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Book of abstracts

Land governance and the politics of fair transitions:

Deepening the search for social justice

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I. Land Governance: Safeguards and the Defence of Rights

LGR-01: Climate change, lost rights to land or rights to lost land?

Short Title:	Extinguished land rights
Organiser(s):	Wytske Chamberlain (LANDac; LAND-at-scale)
Contact Person:	Wytske Chamberlain (w.chamberlain-vanderwerf@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	Climate change related developments leave land vulnerable. Coastal communities are already experiencing loss of land due to rising sea levels and climate-related hazards that make land unusable through desertification and severe land degradation. The question arises what the value is of tenure security when the lands this tenure relates to is lost. In this panel, we will discuss land governance from this 'loss of land' perspective. No piece of paper can avoid climatic effects. But it is relevant to ask whether having a piece of paper actually makes any difference when such loss of land occurs. What is the duty of the government to protect not only these lands, but further, to protect these rights? Core questions include the following: 'What is the value of rights to land that is permanently(?) lost. What are these rights worth when you have to move to a different place vs the rights of host communities? What, legally, is the situation with such 'extinguished' rights and how are authorities responding? In such cases of climate-induced 'loss of land', how to use land governance to create required room for manoeuvring for vulnerable groups in risky (or declining) places. Can land governance contribute to the creation of safe havens for climate vulnerable groups who are losing access to their land and allowing them to settle in safe – climate resilient places?. What are the responsibilities of governments to anticipate loss of land and take timely measures?
Presenting Authors:	1. Charles Mwendwa (online) 2. Tripti Mahaseth & Dharm Raj Joshi 3. Francesca Marzatico, Josh Paku, 4. Bernardo Almeida & Carolien Jacobs Moderator: Annelies Zoomers

#1 Empowering African Youth: Addressing climate change, lost rights to land, and rights to lost land

Presenting author: Charles Mwendwa

Abstract: Our abstract from Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (YILAA) focuses on the critical issues of climate change, lost rights to land, and rights to lost land, particularly as they pertain to African youth.

Climate change poses significant challenges to land security and tenure rights in Africa, particularly impacting coastal communities and vulnerable groups. With rising sea levels, desertification, and severe land degradation rendering lands uninhabitable, the importance of tenure security is increasingly questioned. Our abstract aims to examine the role of land governance in tackling these challenges and empowering African youth to address climate-induced land loss.

Through case studies, best practices, and policy recommendations, we aim to discuss:

- The impact of climate-induced land loss on African youth and vulnerable communities.
- The value of rights to land that is permanently lost and the legal implications for affected populations.
- The role of governments in anticipating and mitigating the loss of land due to climate change.

We firmly believe in empowering African youth with knowledge, skills, and resources to enhance resilience and adaptability in the face of climate change. Through meaningful engagement in discussions on land governance and climate resilience, we can inspire innovative solutions and champion the rights of future generations.

#2 Lost land, lack of security of tenure – Case study Nepal

Presenting author(s): Tripti Mahaseth & Dharm Raj Joshi

Abstract: Nepal lies in the 20th, 4th, 11th, and 30th rank worldwide in terms of multi-hazards, climate change- related hazards, earthquakes, and flood risks, respectively. People lose their lives, their land, their homes, their belongings to these occurrences annually.

Families who have lost their land, have the right to land on paper but no physical place to reside which they have a right to. Families whose homes have been destroyed on informal land they lived on land in risk prone areas fear they may not be supported by the government rehabilitation support due to lack of tenure security. They become part of the system where they await policies and guidelines for support from the Government for rehabilitation. However, these guidelines often face implementation challenges on the ground.

In 2023, an earthquake hit Western Nepal where families have faced loss of land and housing. The case study of Nepal aims to showcase real examples of families who lost their land or have no tenure security, the challenges they face, and the attempt at a systematic approach to

resolve this issue starting from land for transitional shelters to guidelines for secure tenure for permanent housing.

#3 Climate change sea level rise and land rights: a perspective from Aotearoa New Zealand

Presenting author(s): Francesca Marzatico, Josh Paku, Sam Thompson, David Watson

Abstract: Climate change and sea level rise are having a significant impact on the territories of nations and on the land and resources of coastal populations. coastal states, especially those with limited land area, and Small Islands Development States (SIDS) are those which will suffer most of the consequences of climatic changes and loss of land due to sea level rise. In 2021 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders (including New Zealand) issued a "Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise" making clear the countries' intention to maintain the Exclusive Economic Zone. While this declaration preserves the state's right to economic exploitation of marine areas, it does not protect coastal populations from the loss of land. Indigenous communities, including Māori, are more likely to be living in coastal areas and therefore are going to suffer more as a result of sea level rise and climate change adverse impacts. In Aotearoa New Zealand discussions on climate change and its impact on sea level rise and the meaning of land are inevitably linked to the recognition of customary titles to the foreshore and seabed and to the new LINZ guidelines for surveyors to map coastal areas. This presentation aims to discuss land tenure challenges arising from climate change and highlight the limitations of some of the solutions proposed.

#4 The risks of risk: the dilemmas and threats of regulating risk areas in Mozambique

Presenting author(s): Bernardo Almeida & Carolien Jacobs

Abstract: Disaster risks pose considerable challenges to governments, as they are supposed to take measures to assess and prevent risks, and provide assistance to those affected when disaster strikes. While disaster risk management is not a new topic, the growing exposure to disaster risks caused by climate change is making the identification and regulation of risk areas more relevant as a legal instrument of risk management. However, determining what constitutes a risk, when such a risk is no longer acceptable, and how to deal with disaster risks involves both objective and subjective judgments. Factors such as economic capacity, social class, and people's attachment to land play a role in determining the level of risk one person is willing to accept by living and having their livelihoods in an area exposed to risk. Moreover, risk identification, in the context of climate change response, can become another justification for targeted displacement. In this presentation, drawing on legal and socio-legal research in Mozambique, we draw attention to the challenging aspects of mapping risk areas. We highlight the importance of promoting clearly defined legal frameworks and carefully designed administrative processes to provide guidance to governments for an approach based on both the rights and needs of those living in dangerous areas.

LGR-02: How and to what extent does land tenure influence the staying motivations of the people in vulnerable delta locales?

Short Title:	Land tenure and non-migration in delta's
Organiser(s):	Bishawjit Mallick, Janwillem Liebrand, Guus van Westen (Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Utrecht University)
Contact Person:	Bishawjit Mallick (b.mallick@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	Climate change, intensive use and destruction of land and water resources, and increasing inequities, have escalated the frequency and severity of 'disasters' such as floods, rendering delta regions and marginalised communities increasingly vulnerable. In such contexts, whether to remain in or migrate from 'hazard-prone' areas is multifaceted and influenced by various socioeconomic factors. For instance, land tenure, the system governing land ownership, access, and transfer rights, emerges as a crucial determinant shaping individuals' motivations to stay or relocate in the face of social, economic and climate-related risks.
	Drawing upon interdisciplinary research from development geography, human geography, environmental psychology, and sociology, this session investigates how different forms of land tenure affect individuals' staying motivations in vulnerable delta environments. It examines how secure land tenure can enhance individuals' resilience and adaptive capacities, providing them with the necessary resources to cope with and recover from 'climate-related hazards' and help them stay put. Conversely, insecure land tenure may exacerbate vulnerabilities, undermining individuals' abilities to withstand and adapt to environmental degradation. Moreover, this session considers how customary land tenure systems, state policies, and international agreements influence individuals' perceptions of risk, property rights, and attachment to place, collectively shaping individuals' decisions to stay or migrate.
	By elucidating the complex interconnections between land tenure systems and staying motivations in climate risk environments such as delta, this session contributes to a better understanding of the drivers of human mobility and resilience in environmental change. It explores how vulnerable communities identify new ways of living together (with humans, and with natures) in environments that might be irreversibly damaged. It underscores the importance of equitable and sustainable land governance frameworks that enhance individuals' capacities to adapt to climate risks while fostering community cohesion and empowerment. Ultimately, the

	findings of this session offer valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars seeking to develop contextually appropriate strategies related to land management in the face of climate adaptation and disaster risk management in vulnerable regions.
Presenting Authors:	1. Michael Ochan (Habitat for Humanity, Uganda) 2. Shapla Singha (Khulna University, Bangladesh) 3. R. Rijanta, E. Saputra, M. Karmilah, Artiningsih (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia) 4. Md. Nasif Ahsan (Khulna University, Bangladesh)

#1 Women's Land rights and their response to Climate change and Food insecurity in Northern and Eastern Uganda.

Presenting author(s): Michael Ochan

Abstract:The abstract weighs land rights granted to women in Northern and Eastern Uganda by the legal and policy framework in Uganda and if it translates into actual ownership as Land is an important resource in addressing food insecurity and the impact of climate change in the country given the role of women in Agriculture in Uganda.

Women in Uganda make up 51% of the population (UBOS, 2002) and provide over 70% of the labour for agriculture. Despite this statistics, women own only 7% of land as their rights to ownership is restricted both in the natal and matrimonial homes (Ellis et al., 2006) relatively the land policy in Uganda only provides an impressive picture of land ownership by but the actual ownership of land by women remains merely theoretical because of the embedded cultural and social system that denies women access to land. To worsen the matter, women in Northern and Eastern Uganda are limited from managing despite resolutions on matters related to land. These challenges make it impracticable for women to participate in addressing the evils of climate change and food insecurity in Uganda.

There is therefore a need for legislative reform at community level to strengthen the institutional framework in order to actualize women's land ownership rights. Provision of land Tenure Certification where women are signatories to the family land should be prioritised in Eastern and Northern Uganda so that women can have a voice and decision in the management of family land.

#2 Unveiling the significance of land in Bangladeshi culture: A visual exploration

Presenting author(s):Shapla Singha

Abstract: In Bangladesh, land embodies a rich tapestry of cultural, social, and economic significance, deeply intertwined with the lives of its people. Through my visual presentation, I aim to delve into the multifaceted relationship between Bangladeshi landscapes and the intrinsic motivations driving resilience in vulnerable delta locales.

Using a diverse array of mixed-media artworks, I will explore how land tenure systems influence individuals' decisions to maintain their connection to communities amidst climate-related risks. Depicting land ownership, access, and emotional attachment, my presentation will underscore the pivotal role of secure land tenure in fostering resilience and community cohesion amidst adversity.

Furthermore, I will delve into the interplay between customary land tenure practices, state policies, and international agreements, and their impact on risk perception and property rights. Through visual storytelling, I aim to unravel connections between land governance frameworks and staying motivations, shedding light on human mobility and resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Ultimately, my presentation seeks to deepen our understanding of the nuanced dynamics of land tenure in vulnerable delta regions, advocating for equitable and sustainable land governance strategies that empower communities to adapt to climate risks while safeguarding their invaluable cultural heritage.

#3 Sink or Swim: The relocation dilemma in subsiding landscapes lessons from Senik Baru Village, Demak Regency – Indonesia

Presenting author(s): R. Rijanta, E. Saputra, M. Karmilah, Artiningsih

Abstract: Parts of the northern coastal regions of Java have experienced irreversible land subsidence over the past four decades. Thousands of community residents have been impacted and displaced from their villages, enduring significant and unrecoverable material losses. Most land subsidence victims have relocated to safer villages where they can find new employment opportunities. Those who have relocated frequently sell their submerged land for a low price, and land speculators who see business opportunities in the submerged lands buy it. However, a small minority attempts to persist by maintaining their traditional livelihoods as fishermen and securing safe housing near the sea. The village of Senik Lama has been submerged due to land subsidence. Most of its population has been displaced and resettled in surrounding villages deemed safer. A small portion of the community persists in inhabiting land along the nearest irrigation canals in Senik Baru Village, which is temporarily permitted without permanent structures. However, they have erected permanent buildings on this land, resulting in a recurrence of land subsidence, again rendering them victims. The state's decision to grant land occupancy permits appears to consider the technical aspects of suitable settlement locations inadequately. The presentation will elucidate crucial lessons in land management within disaster-affected areas, particularly regarding land subsidence in Senik Baru Village.

#4 "Until we could no longer survive" Affected communities' decisions to remain in the most disaster- and climate-prone areas: a case from the coastal areas of North Java, Indonesia

Presenting author(s): R. Rijanta, E. Saputra, M. Karmilah, Artiningsih

Abstract: Coastal areas in Northern Java, Indonesia are facing significant damage from coastal hazards and climate change. The impact is most severe on communities that lack the capacity to respond. The community of Timbulsloko village in Demak, Indonesia, is one of the hardest hit.

The community has had to accept living permanently above water due to land subsidence and flooding, where they previously lived on fertile land. Retreating from affected areas is often suggested as the best option to prevent greater losses from disasters and climate change. However, this research challenges that notion by showing that land ownership is not the primary factor in the decision to stay in disaster and climate risk areas. In fact, the community often adapts to the characteristics of long-term disasters, which slowly but massively damage the affected area. The decision to relocate or withdraw from disaster-prone areas is based on an assessment of the level of damage and available resources, weighing the advantages and disadvantages of each option. This study provides an overview of long-term disaster management options and their relationship to climate change. The scale of events, community resources, and their long-term dynamics are taken into account.

#5 The influence of land tenure system on the staying intentions of people at risk in vulnerable coastal Bangladesh

Presenting author(s): Nasif Ahsan

Abstract: Coastal Bangladesh is susceptible to a range of natural hazards, including cyclones, storm surges, and sea-level rise. The impacts of villages obtaining political patronage for customary land tenure on homeowners' perceived security are inconsistent, suggesting a three-way competition between the state, village, and homeowners over land price and rent. The land tenure system in vulnerable coastal Bangladesh significantly affects the intentions of at-risk individuals to remain in these areas. Factors such as institutional support, availability of productive resources, proximity to market, and service centres significantly affect different types of land-use systems. Relevant studies revealed that sustainable land-use systems, namely agroforestry, commercial plantation, and horticulture, appeared to thrive in areas with secure land tenure, access to market centres, and support services. Conversely, areas with insecure land tenure, limited access to market centres, and a lack of credit and extension services were more prone to rely on shifting cultivation as the primary land use. Therefore, a secure land tenure system instils a sense of stability and confidence among residents in vulnerable coastal areas, thereby influencing their decision to stay or migrate. Furthermore, the gender perspective also plays a role in comprehending land tenure and its impact on staying intentions. Overall, the land tenure system in vulnerable coastal Bangladesh, combined with factors such as institutional support, access to market centres, and gender considerations, significantly shapes the intentions of at-risk individuals to remain in these areas.

LGR-03: Environmental and human-rights risks in global supply chains in the context of weak land governance: Assessing the challenges for emerging supply chain regulations

Short Title:	Regulating land-related human rights and environmental risks in global supply chains
Organiser(s):	Christoph Kubitza, Gabi Sonderegger, (Land Matrix Initiative)
Contact Person:	Christoph Kubitza (christoph.kubitza@giga-hamburg.de)
Session Format:	Panel – dynamic panel, including short introductory presentations, followed by a chaired debate.
Description of Session:	The session focuses on the regulation of specific human rights and environmental risks in global and regional supply chains that are related to weak land governance systems. Multiple global and regional frameworks exist that outline the responsibilities of governments and companies with respect to their impacts in producer countries that supply raw materials for complex supply chains. In recent years, new supply chain regulations such as mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence that demand from companies the implementation of internal processes to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for the negative impacts of their activities or those of their suppliers have become a major regulatory instrument to de-risk global supply chains. These risks include, for instance, the practice of large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) for global commodity production that often lead to deforestation and human rights violations such as forced evictions, as well as attacks against land and human rights defenders. These human rights violations are often tied to the lack of recognition and protection of customary tenure systems in countries that play a key role in global production for various sectors. To address these issues, however, the lack of traceability and transparency in commodity supply chains and the limited scope of existing and emerging regulations pose a significant challenge for effective and just implementation of supply chain regulations. The extent of these challenges varies across different sectors and regions, depending on the presence of already established traceability mechanisms and the complexity of the supply chains. The session intends to foster a debate on sector-specific challenges and opportunities to address land-related risks in global supply chains in the context of existing regulations but also new due diligence laws.
Presenting Authors:	1. Louis Zwyssig & Gabi Sonderegger (CDE, University of Bern) 2. Guadalupe Sátiro (University of Brasilia) 3. Pamela Duran-Diaz (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

#1 Regulating deforestation risks in South America and the global soy market

Presenting author(s): Louis Zwyssig & Gabi Sonderegger

#2 Large-scale land acquisitions in the territory of Matopiba in Brazil for the global soy commodity production: deforestation of Cerrado biome and ongoing conflicts

Presenting author(s): Guadalupe Sátiro

Abstract: Matopiba territory has emerged as an emblematic example of targeted frontier expansion and the ongoing financialization of the agricultural sector in Brazil. Farmland investments have often been preceded by illegal occupation and land/green grabbing. Western Bahia is an emblematic case of global trends at the intersection of farmland, finance, and land conversion dynamics in the Matopiba region. The goals of this paper are: i) analyze the existing due diligence laws and challenges to be implemented in Matopiba; ii) identify critical deforestation zones in the Matopiba territory; and iii) systematize ongoing conflicts related to the expansion of soy production in western Bahia. The transformation of the Matopiba region into a 'new' agricultural frontier in Brazil was the result of a political process encouraged and stimulated by federal government policies and programs having the State agency as a facilitator of the geographic and territorial agribusiness interests. Land and environment defenders are the actors who most frequently suffered violent conflicts, as shown by the CPT data (2021), a large proportion are peasants (1,267 actions) or traditional peoples (358). Both categories, "peasants" and "traditional peoples", are subdivided into several other specific groups, depending on their historical, cultural and identity characteristics. Its critical the fact most of the conflicts in Matopiba are related to farmers, 639 occurrences related to businessmen and land grabbers and 139 with the participation of institutional actors (sum of municipal, state, federal governments, judiciary, politicians, and civil and military police).

