsible investment	Protecting the land rights of the poor (technical)
Consultation, participation, and how to make it real	Advocacy and shrinking civic space
Protecting the land rights of the poor (social/political)	Climate justice

*Click on the session in the overviews below to go to the description*

**Thursday 30 June**

*Location: Janskerkhof, Utrecht*

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6
<b>09:30-11:00</b> Parallel Sessions I	Governing frontiers of large scale land-based developments in Indonesia – <i>Utrecht University, Universitas Gadjah Mada</i>	LANDex Index study cases in Latin-America – <i>Ecolex</i>	Land Governance and land administration: what is needed to scale up the existing solutions – <i>Kadaster, ITC Twente</i>	Is the land sector prepared for the data revolution? – <i>Land Portal Foundation</i>	Revolutions need revolutionaries: how to secure land rights wins in adverse political contexts – <i>Oxfam Novib, Land Rights Now Campaign</i>	The challenges of governing land in the context of climate change: rebuilding communities, the right to food and implications to rural livelihoods – <i>Observatório do Meio Rural</i>
<i>11:00-11:15</i>	<i>Short break</i>					
<b>11:15-12:45</b> Parallel Sessions II	Workshop: Governing frontiers of large scale land-based developments in Indonesia – <i>Utrecht University, Universitas Gadjah</i>	Ten Years After: A “reality check” on impact assessments of infrastructural projects – <i>LANDac, WUR, Royal Haskoning DHV</i>	Access to natural resources: conflict, regulation and marginalization of peripheral actors – <i>Université catholique de Louvain</i>	Experiences and tools for measuring secure tenure rights and improving the perceptions of tenure – <i>Cadasta, ILC Africa</i>	The Human Right to Land – do we need Human Rights based Land Governance and what could it deliver? – <i>TMG Thinktank for Sustainability</i>	The impact of climate change on traditional governance of land and natural resources – <i>University of Otago</i>
<i>12:45-13:45</i>	<i>Lunch</i>					
<b>13:45-15:15</b> Parallel Sessions III	“Do No Harm” in theory and in practice: Exploring the fine line between benefiting and harming local communities in development – <i>RVO LAND-at-scale</i>	Creative partnerships for land: Reaching across sectors, constituencies, and geographies to find solutions – <i>Land Portal Foundation</i>	Why land tenure security is not enough: the need for a radical, justice oriented framework for land and resource rights – <i>Transnational Institute</i>	Using Technology to Promote Pro-Poor Land Formalization – <i>Medici Land Governance, Inc</i>	Land rights and human rights – <i>University of Otago</i>	Fighting climate change with land-based solutions: risks & opportunities – <i>Oxfam Novib</i>
<b>15:30-17:00</b> Parallel Sessions IV	Successes and failures of the contemporary land rush: Exploring the causes and effects of stalled land grabs. – <i>Utrecht University, Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences, Concordia University</i>	Can Foreign Agricultural Investments be regulated as Development Interventions? Examining the development outcomes related to foreign agricultural investments in six research locations in Tanzania and Uganda – <i>Danish Institute for International Studies, University of Copenhagen.</i>	Protecting land rights in conflict-affected settings; are existing instruments innovative enough? – <i>WUR, RU, ZOA, TMG, Radboud University, Wageningen University</i>	Key Challenges and Lessons Learned from Systematic Land Titling: Promoting Pro-Poor Land Rights in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals – <i>Medici Land Governance, Inc</i>	E-learning in land governance, a key to youth employability in Africa – <i>Youth Initiative for Land in Africa, ITC University, NELGA</i>	Energy and Climate Justice: A Community Gaze – <i>Center for Land and Governance, NRMC, India</i>
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Dinner @ LE:EN (optional)</b>					

## Friday 1 July

*Location: Janskerkhof, Utrecht*

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6
<b>09:30-11:00</b> Parallel Sessions V	Taking stock of the global land rush – Evolutions, impacts and perspectives for responsible investment – <i>Land Matrix</i>	The unexpected local impacts of land formalisation - <i>LANDac</i>	The impact of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods and access to land in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for the future – <i>LANDac</i>	The impact of Finance on Forests – <i>Forest &amp; Finance</i>	Women's Land Rights: What have we achieved and how to move forward? Experiences from the last ten years of Civil Society, Academia and Grassroot women's leaders – <i>Oxfam Novib, LANDac</i>	Sustainable Land Management Model – <i>Khorasane Razavi Agriculture and Natural Resources Center, Asia Ecosystem Institute, University of Applied Science and Technology</i>
<b>11:00-11:15</b>	<i>Short break</i>					
<b>11:15-12:45</b> Parallel Sessions VI	Governance by guidelines: Shifting regulatory regimes of agribusiness and plantation investments in Southeast Asia - <i>Mekong Region Land Governance, Asia Research Institute</i>	Can Foreign Agricultural Investments be regulated as Development Interventions? Examining the development outcomes related to foreign agricultural investments in six research locations in Tanzania and Uganda – <i>DIIS, University of Copenhagen</i>	Sustaining and Scaling Tenure to Land and Forests: Challenges and Opportunities to achieve sustainable solutions at scale - <i>RVO LAND-at-scale, The Tenure Facility</i>	Land decision-making: how to improve land actors participation in the Arab World? – <i>Land Policy Analysis Center, Morocco</i>	Community-driven land rights advocacy: the power of grassroots voices on land governance – <i>Professional Learning Network, LANDac</i>	Brownfields to green energy: how land repurposing supports the World Bank's Just Transition for All approach – <i>World Bank</i>
<b>12:45-13:45</b>	<i>Lunch</i>					
<b>13:45-15:15</b> Parallel Sessions VII	Rethinking sustainability certification of tropical commodities in the context of changing foodscapes – <i>Wageningen University</i>	What can commons of the Iberian Peninsula northwest teach us about their role in sustainable rural development? Approach, function, and participation of multiple stakeholders – <i>University Santiago de Compostela</i>	Lessons from Impact Evaluations of National Land Administration Reform in Burkina Faso, Mongolia and Mozambique – <i>Duke University, Cloudburst Group</i>	Reparations through commoning – <i>Mas Newen, Aralez</i>	Women's Dispossession from Land and Home in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe – <i>HLRN, SSA:UHSNET, CFHHZ, ZPLRM</i>	Making land-based investment work for all? What is the touch stone? – <i>Food Rights Alliance and Oxfam Novib</i>
<b>15:30-17:00</b>	<b>Plenary closing session</b>					

# Programme Description

Day 1 – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June

The programme of this conference will include a diversity of keynote speakers who will share their own message about the (r)evolutions in governing land for the future. This year's key notes are **Dr. Laura German** (Professor of Anthropology, Director of the Center for Integrative Conservation Research, University of Georgia), **Dr. Richard Sliuzas** (Professor of Urban Planning for Disaster Risk Reduction, ITC University of Twente), and **Pranab Ranjan Choudhury** (Associate Director of the NRM Center for Land Governance, India).

Day 2 – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June

## Parallel Sessions I

### Governing frontiers of large scale land-based developments in Indonesia

**Organiser(s):** Kei Otsuki, Femke van Noorloos (Utrecht University), Rijanta, Ari Susanti (Universitas Gadjah Mada)

Indonesian government has started the process to relocate its capital Jakarta to eastern delta province of East Kalimantan in the Island of Borneo. This is one of the first examples of the city relocation officially motivated by climate change, as Jakarta suffers from land subsidence due to increased floods. The new capital city is proposed as the 'Forest City' that envisions a new model of sustainable and inclusive urbanization. However, this mega-project proposed in ecologically sensitive area has raised various concerns around environmental and social impacts. We know that in Indonesia as well as elsewhere, environmental deterioration and hydrometeorological disasters such as floods and drought have become more frequent events. These have put the livelihoods of various local communities and indigenous peoples at risk of water and food insecurity, especially as the frontiers of urbanization expand into existing natural and social landscapes. However, there is no clear indication that the proposed new model of sustainable and inclusive urbanization can effectively address these risks.