#3 Unveiling the Human and Environmental Costs of Irresponsible Mining: Lessons from Kabwe Black Mountain, Zambia

Presenting author(s): Pamela Duran-Diaz, Fatima Mandhu

Abstract: The legacy of historic mining practices in Kabwe Black Mountain, Zambia, epitomizes the profound impact of extractive industries on communities in the Global South amidst the ongoing global energy transition. The largest reserves of critical minerals for renewable energy technologies (such as copper, cobalt, nickel, and lithium) are found in regions with weak governance, rearing neocolonialism and inequalities.

Kabwe's significance as a mining hub underscores the community's continued suffering from the adverse effects of past operations. Despite the Supreme Court's decision to absolve the mining company, Anglo-American, of responsibility for the health and environmental threats that still plague the local community, the community remains afflicted with illness, poverty, land dispossession, and legal vulnerability, highlighting the systemic injustices prevalent in resource extraction.

The study examines the multifaceted challenges faced by Kabwe's community, shedding light on pervasive violations of human and environmental rights. It unveils the socio-economic,

health, and environmental repercussions stemming from historic mining practices, emphasizing the urgent need for justice and accountability. To do so, we evaluate the efficacy of regulatory frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement and the African Mining Vision in addressing the pressing challenges posed by extractive industries. Employing a mixed-methods approach, this study amplifies the voices of affected communities and advocates for tangible, evidence-based solutions. By delving into stakeholder dynamics in Kabwe Black Mountain, it fosters inclusive dialogue and collaborative action towards a deeper understanding of the interplay between extractive industries, governance, and community well-being in the context of the energy transition.

LGR-04: European Environmental Policies impact on local communities, land governance and deforestation in the Global South

Short Title:	European Environmental Policies impact on local communities, land governance and deforestation in the Global South
Organiser(s):	Nicolas Porras, Mathilde Molendijk (Kadaster)
Contact Person:	Nicolas Porras (Nicolas.porras@landinpeace.com)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) has been officially approved. It prohibits the entry of certain products—such as cattle, wood, palm oil, soy, cocoa, and coffee, and their derivatives—into the EU market if they come from land affected by deforestation or forest degradation. The intention is to reduce deforestation activities and mitigate impact on climate change. This raises questions about the effect of this policy on the high-risk deforestation exporting countries with who have to take into account the regulations in their agricultural sections: How does it impact local communities and local economies; is there a risk for land use conflicts; are there disadvantages for informal landholders; what will be the role of local land authorities; and are local legal frameworks adapted to guarantee sustainable land management and development of these communities? The session will focus on practical examples of how environmental policies could impact land governance and how community empowerment could play a role. Land-at-scale project examples, being land governance support programs, are encouraged to participate and present examples or ideas for the future.
Presenting Authors:	1. Sander Muilerman-Rodrigo (GIZ Côte d'Ivoire) 2. Gert van der Bijl (Solidaridad, Netherlands) 3. Thomas Vaassen (Meridia) 4. Tim Jonkers (EduGIS) 5. Nicolas Porras (Kadaster International, Colombia) Moderator: Mathilde Molendijk

#1 Experiences from a public-private partnership on securing smallholder farmer land (use) rights in Côte d'Ivoire, in the context of sustainable cocoa sourcing and the EUDR.

Presenting author(s): Sander Muilerman-Rodrigo

Abstract: Since colonial times land reclamation for agriculture, particularly export commodities, has caused massive unsustainable exploitation of forest soils in West-Africa. In Côte d'Ivoire, a striking example of tropical deforestation, one national park is what remains of the original Upper Guinea Rainforest. For decades, autochthone forest populations have dealt with large influxes of migrant farmers. Current generations face complex conflicts based on these customary arrangements. Lands and forests have run out.

The German Cooperation, implemented by GIZ GmbH, in collaboration with eight lead cocoa industry companies, runs a project to create social peace and opportunity for smallholder communities, on the premise that this gridlock is preventing a systemic change to sustainable agriculture without deforestation. Smallholders cannot be asked to professionalize and invest, adopt sustainable practices including agroforestry, and improve soil fertility, without owning their land or their trees, when children may not inherit, and farms are destroyed by timber operators. The EUDR could have helped, but likely won't. Under the EUDR a plot of land can be designated without the presence of a land registry or formal title. The 'legality of the production' merely requires compliance with national laws. Land is a crucial aspect of the EUDR, but in Côte d'Ivoire the lack of access to land documentation means industry can continue to rely only on imperfect traceability data, also to prove the legality of production. Widespread compliance is unlikely in this context, where we essentially trace bags. Without clarifying tenure realities, EUDR will do little for smallholders, or against deforestation.

LGR-05: Land governance in dynamic contexts: how can formalisation of land rights do justice to informal right holders?

Short Title:	Land formalisation in dynamic contexts
Organiser(s):	Wytske Chamberlain (LANDac, LAND-at-scale)
Contact Person:	Wytske Chamberlain (w.chamberlain-vanderwerf@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Panel with paper presentations
Description of Session:	External threats to the land rights of vulnerable people remain a reality. Carbon colonisation is an example of such an external threat. State and elite capturing form another risk, particularly in peri-urban settings. Land registration is implemented as a tool to protect people's land rights from dispossession by external powers. Such an intervention aims to provide tenure security for land right holders, but contexts in which such formalisation efforts are implemented change rapidly. Examples are fast expanding urban areas, the influx of migrants in areas affected by conflict or climate hazards, and the changing social fabrics. The reality on the ground in such contexts learns that many, particularly vulnerable, people access land through informal contracts. The question arises what happens to these informal rights following registration, and what avenues of justice are available for these right holders? This session aims to explore the interplay between land registration interventions and informal practices on the safeguards of land rights in such dynamic contexts. How does land registration co-exist with rooted cultural and traditional norms in dynamic and informal contexts? How can it prevent vulnerable people from being excluded? What justice structures are used to determine the (in)formal rights and to deal with conflicts? What does justice even mean when societal norms are changing? And most importantly, what is the outcome of these changes on the vulnerable communities whose land (and resource) rights are supposedly better safeguarded? We want to invite academics, practitioners and activists to share best practices and lessons learned in the field on how land registration can do justice in dynamic contexts.
Presenting Authors:	1. Asrul Sidiq (Australian National University) 2. René-Claude Niyonkuru (VNG International / LAND-at-scale, Burundi) 3. Himanshu Baranwal (LandStack, India) 4. Marta Cavallaro (Sant Anna Pisa/ LAND-at-scale Somalia)

#1 Forestry agrarian reform in Indonesia: addressing tenure structures or promoting land inequality?

Presenting author(s): Asrul Sidiq

Abstract: Policymakers implement agrarian reforms plus tree-growing programs in forest areas to encourage reforestation, promote rural livelihood, and reduce conflicts. While key objectives include improving the management and protection of natural resources and reducing poverty, critics note that privatisation of the land can result in land accumulation and loss with grave socioeconomic consequences for the poor. Moreover, how does this work in an area where overlapping tenure and customary rights remain strong? Indonesia launched a new round of reform called "Lands Subject to Agrarian Reform" (TORA). The TORA program involves land distribution and legalisation to solve the insecurities and complexities of tenure structures. This research explores the processes shaping outcomes in the specific case of Aceh Province (Indonesia). This research uses a political ecology framework to investigate how the state, elites, and local actors shape the land formalisation processes and to consider emergent reactions from below. The conceptual question is what happens when the state tries to formalise the land and tree-growing programs implemented in the area where complex bundles of property rights and customary rights overlap with state forestry or titling programs. This policy model's narrative claims to support reforestation, rural livelihood, and conflict reduction. However, in my case study area, deforestation actually increased due to land formalisation, resulting in land sales, unequal distribution of land, loss of productive assets, and potential conflicts.

#2 "We will dance to their tunes" : unpacking the complexities of land tenure (in)security in Burundi

Presenting author(s): René-Claude Niyonkuru

Abstract: Any intervention affecting the security of land tenure has often to accommodate divergent logics and interests. The objectives, intervention strategies and achievements are also rarely unanimously appreciated among all stakeholders.

In a context characterized by weak land governance, speculative land transactions, unregulated population migrations,… the formalization of land rights does not magically resolve land tenure insecurity. The research has highlighted pending issues, among which the insufficient trust between the State and citizens; the latter always suspecting these interventions led by the State and/or its partners (donors) of possibly conveying other hidden agendas (risk of expropriation or land taxation). In addition, structural questions relating to the access of women and other marginalized categories to land persist, despite tremendous efforts made by the project for greater inclusion. Finally, changes in land use or agricultural investment are more often slow to materialize; contrary to some assumptions underlying land rights formalization programs.

The ongoing longitudinal study in the commune of Nyanza Lac, southern Burundi, conducted in the framework of the Land@Scale project, investigates more on these issues to generate data and information, and hence attempts to enable key stakeholders at different levels to make operational and strategic adjustments as part of this project implementation project and beyond.

#3 Urbanization in the Fifth Scheduled Areas of India: Analysing Land-use Planning in the Peri-Urban Areas of Ranchi, Jharkhand

Presenting author(s): Himanshu Baranwal

Abstract: My research presents the case of Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand, highlighting the historical as well as the current scenario of exclusion and plight of its natives (Adivasis) in the evolution of the city. While Chhotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 protects the indigenous customary land tenures and rights is quite powerful, the city has been urbanising as usual for the new migrant settlers. Since the urban population is mostly composed of non-indigenous people, who enjoy a higher socio-economic/caste status, the urban authorities would often violate laws in order to retain the status quo. As a result, while the pre-existing tribal hamlets remain excluded from development and over time turn into slums, the unregulated urban settlements growing on illegally acquired tribal lands give rise to massive well-built illegal settlements of non-indigenous population.

I study and analyse the dilemma(s) behind the preconceived parameters of urbanisation in contrast to Ranchi's currently 'unplannable' trajectory of growth by exploring factors that induce permanency in the immiscibility between the indigenous and the urban spaces in two aspects. First, finding the roots of this conflict in the law's evolution and documenting customary tenures and rights as socio-cultural utility of spaces in the urban which is integrated with community's origins, culture, aspirations, and doctrines, and second, the legal protections for the indigenous lands in contrast to the urban planning agendas. These parallel studies allow the research to converge towards spatially cross-analysing cadastral data with land use plans, issuing proof for exclusionary urban governance and land management.

#4 Saameynta: searching for durable solutions for IDPs in Bosaso, Somalia

Presenting author(s): Marta Cavallaro

1. Setting the context: the rationale behind tenure security interventions in Bosaso – relocation as a "durable solution" for IDPs with all the criticalities that come with it (i.e., a tension between urban expansion needs and *do not harm* approach, lack of clarity of land rights enshrined in formalization, etc.).
2. A brief comparison of "informal" land rights of IDPs in the camps of Tawakal and 100Bush and "formal" land rights of relocated people. Formalization leads to some forms of protection from eviction but is not a panacea for several reasons, including lack of clarity of what tenure security actually means; land rights that are *de jure* allowed but *de facto* impaired; lack of connection between livelihood and quality life with tenure security, etc.
3. How relocation – and tenure security provision – change IDPs' strategies to protect their rights and mediate/solve conflicts, with a focus on the interplay of formal and informal dynamics in hybrid governance structures.

LGR-06: Exposing Land Corruption: Strengthening Solidarities for justice

Short Title:	Exposing Land Corruption: Strengthening Solidarities for Justice
Organiser(s):	Lola Tarnaud (Transparency International)
Contact Person:	Lola Tarnaud (ltarnaud@transparency.org)
Session Format:	Roundtable
Description of Session:	The session titled "Exposing Land Corruption: Strengthening Solidarities for Justice" delves into the pressing issue of land corruption and poor governance, particularly affecting marginalised groups such as Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, and women. Transparency International (TI) and the Equal Rights Trust will present new research from Sub-Saharan Africa, revealing the links between land corruption, discrimination, and identifying factors that may drive or exacerbate harm. The session will present the Land Rights Now (LRN) campaign as a platform for international solidarity, showcasing efforts by organisations and grassroots groups to advocate against land corruption and securing land rights. Drawing from a case study in South Africa, the session illustrates how corruption undermines land equity schemes, exacerbating wealth concentration and inequality. Additionally, it examines the Ogiek case in Kenya, where both private and state interests intersect with carbon and biodiversity markets, posing challenges to indigenous land rights. Through storytelling and effective campaigning, communities can amplify their voices and drive change. This session aims to show how storytelling and campaigning can be effective tools for communities to raise awareness of their struggles and advocate for change. The case studies will illustrate campaigns that successfully take into account the relationship between communities and the land when demanding justice. The session will bring together a comprehensive study exposing land corruption and its impact on exacerbating inequalities with the voices of land defenders. The discussion will touch on innovative approaches to participation and storytelling to put affected communities at the centre of the discussion.
Presenting Authors:	1. Melusi Ncala (Corruption Watch, South Africa) 2. Sam Barnes (Equal Rights Trust) 3. Sonwabile Mnwana (Rhodes University, South Africa) 4. Jonathan Ochom (Transparency International) 5. Frances Odong Birungi (UCOBAC, Uganda)

#1 'Communities' of impatient waiting: Rethinking land conflict and corruption in South Africa's rural mining frontiers

Presenting author(s): Sonwabile Mnwana

Abstract: Mining expansion on 'communal' land in the former 'homeland' areas has produced new struggles in rural South Africa. In this paper, I detail the intense local struggles over the mineral-rich land and mining royalties in the villages that spread over the 'platinum belt' in the North West province. Traditional leaders (chiefs), with the tacit support of state officials, have positioned themselves as custodians of land and mining royalties. This has led to significant resistance by local residents, who are defined as 'traditional communities' by the law. Conflict is characterised by contested perceptions of 'community', exclusive group claims over land, corruption allegations and resistance to local chiefs, and episodes of violent protests targeting mining operations. Ordinary villagers also make radical demands for direct cash payments that are rooted on private group 'ownership' of land and mineral resources. Most of these claims end up in the courts of law. The paper argues that the failure of the post-apartheid policy mechanisms to facilitate equitable distribution of mining rents, and new forms of exclusion and elite accumulation at the local level are at the root of the prolonged conflict. I also argue that conflict is a response to prolonged uncertainty and painful waiting among rural poor who have lost access to land and natural resources due to mining operations. Thus, mining-led conflict in rural South Africa could be rooted in collective impatience at the grassroots.

LGR-07: Addressing ecological crises or natural resources rush: Political ecology of peasant struggles for access to natural resources in the great lakes region of Africa

Short Title:	Addressing Ecological Crises or Natural Resources Rush
Organiser(s):	Patient M. Polepole, An Ansoms (Juwa Research Group (Université Catholique de Louvain)
Contact Person:	Patient M. Polepole (patient.polepole@uclouvain.be)
Session Format:	Panel (In French)
Description of Session:	Recent literature recognizes struggles for access to natural resources as inherent to societal transformation processes. Sources also emphasise a trend towards the depoliticization of these struggles, which pushes various population groups to the periphery of the debates. indigenous peoples, women, youth, and fishermen. By aiming to alleviate human pressure on natural resources through the preservation of biodiversity, as well as to mitigate or eradicate "systemic" disparities and injustices in natural resource governance, the modern state and international development institutions point fingers at the "backward" traditions that need reform through new technical approaches. The fundamentally technocratic conception of access is seen in two dynamics: (1) customary land rights are reorganised through neoliberal and formalistic models of land access; and (2) conservationist and demarcationist approaches separate humans from biodiversity. In a context characterised by multiple crises (economic, political, security, ecological) and interventions at various scales by actors with diverse and often divergent interests, this panel aims to contribute to understanding the impact of structural, economic, political, and climate changes in the Great Lakes region of Africa. It seeks to explore how 'peripherised' groups, such as indigenous peoples, fishermen, women, and farmers, practically approach and assert their access to natural resources through strategies of resilience and resistance.
Presenting Authors:	1. Alain Midagu (Université Catholique Louvain, Belgium) 2. Vedaste Cituli (Université Catholique Louvain, Belgium) 3. Lucien Ramazani (Université Catholique Louvain, Belgium) 4. Patient Polepole(Juwa Research Group (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium) 5. An Ansoms (Université Catholique Louvain) 6. Mathijs van Leeuwen (Radboud University, Netherlands)

LGR-08: Land rights for sustainable development: The role of data

Short Title:	Land Rights for Sustainable Development
Organiser(s):	Eva Hershaw (Land Coalition)
Contact Person:	Eva Hershaw (e.hershaw@landcoalition.org)
Session Format:	Panel – dynamic panel, including short introductory presentations, followed by a chaired debate.
Description of Session:	Secure land tenure – the confidence that people can stay on and use their land for the foreseeable future – is key to promoting sustainable land management practices, building resilience to the effects of climate change and responding to efforts to mitigate and adapt to the extreme weather events, sea rise and increased desertification caused by rising temperatures. A well regulated and secure land tenure system is therefore essential for fostering sustainable development and resilience in the face of environmental challenges. Land data plays a crucial role in this process, as accessible, complete, inclusive and actionable data can provide the evidence base for institutional reforms, improved policies and informed responses in the context of the climate crisis.
Presenting Authors:	1. Malcolm Childress 2. Laura Meggiolaro 3. Christoph Kubitza 4. Eva Hershaw

LGR-09: Integrating women's land rights and transformative leadership effectively into land programming, policy and partnerships

Short Title:	Transformative leadership on women's land rights work
Organiser(s):	Naomi Shadrack (Oxfam International)
Contact Person:	Naomi Shadrack (naomi.shadrack@Oxfam.org)
Session Format:	Workshop
Description of Session:	This session aims to support collective reflection and deepening learning amongst global land stakeholders seeking to strengthen transformative approaches to – and ultimately, the effectiveness of – joint work on women's land rights. This session is an important contribution of Oxfam to the progress that is urgently needed if the land reforms and land rights programmes implemented by different stakeholders to strengthen women's land rights are to bear fruit. While we see different land reform processes across the globe by different actors, if feminist transformative leadership on land rights is not applied, chances are these reforms can increase the marginalisation of the communities and increase inequality in communities. This session will allow conference attendees to learn how to ensure their programming, advocacy, and partnership can be transformative and, hence, sustainable for the well-being of both men and women.
Presenting Authors:	1. Naomi Shadrack 2. Katja Koegler

LGR-10: Safeguards for responsible land governance – exploring ways to safeguard land and resource rights in land-based restoration and resilience projects

Short Title:	Safeguards for responsible land governance
Organiser(s):	Enni Kallio, Jeroen van Dalen (UNCCD), Marije Louwsma (Kadaster)
Contact Person:	Enni Kallio (ekallio@unccd.int)
Session Format:	A combination of a quiz, presentation, and interactive discussion.
Description of Session:	Global land resources are being stretched to their limit by human activities and by climatic and environmental changes, including desertification, land degradation and drought. These pressures undermine the wellbeing of 3.2 billion people, compromising food security, threatening biodiversity and ecosystem services, and exacerbating climate change. The claiming of space and land is increasing with population growth and competing demands for infrastructure and urban development, food production, as well as environmental protection and measures needed to achieve commitment under global goals (like SDG 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality). How can we safeguard land and resource rights under these competing demands? What role can different stakeholders play from local to global levels? The Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of resources for land-based projects and programmes. Cadastre, the Netherlands Land Registry and Mapping Agency, is internationally active in the fields of information, education and research, and advises governments and IGOs on the topic of land registration. This session will explore ways to safeguard land and resource rights in the context of integrating tenure into land-based projects and programmes. It provides an overview of existing tools, like the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, and participants will have an opportunity to contribute with their experiences. The session will focus on a discussion around safeguards: what is required by international guidelines and funding institutions and what can be learned from practitioners and researchers working on the ground in sectors related to land administration and governance.
Presenting Authors:	

LGR-11: Challenges for just urban transitions in Global Southern cities

Short Title:	Southern urban justice
Organiser(s):	Abigail Friendly, Femke van Noorloos (Utrecht University)
Contact Person:	Femke van Noorloos (H.J.vanNoorloos@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	This session gathers experts and scholar-activists working in Southern cities to discuss possibilities to address socio-economic and environmental challenges and leverage opportunities that ever growing major cities in the global South present. The challenges of growing urban regions are often represented by growing informal settlements where the majority of many Southern city residents live. While the upgrading and removal of informal settlements are still ubiquitous as major policy options, we are increasingly aware of urban initiatives to promote innovative infrastructure, including non-grid based alternatives to centralised systems, integrating informal service providers in city planning, communal-driven nature-based solutions to address climate hazards and land-sharing for affordable housing, which are more inclusive and open to urban dwellers' needs and rights to develop and remain in informal settlements. In this panel we gather experts from the Global South and others to discuss the urban justice agenda from ongoing experiences to develop innovative infrastructure and housing projects in southern cities. We aim to come to an agenda to address the challenges that come with these projects for the future well-being of urban dwellers in the Southern cities. We expand the discussion to reflect on both the learning and responsibilities for the global North – how can international cooperation and research projects sustainably support these initiatives and ensure urban justice in the global South? What kind of alternative institutional frameworks are needed to promote sustainable and inclusive infrastructure and housing practices? How can South-to-South collaboration be enhanced to realise these objectives?
Presenting Authors:	1. Millicent Adhiambo (Habitat for Humanity, Kenya) 2. Dharm Raj Joshi & Tripti Mahaseth (Habitat for Humanity, Nepal) 3. Maria Paula Moreno Vivas (Utrecht University)

#1 Formalisation of land rights of landless and informal settlers in Nepal: A journey towards establishing social justice

Presenting author(s): Dharm Raj Joshi & Tripti Mahaseth

Abstract: Secure land rights for landless and informal settlers are recognized as foundational to establish social justice, equity, resilience, and adequate housing; thus, to have fair transition through shifting power to landless, land-poor, and marginalised communities. Meanwhile, rights to land have always remained at once controversial and contentious depending on the social, economic, political, and governance context, globally.

Land ownership and control over land resources emerged as a significant source of socio-economic inequalities and social injustices because, historically, land distribution is highly skewed to politically powerful and economically well-up families in Nepal. The government initiated various efforts towards reforming land governance, and redistributing land in the past, but land rights issues remained unresolved.

After adopting a new Constitution in 2015, the government introduced new policies, laws, and mechanisms to enhance land governance. However, around 25 percent of all cultivated/operated/occupied land is out of formal land administration and around 1.3 million families lack formal land rights over the land they have been residing on for decades. The National Land Commission is working on formalising land tenure rights following new legal and policy provisions for the last 3 years.

Ongoing process of formalising land rights in Nepal involves significant political, administrative, and technical challenges as it is the process of shifting power to communities. In this paper, efforts are made to shed light to inspirational stories, underlying challenges, and learnings from ongoing land rights formalisation process in Nepal, that may be relevant for the world to have fair transition to social justice.

#2 Beyond Tenants Rights to Bring Justice to Informal Settlements Residents. Putting the Pieces Together.

Presenting author(s): Maria Paula Moreno Vivas

Author: A normative approach to the formalisation of land rights in informal settlements can fall short of doing justice to those who occupy it. The question of how much influence land use policy has over equity and social justice issues has been a significant debate among policymakers and researchers. Cities worldwide are committed to promoting sustainable development by calling for inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, as outlined in SDG 11. Market forces and power imbalances in our societies have increased the conflicts over access to land, perpetuating inequality for the most vulnerable. Residents from informal settlements suffer from more socio-spatial and economic exclusion from public goods, services, and labour market opportunities. In Bogota, Colombia, the government struggles to change this situation because often they lack the financial resources to supply those needs. Although land rights can help to improve the conditions of those living in informal settlements, this approach is just a piece of the puzzle. Land Value Capture (LVC) is a mechanism that can help local governments finance infrastructure and transportation projects,

following the notion that cities can utilise an increment of land value to benefit the community. Although LVC policies can help to mitigate informal settlements and contribute to housing quality and affordability without proper implementation can also perpetuate inequality and segregation.

LGR-12: Southern urban justice roundtable: Challenges for just urban transitions in Global Southern cities

Short Title:	Just Urban Transitions in Indonesia
Organiser(s):	Kei Otsuki (Utrecht University), Rijanta (Gadjha Mada University)
Contact Person:	Keit Otsuki (k.otsuki@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Roundtable
Description of Session:	This session explores the question of whether and how fair and just urbanisation is possible in Indonesia, as the country prepares to inaugurate its new capital city Ibu Kota Negara Nusantara (IKN) in East Kalimantan on the Island of Borneo in August 2024. The IKN is meant to become a sustainable and inclusive 'Forest City', and we have so far observed mixed results of this endeavour: deforestation and reforestation (of different species thus altering ecosystem), land speculation and rent rise, selective infrastructural benefits for different groups of people, displacements and new settlement developments, continuing extractivism and emergence of new business opportunities. Following various impacts on the ground, we now face the question of urban governance: who is responsible for addressing impacts of the planned and rapid urbanisation? This session invites experts, students and the public interested in urbanisation especially in Indonesia from the fair and just transition perspectives, to discuss the future of sustainable and inclusive urbanisation in the country. We propose a roundtable asking the following questions: - How do we assess impacts of government-led mega-urban projects as fairly for all the groups of people as possible? - How to secure the rights of people to move to where they like or stay where they are in the midst of rapid land price change and displacement pressures? - How do we deal with the intersection between existing industries, new urban dynamics and flows of people and capital? - Any roles for civil society/ social movements in the urbanisation process?
Presenting Authors:	1. Rijanta, Ari Susanti, Erlis Saputra (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia)

	2. Anna Paula Pimentel Walker (University of Michigan)

LGR-13: The importance of solidarity networks and grassroots women's movements across critical sectors in the context of gender equality in land governance for just transition in energy and food system

Short Title:	Organising to accelerate secure Women's Land Rights for a Just Transition
Organiser(s):	Esther Mwaura Muiru (Landesa), Ashleigh Flowers (Landesa)
Contact Person:	Esther Mwaura Muiru (estherm@landesa.org)
Session Format:	Roundtable, Workshop

Description of Session:	The impact of climate change has had notable negative implications in the livelihoods of women living in poverty especially in indigenous, rural and pastoralist communities. While gender inequality in control and ownership of land is yet a battle to be won, diminishing land productivity and scarcity of locally available sources of household energy is compounding the struggles for women who live on and from use of land and natural resources. Moreover, a number of climate resilience practices that are proposed and potentially are accessible to local communities including use of renewable energy, establishment of water pans and crop rotational methods require increased land mass. This is also true for much larger solar and wind-based energy projects. To avoid the emergence of land use related conflicts and the threats of further disenfranchising women living in poverty in terms of land tenure there is need to begin to dialogue across sectors and movements to design pro-women and sustainable interventions. It is more important now than ever to protect and accelerate securing women's land rights.
	
	This workshop will bring together grassroots women (farmers and pastoralists), land governance, women human rights, food system strengthen and renewable energy actors with an objective to:
	    1. understand the nexus between secure women's land rights in food security & renewable energy,
	    2. highlight good practices by grassroots women in advancing just transition and promoting gender equality in land governance, and
	    3. explore the role the renewable sector could play in supporting women's land rights.

Presenting Authors:	1. Roos de Korte (Utrecht University)
	2. Monika Lindbekk (Lund University, Sweden) & Mennatullah Hendawi (Ain Shams University, Egypt)
	3. Valeria Strusi (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Milan, Italy)

#1 Women's Empowerment and Gender Sensitive Land Governance in Mozambique.

Presenting author(s): Roos de Korte

Abstract: The escalating frequency of climate events and their disparate impact on various demographic groups underscore the urgent need to address vulnerabilities within land governance systems. Women and marginalised communities are particularly susceptible to climate-related risks, facing challenges due to insecure land tenure. Despite international efforts to safeguard women's rights, legal, customary, and societal barriers persist, hindering their access to and control over land resources. Empowerment processes, encompassing economic, social, political, and legal dimensions, offer a pathway to mitigate these vulnerabilities. Participatory processes, including capacity building, stakeholder participation, and legal representation, emerge as crucial mechanisms in promoting equitable land governance and empowering women. These processes aim to build women's capacities, enhance literacy, foster collaboration, and ensure effective representation, addressing barriers and fostering transformative outcomes for women's land rights in diverse contexts. Yet, their impact remains underexplored. My research aims to investigate the effectiveness of different participatory processes in achieving women's empowerment, and thus gender-sensitive land governance. This research is done in collaboration with Centro Terra Viva, who carry out the LAND-at-scale program in Mozambique. The data will be gathered during a fieldwork period, consisting of interviews with participants and professionals, observations of activities, community dialogues and programme output.

#2 Land Governance and Inheritance Between Social Customs and State Law: A Case Study of Egypt

Presenting author(s): Monika Lindbekk, Mennatullah Hendawi

Abstract: The paper addresses land inheritance and inheritance law in contemporary Egypt. Egypt is chosen as a case study due to the high societal value attached to land compared to the low percentage of women owning land (5%), which is among the lowest in the world. In 2017, a legislative amendment was promulgated, which prescribes a penalty of imprisonment and/or a fine on anyone who intentionally refuses to hand over one of the heir's legal shares of the inheritance. This reform was issued in response to the challenges many Egyptian women face in claiming their share of the land inheritance. The paper uses inheritance law as a vantage point to address the entanglement of law and social mores that entrench and challenge gender hierarchy. We argue that the systemized deprivation of women from their right to inherit land stems from a combination of social customs that disfavour women's land ownership and consideration of a political economy resistant to the fragmentation of the land. Further, we argue that the legal position of women is also part of a broader problem, which is related to a tension between formal state law and the living law as it unfolds in social practice. The paper adopts a

mixed method approach, combining quantitative data analysis of statistics on land and inheritance with qualitative interviews with a sample of women and men who have been or are involved in disputes over land inheritance, as well as interviews with lawyers and women rights organisations.

#3 Land, Women, and Development: A Systematic Review of the Evidence and Future Directions

Presenting author(s): Valeria Strusi

Abstract: Despite a growing literature on the socio-economic impacts of women's access to and use rights of land, findings remain heterogeneous across geographic areas, development sectors and methodologies. This paper reviews the empirical evidence on the topic in order to cut through this complexity, offering a clearer direction for policy and research. Employing a systematic review protocol, it includes 78 scientific papers and critically assesses the breadth of existing research through multiple analytical lenses: time coverage, geographic areas, development sectors and methodologies.
Preliminary results reveal the positive impact of women's access to and use rights of land on twelve areas, including investment, education and climate shock resilience, among others. This suggests not only direct benefits in gender-focused sectors, but also potential ripple effects in areas not traditionally linked to gender issues. Yet, the study also indicates a predominant focus of researchers on women's empowerment, suggesting opportunities for broader exploration. Additionally, the research focus remains geographically imbalanced and clustered on South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly on India and Ethiopia, leaving aside different socio-economic contexts and limiting the generalizability of the results.

The paper further exposes a scarcity of longitudinal and causal research with robust counterfactuals, underscoring a gap in literature capable of demonstrating long-term impacts and causal relationships. Finally, the review identifies untapped opportunities for research in the areas of macroeconomic impacts, the socio-economic diversity among women, diverse land tenure systems, and detailed analysis of property rights components as suggested by Schlager & Ostrom (1992).

LGR-14: Collaborative development of a competency framework for equitable urban planning

Short Title:	Competency Framework
Organiser(s):	Pamela Duran Diaz (Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies)
Contact Person:	Pamela Duran Diaz (durandiaz@ihs.nl)
Session Format:	Workshop (including introduction, presentation, group activity, plenary session, panel discussion, and wrap-up)
Description of Session:	Urban areas are facing unprecedented challenges due to transitions like energy transition, climate change mitigation, and nature conservation, needing a re-evaluation of land governance and urban practices. Our session explores how competency frameworks (intended for a diverse range of stakeholders involved in urban planning, including policymakers, urban planners, government officials, researchers, academics, and professionals) can address these challenges and contribute to fair land governance. Efficient capacity building, knowledge management, and coordination across diverse stakeholders are crucial for effective urban planning. In this session, we delve into the optimal architecture for an interdisciplinary urban competency framework tailored to address the complexities of the New Urban Agenda.