During this session the 'Forest City' project members will present existing knowledge and experiences from the previous/recent large-scale land-based developments and discuss how to conceptualize and eventually indicate ways to govern the new frontiers created by a mega-project such as the new capital city. Following the session with paper presentations and reflection by an external discussant, there will be a workshop involving a wider



audience and practitioners to think about concrete pathways through which responsible investments are promoted at various levels to direct sustainable and inclusive urbanization in the given ecological, social and political economic contexts of Indonesia.

**Panellists:**

- Wardatutthoyyibah
- Beki Larasati
- Rosalina Kumalawati
- Astinana Yulianti
- R. Rijanta
- Erli Saputra
- Ari Susanti

**LANDex Index study cases in Latin-America**

**Organiser(s):** Ecolex, Ecuador

In 2021, a specific study was carried out in Ecuador to determine its Land Governance Index; this index corresponds to its fulfilment of the 10 land governance commitments proposed by the International Land Coalition - ILC LANDex Index. The conclusion is alarming: Ecuador has a rating of 49.07 of total of 100 possible points. In addition, the research presented other interesting results such as values below the global average for equal land rights for women (Commitment 4), and for transparent information and accountability (Commitment 8). This research identifies gaps in the political, legal, and institutional frameworks for the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples and nationalities related to land tenure, use and access has advanced, although several serious challenges remain. Certain limitations and uncertainties for the exercise of competences in land management and resource management are also analysed. On the other hand, it verified the persistence of conflicts related to the land tenure of rural populations and unresolved issues about indigenous territories and extractive activities, as well as in the access, use and use of land and its resources in protected areas (PA) by local communities. Finally, it is noted that in the country the processes of concentration and land grabbing are not adequately addressed.

The International Land Coalition (ILC) proposed 10 land governance commitments as core principles to work worldwide. In order to monitor them, there are 33 land core indicators known as LANDex Index , with the purpose to measure the fulfillment of access to land tenure. In Latin America 4

specific study have been carried out to determine the national Land Governance Index and the fulfilment of the 10 land governance commitments in Ecuador (2022), Colombia (2019), Guatemala (2021), and Peru (2021).

During the panel the 4 national studies will be presented ideally by their authors of the national studies will present the information

1. Main national findings
2. Analysis of factors impeding access to land by women and youth from indigenous and local peoples
3. National legislation and situation on:
  - a. prior, free and informed consultation
  - b. the human rights of environmental defenders (Escazú)
  - c. extractive activities
4. Benefits and methodological limitations of LANDex (parameters and indicators)
5. Final thoughts on national research

### **Land Governance and land administration: what is needed to scale up the existing solutions**

**Organiser(s):** Kadaster, ITC Twente

Many efforts have been made lately to improve different aspects of Land administration by several international and local institutions (WB, USAID, GIZ, European Union, FAO-VGGT, UN-GGIM etc). Land Administration System improvements successful cases have been published, achieving part of SDG goals or the FAO-VGGT goals locally. But the land problems continue to be at the base of many problems in the countries and the successful achievements upscaling are still very rare. This panel has as main aim to evaluate which aspects of Land Governance or Land Administration are the main bottlenecks for the upscaling of the improvements in its system that could guarantee land rights access to many. We hope to get nice insights from the participants through interactive tools with present and online participants.

It has as other aims: a) review of the successful local or more general cases of improvements in Land Administration and the main lessons learned; b) the unsuccessful intervention in land administration/governance cases; c) proposition of solutions based on the cases; d) evaluation of the impacts of the interventions;

This panel and/or round table hopes, based on concrete cases, to bring up a clearer view of what is needed to enhance all types of legitimate land rights of men, women and youth and assist structural development in many thematic areas, such as food and nutrition security, economic development, conflict management, rule of law, integrated water resource management, city development, gender and climate change.

**Presenters:**

- Marije Louwsman
- Simon Norfolk
- Kees de Zeeuw, Bastiaan Reydon, Christiaan Lemmen, Gabriel Pansiani, and Paula Dijkstra (KADASTER)
- Danilo Antonio, Simon Mwesigye (UN-HABITAT)
- Dimo Todorovski and Jossam Potel (ITC-University of Twente)

**Is the land sector prepared for the data revolution?**

**Organiser(s):** Land Portal Foundation

The “Data Revolution” has been ongoing for about sixty years now. Halina (1966) already considered the question of whether this constituted a “revolution” or was “data evolution”. Similar discussions continue over the decades including more recently MacFeely (2020) who states instead that the “Data Revolution” is in fact a series of revolutions. Data problems such as limited access to information by those who need it and the lack of effective search and retrieval methods have been contemplated since the 1960’s. Data has a major impact on the changing character of social, economic and political processes. While much progress has been made in opening up data in order to address these problems in some sectors, such as banking, limited progress has been made in the field of land governance. The Land Portal argues that the data revolution in the land sector still has a long way to go and has developed a number of resources in support. Numerous case studies have shown that open data (including spatial data), can have major positive impacts, including in developing countries. Land data, when well-governed and available for use by a wide range of actors, can be a path to public good. The Land Portal promotes the open sharing of structured data and information on land issues both globally and in individual countries. Among other resources, we produce the State of Land Data (SOLI) series in collaboration with local research institutions and the Open Up Guide to support the release of structured land related data. The SOLI series aims to build an in-depth map of the land data ecosystem within a particular country. Researchers describe the available information across six categories of land data drawn from the Open Up guide. They assess what types of institutions have made the datasets available and assess each dataset against ten open data principles including its online availability, whether access is free or carries a fee, the quality of metadata and the standards used. The discussion seeks to explore how the land sector may with the help of resources such as the Open Up Guide and SOLI fully embrace this revolution!

### Revolutions need revolutionaries: how to secure land rights wins in adverse political contexts

**Organiser(s):** Oxfam Novib / Land Rights Now campaign

Indigenous and local communities are fighting to secure their territories all around the world, threaten by extractive, agro-industrial and energy companies responsible for human rights violations and environmental destruction with the support of Governments. In those contexts, local organizations are implementing a wide range of mobilization and advocacy tactics to demand justice and reparation.

From lawsuits to innovative campaigns, this session wants to show the creativity, strength and resilience of land rights advocates who have been able to secure unprecedented wins for their communities and territories. Thanks to the Land Rights Now network, we will invite speakers who will be explaining their tactics and cases as indigenous leaders, lawyers and activists from Latin America (Peru / Ecuador or Mexico); Europe (Montenegro) and Africa (Uganda / Tanzania).

**Presenters:**

- Rakib Akhtar

### The challenges of governing land in the context of climate change: rebuilding communities, the right to food and implications to rural livelihoods

**Organiser(s):** Dr. Natacha Bruna, Dr. Máriam ABBAS (Observatório do Meio Rural), Uacitissa MANDAMULE (Aix-Marseille University/OMR)

Over the last 20 years, Mozambique has become one of the preferred destinations for large land-based investments, which has resulted in expropriation of land from peasants, exposing them to food insecurity, poverty and other social and economic problems. Over the same period, the country has also been systematically affected by the impacts of climate change, posing challenges to farmers' livelihoods and food security.

Extreme weather events that have systematically resulted in the displacement of people and loss of their farms. Adding to this, predictions indicate that both temperature and rainfall patterns are expected to change by the end of the century, being expected an expansion of the localized semi-arid areas to other parts of the country. These changes in climate will affect land suitability and farmers' productive decisions, with significant impacts on land use, food production and food security. Therefore, it is relevant to grasp how to rebuild communities and guarantee land access within the dynamics of climate change.

On the other side, the 2019 IPCC report, 'Climate change and land', highly suggests and promotes land-based solutions; consequently, creating new climate-related demands for land and potential new patterns of land and resource grabbing to environmental ends. These constitute the guidelines for future global land use. But a closer look at the implications of mitigation and adaptation policies (such as REDD+ and green investments under its umbrella) shows that rural livelihoods are being adversely affected while environmental goals are being prioritized over social goals.

Overall, this panel, through the case of Mozambique, aims to explore different dimensions on how land governance and rural population is being impacted directly and indirectly by climate change itself and the policies to address it.