Aimed at emphasising collaborative approaches to competency framework development, we will analyse implementation strategies that promote equitable urban planning through interactive discussions and stakeholder consultations. Key questions include: What are the most effective architectures (for competency frameworks) for ensuring usability and relevance? How can the development process be tailored to maximise effectiveness and applicability? What are the potential benefits of different implementation strategies in sustainable urban planning? Our collaborative efforts aim to provide insights and recommendations that will assist in rethinking planning practices and promoting responsible investment in the land sector. |
| **Presenting Authors:** | |

LGR-15: Partnerships for people-centred land governance: Lessons from experience and research on multi-stakeholder processes in Africa

Short Title:	Inclusive land governance through multi-stakeholder platforms for Africa
Organiser(s):	Harko Koster (SNV)
Contact Person:	Harko Koster (hkoster@snv.org)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	Farmers and pastoralists need land tenure security to sustainable manage and collectively use natural resources and to undertake investments with long-run pay-offs needed for climate smart investment in productivity, diversification, and resilience. SNV and CIFOR will present interventions to promote stability, food security, climate resilient agricultural development and natural resources management by strengthening security of access to and rights over land and natural resources, with special attention for inclusivity (especially women, youth and pastoralists), through establishing and capacitating Land Commissions, setting up Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and using the Risk-Reward Model for transformative land investments. Our panel discussion will be based on experiences in Mali, Ghana, Ethiopia and Mozambique, as well as discuss with ILC the potential to upscale towards land governance partnership models in Albania, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda.
Presenting Authors:	1. Alain Christian Essimi Biloa (ILC) 2. Joost Nelen 3. Alison Rusinow (SNV) 4. Stibniati Atmadja

II. Carbon Colonialism: A New Scramble for Land in the Name of the Climate?

COL-01: Land-based carbon projects: New approaches for social and environmental success

Short Title:	New approaches for land-based carbon projects
Organiser(s):	Dominique Schmid (Wyss Academy for Nature at University of Bern), Anna Duden (Utrecht University), Pranab R Choudhury (Landstack)
Contact Person:	Dominique Schmid (dominique.schmid@wyssacademy.org)
Session Format:	Roundtable
Description of Session:	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use carbon projects have been praised by many actors as multiple-win initiatives allowing climate change mitigation, local socio-economic development, and continuous global economic growth. However, strong doubts are being raised about the environmental and social benefits of such projects. Some evidence even points in the direction that projects have a net-negative environmental impact and have severe social consequences for local communities. While the negative evidence-base is compelling, coping strategies of the carbon-project sector tend to focus on additional monitoring of impacts, rather than propose solutions to these undesired impacts. In this session, we will build on the existing knowledge-base and evidence, and aim to propose innovative approaches to project design and monitoring that can positively impact livelihoods and improve data quality in the land-based carbon sector. This solution-driven approach is timely, due to the strong increase in land-based carbon projects over the last years. In this session, practitioners and scholars from civil society, the private sector, and academia, who work on innovative land-based carbon (or PES) projects, engage in new forms of environmental data collection (i.e. through citizen science), or envision new strategies in the context of these projects will share insights into their work. After short presentations by the participants, we will engage in a discussion exploring challenges and conditions for success of these approaches and how and under what conditions they could be upscaled to other contexts.
Presenting Authors:	1. Dominique Schmid (Wyss Academy for Nature/University of Bern, Switzerland) 2. Anna Duden (Utrecht University) 3. Pentile Thong (LandStack, India) 4. Yaser Khaled Al-Sakkaf (Najran University, Saudi Arabia) 5. Eunice Naa Odarley Lamptey (Kwame University of Science & Technology, Ghana)

#1 Promoting the usage of Earth Buildings: Lessons from Najran Retrofitted Traditional Buildings

Presenting author(s): Yaser Khaled Al-Sakkaf & Yakubu Aminu Dodo

Abstract: Reinforced concrete is socially improper because of its thermal inefficiency, leading people to depend on air conditioning to stay cool under the sun. In other words, this borrowed material has no business being used in our part of the world. Unfortunately, building with concrete is seen as a sign of modernization, moreover, it is not sustainable. This paper highlights the sustainability and marvellous heritage of earth buildings in Najran. Through a document analysis (observation, secondary data, and review of related literature), Unfortunately, the results show that a reinforced concrete house is a status symbol, and it is up to architects in particular to lead this fight by promoting land-based sequestration and carbon sequestration projects. In Saudi Arabia recently, there has been more attention on restoring and conserving the least of its heritage buildings and sites in the kingdom, with the Diriyah Gate Development and the Aseer Region Development as examples. Likewise, around the world, the earth is still one of the most important construction materials, with an average of 48 kg of embodied carbon per m2, which is the lowest compared to other materials like reinforced concrete, which has 635 kg of embodied carbon per m2. The benefit of this research is not limited to its gradual revival in modern buildings as it is good for the environment and has a unique and beautiful aesthetic, but it can also address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. The findings could serve as guidelines for policymakers on land and climate change issues.

#2 The Implications of Land Governance Arrangements for Sustainable Livelihoods in Utility-Scale Solar Projects

Author(s): Eunice Naa Odarley Lamptey, John Tiah Bugri, Emmanuel Kofi Gavu

Abstract: The focus on transitioning to green energy sources like solar photovoltaics (PV) has expanded due to regulatory, pricing, and non-regulatory policies, institutional frameworks, and renewable energy targets. However, successful development requires understanding the crucial link between land and renewable energy, ensuring sustainable land-based economies and ecosystem services. Challenges such as land ownership structures, rights, and the impact of utility-scale solar PV projects on communities have been highlighted. A systematic review employed, revealed that renewable energy policies primarily target climate change adaptation/mitigation, energy efficiency, livelihood access to energy, and institutional frameworks. However, challenges such as the lack of consideration for land availability in renewable energy transition strategies, limited engagement with local communities in renewable energy planning frameworks, information dissemination gaps, and inequitable benefits distribution were shown as hindrances to the scaling up of solar PV projects. Yet, to garner support for the deployment, integration, and establishment of an enabling environment for scaling up renewable energy technologies; The question that needs addressing is whether land policy and regulation serve as significant barriers or align with efforts to scale up solar PV energy investment, and what is(are) the implication of either state on livelihood sustainability?

There is a need for a framework that involves stakeholders, fosters collaboration across sectors, and advocates for arrangements reducing trade-offs between land use and renewable energy. This would positively impact livelihoods during the clean energy transition.

#3 Who Wins for What Reason from Ecosystem-based Adaptation?: Understanding the Distribution of Societal Benefits from a Mangrove Restoration Project in Demak, Indonesia

Author(s): Anna Duden, Aisse Feldheim

#4 Localising measurement and monitoring of carbon and biodiversity in community stewarded forests

Author(s): Pranab R Choudhury, Pentile Thong

#5 Digital twin of Kenyan wetlands: A new and transparent approach to measure carbon and biodiversity

Author(s): Dominique Schmid

COL-02: Winners and losers in climate crisis' demands on lands: exploring the impacts to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' land and resource rights and livelihoods of climate action

Short Title:	Winners and losers in competing demands on land in the name of the climate
Organiser(s):	Celina Salcedo-La Viña, Elisa Scalise (World Resources Institute)
Contact Person:	Celina Salcedo-La Viña (Celine.LaVina@wri.org)
Session Format:	Panel, roundtable
Description of Session:	The session will explore the risks and opportunities to Indigenous women's land rights and livelihoods brought about by climate mitigation and net zero initiatives, including carbon offset and renewable energy transition programs. The jump off point for discussion will be a summary from a review across 10-15 jurisdictions assessing the likelihood of gender equitable outcomes from carbon funding based on how the funding links benefit distribution to existing land rights for women and for men. This will be followed by a deeper-dive panel discussion that will share research by the World Resources Institute showing potential risks and opportunities to women's land rights in Indigenous matrilineal communities stemming from REDD+ (Costa Rica) and a wind energy program (Colombia), and an examination of how land rights and participation in decision-making enabled or barred women from benefiting in payments for ecosystem services (PES) programs in Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico. It will also include similar topics from other panellists.

Inasmuch as many solutions to tackle the climate crisis rely on Indigenous Peoples lands and resources, it is important to ensure that Indigenous women are not left out, given their pronounced vulnerability to changes in land tenure regimes and their greater dependence on nature for their livelihoods and domestic responsibilities. The panel seeks to facilitate a vibrant discussion on the risks to women's land rights by climate and nature-based solutions and explore policy and programming strategies that can be employed to protect women's rights and interests, drawing from examples of good practices globally. |
| **Presenting Authors:** | 1. Celine Salcedo-La Viña, Elisa Scalise
2. Munene Mutuma Mugambi
3. Marcelo Inacio da Cunha (German Institute Of Development And Sustainability)
4. Wilson Omalenge Ndenyele, Halimu Shauri Suleimani, Marie-Emmanuelle Pommerolle-Sorbonne, Godffrey Nyongesa Nato |

#1 Large Scale land Investment and Benefit Sharing Conundrum: Insights from Galana Kulalu Food Security Project in Kenya

Presenting author(s): Godffrey Nyongesa Nato, Marie-Emmanuelle Pommerolle-Sorbonne, Halimu Shauri Suleimani,

Abstract: Large Scale Land Investments by both local and international investors is a game changer in agricultural production that has been accelerating for two and half decades in rural settings in Africa. Historically, rural communities in Tana River County of Kenya have been marginalised from the benefit sharing that accrues from these land deals, in which commercial interests have been an impediment to access and livelihoods to their customary land. The paper shows that lack of an approach complying with responsive policies in acceding to large-scale land deals, especially on the benefit sharing by various actors including land investment companies, the local communities and other institutions are prone to conflict dynamics. These conflict dynamics slow down implementation or result in the collapse of land deal investment projects as well as high turnover of investors. The analysis of this paper is based on primary data obtained through individual and focus group interviews as well as observation from a purposively selected case study of large-scale land investment project of the Galana Kulalu Food Security Project in the Tana River County of Kenya and complemented with secondary sources of data from land deals. The results contribute to the growth of empirical literature on the large-scale land investments in Kenya and beyond. While this paper does not deny the large scale land deals could generate low profits compared to other large scale projects, it suggests that there is a lot of doubt about lack of profits as the explanations for limited Benefit sharing from the large scale land investments.

#2 The Impact of Non-Operational Large land scale deal: Case study of Bedford Biofuels - Jatropha Curcas project from Tana River County of Kenya

Author(s): Godffrey Nyongesa Nato, Marie-Emmanuelle Pommerolle-Sorbonne, Halimu Shauri Suleimani, Wilson Omalenge Ndenyele

Abstract: In the mid-2000s there was aggressive promotion of large scale farming of Jatropha Curcas in Sub-Saharan Africa as a means of mitigation against climate, clean energy boosting energy security. However, many of these Jatropha projects were abandoned before reaching the production stage and ended up as non-operational projects in the context of large land scale deal investments. The impact of non-operational Jatropha projects to the local communities that hosted them are an understudied phenomenon in Kenya and elsewhere. This study empirically unpacks the impact of non-operational land deals on the local communities to advance the growing literature on the consequences of large scale land investments projects that get abandoned before the production phase. In order to achieve this we created a case study of the Bedford biofuels project that was initiated and subsequently abandoned by Canadian investors in the Lower Tana Delta area of Tana River County in Kenya to investigate the impact it had to the local communities. Empirical evidence of this article was obtained through individual and focus group interviews and observations and complemented with secondary sources on land deals. This paper submits that currently there is communal 'corporation' among the local communities living in the context of this study in the midst of this non-operational project and there is still some 'interest' in the Bedford biofuels as reflected in communities' narratives.

#3 Carbon Colonialism in Kenya: Unveiling the New Scramble for Land in the Name of Climate

Presenting author(s): Munene Mutuma Mugambi

Abstract: Carbon colonialism is a growing phenomenon stemming from the extensive acquisition of pristine forest ecosystems in sub-Saharan Africa by industrialised nations to meet carbon emission mitigation obligations through carbon offset projects. Notably, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), through its private sector, has spearheaded forest acquisitions in sub-Saharan Africa. Recent controversial agreements with several African countries, including Liberia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Kenya, have granted UAE access rights to manage millions of hectares of forest land for carbon credit production. These acquisitions have been justified by sub-Saharan African governments as beneficial sources of much-needed foreign direct investment, essential for managing fragile forest ecosystems and contributing to climate change mitigation goals. However, rapid changes in environmental management policies to accommodate carbon-based investments, particularly in countries like Kenya which positions itself at the forefront of global climate mitigation, are perpetuating injustices upon forest-dwelling communities through unjust evictions, land rights violations, and livelihood disruptions. These displacements continue to neglect and exacerbate existing historical land injustices rooted in colonial occupation and controversial post-independence land reform policies. This paper aims to delve into the intricate dynamics of carbon colonialism within the Kenyan context, shedding light on the exploitation of forests under the guise of environmental stewardship and climate action. Drawing parallels with past investments in renewable energy, where a scramble for rural territories facilitated the exploitation of environmentally vulnerable indigenous communities, this paper aims to argue that carbon credit investments in Kenya risk perpetuating climate and environmental injustice on already vulnerable communities under the guise of climate action and economic growth. Through a critical lens, this paper scrutinises the mechanisms through which multinational corporations and affluent nations appropriate Kenyan forests for carbon offset projects, often disregarding the rights and livelihoods of already vulnerable communities amidst a climate crisis. Furthermore, it analyses the role of international climate agreements and market-based mechanisms in legitimising and perpetuating this new scramble for Kenyan land.

#4 Institutions governing forest conservation and resource access by traditional communities: the role of local management and redress mechanisms in protected areas of the Brazilian Amazon

Presenting author(s): Marcelo Inacio da Cunha

Abstract: The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) aims to expand protected areas (PAs) worldwide, a significant step towards harmonising with nature by 2050. Target 3 of the KMGBF aims to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030. However, establishing PAs calls for considering rights-based conservation, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities (*quilombolas*) in the Brazilian Amazon.

Given the self-reported lack of resource access by marginalised forest reliant rural dwellers as well as the lack of an enabling institutional environment for reconciling biodiversity conservation and traditional livelihoods in the Brazilian Amazon, the main research question is: What are

institution-based resource access implications and how can they be addressed in the realm of social-ecological transformations? Research focuses on the Trombetas River Biological Reserve (TRBR) and the Term of Compromise (TC), a federal decree-based mechanism addressing conflicts between the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) and traditional populations over resource access. TC's institution-based access implications on livelihood-relevant access to non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are analysed. Mixed-methods and an analytical framework combining access theory, institutions and (collective) property rights scholarship are applied. TC formalises Brazil nut access but unintentionally restricts it, affecting traditional livelihoods. Options for addressing TC access restrictions affecting *quilombola* communities include (i) land tenure security by titling *Territótio Quilombola* to overcome traditional-collective land tenure claim partially overlapping with TRBR; (ii) resource access through inclusive governance per PA co-management by *quilombolas*. This research informs subnational, national, and international environmental governance towards a social-ecologically sound implementation of KMGBF Target 3.

COL-03: Inclusive carbon markets: Co-creating solutions for smallholder empowerment

Short Title:	Towards a fair and inclusive carbon market
Organiser(s):	Sidi Amar (Maastricht University)
Contact Person:	Sidi Amar (s.amar@maastrichtuniversity.nl)
Session Format:	World Cafe
Description of Session:	We will introduce three topics for three round tables: 1) What is a fair and transparent carbon price along the carbon value chain? 2) What does an inclusive Voluntary Carbon Market look like? 3) What is the value proposition for smallholders and their supply chain partners? The FSD partners will introduce each topic shortly, followed by a World Café session (with three tables). At each table, co-creation of ideas will take place by: 1) identifying the problem and impact on the lives of smallholders, 2) identifying the most important stakeholders and drivers for change, 3) ideating potential solutions. Participants will get a better understanding of the issue at hand and possible pathways to make carbon markets more inclusive for smallholders.
Presenting Authors:	1. Noura Hanna, 2. Jelmer van de Mortel (Rabobank, Netherlands) 3. Sidi Amar (Maastricht University)

COL-04: Protecting land rights in the era of green grabbing

Short Title:	Protecting land rights in the era of green grabbing
Organiser(s):	Pubudini Wickramaratne (Oxfam International, Land Rights Now Campaign)
Contact Person:	Pubudini Wickramaratne (Pubudini.Wickramaratne@oxfam.org)
Session Format:	Presentations, Panel
Description of Session:	There is a significant drive towards nature-based solutions to climate change - with increasing net-zero commitments by governments and corporations. Recent months saw massive land deals for carbon offsetting projects and a rush for lands for just energy transition projects. Oxfam has calculated that the total amount of land required for planned carbon removal could potentially be five times the size of India, or the equivalent of all the farmland on the planet. These are the lands on which women, local communities live, lands on which smallholder farmers grow their food, these are territories of Indigenous Peoples. These are the lands of people with the lowest carbon footprint, who contribute least to the climate crisis but who are the most impacted. The impacts of these projects on the ground are already visible. It is leading to corporate takeover of lands at a massive scale, more competition for land, hike in land prices, land grabbing and forced evictions and a new wave of 'carbon colonialism'. A widespread lack of transparency and consultation in carbon projects deepens the risk that projects will be poorly implemented without adequate safeguards against human rights violations. If the wave of taking over lands for carbon offsetting projects continues at this rate, it will deepen land inequality. Solutions to the climate crisis must not be at the expense of local communities and Indigenous Peoples losing their land. On the contrary, any such solutions must ensure respect for the rights of these communities. In this session we will explore the impacts of the so-called green investments on land rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. We will hear their voices to understand the gravity of the problem and what could be done to prevent this wave of carbon colonialism. We will also hear from communities who benefit from such projects and assess if/how their rights are protected while they benefit from the carbon credit projects.

	This session will also highlight the danger of resorting to carbon offsetting projects without taking effective actions to reduce carbon emissions and it will present some of the policy recommendations that Oxfam advocates for to reduce carbon emissions.
Presenting Authors:	1. Pubudini Wickramaratne (Oxfam International) 2. Stasja Koot (Wageningen University & Research), Anne-Linn Machielsen (Utrecht University) 3. Ines Silva 4. Danique de Ronde (WUR / ILC)

#1 Addressing Historical Power Asymmetries in the Carbon Market System through Secure Land and Tenure Rights.

Presenting author(s): Danique de Ronde

Abstract: The growing interest in using land for creating carbon credits affects the customary lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, pastoralists and small holder farmers globally. These forefront communities have voiced legitimate concerns about carbon credit projects threatening their rights. And indeed, carbon offset projects often exacerbate global power imbalances through processes of green grabbing, land undervaluation, displacement, and violations of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities' (LCs) rights, including their right to FPIC, self-determination, lands, territories and resources. Moreover, concerns about the carbon market's capability in effectively mitigating climate change should be recognized and considered. Despite valid concerns, and a preference for non-capitalist alternatives, pressure for immediate climate change solutions drives carbon finance frameworks needing climate justice consolidation. Understanding and addressing these mechanisms is crucial. Drawing from insights gained during a 4,5-month internship with the International Land Coalition (ILC), I aim to understand civil society and forefront communities' movements that use land rights as the cornerstone to support and protect IPCLs rights. This includes advocating for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), stakeholder communication, fair and equitable benefit sharing, grievance mechanisms, and avoiding licences that perpetuate pollution. Examples and lessons learnt from ILC members will be shared in the intervention. The challenges articulated by frontline communities must be centralised within the carbon market framework to counteract carbon colonialism effectively. By prioritising the rights and perspectives of affected communities, we can begin to address historical power asymmetries and forge a more equitable and sustainable approach to climate action within the carbon market system.

#2 Steward or spectacle in the climate change debate? Indigenous peoples, green grabbing and nature-based tourism

Author(s): Stasja Koot, Gijsbert Hoogendoorn, Moses Kumûb, Raki Ap, Anne-Linn Machielsen,

Abstract: For long, Indigenous peoples have been viewed as so-called 'stewards of nature', today especially regarding the promotion of this constructed and spectacularized 'image' in nature-based tourism (NBT). Increasingly, they are now also included as 'stewards of the climate'. Based on ethnographic research among the San of southern Africa and an analysis of

the 30x30 project—where 30% of the Earth is promoted to be preserved for biodiversity conservation by 2030—we show that Indigenous peoples are willingly and unwillingly positioned to further elitist conservation agendas based on a neoliberal discourse promoting economic growth through global NBT, often leading to green grabbing. This paper addresses two important contradictions in this positioning of Indigenous peoples: first, while Indigenous peoples are presented as stewards of the climate by a variety of stakeholders, they are among some of the least powerful people on earth able to do anything about anthropogenic climate change. Second, Indigenous peoples' conventional image is used to promote NBT, which in turn is promoted as a means to address climate change. Most NBT, however—while it might locally conserve restricted areas of nature or biodiversity—overall is a key contributor to climate change because of the high levels of consumption within the tourism industry. Based on these two contradictions, we argue that the position of Indigenous peoples in the climate change debate is merely a new and contrived step in the further spectacularization derived from their colonially built-up image as stewards of nature.

#3 The Land Squeeze. What is driving the unprecedented pressures on global farmland, and what can be done to achieve equitable access to land?

Presenting author(s): Ines Silva

Abstract: Land is critical to the lives and livelihoods of millions of people, yet threats to small-scale producers and marginalised groups are accelerating. From the push to financialize land to the 'green grabs' taking place in the name of green growth, we are facing rising, multi-dimensional land inequality, i.e. a new 'land squeeze'.

Green grabs currently account for 20% of land deals. Today's global conservation agenda (including biodiversity offsets) and carbon markets are among the main driving forces behind this trend and generating major risks. In addition, the dominant green agenda has its roots in longstanding approaches to land conservation, including the colonial narratives that dismantled the food and cultural systems of Indigenous Peoples, pastoralist communities, and other communities around the world.

In this paper, we present the latest data on green grabbing from a food systems perspective. We analyse the negative processes affecting land access for small-scale producers and marginalised groups. We showcase how green grabbing affects communities on the ground, and how they are resisting and forging alternative paths for environmental protection rooted in the Right to Land. For this, we draw on regional dialogues with smallholder farmers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, Black and Brown food producers, racialized migrants, and other marginalised communities from North America/Turtle Island, Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Lastly, we invite session participants to discuss the role of policy and governance reform to halt green grabs - including Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the campaigns for "Real Zero", and the possibilities for agrarian reform.

III.   Justice as Restoring, Reclaiming, Recommoning

JUS-01: Women's right to land and the climate crisis

Short Title:	Women's right to land
Organiser(s):	Priscilla Claeys (Coventry University), Stefanie Lemke (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna)
Contact Person:	Priscilla Claeys (priscilla.claeys@coventry.ac.uk)
Session Format:	Dynamic Panel
Description of Session:	In current debates on the recognition and protection of collective rights to land and resources, the voices of women and youth in communal land governance are often lacking. Participatory action research was conducted from 2020-2023 with peasant and pastoralist organisations in Kenya, Tanzania, Mali and Guinea, with the aim to achieve greater self-determination and participation of women and youth in communal land governance, through capacity building, participatory research, horizontal dialogues and action for social change.

In this session we share lessons from the collaborative research process of co-conceptualising and co-learning among civil society and academic partners. We further explore important dimensions of women's right to land: 1) recognizing and protecting communal land ownership, which is important in light of increased privatisation, the rush for carbon credits and cases of land grabbing; 2) ensuring women and youth participation in communal land governance, with the voices of women and youth still largely lacking; 3) defending women's right to own and inherit land, which they are often denied due to domination of men; 4) securing women's individual and collective access to and control over the land; and 5) eliminating gender-based violence, which is observed across the four countries. Adopting an intersectional lens sheds light on the specific situation of different categories of women, men and youth and the challenges they face with regard to their right to land. In some contexts, our research has led to more women participating in land management structures and taking on leadership roles, and young women and also younger and older men supporting women's right to land. |
| **Presenting Authors:** | 1. Thapelo Tseko
2. Jozelin María Soto-Alarcón (Universidad Autónoma Del Estado De Hidalgo, Mexico)
3. Maya Khanna (ILC)
4. Arnaud Kurze (Montclair State University, USA)
5. Maribeth Cuevas Jadina (Lincoln University, New Zealand) |

#1 Lesotho women's experience on Land Ownership and Climate Change impact: A review of bicentenary practices and projects

Presenting author(s): Thapelo Tseko

Abstract:As Lesotho reflects on its bicentenary formation as a nation-state, women in particular have been at the centre of rural and urban development whose initiatives have been at the centre of socio-economic development of the country. Despite women's significant role, they have been discriminated against land ownership due to the patriarchal ownership of land. With the country still adopting the customary and statutory tenure system, women have been evicted due to absence of wills, illegal marriages and social norms in the country; these practices are far worse amongst the Baphuthi; a minority group in Lesotho speaking iSiPhuthi. In spite of this, several rural projects have accelerated women's land ownership through capacity building on will, types of recognised marriages and the land tenure system thereby improving women's access to land. Moreover, ongoing advocacy projects in rural areas have improved land ownership amongst women not only for agricultural purposes but also for personal use. To understand the women's issues regarding climate change, this paper explores the 200 year-old relationship between women, land ownership and project implementation within the changing climate. The continuum appreciates the socio-economic, policy and project changes that have been ongoing; from the *matsema* (communal projects) to the *iketsetse* (do it yourself) and ultimately the women empowerment changes that have happened because of societal and behavioural changes through existing literature.

#2 Collective access of peasant women to communal land in rural Mexico

Author(s): Jozelin María Soto-Alarcón & Diana Xóchitl González-Gómez

Abstract:Rural women's access to land is fundamental for their individual and household well-being, equity, and empowerment. In Mexico, the agrarian reform of 1992 and customary gendered rights shaped land use, access, and control. Rural women's access to collective land is relevant since social property—ejido and agrarian communities—represents 52% of the national territory. As an expression of the collective organization, commons were also performed to use and control communal land and biophysical resources collectively. This paper examines the collective peasant women's bargaining process to access, use, and control communal land. The post-capitalist feminist political ecology approach allowed us to distinguish and analyze gendered strategies employed by a cooperative led by women at different levels—household, community, and government—to access and use communal land and biophysical resources by the process of commons—commoning. Rural women's collective efforts are located in Hidalgo, central Mexico. Firstly, the Agrarian Reform modifications related to gender equality issues are investigated, followed by examining rural women's socioeconomic conditions. The case study permitted us to identify and analyze critical factors that enhanced long-term agreements to control communal land beyond the Agrarian Law scope by the commoning examination. The collective rural women's strategies to use communal land improved well-being based on gendered peasant knowledge, organization, and stakeholder support. Nevertheless, the strategies increased women's burden and reinforced the existing gendered norms such as female altruism. Furthermore, the need to discuss the bargaining process over communal land

concerning a diversity of commons is argued: knowledge, social, and biophysical, in which gender and care are critical variables.

#3 Strengthening Women's Land Rights in the Commons: A Gender Justice and Climate Action Strategy

Presenting author(s): Maya Khanna

Abstract:More than 50% of the world's land is held under communal tenure by Indigenous peoples and other local communities (World Resources Institute, 2017). Many of these lands are beacons of climate resilience, sequestering vast amounts of carbon (World Resources Institute, 2021). Women are critical to these territories' health due to their knowledge of reciprocal lifeways, intergenerational knowledge, and leadership in the climate movement (UNFCCC, 2021). Nonetheless, women living under communal tenure are less likely than their male contemporaries to enjoy secure land rights (The Land Gap Report, 2022). Indigenous and local women also face the growing threat of land grabbing, accelerated by the climate crisis (The World Economic Forum, 2024). This form of "double discrimination" has rarely been addressed at its intersection. Yet it is urgently necessary to strengthen women's rights in communally-managed territories, both as a gender-justice issue and due to the role of Indigenous and rural women in advancing climate action.

This study considers seven cases presented by members of the International Land Coalition. Members reflect key challenges, exacerbated by the climate crisis, to women's communal land rights in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Nepal, Albania, Guatemala, Columbia, Peru, and Argentina. They suggest the efficacy of knowledge exchanges, a focus on women's community membership, gender-sensitive policy, social sensitization, and interdisciplinary approaches for women's collective land rights. Through enhancing women's land rights under communal tenure systems, there is an opportunity to amplify the capacity of women– and by extension, their families and communities– to combat and be resilient to climate change.

#4 Governing Land in Climate Change Adaptation in Guinea: Mapping Women's Rights and Inclusive Governance for Social Justice of Space

Presenting author(s): Arnaud Kurze

Abstract:This research seeks to answer key questions associated with the safeguards to rights to land, water, and forests under the current climate imperative in the context of Guinea in West Africa. Against the backdrop of national climate change adaptation policies that do not safeguard inclusive and fair transitions, this paper examines climate-change related land, water and forest issues that concern women across various regions in Guinea. The goal is to better understand inclusive governing of land in climate change adaptation and to discuss the significance of women contributing to the creation and shaping of measures to mitigate the effects of climate risks. Particularly, it hones in on women's active participation in the decision-making process of their livelihoods, living environments and mental wellbeing.

This paper predominantly addresses two questions raised in session 16:

1. Impacts of the climate crisis on women's right to land: How rural women's organisations in Guinea are responding to the climate crisis, both through initiatives and policy efforts at the local and national level?

3. Climate governance and women's participation: What types of structural factors hamper or fuel increasing inclusive and participatory governance of women in Guinea?

The research provides preliminary findings from a larger project that draws on mixed-methods and an interdisciplinary research design, including quantitative geospatial surveys and experimental methods. It draws on initial participatory interviews with local stakeholders to gauge multi-level governance processes. With this study authors hope to contribute to women's role in inclusive climate change adaptation governance in Guinea by offering video testimony.

#5 Women as 'insert' landowners: the case of land tenure security in the Philippines

Presenting author(s): Maribeth Cuevas Jadina

Abstract: Women were deliberately excluded during the initial implementation of the Philippines' Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). Through a case study approach, this paper explores land tenure security after 30 years of land reform. The research was conducted in Ormoc Leyte, for three reasons: it is one of the pilot areas for land reform, despite its rich natural resources, it is among the poorest regions, and the island is known to be a disaster-prone area. Three methods were used: GIS mapping, interviews, and observation. Data analysis was an iterative process, with interpretations continuously developed and revised. Findings reveal complex challenges in navigating CARP's implementation, highlighting "protraction points" that hinder the completion of CARP, and the emergence of 'inserts'. Inserts are excluded beneficiaries, mostly women, who hold informal rights – a right agreed upon by farmer groups and the community. The paper also provides a brief analysis of how natural disasters (e.g. typhoon Haiyan) impact this group's livelihood and ability to secure formal ownership. The study underscores the importance of a community-centred approach to land tenure security initiatives. It suggests that CARP's linear implementation lacked community involvement, leading to continued exclusion, community resistance, and apathy toward reform efforts. A shift towards context-specific, gender-sensitive services involving both beneficiaries and communities is proposed to address challenges.

JUS-02: Innovative solutions for securing land rights in crises contexts

Short Title:	Innovative Solutions for Securing Land Rights
Organiser(s):	Ibere Lopes, Melina Holder (International Organisation for Migration), Bernardo Almeida (Van Vollenhoven Institute)
Contact Person:	Melina Holder (melsmith@iom.int)
Session Format:	Round Table, Innovative Session
Description of Session:	The session will discuss the challenges and opportunities of land tenure recordation in displacement contexts where land governance institutions have limited capacity for recording, keeping, or verifying land and property rights. The discussion will centre around exploring an innovative approach to land tenure recordation that recognizes individuals' and communities' rights and relationships to land as a story, rather than as a surveyed area with rigid requirements for validation. The goal of discussing a flexible approach to recording land rights is to develop a fit-for-purpose land recordation approach that meets the needs of affected populations, rather than bringing people into conventional systems, and enables individuals and communities to use the information they have to protect their land and property rights. Panellists will include IOM's Global Housing Land and Property Advisor, Ibere Lopes, Leiden University College (LUC) and Van Vollenhoven Institute Professor, Bernardo Almeida, with experiences shared from IOM colleagues in Somalia and Mozambique. The discussions will contribute to shaping the solution for IOM's LandLedger project. Funded by Norway's flagship Humanitarian Innovation Fund, LandLedger seeks to develop a process for securing people's rights to immovable property in displacement contexts to support affected communities in reclaiming, returning, or proactively protecting their land and property rights.
Presenting Authors:	1. Melina Holder (IOM) 2. Bernardo Almeida (Van Vollenhoven Institute) 3. Liz Alden Wily (Independent)

JUS-03: Conflict resolution and mediation practices in areas of return in Burundi, Iraq, Somalia and Uganda: innovations, lessons learned and best practices

Short Title:	Conflict resolution and mediation in areas of return
Organiser(s):	Gemma Betsema (LAND-at-scale, RVO)
Contact Person:	Gemma Betsema (gemma.betsema@rvo.nl)
Session Format:	Pitches, Discussion
Description of Session:	In countries and regions affected by war, civil violence and conflict, land disputes and land conflicts are prevalent. Due to conflicts, people may flee their homes in search for (temporary) shelter and safe areas, or are forcibly displaced from their homes. They will seek shelter in areas that others call their homes, potentially creating tensions in areas of refuge. Issues become even more complicated in areas that have seen multiple waves of displacement such as in Iraq where people were expropriated by the regime in the 1970s, and were again displaced when ISIL occupied large parts of the country; or in cases where minority populations are suffering from discriminatory practices. After conflicts are resolved, or violence declines, refugee return and restitution processes will arise, returnees may find a myriad of problems depending on the specific context, including secondary (or tertiary) occupation by others, unlawful takeover of lands by political elites or armed groups, etc. The resulting overlapping claims create a potential new source of conflict and are therefore a priority to address. One way of addressing these is through resolving land disputes. In several of the LAND-at-scale project activities post-conflict land issues around displacement and return are being addressed by project partners. This session aims to hear from partners how they deal with the complexity, using both formal and informal justice solutions for resolution and mediation of conflicts. The session also wants to zoom in on the complementary actions and strategies applied by partners such as restitution strategies, integration of land into humanitarian work, strengthening of institutions, and addressing structural issues related to land policies and tenure security. Country examples can include: Burundi, Uganda, Somalia and Iraq.
Presenting Authors:	1. Ladd Serwat (ACLED, Burundi) 2. Alexandra Emerusenge -'t Lam (ZOA) 3. Federica Acquaviva (IOM), Sebastian May (UN-Habitat) 4. Simon Peter Mwesigye (GLTN/UN-habitat) 5. Ronald Lenz (Hague Institute for Innovation of Law)

#1 Strengthening institutions for decision-making, mediation, and conflict management: Lessons from Land-at-scale

Presenting author(s): Ladd Serwat

Abstract: Considering the challenges of conflict management, mediation, and dispute resolution in numerous countries, several Land-at-Scale (LAS) interventions aim to strengthen and improve access to these institutions. Many LAS interventions occur under conditions of conflict and instability, posing challenges given the changing land tenure dynamics. Additionally, many LAS projects maintain a core focus on contributing toward durable and equitable solutions, especially for marginalised people. Drawing on feminist and institutional perspectives, this paper conducts a literature review on dispute resolution and access to justice in settings of legal pluralism, providing a topical state-of-the-art to anchor the analytical framework. The paper uses desk-based research of LAS policy documents and interviews with key stakeholders to distil emerging insights on conflict resolution mechanisms and access to justice, identifying ways forward for land governance interventions. Considering the challenges faced by past development programming to navigate pluralistic land tenure regimes, the review considers how LAS policies have uniquely navigated these environments or fallen into similar patterns. The research explores the factors that limited or enabled the LAS policies to strengthen decision-making, mediation, and conflict management institutions. Considering the interconnections within local institutions between statutory and customary laws and practices, the paper furthers conversations within feminist institutional literature by drawing on pluralistic perspectives. This paper challenges more dichotomous views within the feminist institutional literature, recognizing the inseparability of customary and statutory within the local institutions. The findings allow for further tailored policy approaches and potential changes to support these groups and highlight challenges.