## Parallel Sessions II

### Ten Years After: A “reality check” on impact assessments of infrastructural projects

**Organiser(s):** WUR, Royal Haskoning DHV, LANDac

In this session, results will be presented and discussed from LANDac’s research project ‘Ten years after: A “reality check” on impact assessments of infrastructural projects’. Infrastructural projects are often aimed at development, which should benefit the country and its population. However, adverse impact on the environment and the people often hampers the success of these projects. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment are a key component for responsible investments, as they make ex ante predictions of the expected impacts on the environment as well as on people’s livelihoods. They inform, or should inform, decisions about whether or not to pursue specific interventions, what measures might improve the project design and implementation, and what compensation measures to the displacement affected population would be needed. However, even in best case scenarios, where there is a commitment on the side of government and investors to take impact assessment and compensation seriously, there are questions about the extent to which the ex-ante predictions are accurate and measures proposed sufficient. Key concerns relate to the distribution of costs and benefits of the proposed infrastructure among different social groups. A particularly challenging topic concerns displacement and compensation for loss of livelihood options. What impact did loss of assets and displacement have on people’s lives and livelihoods? Were measures to help people make a fresh start effective? To what extent did the impact assessment make proper predictions? Are there other aspects of loss that became apparent on the long term, which were not considered in the impact assessment and compensation? And what should be the implications if impact assessments missed the mark?

To the background of current concerns about the reduced development impact of infrastructural projects and the dispossessions suffered by populations affected by them – core issues in land governance and in the LANDac agenda in particular- this is a research project that zooms in on the gap between projected and real impacts in order to improve the practice of impact assessment. Many of the changes caused by infrastructural interventions might only become apparent over a somewhat longer timespan; whether compensation has been sufficient and, after construction, what more durable job opportunities exist and for whom. Also, people’s choices about where to live and how to re-organize their lives after displacement, need some time to flesh out. This is our reason to study cases ‘ten years after’.

**Presenters:**

- Habtamu Sitotaw

- Tom Ogwang
- Mashura Shammi
- Olga Mufanequisso
- Dharm Raj Joshi
- Vuyani Tshabalala – Monyake

### Access to natural resources: conflict, regulation and marginalization of 'peripheral' actors

**Organiser(s):** Université catholique de Louvain

This panel focuses upon actors that are pushed towards the periphery in natural resource governance in the African Great Lakes Region.

In a context of an intensified rush towards natural resources combined with the challenges of climate change, two main discourses took the upper hand in natural resource politics: (1) on the one hand the importance to facilitate productive resource management in order to provide opportunities for development; (2) on the other hand, the importance to protect vulnerable ecosystems in order to safeguard global biodiversity and sustainability. However, on the ground, we see how conflict-causing inequalities persist or deepen, and how 'peripheral' actors are excluded from access to resources.

In this panel, we aim to fill in the gaps in the literature regarding the societal impact of resource commodification and environmental protection. We focus upon the African Great Lakes Region in order to analyse the marginalisation of 'peripheral' actors within the struggles for access to natural resources. Our lens particularly directs itself towards actors who are facing the erosion of their historical rights on the resources upon which they depend, but who also find themselves in a subordinate position among rural population groups. We analyse the conflicts in which these 'peripheral actors' are embedded; how 'peripheral groups' interconnect with other groups within the rural population; and how 'peripheral actors' develop coping strategies in order to secure their survival.

#### **Presenters:**

- Vedaste Cituli
- Ramazani K. Lucien
- Bashizi Anuarite
- An Ansoms

### Experiences and tools for measuring secure tenure rights and improving the perceptions of tenure

**Organiser(s):** Cadasta Foundation, ILC Africa (Landex)

Globally and particularly in Africa, access to land has become increasingly important. Security of tenure is an incentive for social, economic, and environmental development. The concept of tenure security is captured by establishing landholders' perceived risk that a range of internal and external actors will appropriate their land. Hence, measuring the perception of land tenure security is significant in understanding how land rights are recognized by others legitimately and the different outcomes in event of a specific challenge. To measure these different perceptions of tenure, land data/tools become paramount to provide evidence-based statistics on various land issues and perceptions. Land tools such as LANDex, Prindex, and Land Matrix indicators to measure the land policies and existing programs that support secure tenure, increase transparency to ensure inclusiveness and fairness, and tools to establish a global and national level baseline of perceptions on land tenure security by conducting in-depth studies. ILC Africa and Cadasta Foundation are unleashing the power of people-driven data for transparency and accountability in the land sector. During this session, both organisations will share their experience and insights from measuring perception of tenure security and emphasising the importance of fit for purpose approaches for securing land tenure. The session will focus on the following thematic area: Gender-sensitive segregated data, data accountability, and transparency and share the best approaches and lessons learned.

### The Human Right to Land – do we need Human Rights based Land Governance and what could it deliver?

**Organiser(s):** Ilse Pelkmans, David Betge, TMG Thinktank for Sustainability

Ten Years after the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) were adopted, their implementation is lagging. Smallholder farmers, rural women, indigenous communities and local communities are all threatened by insecure tenure and recent studies and reports (e.g. Uneven Ground by ILC) do not indicate any significant changes towards improvements but rather show increased inequalities and violations of land rights. The key question is: how can this change? Which tools, processes or (r)evolutions are needed to ensure marginalized and tenure insecure people can claim and protect their land rights? This panel starts out from the question if a stronger grounding of land governance and land related projects, lobby and advocacy in Human Rights can be a gamechanger. Can a more explicit embedding of land rights work in Human Rights correct overly simplistic, technical framings? Can it reaffirm the legally binding human rights foundation of voluntary responsible land governance (i.e. the VGGT)? Could this lead to greater and better enforceable accountability of states and private actors? Which actors would need to be involved? What would be their role? How can vulnerable populations use Human Rights to defend their land rights? A starting point for the discussion will be the presentation of the Human Right to Land Tool developed by TMG Thinktank and the Danish Institute for Human Rights in collaboration with the Malawi Human Rights Commission. This tool explicitly links the VGGT to binding Human Rights instruments. It can be used by



states and the defenders of land, environment and people as well as researchers to underpin land governance and other land related work with explicit Human Rights obligations. The panel and the audience will critically examine the usefulness and usability of the tool and discuss use cases and limitations. Additional panel members will bring insights from their own practical and academic work and broaden the scope of the discussion towards further needs and opportunities related to the intersection of land rights and Human Rights. Can this be a revolution or is it an evolution at best?

**Presenters:**

- Jim Grabham

**The impact of climate change on traditional governance of land and natural resources**

**Organiser(s):** Dr Francesca Marzatico, School of Surveying – University of Otago, Ms Esther Obaikol, Intergovernmental Authority on Development

The pressure on land and natural resources caused by landbased investments is exacerbated by climate change. This poses global challenges on the availability of land and natural resources and has a particular impact on indigenous communities, many of whom are facing first-hand the consequences of climate change given their interdependence with the environment and its resources. Indigenous people traditional ability to adapt to the environment and to cope with climate change is increasingly overwhelmed by their political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment. Loss of traditional land and resources has the potential to increase conflict and represents a threat to traditional governance and to indigenous peoples' very existence. To cope with the loss of their traditional land, indigenous people are often forced to migrate, exposing them to discrimination and increasing their vulnerability. This session aims to discuss the impact of and potential solutions to climate change and loss of land and natural resources on traditional governance. Focus will be given to actions aimed at supporting the adaptive capacity of indigenous peoples, with the purpose of identifying lessons learned and best practices. Particular attention will be provided to those interventions which allow full and effective participation of indigenous communities in the development of mitigation measures to ensure that such schemes do not negatively affect them.

**Presenters:**

- Dereje Kebede
- Bezabih Emana
- Girmay Tesfay

- Rosalina Kumalawati
- Narangerel Yansanjav
- Solomon Haile
- Simon Peter Mwesigye
- Prosper Turimubumwe

## Parallel Sessions III

### [“Do No Harm” in theory and in practice: Exploring the fine line between benefiting and harming local communities in development](#)

**Organiser(s):** Lisette Meij (RVO LAND-at-scale)

Development projects usually have the best intentions. Whatever the scope or range of activities of an intervention are, ultimately, we hope to improve the lives and livelihoods of local communities in the target areas. However, there is a fine line between benefiting communities and harming them. In recent years, there has been increased interest in, and monitoring of, effects of development interventions on local communities. This has resulted in development of many institutional policies, guidelines and mechanisms to give substance to the “Do No Harm”-principle. But having these policies, guidelines and mechanisms in place, does not automatically mean that they are trusted or will be used by local communities. Particularly in fragile states in conflict- or post-conflict settings, community distrust can prevent people from stepping forward. During this interactive session, we will explore various approaches of how development actors have tried to ensure Do No Harm-principles were more than just symbolic measures, and their effects.