JUS-04: Polycrises, critical island studies, and climate cultures: new bottom-up perspectives

Short Title:	Polycrises & islands
Organiser(s):	Mucahid Bayrak (National Taiwan Normal University), Bishawjit Mallick (Utrecht University)
Contact Person:	Bishawjit Mallick (b.mallick@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	Currently the world is facing multiple crises, which can be collectively labelled as polycrises. These include climate change, pandemics, ecosystem collapse, wars and conflicts, and other global challenges with local impacts. Islands and island-nations in particular are particularly vulnerable as they are depending on outside resources. We approach this issue from a climate culture and critical island studies perspective, and argue that more attention needs to be given to bottom-up perspectives, practices and cases in relation to these polycrises. Instead of presenting the effects of polycrises on islands in an 'alarming way' (e.g. the sinking islands discourse), we would like to shift the attention towards the resilience and strengths of islands, its inhabitants and the unique cultural adaptation pathways they have developed to cope with these polycrises. This session welcomes papers on local case studies in which these island climate cultures are outlined, moving away from 'alarmist' ideas of vulnerable islands. We welcome papers situated both in an urban and rural setting (and everything in between), and focus on cases from all over the world (thus not only limited to the so-called "global South").
Presenting Authors:	1. Bishawjit Mallick (Utrecht University) 2. Daniel Mambo Tampi, Ajay Bailey (Utrecht University) 3. Mucahid Bayrak (National Taiwan Normal University) 4. Julia van den Berg (Utrecht University) 5. Wan Jou Lin (National Taiwan Normal University) 6. Chimwemwe Simpito (Radio Walamo/Mpulungu Youth Vision Centre, Zambia)

#1 Aspirations versus adaptive achievements: Examining threat perception and livelihood resilience at the frontline of climate change in Galle, Sri Lanka

Presenting author(s): Julia van den Berg

Abstract:My research explores the linkages between threat perception and adaptive behaviour in the face of climate change in Galle, Sri Lanka. Galle, a coastal city in southwest Sri Lanka, is especially vulnerable to climate threats due to its tropical wet climate and its exposure to an annual monsoon. Adapting to climate change is crucial for people living in Galle who are without coastal flood protection measures and depend on natural resources to sustain their livelihood. Resilient livelihoods are one of the critical solutions to adapt to the consequences of climate change. An analytical framework is employed to analyse the complexity of aspiration versus adaptive practices, centring around the synthesis of threat perception and livelihood resilience. Data was collected on-site through in-depth interviews, supported by small talk and participant observation. Findings indicate that individual threat perception leads to climate adaptation strategies, bolstering livelihood resilience. However, the interconnections between the respective mechanisms were found to be highly affected by unfavourable societal circumstances in which individuals were positioned. Besides a determined knowledge gap and lack of awareness of climate change in popular discourse, a conspicuous discrepancy was found between individual aspirations and adaptive capacity with the ongoing economic crisis and the need for governmental climate legislation at the time of research. This research, therefore, emphasises a nuanced approach to researching climate change adaptation, considering the gravity of societal circumstances that shape the frame in which individuals can choose to engage in livelihood resilience strategies.

#2 Navigating Planetary Health: A Literature Review of WASH in Informal Settlements within Island Cities

Author(s): D.M Tampi; A. Bailey; M. Bayrak

Abstract:This literature review explores the intersection of Planetary Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in informal settlements situated in island cities. Rapid urbanisation and climate change exacerbate challenges faced by vulnerable communities, impacting their health and well-being. Through some existing literature, this review synthesises key findings regarding the complex dynamics between environmental sustainability, public health, and socio-economic factors in island city contexts. The review highlights the critical role of WASH interventions in promoting both human and environmental health in informal settlements, emphasising the need for WASH Interventions that better align with the principles of the planetary health approach. Furthermore, it identifies very few studies about planetary health and WASH. By elucidating the interconnectedness of planetary health and WASH in the context of island cities' informal settlements, this review contributes to a holistic understanding of how global, national, and local drivers are linked with the local WASH situation, also navigating to a planetary health perspective.

#3 Futurizing the Wonderland: Indigenous Women and Their Fight for Land Rights

Presenting author(s): Wan-Jou LIN

Abstract:Born in the throes of an increasingly tense and threatening geopolitical context amidst global empires, Taiwan embarks on a new chapter in the (re)construction of its subjectivity towards a diverse and multicultural society in Taiwan, East Asia, and beyond. Indigenous peoples on this island have been marginalised by the imposition of Japanese and Chinese colonial regimes, relegating them to small communities in the highlands and coastlines.

In 1974, the Ministry of National Defence established the military base Jiupeng under the National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology (NCSIST), leading to forced expropriation that required indigenous people to relocate within seven days. Those relocated to Ciulaku(長樂部落) reconstructed their cultural and religious centre, advocating for compensation through oral history and memory to reconstruct the truth of the relocation and engage in transitional justice in Taiwan today.

This paper focuses on the situation of Paiwan indigenous women living in Ciulaku(長樂部落), Manzhou Township, Pingtung County. It examines how they navigate their roles in the face of severe disruptions and changes in their livelihood and their fight for land rights. This paper employs fieldwork and in-depth interviews with indigenous women, their collective memory of forced relocation to challenge the country's official history brought us a clear picture of the differences between the governmental and indigenous perspectives. It draws on the viewpoints proposed by feminist standpoint theory and the study of resilience theory to highlight the resistance and rebirth of Indigenous women in Ciulaku.

#4 A political ecology of polycrises and farmers' adaptation in coastal Taiwan

Presenting author(s): Mucahid Mustafa Bayrak,

Abstract:The global climate crisis severely affects coastal communities worldwide. Not only do coastal communities have to cope with the effects of the climate crisis, such as sea-level rise, flooding, changing weather patterns, droughts and increased salinization, they also are coping with other non-climate related shocks and stresses. These compounding impacts sometimes force communities to change their livelihoods, implement new coping and adaptation strategies, and in some cases even trigger out-migration. Many studies often focus on the 'climate adaptation' processes of these 'vulnerable' communities in an environmentally deterministic manner in which concepts of adaptation and vulnerability are portrayed in linear and cause-and-effect ways. This study reimagines the concept of 'climate adaptation' and 'vulnerability' in the context of coastal Taiwan—an island country affected by climate change—from a political ecology perspective. Through in-depth interviews and a household survey (n = 120), this study argues that households have devised innovative ways of adapting to environmental change (e.g., changing weather patterns and flooding) but also faulty infrastructure planning, changing demographics (mainly ageing), encroaching solar panel farms (for the 'greater good of the nation'), government mismanagement, and choices made in the past that have a direct impact today, such as land subsidence due to the massive shift towards aquaculture several decades ago. These factors showcase how adaptation and vulnerability are

relational concepts being coshaped by both structural determinants, such as political economy and power relations, and micro-level factors.

#5 Promoting of Integrated Land Use planning : A Case Study of Crocodile island on Lake Tanganyika - Zambia

Presenting author(s): Chimwemwe Simpito

Abstract:Mutondwe popularly known as Crocodile Island on Lake Tanganyika on the Zambian side in Mpulungu District of Northern Province poses a great significance to the culture and habitation of the local indigenous from time immemorial. The Island which takes the shape of a Crocodile has been named the Crocodile Island with its vicinity few kilometres from Mpulungu Harbour Port. The Island has been historically known for the worship of the local gods "Mbita" and "Namukale '' responsible for fish catches, rain and wealth for the locals. It was believed that in a situation of provocation to these gods, there would be poor fish catches and the disappearance of indigenous fish species such as "Involo" and "Kapenta'' the sardines thus depriving the locals of their economic mainstay which is fishing. The locals on the island which is traditionally called the Mbita Island and used for Mambwe-Lungu "Walamo Traditional Ceremony previously enjoyed a free lifestyle of fishing as a main occupation and involved in direct trade with traders from Mpulungu central and other distant places.

However with issues of land management and administration emanating in the early 90's, the area was given on title to businessman and politician Griever Chola Sikasote which has limited development in the area. This among other aspects is enshrined in the Zambian Constitution on the right to land ownership by sole proprietors. However the area lacks a school, health post, police post and other social amenities thus plunging the locals into despair and posing significant obstacles to equitable access to development. My study is based on the current way of life of the people on the Island and how they are copying with the current situation with the fear of being displaced anytime, and also the current increasing fish depletion on the Zambian side of Lake Tanganyika.On the other hand, the study delves deeper into government's resettlement plan of the people once they are displaced by the title deed owner who is also former Mpulungu Area Member of Parliament. I do so with the research conducted on the way of life of the indigenous using Research interviews and Focus group meetings, Community theatre, Town Hall meetings, Stakeholder engagement and feedback mechanism.

JUS-05: Peoples' Landscape Approach, restoring and re-commoning natural resources in the Rangoon Watershed in Nepal

Short Title:	Peoples' Landscape Approach (PLA)
Organiser(s):	Petra Hamers (Oxfam in Nepal, Oxfam Novib, CSRC)
Contact Person:	Petra Hamers (Petra.hamers@oxfamnovib.nl)
Session Format:	Workshop, presentations
Description of Session:	In 2022, Oxfam (Netherlands and Nepal) and 4 Nepali partners, together with WCDI, developed the concept for a People's Landscape Approach (PLA): where the local people and their needs are the starting point for the governance of and access to natural resources in a given landscape, as a base for resilience building. In the same year we started a pilot project applying this concept in Nepal.

In the proposed session, we will share how PLA supported the rethinking in land governance (including land rights) in the Rangoon Watershed (Nepal), heavily affected by the impacts of climate change. It is a complex watershed in terms of shared boundaries with three municipalities, clear upstream downstream linkages, and poor land management. Local governments and their departments of Nepal have strong sectoral programs but lack a coordinated approach for land and water governance.

We will analyse the roles of the actors involved, what worked well and what did not work well, while practicing PLA approach for improving land and water governance.

We welcome abstracts that include any research conducted and /or any practice on sustainable development keeping the balance between nature conservation and it's sustainable use by the local communities in a given landscape.

To complement these and our own learnings, we seek contribution from participants to improve the PLA approach through their knowledge or linking with similar projects where we will have an opportunity to exchange lessons and experiences.

- Welcome and introductions (5 minutes)
- Short presentation about People's Landscape Approach, its basics, the development process, its piloting (10 minutes)
- Short Video documentary including interviews with women in the riverine communities, and local authorities (5 minutes) |

	- Abstract(s) presentation; if available/selected (max 10 min) - Panel discussion on how people centered landscape approaches ensure community participation (respecting global commitments like Locally Led Adaptation) and strengthens land rights and inclusive land governance (15 minutes). - Question and Answer session with audience: 10 minutes - Group work (15 minutes) The participants are divided into # groups of max 10 people (# depending on number of participants) to discuss on following questions: 1. What needs to be strengthened for ensuring responsible land / ecosystem use planning? 2. What should we take into consideration to balance the rights of the different user groups in the river basin, and of different generations and of nature itself? 3. How are the principles of LLA helpful in the PLA project? 4. What other similar models of inclusive landscape approaches can we learn from. (Different groups start with different questions to make sure they all questions well be answered) - Presentation by each group 15 minutes - Summary remarks 5 minutes
Presenting Authors:	1. Jagat Deuja (Community Self Reliance Centre (Csrc), Nepal) 2. Rajan Subedi (Oxfam Novib, Nepal) 3. Petra Hamers (Oxfam Novib)

IV. Building More-Than-Human Solidarities in the Search for Social Justice

MTH-01: Promoting forms of interspecies care to heal with nature in the Anthropocene

Short Title:	Embracing Interspecies Care in the Anthropocene
Organiser(s):	Marta Cavallaro (Sant Anna Pisa/LAND-at-scale)
Contact Person:	Marta Cavallaro (marta.cavallaro@santannapisa.it)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	In the current times of environmental destruction, individuals often grapple with feelings of powerlessness and disconnection from nature. It becomes hard to find the motivation to act and to connect with the urgency and the scale of current climate transformations. This session proposes the concept of interspecies care as a way to explore human interconnectedness and interdependence with its surrounding environment, see our place in nature and escape self-fulfilling prophecies that "the game is over," "it's too late," "There is no sense in trying." By drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives and real-life examples, we aim to rethink traditional notions of human-nature relationships and embrace multispecies responsibility to address the challenges of the Anthropocene. Through interactive discussions and case studies, panellists are encouraged to delve into various forms of interspecies care, including indigenous perspectives, environmental humanities, and artistic expressions, that can help to re-prioritise the well-being of nonhuman entities in the politics of fair transition as well as recognize their agency and rights in shaping environmental discourse and policy.
Presenting Authors:	1. Marta Cavallaro (Sant Anna Pisa/LAND-at-scale) 2. Tom Rowe (Wageningen University & Research) 3. Mayke Giesen (Delft University of Technology

#1 Carving space for climate justice? More-than-human comradeship in the Court for Intergenerational Climate Crimes

Presenting author(s): Tom Rowe

Abstract: As climate breakdown gathers pace, there is a pressing need to reimagine legal processes to promote goals of climate justice. Contemporary legal processes are structured around a host of liberal, modern ideas which enable and reproduce colonial capitalist projects of extraction. Logics of anthropocentrism, in particular, are central to such projects of extraction because they shape boundaries around who can claim legal personhood, rendering non-human

lifeforms expendable. In this presentation, drawing on interview data and literature related to the project, I situate the 'Court for Intergenerational Climate Crimes' (CICC), as one such attempt to reimagine legal processes through a rejection of anthropocentrism. Through a series of performative tribunal hearings, with cases against the Dutch State, Unilever, ING and Airbus, the CICC utilised the prefigurative capacities of performance art to realise a vision of climate justice oriented around the recognition and repair of human-nature relationships. Specifically, the CICC sought to accomplish this task through cultivating, amongst participants, a sense of 'comradeship', referring to an expanded set of ethico-political obligations towards more-than-human actors across time and space. Through the notion of 'carving space' I explore how the CICC sought to cultivate comradeship through distinct socio-spatial practices intended to subvert conventional courtroom architectures and processes.

#2 Grieving ecological losses: Engaging and empowering citizens through ecological grief to contribute to societal transitions towards ecocentric values.

Presenting author(s): Mayke Giesen

Abstract: The world is facing an escalating environmental crisis marked by major socio-ecological losses. Human-induced environmental threats, like biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, underscore the onset of the Earth's sixth mass extinction, recently termed 'ecocide'. Despite the urgent warnings from the scientific community and growing public awareness, inadequate and insufficient action has been taken to address the environmental crisis. In addition, recent research has shown that people are increasingly experiencing anxiety and feelings of hopelessness concerning these environmental issues, which prevents meaningful engagement with these topics. Yet, the role of emotions is often neglected in the Western discourse, impeding public acknowledgement of ecological grief (eco-grief). This study recognises eco-grief as a legitimate response and the process of eco-grief as a catalyst for true engagement and pro-environmental attitudes, demonstrating how this alternative approach can inform the planning and design of eco-centric cities. A conceptual framework based on Latour's cognitive, emotional, and aesthetic virtues is used to understand how people perceive the ongoing crisis. Rotterdam Noord is taken as a case study, and a survey is used to gather citizens' perceptions of nature, their experiences of ecological loss and grief, and their attachments to their local environment. The results are presented in the form of place frames. This research contributes to debates around eco-grief by providing empirical insights from an urban setting while addressing urban-specific challenges like the "anti-urban bias" and the "shifting baseline syndrome".

MTH-02: Land and natural resources between heritage protection and development

Short Title:	Land, heritage and development
Organiser(s):	Francesca Marzatico (University of Otago), Nora Weller (University of Cambridge)
Contact Person:	Francesca Marzatico (Francesca.marzatico@otago.ac.nz)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	Land is crucial for individuals and communities, supporting their economies and overall well-being. For many communities and individuals, the land is more than a source of livelihood; it has strong cultural, religious and spiritual meanings and represents their very identity. International and national norms protect the land as a heritage, but in some cases, such protection clashes with the demand for land development. Protection of land as heritage can also limit individuals' and communities' access to land and can generate conflicts or exacerbate existing ones. This imposes a responsibility on the government that, in ongoing transitions, has to balance the protection of land as a heritage, the need for land for economic development and equal access to land for communities and individuals. This session aims to discuss the challenges governments and communities face and the interventions put in place to balance the need for land for development versus protecting land as a heritage. Focus will be given to country-specific case studies to identify lessons learned and best practices. Particular attention will be given to those interventions that foster dialogue and effective participation of communities and individuals in identifying solutions for sustained peace and economic development.
Presenting Authors:	1. Francesca Marzatico (University of Otago, New Zealand) 2. Jimmy Ochom (Oxfam Novib) 3. Katharina Wahedi (Wageningen University & Research) 4. William Kadi (Pacific Legal Network, Solomon Islands) 5. Britta Redwood (Seton Hall University, USA) 6. Diane Tapimali (Association Of Young Experts On Land Issues)

#1 Land Dynamics and Embodied Ecologies: A Case Study of the Hai//om in Tsintsabis, Namibia

Presenting author(s): Katharina Wahedi

Abstract:The Hai//om are one of the (former) original hunter-gatherer groups in Namibia. Although they are now quite scattered, they have a strong historical connection to Etosha National Park and its surroundings. The arrival of German and later South African colonists, however, marked their land dispossession. This not only meant a loss of the Hai//om's physical connection to their ancestral land, but also a loss of their cultural, religious, and spiritual connection to the land they once called home. All these losses challenge their identity as well. In addition, continuing land pressures have made their living conditions more precarious than when they were initially forced to abandon their lifestyle. My study focuses specifically on the Hai//om at the Tsintsabis resettlement farm in northern Namibia. It was granted by the Namibian government to compensate for the Hai//om's dispossession of ancestral land. However, most of the Hai//om in Tsintsabis depend on food aid to sustain themselves and lack the necessary skills to run an agricultural business. Several development initiatives have been introduced to Tsintsabis as well, but none seem to have made a significant change. In this context I therefore aim to better understand how the Hai//om engage with their current environment, the future they envision for themselves, and to provide a starting point for including Hai//om perceptions in decision making that is related to land use. I do so based on interviews and visualised embodied ecologies (sensorial maps) gathered during seven months of ethnographic fieldwork in Tsintsabis.