We invite abstracts to this session that address risk mitigation strategies in land governance interventions, with particular interest in grievance mechanisms.

The question that we debate is:

“What are potential risks when implementing land governance interventions in (post) conflict settings and what mitigation strategies can be formulated?”

### [Creative partnerships for land: Reaching across sectors, constituencies, and geographies to find solutions](#)

**Organiser(s):** Land Portal Foundation

The growing complexity of social and economic challenges is driving new, innovative forms of collaboration across the land sector. This session will draw upon the Land Portal’s experiences in working at multiple crossroads. For example, we believe that land data can be a path to public good when well governed and available for use by a wide range of actors. While we were working with the Global Data Barometer to map the landscape of land data at large, we saw an opportunity to complement their global perspective with deep-dives into specific countries. Our State of Land Information research, in conjunction with their global work, achieves a balance between comparability and granularity. Together, we offer the land governance

community a tool to monitor land data availability and accessibility across the globe. The Land Portal is also seizing an opportunity with journalists to shape storytelling about land. Journalists are increasingly covering land issues in the context of conflict, politics, and other issues. The Land Portal will be supporting the work of a Fellow from the Solutions Journalism Network, whose mission is to transform journalism so that all people have access to news that helps them build a more equitable and sustainable world. Led by journalists from global outlets such as the New York Times, this initiative aligns to our core mission of increasing access to land data and information for land justice. The Land Portal will provide six journalists curated access to our rich library of data and information on land and cross-cutting issues. Following a solutions-oriented approach, this collaboration with Fellow Nieves Ziguma will launch six land-related news stories this year. In another act of creative collaboration, the Land Portal has worked for the last two years to amplify the conversation around Indigenous Peoples' land rights and climate activism. This year we will continue our well-received Land Dialogues, a webinar series featuring Indigenous speakers from around the globe. This year's focus will be on supporting the use of land data by indigenous communities to achieve their objectives. The Portal's mission and success are conditional on building unique, successful partnerships. We will invite our partners from the open data, indigenous, and journalism communities to join us as we exchange good practices for coalition building across different languages, geographies, and missions.

### **Why land tenure security is not enough: the need for a radical, justice oriented framework for land and resource rights**

**Organiser(s):** Transnational Institute (TNI)

Following the renewed global land rush, many responses centred on the need for greater 'land tenure security'. Often overlooked in this more narrow, legalistic approach has been an appreciation for the way in which legal mechanisms can also be used to dispossess and disempower people. We examine how different, sometimes competing, political tendencies framing responses to the global land rush have played out through an analysis of the over 800 projects to implement the Tenure Guidelines (VGGTs) listed on the database of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development. We make the case for an alternative framework to address the multidimensional character of land-based injustice: the '5Rs'. These refer to a set of five interrelated ethical principles - Recognition, Restitution, Redistribution, Regeneration, and Representation – that ought to be at the core of a human rights approach. We will hear how the 5Rs approach has inspired struggles around land and resource rights in Myanmar, Colombia and Ethiopia.

We welcome abstracts that look at the Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. More fundamentally, we are looking at what it really means to put forward a pro-poor land rights agenda.

**Presenters:**

- Irma Beusink
- Anni Valkonen

**Using Technology to Promote Pro-Poor Land Formalization**

**Organiser(s):** Ailey Kaiser Hughes, Medici Land Governance

Technology is a powerful tool that can help protect the land rights of the poor and promote socioeconomic growth. However, if the land and technology policy frameworks are insufficient, if technology is not designed with a specific context in mind, if it does not adapt to socio-cultural norms, and if it does not respond to real local needs, then technology can be ineffective – or worse - may magnify existing social inequalities. In this panel, we will discuss the critical role of technology in the future of land governance, as well as how the technology sector must evolve to truly promote equality. In particular, we will look at technology for land formalization and land administration. Drawing from project-based experience, we will present lessons learned from land formalization and land administration projects in Zambia, Liberia, and Rwanda. We will discuss the interaction of technology, policy and legal frameworks, local needs, and sensitization, training, capacity strengthening, and other outreach tools to ensure that all potential beneficiaries equitably benefit.

**Presenters:**

- Trent Larson
- Audrey Moore
- Susan Thomas
- Diya Uday
- Matt Sommerville
- Meagan Dooley
- Gaurika Chugh

## Land rights and human rights

**Organiser(s):** Francesca Marzatico, School of Surveying – University of Otago

Land is a source of livelihood, wealth, culture and identity for individuals and communities around the world. Land is also at the centre of economic and social reforms; it is often a cause of conflicts and a crucial element of conflict resolution strategies. Land rights are also associated with access to food, housing, development. Without access to land many people find themselves in a situation of economic insecurity. Moreover control of rights to land has been an instrument of oppression and colonization. Human rights defenders, civil society organizations, international actors and non-governmental organizations have called for the recognition of a human right to land. Strictly speaking there is not an internationally recognized universal human right to land. The international human rights framework has not adequately considered the role that land plays in the fulfilment of other international human rights.

At the same time the international human rights law recognises the human right to land to certain groups such as indigenous communities (ILO Convention 1969 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people). Is it possible to identify the place of land rights within the international human rights framework? Or it is needed an explicit recognition of the international human right to land? The latter could have significant implications not only for governments but also for companies, which have the responsibility to respect human rights (UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights). This session contributes to the debate on the international recognition of land rights as human rights to improve protection of individuals and vulnerable groups at national and international level. The it aims at discussing the evolution of the concept of the right to land within the human rights debate, options for the recognition of human right to land and possible implications for governments and companies.

### **Presenters:**

- Esther Martinez Quinteiro
- Valerio Martinis
- Charles Chawduka

## Fighting climate change with land-based solutions: risks & opportunities

**Organiser(s):** Oxfam Novib

Oxfam's report "[Tightening the Net](#)" says that too many governments and corporations are hiding behind unreliable, unproven and unrealistic 'carbon removal' schemes in order to claim their 2050 climate change plans will be 'net zero'. At the same time, they are failing to cut emissions quickly or

deeply enough to avert catastrophic climate breakdown. Their sudden rush of 'net zero' promises are over-relying on vast swathes of land to plant trees in order to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

During this session we will discuss the risks and opportunities on land-based climate solutions. We hope to reflect from different angles and find solutions for potential risks.

Potential speakers are: Investors/Funds investing in so-called sustainable forestry for climate objectives (&green fund, Arbaro, FMO etc), Global Forest Coalition, Oxfam and partners (for example project in Timor Leste or other countries), maybe Dutch government too.

## Parallel Sessions IV

### Successes and failures of the contemporary land rush: Exploring the causes and effects of stalled land grabs

**Organiser(s):** Joanny Bélair (Utrecht University) Linda Engström (Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences), Marie Gagné (Concordia University)

More than a decade after the beginning of the new land rush, it is now obvious that many large-scale land acquisitions are falling short of the initial development expectations. There is mounting evidence of scaled-back operations and cancelled projects, most notably in Sub-Saharan Africa. Concerns have also been voiced regarding operational projects, as many of them generate local socio-economic differentiation and negative environmental externalities. In short, farmland investments tend to further marginalize the already most vulnerable populations such as migrants, women, and youths. Yet, there is also evidence that some of those farmland projects have started production and bring socio-local economic development as well as employment. In this panel, we want to reflect on the causes and implications of these mixed outcomes. How should we define failure and success? What are the factors explaining failure and success? Why are some investors more successful than others? What is the relation between land/ water/ natural resources rights and access, and local reactions to investment? What kind of relations between investors, local communities, local leaders, government authorities' matter? What is the impact of political interference on the sustainability of those projects? What are the lessons learned from the past decade and how can we better ensure the sustainability of future land projects? How to make those land acquisitions locally legitimate and inclusive? Or, more radically, do we want such investments to continue? Do we need a global development agenda that favours African ownership?