#2 Challenges to Protecting Customary Land, Ethnic Migration, Crown Land and Development Pressures: Lake Tengano and Wagina Island.

Author(s): William Kadi, Millicent Barty

Abstract:Solomon Islands land area is 10,938 sq. miles (28,466 sq. km) spread across an ocean, with the size of 249,000 sq. nautical miles. Of that land size, more than 80% of it is customary land guarded under a diverse tenure system. 20% of the land is crown land, obtained through colonisation and retained by the State through the Land and Titles Act. The Constitution of Solomon Islands acknowledged customary law as part of the laws of Solomon Islands, whilst also affirming that all natural resources belong to the people and the state.
Pressures from development on the land and the obligation through culture to honour the land is a dilemma we will deliberate into. Lake Tengano, a world heritage site, is located within the domain of a Polynesian heritage in Rennell and Bellona Province. It borders on a bauxite mining operation from 2016 to 2020.

Wagina Island is a crown land acquired from the customary domain of Choiseul Province. It hosts the Gilbertese migration from Kiribati arranged by the colonial administration and now recognized in Choiseul culture as the 12th tribe of Choiseul Province. The people of Wagina Island fought off a proposed bauxite mining operation with a legal battle spanning almost 10 years, from 2013.

These case studies will illustrate and allow discussion into the layers of unique challenges and complexities regarding land, natural resources, and development in Solomon Islands.

#3 The Role of International Law in Influencing Law Reforms in Africa: An Analysis of its Implications to Indigenous Land Rights in Uganda.

Presenting author(s): Jimmy Ochom

Abstract: The presentation will focus on the role of international law in influencing major law reforms in Africa; it will, however, closely analyse the implications of international law in promoting indigenous land rights in Uganda. The presentation will in-depth interrogate the understanding of the history of international law in a global, African, and local Uganda setting. The presentation will align us with understanding how international law, in its years of progressive development and improvement, has influenced law reforms in a global environment, law reforms in an African setting, and law reforms in Uganda. The presentation will explain the merits of international law. It will interrogate why international law is vital in influencing law reforms in Africa. The analysis will show a strong correlation between international law and land law reforms in most African countries, particularly Uganda, that we have seen steady progress over the years, that international law is fundamental in shaping and influencing law reforms in Africa, and that international law positively and negatively impacts indigenous peoples' land rights in Africa. However, the presentation will shed more light on the positive strides; the commoditization of land through documentation and registration has vast implications for encouraging land grabs in Africa; on the other hand, it concluded that practice has shown that documentation and registration of indigenous land guarantees their security of tenure. The presentation will thoroughly interrogate the place of indigenous land rights at the international, African, and country-level levels in Uganda. The presentation will further discuss how international law has influenced domestic law in Uganda. It will analyse the UNDRIP's in-depth effects on influencing domestic law in Uganda. Arguing the case of the commoditization of land through documentation and registration and its vast implications for land grabs is further introduced in the presentation. Finally, the true meaning of international law in an African setting will be interrogated. A close look at the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights to land, practice in the African context, and practice at the national level in Uganda will be discussed.

#4 Heirs' Property in the United States: A Human Rights Analysis

Presenting author(s): Britta Redwood

#5 Assessing the effectiveness of policies addressing the protection of cultural rights in Land dispossession procedures in Cameroon

Presenting author(s): Diane Tapimali

Abstract: Various policy instruments are encouraging investment to enable Cameroon to achieve emergence by 2035. These instruments are sometimes formulated in favour of the implementation of the national Strategy for the implementation of the AfcTA, the master Plan for the industrialisation, the exploitation of mines, forests, agro-industry and many others. However, since no investment of this scale can be made without permanent access to land, the areas that make up the population's living environment are being mobilised. In this process, which leads to

expropriation because of the difficult coexistence between these activities and human life, the populations evicted for reasons of public interest lose various tangible and intangible rights that must be compensated. When analysed, the expropriation procedures and compensation systems for public utility projects, which are almost twenty years old, clearly only take material assets into account. The cultural rights of vulnerable populations are timidly mentioned and are sometimes protected in the implementation of corporate social responsibility, which remains a soft law and therefore not very binding. This contribution is an excellent pretext to analyse in depth the current limits of legal compensation systems, to present and discuss good practices observed in the implementation of investment projects in Cameroon in order to identify decision-making tools. The ultimate aim is to formulate laws and policies that are sensitive to cultural rights and that facilitate the development of individuals and promote the social acceptability of investment projects, all in the interests of sustainability.

MTH-03: Building more-than-human solidarities or how to build the Buen Vivir- How to build on more-than-human connections with lands, rivers, trees, and other voiceless actors like future generations in the politics of fair transitions? And, how to avoid separating human and non-human actors in deepening the search for social justice?

Short Title:	Building more-than-human solidarities or how to build the Buen Vivir
Organiser(s):	Henkjan Laats (Cross Cultural Bridges)
Contact Person:	Henkjan Laats (laats@crossculturalbridges.org)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	How to build on more-than-human connections with lands, rivers, trees, and other voiceless actors like future generations in the politics of fair transitions? And, how to avoid separating human and non-human actors in deepening the search for social justice? In this session we will present and discuss some insights on the ways in which Nature can be lived as an intercultural experience. We argue for the need to (legally) include Nature's voices in the transition to an ecologically civilised society, which generally means a transition from anthropocentrism to biocentrism. These issues will be addressed through an intercultural dialogue and exchange based on work experience in Latin America and Europe, taking into consideration the post development narrative of Buen Vivir.
Presenting Authors:	1. Gustavo Hernandez (Cross Cultural Bridges, Peru) 2. Henkjan Laats (Cross Cultural Bridges) 3. Rembrandt Zeger (Cross Cultural Bridges) 4. Juana Mulul

MTH-04: Perspectives on the recognition of a human right land: challenges and possibilities to move forward

Short Title:	Land as a human right
Organiser(s):	Veronica Torres-Marenco
Contact Person:	Veronica Torres-Marenco (veronicatorresmarenco@gmail.com)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	Land has been long recognised as an essential component of other human rights, such as the rights to food, housing, property, and other economic, social, and cultural rights. However, efforts to recognise a self-standing human right to land to communities beyond indigenous peoples have lacked wide consensus.

The recent adoption of instruments such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) and CESCR General Comment N. 26 on Land are examples of different angles of this issue. There is a strong literature highlighting the benefits of adopting a human rights approach to land issues, seeing land, not as a mere commodity, but as central to the realisation of human rights. While this is true, governments and international human rights bodies have been timid to recognise land as right.

This panel will explore lessons from recent legal land activism and discuss the best legal strategies to move toward the recognition of land as a self-standing right. Property? socio-economic right ? the commons? For urban and/or rural populations? From the perspective of local communities and their relationship to land? What to do about FPIC? What is the link with the rights of nature? What about the responsibilities of transnational corporations? |
| **Presenting Authors:** | 1. Veronica Torres (Universidad Del Magdalena, Colombia)
2. Priscilla Claeys (Coventry University)
3. Tripti Mahaseth, Dharm Raj Joshi (Habitat for Humanity, Nepal)
4. Francesca Marzatico, Catherine Murupaenga Ikenn
5. Sukanya Khar |

#1 Participatory Land diagnostics to recommendations for formalisation of land rights– Case study Nepal

Presenting author(s): Tripti Mahaseth, Dharm Raj Joshi

Abstract: Land is foundational to adequate housing. The Constitution of Nepal 2015 guarantees the Right to Housing; Right to Equality; Right of Women; Right to Property; as fundamental rights of every citizen.
Despite progressive policies and laws, inconsistencies and ineffective implementation lead to lack of access to land and housing for landless marginalised communities. The National Land Commission Guideline is an example of a progressive guideline with the purpose of providing land to landless people, prioritising Dalits, landless sukumbasi and managing unorganised settlements. Despite positive intentions, implementation gaps exist.

Recommendations for key stakeholders related to land for housing have been developed and shared with the Chairperson at the National Land Commission and the Minister at the Ministry of Land Management Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA) through an evidence-based approach which included an in-depth policy review and thorough diagnostics. These recommendations include how civil society and grassroots communities could participate to ensure moral obligation to consider the interest of those that are not able to. They are also being leveraged to advocate for change such as resolving the issue in the Land Act vs. Forest Act of allowing people who are landless and have lived for decades in forest areas where there is no forest cover to be allowed to legally reside. The diagnostics also highlighted the need for people-centred approaches such as awareness of land policies and systems to allow for citizens to actualise their rights which has led to the development of a land literacy program in partnership with MoLMCPA.

#2 Indigenous values and world views' contribution to reshaping our relationship with land and natural resources

Presenting author(s): Francesca Marzatico

Abstract:Indigenous worldviews and values are often expressed in the relationship that Indigenous people have with land and natural resources. Colonial powers have often tried to destroy such relationships through the introduction of Western property law and the Western process to legitimate access and use of land and resources. In Aotearoa New Zealand this process started with te Tiriti o Waitangi and has seen the adoption of legislation aimed at disintegrating Māori relationship with land and consequently Māori society. Nevertheless, Māori activism and protests have contributed to keeping alive values and through the past decades have contributed to reshaping the legal system in Aotearoa New Zealand with the introduction of references to Tikanga (Māori customs) in the laws, the recognition of Juridical personhood to natural resources and the legal provisions to claim Māori customary right to the foreshore and seabed. This presentation aims to talk about the contribution of Māori values in reshaping the relationship with the land and natural resources in Aotearoa New Zealand, touching upon the importance of activism and Māori agency in demanding recognition of their values and respect

of the obligations arising from Te tiriti o Waitangi. It will also discuss the potential impact on the global discourse on the human right to land.

#3 Exploring Factors for Potential Conflict in Land Governance Dynamics for Solar Parks in India

Presenting author(s): Sukanya Khar

Abstract:Unjust outcomes emerging from decarbonization projects is well-documented. However, what remains amiss from this larger literature is the role of land history in explaining potential for conflict and associated injustices arising from the establishment of large-scale renewable projects like solar parks. Land history can be analysed through its institutional relationships based on local traditions and norms, community relationships, or its agricultural status which can influence whether decarbonization projects lead to conflicts or not.

This paper uses insights from exploratory fieldwork in two regions in India: (i) Bhadla Solar Park and villages near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, and (ii) Pavagada Solar Park in Karnataka. It aims to explicate factors which may contribute to identifying the potential for land related conflicts emerging from the establishment of large-scale solar parks in India.

Certain solar parks in Rajasthan are coming up in ecologically sensitive land types such as deserts which are misunderstood, and improperly classified as wastelands, leading to movements surrounding recognition of their cultural, ecological and religious significance. However, in the case of the Pavagada Solar Park, which has come up on drought-stricken agricultural land, the project has become a source of steady income for local communities which they were unable to reap by pursuing agriculture on the same land.

Findings from preliminary field work suggest the centrality of land governance mechanisms for renewable energy policy, and the need to be sensitive to its cultural significance and community relationships, and the political economy in which it is embedded to ensure a just energy transition.

MTH-05: Land, earth, and epistemic justice for more than human solidarities

Short Title:	Epistemology of land
Organiser(s):	Rick Dolphijn (Utrecht University)
Contact Person:	Rick Dolphijn (r.dolphijn@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	
Presenting Authors:	1. Gaurika Chugh 2. Salisu Ameh Amodu, 3. Ejike D. Umenwaka (University Of Abuja, Nigeria) 4. Vanessa Arteaga, Eduardo Erazo Acosta 5. Murad Ali (Foundation For Ecological Security, India)

#1 The power of the ancestral philosophy of *Alli kawsay (Buen Vivir)* in the indigenous movements of Colombia - Ecuador vs. the exclusion by the big mining development, contribution to the Rights of Mother Nature from the global south in middle of climate change

Presenting author(s): Vanessa Arteaga, Eduardo Erazo Acosta

Abstract: The purpose of this research is to present the urgency of listening to indigenous epistemologies of *Sumak Kawsay* (in *kichwa* language: *Buen vivir*-Good Living) and also to accompany the care/defence of the biodiversity-rich indigenous territories of the Andean region. As a research question: How is the anthropocene affecting the indigenous territories and with it the threats of the epistemologies of *the Sumak Kawsay/Buen vivir*?

This ethnographic research has been carried out in the last 7 years, in the Republics of Colombia and Ecuador, in Indigenous Regional Council of Cauca CRIC, and The Indigenous Confederation of Ecuador CONAIE. Theoretical references: epistemology of indigenous communities, indigenous intellectuals.

The anthropocene affects considerably the species of flora and fauna, the glaciers, water reserves, páramos understood as places where the water is born for the species. With it the territories Pan Amazonas region of native communities are strongly affected in their cosmovision to know.

Due to its high impact in high mountain areas, climate change affects the melting of glaciers, strong droughts, seasonal changes for food production, water shortages and with this the displacement of animals and indigenous people and with it affects their traditions and cosmovisions due to geographical relocation and spatial - socio-cultural changes.

Ethnographic work is used: interviews, participant observation, and documentary analysis. Key to comment how from the epistemologies, their spirituality's, indigenous cosmovision, the elders (grandparents and grandmothers) announce that if there is no respect for the species on earth comes catastrophe, which from modern science is already evident.

#2 Reclaiming the Forest: More-Than-Human Solidarities in India's Community Forest Rights Act

Presenting author(s): Murad Ali

Abstract: This paper explores the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 in India as a case study for building "more-than-human solidarities" in the pursuit of social justice. The FRA challenges anthropocentrism by recognizing Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRs), fostering a sense of interconnectedness between forest-dwelling communities and the ecosystems they depend on.

The paper argues that the FRA validates the deep cultural and spiritual connection these communities have with their forests, reframing them from resources to ancestral kin. Case studies highlight how the Act empowers communities to act as advocates for forest conservation and their livelihoods.

Across India, numerous examples illustrate the transformative power of the FRA. The Dongria Kondh tribe successfully resisted mining projects that threatened their sacred Niyamgiri hills. Similarly, the Jhabua forest management council implemented sustainable harvesting practices, ensuring the future viability of NTFP collection while protecting the forest. These examples showcase how the FRA empowers communities to act as advocates for the forest, forging alliances with the non-human world.

FRA, in India has achieved progress with over 2.23 million individual land rights and 1.14 lakh community forest rights awarded by December 2023. This translates to 7.32 million hectares titled. Collaborative efforts by forest, tribal, and revenue departments with NGO support facilitate claims, while government schemes like MGNREGA empower communities for land management activities.

The paper explores challenges and opportunities to strengthen the FRA, emphasising collaboration and a multi-stakeholder approach. Ultimately, it proposes the FRA as a model for social justice that includes both human and ecological well-being.

#3 Earth and justice in African Thought: A comparative analysis of moral conception of *Ane* (land) in Igala with the Igbo notion of *Ani*

Presenting author(s): Salisu Ameh Amodu

Abstract:This paper is an ontological examination and exploration of an intertwining between the concepts of Earth and justice within African philosophical thought, undertaking through a comparative analysis between the moral conception of *Ane* (land) in Igala culture and the Igbo notion of *Ani* (also "land"). The fundamental idea of land among the Igala people is that land occupies the central position of existence in the order of the hierarchy of the ontology of being, and this resonates among most cultures of sub-Saharan Africa because land defines the bases of African history, spirituality, identity, morality, unity, kinship, economic progress and other essentialities of being which place the element as the first principle in the hierarchy of the cosmic order. Drawing upon indigenous knowledge systems and philosophical frameworks, this paper adopts the method of hermeneutic exploration to investigate how African societies conceptualise the relationship between humanity and the Earth, and the implications these relationships have for notions of justice and ethical conduct. In specific contexts, the engagement analyses narratives, rituals, and diverse ethical principles surrounding *Ane* and *Ani* to examine the cultural, spiritual, and ethical significance attributed to land respectively, and comparatively, in Igala and Igbo societies. Upon this approach, the paper aims to uncover similarities and common underlying philosophical principles regarding Earth stewardship, community well-being, and the pursuit of justice as extractable across two African cultures. Ultimately, a deeper understanding is presented regarding African philosophical thought on land, highlighting its relevance in contemporary discourses on environmental ethics, sustainability, and social justice.