#### **Presenters**

- Joanny Belair
- Linda Engström
- Marie Gagné
- Simon Norfolk (independent researcher, managing director of Terra Firma)
- Juliana Porsani (Södertörn University)
- Lasse Krantz (Gothenburg University)
- Ronald Ndesanjo (University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- Divine Odame Appiah (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology)
- Reuben Ottou (SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, Accra, Ghana)



## Can Foreign Agricultural Investments be regulated as Development Interventions? Examining the development outcomes related to foreign agricultural investments in six research locations in Tanzania and Uganda

**Organiser(s):** Dr. Helle Munk Ravnborg, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Dr. Rikke Brandt Broegaard, Associate Professor, Department of Geoscience and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen.

During the last decade, sets of global guidelines and principles have been developed to promote responsible agricultural investments, including land tenure governance, and curb the negative impacts that the growing interest in land-based investments could have for existing land users' rights and livelihoods. While these guidelines and principles in many ways have contributed to shape and sharpen public and political awareness on land investments and their wider societal impacts, results from a mapping of agricultural investments in sub-Saharan Africa undertaken by the AIDA programme shows limited awareness of the guidelines as such, both among Danish agricultural investors and among investor-home as well as investment-host country authorities tasked to provide advice. Instead, many agricultural investors emphasize the local development outcomes they expect to arise from their investments. Expectations include increased employment opportunities, improved food availability and food security, and improved availability of new technologies and market opportunities to neighbouring local farmers. Through empirical research in a total of six locations in Tanzania and Uganda which have all received a growing number of investments over the recent decade, the AIDA programme has examined to which extent such expectations are being met. Moreover, we have examined the importance of the arrival of foreign agricultural investments (FAIs) for nearby farmers and households' perception of land tenure security and water access.

In this panel, we present our results. We conclude that overall, the expectations for development outcomes in the communities of which the investments form part, were met only to a limited extent. Therefore, we caution against the prevailing tendency to regard FAIs as development interventions. Instead, we encourage that FAIs be regarded as private economic activities. Consequently, they should be governed as such, both when it comes to land-, labour- and environmental issues, and when it comes to financial and tax-related issues.

### **Presenters:**

- Helle Munk Ravnborg
- Evelyne A. Lazaro
- David Mwesiye Tumusiime
- Festo Maro

### Protecting land rights in conflict-affected settings: are existing instruments innovative enough?

**Organiser(s):** ZOA, TMG, Radboud University, Wageningen University

The last decade witnessed numerous experiments with localizing and simplifying land registration procedures, and designing easy-to-grasp, low-cost, and accessible land records. Such localized and participatory practices of land recording generate evidence of land ownership that is acknowledged by the state, and that protects against infringements on these rights both at community level and in the judicial system. While the assumption is often that such mechanisms may -in principle- cater for a diversity and multiplicity of claims on land, in practice efforts of the international development community tend to focus on the registration of individual or family properties. But to what extent do such mechanisms indeed cater for the interests of particularly vulnerable groups, such as single women, or secondary right holders? And how about the protection of diverse, more temporary and limited arrangements, like land rental, land sharing, or even land squatting?

In this session, we will explore efforts to protect fragile tenure rights, also beyond registration. What additional ways and concrete tools are there to protect the rights of vulnerable land rights holders? We will also critically discuss their (potential) impacts: How do they affect tenure security of those that are not the primary land holders? How might such arrangements serve to nurture good relationships between different types of right holders?

#### **Presenters:**

- Nicole Mahamba
- Chris Huggins
- Farai Shumba
- Christopher Burke

### Key Challenges and Lessons Learned from Systematic Land Titling: Promoting ProPoor Land Rights in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals

**Organiser(s):** Medici Land Governance, Inc.

Despite significant progress in systematic land titling (SLT) globally, most land remains untitled and undocumented. There remains a long way ahead for government and non-government entities aiming to achieve the targets established by the SDGs. To scale up SLT across the globe, various service providers have stepped in using public and private funding to support governments in scaling land titling using fit-for-purpose technologies and processes. This session will focus on the key challenges, lessons learned, and practical strategies related to SLT across the globe. The panelists will

highlight examples from SLT projects in Zambia, Ghana, Colombia, Liberia, and other countries to identify constraints to success, strategies for scaling, and lessons learned from SLT initiatives to inform future ventures. The panelists will address mechanisms and approaches for ensuring SLT is conducted following a “pro-poor” approach and the issues and implications of this approach. The speakers will also discuss gender-sensitive SLT, ensuring women and other vulnerable groups can better access land titles and achieve tenure security. The session will conclude by discussing measures for monitoring and evaluating SLT in the context of the SDGs and recommendations for scaling SLT to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

**Presenters:**

- Ali El Hussein
- Lisa Murken
- Mustapha Nurdin Issa
- Miguel Mendoza
- Matt Sommerville

**[E-learning in land governance, a key to youth employability in Africa](#)**

**Organiser(s):** Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (YILAA), ILC , ITC University, NELGA

Following the second Arab Land Conference, it was revealed that 72% of the youth in the Arab region have no concept of land governance. Also, the Conference on Land Policy in Africa 2021, held in Rwanda, showed that Africa needs more than 1000 professionals in the sector.

This presents the deficits of Africa land professions and the existing inadequacies in capacity development on land issues. This provides an opportunity to put in place a training and information mechanism to provide solutions to the problems that arise. In this regard, youth must be seen as partners, rather than as mere beneficiaries, in poverty reduction interventions, land governance, and in the larger growth, transformation, and development of Africa We Want. Hence, we must put in place a training and information mechanism to provide solutions to the problems that arise also ILC Africa and YILAA are establishing a youth Multi-stakeholder platform as a strategy to hence learning to the youth.

This workshop will serve to raise awareness to the youth platforms for them to know how important they are in the development of today's future in Africa. A presentation of statistical data will show a need for more trained and capacitated youth in the domain. It will also show the kind of strategies to be deployed to ensure youth are equipped with skills and knowledge to ensure they have access to and control over land as a means of building their economic and social baseline.

Finally, we will show that land issues in Africa must be solved by African youth for Africans.

The following questions will be discussed:

- How does land governance provide employment to the youth?
- What kind of job opportunities does the youth get from land training platform?
- What kind of strategies to be established to ensure youth are skills and knowledge over land governance as a building block for their economic and social sustainability?
- 

### Energy and Climate Justice: A Community Gaze

**Organiser(s):** Center for Land and Governance, NRMC

The session aims to cover discussions on global trends around renewable energy and climate finance by adopting a nexus approach connecting land tenure, community and justice. We hope to touch upon the following aspects drawing from comparative experiences from global south viz. India and Africa

- Land conflicts and contestations in the context of mega solar park projects
- Net-Zero triggered Land use changes for carbon offset and implications on community & commons
- Community Stewardship as a potential just carbon solution

### **Presenters:**

- Ishan Agarwal
- Steven Lawry
- Annie McKee

## Parallel Sessions V

### Taking stock of the global land rush – Evolutions, impacts and perspectives for responsible investment

**Organiser(s):** Land Matrix (including ILC, CIRAD, CDE, GIGA, U Pretoria, Fundapaz, Ecoaction, and Asian Farmers Union)

The large-scale land acquisition (LSLA) hype that took place around 2009-2010 led to the acceleration of the development and implementation of innovative legal, regulatory, and guiding frameworks to strengthen land governance at both international and national levels. These include actions to operationalise international soft law instruments, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs), the Responsible Agricultural Investment Principles (RAIs), besides others. Innovations also include legislative measures such as new national constitutions that, for the first time, entrench basic rights for local populations and the landless; national legislation that covers wide-ranging policy areas related to land and land investments; and effective support for securing land rights, including the collective registration of community, indigenous, or pastoral lands. Notwithstanding these aspirational global frameworks and land policy reforms at national levels, an essential question remains: how have these significant legal improvements impacted on the practices in the land sector, in particular with regards LSLA? This panel endeavours to contribute to answering this question, and more specifically, to assess if and how globally agreed agricultural investments frameworks and principles have shaped and had any impact on LSLA practices on the ground, such as the compliance to social and environmental due diligence, consultations, besides others.

Through presentations by academia, civil society and private sector, this session will assess the evolutions and impacts of LSLA, as well as the track records of such investments with regards the compliance (or the lack thereof) of the VGGTs/RAIs/and other global frameworks. As such, the panel should result in lessons making investment in land and agriculture more sustainable, inclusive and responsible.

### The impact of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods and access to land in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for the future

**Organiser(s):** LANDac

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on people around the world – not only in terms of public health, but also as government policies and restrictions aiming to curb the pandemic have had varied, direct and indirect, effects on people's livelihoods. Since the start of the pandemic, multiple research reports, peer-reviewed papers, policy briefs and other documents have been published that highlight land governance-related concerns on the impact of COVID-19. Considerable attention has been paid to the dire consequences the COVID-19 restrictions have had for

people living in informal settlements in urban areas in the Global South. Relatively less attention has been paid to the impact in rural areas. Even though rural livelihoods may have been more indirectly affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, the combined effect of COVID-19 and the restrictions introduced to curb the pandemic have caused concerns on increasing levels of rural poverty, food insecurity and irregular land acquisition. One particular concern is that the policies and restrictions introduced to curb the pandemic will affect poor people's access to land due to distress sales, urban-to-rural migration and disrupted land administration services.

However, almost two years since the start of the pandemic, there is still little empirical evidence that can either support, nuance or debunk these initial concerns and assumptions. As such, LANDac has collaborated with researchers from the DRC, Kenya, Namibia and Uganda to collect empirical data on these, and other land-related, concerns. This panel will present the fieldwork results, reflect on the longer-term impacts of the pandemic, and discuss future avenues for research and action, as well as important take-aways for the global land governance community.

### **The impact of Finance on Forests**

**Organiser(s):** Forests & Finance

This panel will present the Forests & Finance initiative, hear presentations on the impact of large scale agriculture development on forests and forest communities from three forest-rich regions, and hear what financial institutions are doing to try to mitigate the negative ESG impacts of the companies they finance. The panel members will then engage in discussions on the road ahead, covering topics such as financial sector regulations, voluntary initiatives, and the regulatory developments in the EU, the US, and Southeast Asia. Forests & Finance assesses the financial services received by over 200 companies directly involved in the beef, soy, palm oil, pulp and paper, rubber and tropical timber ("forest-risk sector") supply chains, whose operations may impact natural tropical forests in Southeast Asia, parts of Latin America and Central and West Africa. It also assesses the policies of 200 of the largest banks and investors against 35 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria, based on international agreements and conventions and best practises.

After the initial presentations from the panellists there will be room for questions from the audience.

## Women's Land Rights: What have we achieved and how to more forward? Experiences from the last ten years of Civil Society, Academia and Grassroot women's leaders

**Organiser(s):** Oxfam International and LANDac

For the past ten years, we have seen massive changes in the land governance sector. This started with The Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure in 2012, and Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. This included the change at the regional level like Africa where we saw the Framework and Guidelines for land policy in Africa 2010, the Malabo Declaration in 2014, guidelines for large scale land-based investment to mention a few. Apart from international and regional instruments, in past 10 years we have seen massive actions by grassroots women, women leaders and civil society. We have seen huge mobilization of women, their leaders and their organisations in pursuit of asserting their rights to land access, control, management and ownership.

This session will aim at discussing what we have learnt in the past ten years, where we are now and how do we move forward. The objectives of the session will be 1) To share experience based on the work on the international, regional, and national framework (Academia) 2) To share experience based on advocacy done by civil society 3) To share experience of grassroot women on their pursuit to assert their rights on land.

### **Presenters:**

- Naomi Shadrack
- Ezra Litjens
- Violaine Fourile
- Mark Okundi
- Joyce Ndakaru

## Sustainable Land Management Model

**Organiser(s):** Natural Resources Department of Khorasane Razavi Agriculture and Natural Resources Center, Asia Ecosystem Institute, University of Applied Science and Technology (Saharkhiz unit)

Land Degradation and climate change are two important factors in the natural ecosystems. More than a billion people in the world are threatening by Land Degradation. Iranian Desertification Model potential Assessment (IMDPA), it is a model for studies and assess desertification in Iran. In this model, a lot of indicators and criteria considered. Indicators of Climate, Geology, Geomorphology, Soil, Vegetation Cover, Agriculture, Water and

Erosion are the most important environmental factors for desertification assessment in Iran. Artificial neural networks (ANN) the idea is to process information that inspired by biological nervous system such as the brain to process information. Environmental indicators for assessing the severity of desertification have more different criteria with unknown different weights. Result of this research show Neural Networks and Genetic Algorithms can be used to optimize environmental indicators and exact weight of it in this model.

GIS the idea is to process information that inspired by Based on geographic information systems models. Environmental indicators for assessing the severity of Land Degradation have more different criteria with unknown different weights.

Land use change prediction is important in explaining the interactions between ecosystems and human activities to help decision makers. Land use mapping considered as an information resource in the management of natural resources. The optimal management of resources need to be investigated, knowledge of changes and resources degradation in the past, proper planning and principles in order to control of potential deterioration in the future. The purpose of this study is simulating land use changes in GhalehJogh watershed in future. For this purpose, land use plans of GhalehJogh watershed were originally prepared by Landsat satellite multistory processing in 1987, 2002, and 2015. Land use map was prepared in four classes; Pasture Bayer, Agriculture and Garden. By using, the Auto-Markov Cell Model (CA Markov), the land use and cover for 2015 was predict with an agreement of 0.73. Then, this model was use to simulate land use and cover changes in 2025 and 2040.



## Parallel Sessions VI

### Governance by guidelines: Shifting regulatory regimes of agribusiness and plantation investments in Southeast Asia

**Organiser(s):** Dr. Robert Cole, Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG), Asia Research Institute

Southeast Asia is a hotspot for large-scale agribusiness and commodity crops, which have rapidly expanded with transboundary land investments, creating many challenges for communities and governments, including social and environmental impacts and land rights disputes. Leverage points to address these issues have variously included reputational risks, consumer pressures and certification schemes. The perceived weaknesses of some forms of certification, coupled with the need to regulate diverse agribusiness subsectors, have brought about a plethora of guidelines and notions of responsible investment, offering different frameworks to address persistent problems affecting rural landscapes and people. Critically, these guidelines tend to be nonbinding, open to interpretation, and as such considered at risk of manipulation towards different interests. Moreover, ownership over their 'implementation' can often appear more in the hands of development agencies and civil society than state and private sector actors. This panel asks how effective we can expect governance by guidelines to be in influencing investor practices on the ground? Is this rising trend a distraction from tackling real issues of agribusiness that impact the livelihoods, land and resource rights of many thousands of smallholder farmers across the region? Or does it bring issues under the spotlight that were previously overlooked by companies, governments, and consumers, in pursuit of profits and cheap commodities?

#### **Session objectives:**

- Explore the extent to which voluntary guidelines and certification can be expected to influence positive changes in investor practices
- Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of the approaches presented by the speakers
- Place these considerations within the changing agrarian landscapes of Southeast Asia and implications for smallholder farmers

#### **Speakers:**

- Helena Varkkey. Political Economy of Sustainable Palm Oil in Southeast Asia: Comparing Public and Private 'SPOs'
- Miles Kenney-Lazar (joining online). Sustainable rubber? Assessing emerging guidelines and initiatives in Southeast Asia
- Asisah Man. Experiences from the field: Seeking to influence rubber investors in Cambodia
- Robert Cole. Prospects of Responsible Agricultural Investment for improved governance of agro-investments in Mekong Southeast Asia (Also session introduction and moderation)
- Jonathan Rigg. The best of intentions in Asia's complicated rural world

## Can Foreign Agricultural Investments be regulated as Development Interventions? Examining the development outcomes related to foreign agricultural investments in six research locations in Tanzania and Uganda

**Organiser(s):** Dr. Helle Munk Ravnborg, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Dr. Rikke Brandt Broegaard, Associate Professor, Department of Geoscience and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen.

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### **Presenters:**

- Rikke Brandt Broegaard
- Byaruhanga Michael Bruce
- Bernard Bashaasha
- Helle Munk Ravnborg

### **Sustaining and Scaling Tenure to Land and Forests : Challenges and Opportunities to achieve sustainable solutions at scale**

**Organiser(s):** Lisette Meij, RVO LAND-at-scale, Raymond Samndong, The Tenure Facility

With barely eight years left to reach the UN SD 2030 Goals, a (r)evolution required is an acceleration of the process of securing and sustaining tenure rights. The focus of the land and forest governance sector now should be to scale approaches and interventions that have proven to be successful. However, sustaining tenure security, particularly that of women, youth and IPLCs, require a 'fit-for-purpose' land administration and governance that can bring specialized and scarce technical expertise to bear, combined with local presence and knowledge, over a timeframe that adapts to realities on the ground. Such approaches have been successfully implemented, but at a small scale in specific contexts. To reach the SDGs, such approaches need to be scaled. The central question that we want to debate is: "How can sustainable tenure security for women, youth, and IPLC be achieved at scale?" To answer this overarching question, we will address aspects of inclusion of vulnerable groups in land administration; the use of local presence and knowledge in land governance systems; how to scale such locally-adapted land administration systems; and how to make these systems support tenure security in the long term.

During this interactive session, LAND-at-scale and The Tenure Facility partners will share their experiences on the challenges and opportunities of sustaining tenure security, and how to make sure no one is left behind. Using these examples, we will collectively explore opportunities of how these experiences can be scaled in an inclusive and sustainable way. Participation from the audience will be facilitated and encouraged.

### **Land decision-making: how to improve land actors participation in the Arab World?**

**Organiser(s):** Land Policy Analysis Center- LPAC Morocco

The session will be a roundtable to discuss how we can improve participation of land actors (public, economic and social) in the land decision-making process in the Arab World. This session will be open for researchers, professionals, civil society actors. It will discuss how we can make the participation a real action and not just a ritual. It will be an opportunity to think how public authorities can allow to other actors the possibility to participate in the land making-decisions in all fields of land governance.

This roundtable will permit to dress new ideas about how to make this participation a practice solution, and to share best practices in the participant's countries.

#### **Presenters:**

- Phan Trung Hien

### Community-driven land rights advocacy: the power of grassroots voices on land governance

**Organiser(s):** James Wangu, Teddy Kisembo, Dominique Schmid, Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University/LANDac PLN)

In the international discussions and debates around the issues of land governance and large-scale land-based investments in the global South, local communities' voices, ideas and expectations are rarely present. The [LANDac's Professional Learning Network \(PLN\)](#) was initiated three years ago to address this critical gap; to ensure communities derive significant/more benefits from land-based investments. PLN is a platform where professionals from the global South, sub-Saharan Africa specifically, come together to build and exchange knowledge around community perspectives on land issues for the above-mentioned objectives. The PLN fellows work on key land administration cases, approaches, achievements and challenges as well as innovative land concepts, tools and best practices. They share this knowledge through South-to-South learning, workshops and other media.

The objective of this session will be to share learning experiences from the PLN fellows on South-to-South knowledge creation and exchange, and how the network's activities have influenced their work. Specifically, the session will start with a reflection of customary land registration and tenure security followed by a discussion on the empowering journey of communities to advocate for land rights. We will facilitate an interactive roundtable with PLN fellows discussing their organization's approach on how to empower communities to advocate for their land rights.

We will pose a number of guiding questions, which the panelist will be invited to answer, then we will open the floor for an open discussion between the fellows and the audience. By listening to these conversations, we hope to gain knowledge on how the empowerment of communities can equip them to advocate for their land rights and what role South to South learning plays in that mission.

The discussion will be guided by the following questions:

- What is the impact of customary land registration on the realization of tenure security and land rights?
- How has your organization's work (or other programs in your country) empowered communities to advocate for their land rights and what short- and long-term benefits did result from those?
- How can South-to-South learning programs, such as the PLN, support your organization's work for enabling or positioning community-driven land advocacy?

#### **Panelists:**

- Judith Atukunda (LANDnet Uganda)

- Fridah Githuku (Executive Director, GROOTS Kenya) *(to be confirmed)*
- Arach David James (Namati, Kenya)
- Kate (NES, Malawi)
- John Kelvin (Rice and Rights Foundation, Liberia)

### **Brownfields to green energy: how land repurposing supports the World Bank's Just Transition for All approach**

**Organiser(s):** Dr. Wolfhart Pohl, World Bank, Justine Sylvester, World Bank

In the midst of the global climate crisis and coal phase-down, land reclamation and repurposing of post-mining lands has emerged as a crucial pillar of the just transition. This panel session will introduce the World Bank's approach to achieving a Just Transition for All – a concept which aims to ensure that no one is left behind in the transition to clean energy. The World Bank's approach is built upon three Pillars: (1) governance, (2) people and communities, (3) land remediation and repurposing, and is underpinned by principles of stakeholder engagement, consultation, equity and inclusion. The proposed session will draw upon this framework to explore the links between climate justice and land governance, responsible land investment, coal mine closure and the energy transition.

As investment in renewable energy (RE) has grown, it has become clear that large amounts of suitable land will need to be available for development – the case for unlocking the potential of brownfields for green energy has never been stronger. Across 42 coal regions in the EU, for example, the available area of mining lands (scheduled for closure) was found sufficient to generate as much electricity with solar power as all the coal and lignite power currently produced in the EU . Unlocking the potential of these lands, however, poses a complex set of challenges with far-ranging spatial, social, environmental, economic and political implications. This panel will explore these challenges by drawing on real case study examples of post-mining lands repurposing in Europe and demonstrating an innovative tool developed by the World Bank to operationalise strategic land repurposing – the Land Utilisation and Repurposing App, LURA. The session will also unpack the policy elements essential for its successful deployment.

Finally, the panel will close with a two-way question-and-answer session, intended to create an open forum for sharing experiences, lessons learned and identifying new opportunities to support the goals of the Just Transition.

## Parallel Sessions VII

### Rethinking sustainability certification of tropical commodities in the context of changing foodscapes

**Organiser(s):** Rosa de Vos, Wietse Wiersma (Wageningen University and Research)

While there is heightened consumer awareness of the environmental impact of food production, small-scale producers of food are under pressure. The current panel aims to spark discussion and generate new ideas about the effectiveness and value of sustainability certification for small-scale producers of (tropical) commodities, such as coffee, cacao, palm oil, or tropical fruits. Sustainability certification has been used as a tool for land governance, by prescribing best practices to use land, and by attempting to prevent land conflicts and dispossession. However, there is a trend of aggregation of small-scale agriculture into larger cooperatives or even commercial estates, partly justified by narratives on 'sustainable intensification', traceability of products, formalization of land rights, and requirements for certification per group. This panel features an interactive introduction followed by case study presentations critically evaluating the outcomes of certification schemes in cacao and palm oil systems in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Afterwards we will have a transdisciplinary and inclusive discussion on how (and if) sustainability certification can work to reduce negative environmental impacts while also protecting small-scale producers to maintain autonomous control over their land.

#### **Speakers:**

- Wietse Wiersma (Soil Chemistry and Chemical Soil Quality, Wageningen University)
- Selma van der Haar (Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Knowledge Technology and Innovation and Plant Production Systems, Wageningen University)
- Natalia Moreno Ramirez (Laboratory of Entomology, Wageningen University)
- Giulia Bongiorno (Soil Biology Group, Wageningen University)
- Martha del R o
- Rosa de Vos (Plant Production Systems, Wageningen University)

### **What can commons of the Iberian Peninsula northwest teach us about their role in sustainable rural development? Approach, function, and participation of multiple stakeholders**

**Organiser(s):** Diaz-Maroto, Ignacio J; Department of Agroforestry Engineering, University of Santiago de Compostela

To achieve socioeconomic development in a sustainability framework, natural resources appear as a basic focus to promote progress and common equality. In the commons of the Iberian Peninsula northwest, the conflicts between property owners', hinder efforts to use the natural resources as a key element for sustainable development. The historic conflicts include questions linked with use resources, forest borders, forest fires, silvicultural treatments, use of water ways, beef and horse cattle grazing, among others. Despite the discrepancies between managers, the situation shares many common features between Spain and Portugal, which could explain the successes or difficulties in terms of conflict management. "Baldios" in Portugal and "Montes Veciñais en Man Común" (MVMC) in Galicia play an essential function in the local economy of the communities. This role was lost throughout the 20th century due to their large afforestation and the decline in agriculture. The restoration of democratic regimes returned the commons to the owner communities, now in decay, aged and badly organized. Like the rural world they belong to, they are facing many challenges. Now, commons occupy about 1 million ha, 400,000 in Portugal, mainly in the northern, and 600,000 in Galicia with large average surfaces (500 ha in Portugal and 200 ha in Galicia). They are owned by near 3000 communities in Galicia and 1000 in Portugal. The use is mostly forestry, but several factors have produced an underutilization of its potential. In this workshop we aim to start from the situation in Galicia and the north of Portugal to open up a more general discussion on the challenges and potentialities of the commons for a sustainable rural development.

### **Lessons from Impact Evaluations of National Land Administration Reform in Burkina Faso, Mongolia and Mozambique**

**Organiser(s):** Heather Huntington, PhD, Associate Director, Devlab@Duke, Duke University, Kate Marple-Cantrell, Co-Lead, Global Development Research and Evaluation, The Cloudburst Group, Christina Seybolt, Senior Technical Specialist, Impact Evaluation, Social Impact

Over the past two decades, a growing number of land sector reforms have been undertaken to strengthen land rights, increase tenure security, and improve land governance. These interventions were largely justified by the theoretical role of functioning land administration systems contributing to more secure tenure, motivating improvements in key development outcomes, such as food security and economic development. The growing body of impact evaluations (IEs) of these land sector interventions has allowed the testing of key assumptions in this land theory of change. The three impact evaluations introduced in this panel, of land administration reforms funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in Burkina Faso and Mozambique provide a number of research- and policy-relevant findings, such as new evidence on the effectiveness of land sector reform and build

the knowledge base in Africa across both rural and peri-urban/urban contexts, where there is an especially small number of empirical studies. In particular, research on these interventions improves understanding of the effect of sporadic registration/land administration strengthening reform and systematic titling. These evaluations also move beyond household surveys to include satellite imagery, land administration data, supplementary surveys to capture data from women, and a wide range of qualitative interviews to capture a variety of land sector perspectives. Finally, with an exposure period of over 7 years, the evaluations allow us to understand long-term impacts and project sustainability.

### **Reparations through commoning**

**Organiser(s):** Mas Newen, Aralez

We would like to set up a panel and discuss the necessity for the immigrant diaspora and people under the poverty line in the Netherlands for having land to cultivate as a common way of reconnecting to nature and community whilst generating food sovereignty, empowerment and nourishment. Food sovereignty and land-based community can be a powerful source of autonomy for social movements, enabling radical visions for a different world outside of NGO/state-funded programs. We would like an open discussion/session about experiences from the southern hemisphere to see how we can learn from each other in a long-term weaving and exchanging between North and South. We believe that whereas modern agro-industry is reliant on neo-colonial trade policies and mass land dispossession of farmers in the Global South, autonomous agroecological farming communities in the North can enable a de-linking from neo-colonialism and open channels for concrete forms of solidarity by reclaiming of the lands (commons) in the global north.

### **Women's Dispossession from Land and Home in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe**

**Organiser(s):** Joseph Schechla, Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), Dorothy Baziwe, Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network (SSA:UHSNET), Samuel Ikua, Mazingira Institute, Diana Wachira, Pamoja Trust, Grace Chikumo-Mtonga, Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat Zambia (CFHHZ), Hilary Zhou, Zimbabwe People's Land Rights Movement (ZPLRM)

Women often are disproportionately vulnerable to eviction and dispossession of land and home, enduring more-severe and more-challenging impacts to recover from. This session presents such experiences of women in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. While the contexts differ, the facts are often common, hidden and/or considered 'normal' and unremarkable. However, these cases of much-needed monitoring and quantification exemplify how to capture and make visible the material and nonmaterial values at stake are systematically captured and documented with a single survey tool, adapted to local circumstances. Contexts include urban development-induced eviction, large-scale land acquisitions and customary



practices. The presenters have sought injunctions or remedy for impacted communities, advocated in international, regional, national and local spheres, based on this detailed quantification of women's values at stake.

The session will be structured as follows:

1. Overview of women's rights to land and home in sub-Saharan Africa, including a typology of contexts in which women are especially vulnerable often amid customary practice;
2. Summary of cases in each country, followed by a roundtable discussion of the differences and similarities among cases
3. Discussion/Q&A placing women's dispossession in the legal and policy context, and the role of research and advocacy to effect change.

### **Making land-based investment work for all? What is the touch stone?**

**Organiser(s):** Food Rights Alliance and Oxfam

This panel session will focus on impact of land based investments on communities and explore practical experiences, innovations on how to make land based investments work for all. In particular the session will explore how principles of free, prior and informed consent can be used to meaningfully engage with stakeholders involved in land-based investments. Also the panel of experts will deliberate on whether the concept of responsible land based investments can be achieved in the different contexts and what the touchstone is. We will highlight two different Land Tools ie the Large-Scale Land Based Investment tool (CET Tool) - Ensuring that women are at the heart of decision-making processes for Large-Scale Land Based Investments. The gendered Land tool is a useful guide for community empowerment particularly women and youth to get motivated and participate in investments processes of agribusinesses that operates on their land. The guide is a package of three useful documents; - the community guide, the technical guide and the matrix that can be used by many stakeholders including governments, businesses/private sectors and CSOs that work with communities ([https://cng-cdn.oxfam.org/panafrica.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file\\_attachments/ToT%20Manual%20REPRO%20WEB\\_7.pdf](https://cng-cdn.oxfam.org/panafrica.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/ToT%20Manual%20REPRO%20WEB_7.pdf))

The second tool- Land Actors Handbook to promote free, prior and informed consent in largescale land transactions. This is a tool to guide stakeholders involved on how to implement principles of free, prior and informed consent during land transactions. The tool lists key roles the different stakeholders can follow during largescale investments (<https://fra.ug/publications-page/the-land-actors-handbook-on-fpic/>). The tools have been used to collect information on land issues communities are facing, skill and equip both men and women to participate in decision making on issues concerning land rights and strengthens the negotiation capacity of smallholder producers in rural communities to meaningfully engage their

leaders and investors for a win-win business relationships in large scale land based investments in agriculture and extractives sectors To this end, Oxfam and FRA have taken a bold step to facilitate the diffusion of the tool, as it is customizable to other sectors and industries such as extractives that require larger tracts of land for investments. At a strategic level therefore, Oxfam and FRA is interested in enrolling its CSO partners and subsequently the Ministries to internalize the tool, translate it into implementable strategic plans and able to track effective results. We will share our experiences (Case Studies) of the effectiveness of the tools at the Conference. Further in light with this we would like to hear from potential speakers on effectiveness of community engagement tools and their potential for adoption (move to policy frameworks).

Uganda launched the Uganda National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in 2021 and we would like to get experiences from the rest of the globe on how to engage on the issue of business and human rights. input from countries that have frameworks/or are implementing frameworks on concept of business and human rights is welcome. We would like to gender the concept of land-based investments and further explore its impacts on the different diverse groups .Insights and experiences from representatives of indigenous communities, women and other vulnerable groups. The role that multi-national companies can play in promoting human rights during land-based investments and we particularly welcome representatives of multi-national companies to share their best practices and experiences

We would welcome abstracts from potential speakers on the following topics:

- Community Engagement Tools on land and their Effectiveness (move to policy frameworks and adoption)
- Business and Human Rights- Experiences and Best practices
- Responsible large-scale land-based Investments: How can it be made more inclusive and equitable
- How can multi-national companies be engaged during largescale land-based investment? Best practices from multi-national companies