#4 Exploring the *Ala (*Earth) Concept as a Framework for Justice and its Impact on Social Justice Ethics

Presenting author(s): Ejike D. Umenwaka

Abstract:The concept of *ala* (earth), from Igbo cosmology offers a holistic worldview that provides clarity on the correlation between humans, nature, and the divine. Within this paradigm, justice is often understood as maintaining balance and harmony in these interconnected systems. This standpoint on justice usually has immense impacts on social justice ethics by prioritising community well-being. It also has effects on social justice ethics by ensuring fair resource distributions, environmental sustainability, and spiritual balance and integrity, where action one person affects every member of the community either negatively or positively. This research will delve into the multifaceted dimension of the idea of *ala* (earth) with focus on its foundational principles, ethical standard, and ideological underpinnings concerning justice. It will critically evaluate how this shapes notions of justice, ethical behaviour, and communal values. Furthermore, it will compare and contrast these elements within different social communities to examine the efficacy and potential impacts of *ala* (earth) in promoting social justice at the communal and inter-communal level. By this critical analysis and comparison, this research aims to shed light on the unique contributions and challenges posed by the *ala* (earth) as a model for achieving and advancing a more just and equitable society in a diverse cultural context.

#5 Epistemology of Land: Right versus Justice based approach for Social Justice

Presenting author(s): Gaurika Chugh

Abstract: The epistemological understanding of land through the lens of political theory and political philosophy in ancient Indian philosophy, Greek philosophy, and western philosophy has perceived land in terms of a right versus justice based approach. The right based approach stems from the western political thought of John Locke, who is known as the father of liberalism. Locke was the protagonist of natural rights (right to life, liberty, and property) that are inalienable and whose existence is imperative for the preservation of humankind. The justice based approach has its roots in ancient Indian political thought and philosophy, as its aim was to lead society on the path of Dharma. This philosophy of providing a good life to citizens was taken forward by ancient Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle. Later, political philosophers like Rawls have aimed to equate justice as fairness through the difference principle and Michael Walzer has accounted justice as "complex equality" as there cannot be a single yardstick for defining the conception of justice. This paper aims to contextualise land in terms of a right versus justice based approach through the present day challenges of social justice under the current climate imperative and access to land.

V. Ecocide and Social Justice

ECO-01: The concept of ecocide: interdisciplinary perspectives

Short Title:	The concept of ecocide
Organiser(s):	Daan van Uhm (Utrecht University)
Contact Person:	Daan van Uhm (d.p.vanuhm@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	The Concept of Ecocide: Interdisciplinary Perspectives Since the 1970s, the possibility of internationally criminalizing ecocide has been widely discussed, for example as a war crime, a form of genocide, a crime against humanity, or a fifth international core crime. However, there are numerous challenges, both theoretical and practical, associated with any such criminalization, and with the concept of ecocide in itself. While ecocide has yet to be recognized officially as an international crime, it is firmly established in the public vocabulary for discussing the unfolding environmental crises with severe ecological consequences such as large-scale pollution, rapidly disappearing rainforests, and the mass extinction of species. The concept of "ecocide", including its legal manifestation, implies a form of reckless disregard for the severe, widespread and/or long-term adverse environmental consequences of one's actions. At the same time, the kind of violence that ecocide denotes is often diffuse and delayed, thereby challenging established notions of cause and effect, agency, and responsibility. Furthermore, these environmental harms cut across national and international boundaries, which raises problems of jurisdiction and standing. They also cut across conceptual boundaries, such as those between nature and society, human and non-human, foreign and domestic, among others. These challenges have contributed to the difficulty of defining ecocide as a crime within existing juridical frameworks and institutions, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This panel will bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars who will reflect on the legal, ecological, sociocultural, criminological, political, philosophical, and historical dimensions of ecocide. The concept raises fundamental questions regarding the way we think about guilt, liability and the duty of environmental care. How do we determine who is responsible and how do we hold them to account? How do we acknowledge human and non-human victims? What is the power of a legal concept such as ecocide? And how do we, or should we, balance ecological and socio-economic considerations? In addition to the theoretical and legal challenges, ecocide also presents a fundamental representational challenge: how do we make visible and understandable to a broader

	public what ecocide is? What role can the cultural arena play and how can artists, writers, and filmmakers raise public awareness about ecocide?
Presenting Authors:	1. Cedric Ryngaert 2. Susanne Knittel (Utrecht University) 3. Marijke van Kuijk 4. Carolina Sánchez (Utrecht University) 5. Daan van Uhm

VI. Rethinking Democracy and the Politics of Knowledge

DEM-01: Reversing the flow? The politics of knowledge co-creation on flooding and land subsidence in the South

Short Title:	Reversing the flow? The politics of knowledge co-creation
Organiser(s):	Janwillem Liebrand (Utrecht University)
Contact Person:	Janwillem Liebrand (j.liebrand@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Film Screening, debate
Description of Session:	In search of social justice, the debate and screening of the film in this session is about how academics in the North and South, in collaboration with willing actors (GOs, NGOs, research institutions, activist and private sector), seek to build a coalition for advocacy and setting a new research agenda on making delta/water (planning) interventions more inclusive. The case is the Diamonds in the Delta (DiD) network and the focus is on ground realities of land subsidence, flooding and non-migration in the South, and the role of Dutch/donor actors in planning water interventions. The involvement of Dutch actors in the global water world has a long history. The dominant narrative is that the Dutch see themselves as 'natural' experts on water, legitimising their involvement abroad. Since the 2010s, the promotion of water knowledge abroad is linked to how Dutch actors in the Netherlands itself increasingly frame 'water management' as 'Delta management'. Notably, the active Dutch involvement in writing "master plans" for Bangladesh and Vietnam, and the focus on integrated, and long-term strategic planning comes to mind (by some called: the Dutch Delta Approach, and associated with slogans like 'bring in the Dutch'). In the context of funding for international development cooperation drying up – and more recently, foreign policies have become more conservative and 'nationalist'. It brings new challenges for making water projects 'inclusive'. The challenge is to make water (planning) interventions 'inclusive' and democratise (or decolonize) water knowledge production in an international context. The production of knowledge on water is inherently political and there is a need to build research collaborations in the process of problem conceptualization and research design, based on ground realities (and voices) from the South. Metaphorically, the idea

	is the 'reverse the flow' – as much as possible – and build a water research agenda on the concepts of knowledge co-creation, inclusivity and social justice. In this session, we will have a debate about the politics of knowledge co-creation: what does it mean; how to negotiate different interests; how to engage with 'nationalist' research agenda's and keep a focus on social justice? How do decolonize knowledge for fair (water/land) transitions?
Presenting Authors:	1. Erlis Saputra, Rijanta, Abraham Abishek 2. Danique de Ronde 3. Diane Tapimali

#1 Challenges of integrated water resources management in Cameroon: reflections on economic instability and food insecurity in villages upstream of the Magba dam

Presenting author(s): Diane Tapimali

Abstract: Climate change is exacerbating hunger in the world. It is creating a snowball effect by reducing the quality of food and the productivity of the land. The situation is even more critical when the groups affected are vulnerable and lack resilience. Makoupa (among others) is a village in theDepartment of Noun in West Cameroon that is usually flooded by the waters of the Mapé River, which is held back by the dam built to support the Edéa hydroelectric dam downstream. The activities of the local population are heavily dependent on the irrigation processes of the Mapé, the release of which is gradually causing the riverbed in the village to dry up for longer due to climate change. Incidentally, the unavailability and instability of water resources is hampering the development of agriculture, fishing and related operations in the value chain of these activities. As famine and poverty intensify in the village, ill-equipped populations adopt resilience strategies that are not sustainable, mainly because of the limited information and episodic support they receive. There is an urgent need to develop strategies for the appropriation and popularisation of integrated water resource management tools at national and local level, and to map the various stakeholders, their interests, their motivations, their relationship with land governance and the influence they have in their environment, in order to create a relevant discussion, the results of which would help to strengthen the economic potential of the area and the adaptive capacities of vulnerable populations.

#2 The River Beyond the Current: Understanding Power Dynamics in Medellín's Urban River Restoration Project

Presenting author(s): Danique de Ronde

Abstract: By analysing the diversity of hydro-social meanings in relation to the Medellín river, this research unpacks the historical and discursive neglect towards both the urban river and river-dependent livelihoods within Medellín's dominant urban planning discourses. This echoes

to the present, as the contemporary sustainable urban planning discourse aims to restore the Medellín river through constructing the Parques del Río river park, employing a symbolic ambiguity in its narrative portraying the river as good and dangerous at the same time, ultimately seeking closer interaction under the prerequisite of control. Within the controlled environment of the river park, conscious avoidance of confrontations with both the Medellín river, and the 'other' (the *areneros* being dependent on the river for their livelihoods) inherent in the design of Parques del Río emphasises social power structures at play in river restoration projects. The park's exclusivity perpetuates socio-spatial inequality on the riverbanks of Medellín, affecting the community under the Madre Laura bridge dependent on this river for their livelihoods. Advocating for the recognition and respect of diverse local hydro-social meanings, this study calls for a more inclusive approach in urban sustainable river planning. This is important for protecting marginalised communities' river-dependent livelihoods, preventing the disruption of their hydro-social relationships under the guise of 'restoring the relationship with the river.' The aim is to consider their hydro-social relationships as sources of inspiration rather than threats, fostering a more comprehensive and just form of urban sustainable river planning. This is based on insights of a 4,5-month ethnographic study on the hydro-social relationship between people and the Medellín river.

#3 Diamonds in the Delta – Indonesia: Cities flood, land sinks under coastal infrastructure (Abraham Abhishek, Liebrand). Videopodcast.

Abstract: In search of social justice, the debate and screening of the videopodcast in this session is about how academics in the North and South, in collaboration with willing actors (GOs, NGOs, research institutions, activist and private sector), seek to build a coalition for advocacy and setting a new research agenda on making delta/water (planning) interventions more inclusive. The case is the Diamonds in the Delta (DiD) network and the focus is on ground realities of land subsidence, flooding and non-migration in the South, and the role of Dutch/donor actors in planning water interventions.

DEM-02: Indigenous research methods' contribution to social justice in land and natural resources governance

Short Title:	IRM and Social Justice in Land Governance
Organiser(s):	Francesca Marzatico (University of Otago)
Contact Person:	Francesca Marzatico (Francesca.marzatico@otago.ac.nz)
Session Format:	Roundtable
Description of Session:	Land and natural resources are, for Indigenous people, inextricably connected to their genealogies, cultural histories, values and knowledge systems. Their relationship with land transcends economic terms and it is deeply rooted in their identity, culture, beliefs, and human relationships. Nevertheless, land experts and researchers tend to interpret and define the Indigenous people relationship with land through the Western lens, continuing to marginalised Indigenous ways of knowing and relating to the land, thus furthering the process of colonisation through laws, institutions, and the shaping of knowledge through exclusively Western research practices. This marginalisation impacts negatively Indigenous people for whom ongoing transitions and land loss bring about not just the potential loss of livelihoods, but substantial impacts on identity, culture, and the very fabric of social structures vital to their wellbeing. Fair land transitions need to be based on an authentic understanding of the special relationships that Indigenous people have with land. Research can play an important role in recentering the discussion on land around Indigenous knowledge systems. Indigenous research methods (IRM) present a unique means by which research can move towards deepening and enriching our understanding about land, natural resources. Findings of such research can help map paths towards fair transitions wherein Indigenous voices are heard and included in more culturally democratic decision making. The goal of this session is to promote a critical reflection on the contribution of IRM to the decolonization of land and natural resources research as a means of enhancing social justice through re-centering the marginalised worldviews of Indigenous peoples. It represents a forum where Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars can discuss their experiences and lessons learned in relation to the use of IRMs in land and natural resources governance research.
Presenting Authors:	1. Francesca Marzatico (University of Otago, New Zealand) 2. Rachele Cecchi (university of Florence, Italy)

| | 3. Richa Joshi (LandStack, India) |
| | 4. Metiria Santon Turei (University of Otago) |

#1 Identity and Land Governance: An Anthropological Exploration in Indo Nepal Border

Presenting author(s): Richa Joshi

Abstract: Land holds economic, political, and symbolic significance, serving as productive wealth and a marker of social status, while also sustaining livelihoods. The close affinity between land and culture in tribal realms unveils questions of identity, livelihood, inheritance, ownership, kinship, and gender relations, elevating land beyond a mere physical entity to a cultural domain. To explore this affinity, a cultural ecology framework situated in the interpretive and social constructivist paradigm is employed, with ethnography as the qualitative research design. The paper will delve into lacunae and challenges, including the conscious exercise of locating the researcher within the methodological details, experiences of self, negotiations in the field, reflexivity, and positionality. This will describe the researcher's position concerning power dynamics, insider versus outsider perspectives, and the embedded identity in shaping the narratives of the indigenous community.

#2 Recognising the bond between land and community in decolonial and collective terms: the case of *dominii collettivi* in Italy and the law 168/2017.

Presenting author(s): Rachele Cecchi

Abstract:The contribution aims to bring about a socio-legal reflection on the multiple meanings of land which go beyond the mere economic value and have been historically overlooked by the institute of private property. The theoretical focus is on the decolonization of the law as a common effort crossing the epistemological categories of the Global North and South and the extractivist paradigm on which they are based, with special reference to the idea of land property. The analysis acknowledges that the entanglement of capitalism and colonialism has shaped property law globally, silencing and making invisible a plurality of alternatives, not only within the so-called "Global South" but also among the Northern legal systems. The focus is on collective ownership of land and the multifaceted and special bonds between communities and the land they have been inhabited for centuries, with a special gaze to the mountain communities of Italy: the analysis will present the legal debate on "alternative ways of owning" (Grossi, 1977) from which the current legal regime of law 168/2017 originated and explore the terms in which the law gives recognition to collective lands as primary legal orders of original communities. It will also address the distinguishing features of law, especially: a) the perpetual agro-silvo-pastoral destination of the land b) the principle of self-regulation and self-management of natural resources c) the intergenerational projection and the prohibition of parcelling or alienating the land.

#3 New/Old Indigenous challenges to colonial constraints in law and economics

Presenting author(s): Metiria Santon Turei

DEM-03: Democratising local voices in donor-funded interventions

Short Title:	Democratising local voices in donor-funded interventions
Organiser(s):	Wytske Chamberlain (LANDac, LAND-at-scale)
Contact Person:	Wytske Chamberlain (w.chamberlain-vanderwerf@uu.nl)
Session Format:	Roundtable
Description of Session:	Within land governance interventions, much attention is given to local efforts to assess the local fit and impact of the interventions on local populations and communities. Several methods are implemented with the aim to hear the voices of people who are to benefit from the interventions, as well as non-beneficiaries. But, there are challenges to such efforts, particularly in contexts with limited space for civil society. Contextual research is conducted in the LAND-at-scale programme, other programmes roll out different methods . In theory, such research provides an avenue to democratise the knowledge of local communities. In practice, difficulties remain. These relate to different actors in the chain: - For researchers: methods used on the ground, selection of interviewees, and interview fatigue. - For project implementers: how is the knowledge used? What if the insights run counter to the assumptions underlying an intervention? What if the intervention leads to negative impact? What if the findings undermine (local) authorities? - For donors: What do you need to know to assess pitfalls and risks? What options do stakeholders have within agreed boundaries and with host country governments? In this roundtable we want to discuss these questions. The examples of the longitudinal research conducted in the LAND-at-scale projects in Burundi and Somalia, as well as the "Ecole de Tchamba" in Togo will be presented to address these questions. We want to invite other researchers, implementing partners and donors, to share lessons to better hear, listen to, and act on, the voices from the ground.
Presenting Authors:	1. Christopher Tanner (Mokoro Ltd, UK) 2. René-Claude Niyonkuru (VNGi / LAND-at-scale Burundi) 3. Marta Cavallaro (Sant Anna Pisa / LAND-at-scale Somalia) 4. Federica Acquaviva (IOM Somalia), Sebastian May (UN-Habitat) 5. Alexandra 't Lam (ZOA Burundi) 6. Xavier Codjia, Egy Sossou (VNGi Togo) 7. Lisette Meij (RVO, Netherlands)

#1 Peer Learning for inclusive and participatory land reform in Togo

Presenting author(s): Xavier Codjia, Egy Sossou

Abstract: Most interventions in the land sub-sector, especially in rural areas, highlight the need for a buy-in from local populations, along both their purpose and operational modalities. These projects advocate for participation in their discourse, but practices on the ground raise questions on how they invest into building consensus, in a context characterised by an asymmetry of power, knowledge and influences on the course of the project.

Despite the amount of efforts that are made to understand local contexts in order to ensure the adequacy between planned interventions and the aspirations of the populations, project operations on the ground are confronted with some forms of resistance from local populations, fed habits and customs at the local level and increasing misunderstandings and suspicion towards so-called modern land administration and law. This resistance also emerges in response to approaches adopted by donors, national authorities, national and/or international experts who are reluctant to give enough importance to local aspirations, thereby reinforcing disparities of information, knowledge and skills between those who implement projects and their partners on the ground.

The Land reform project to Accelerate agricultural productivity project (LRAP) is being implemented in TOGO with the technical assistance of a consortium led by VNG International. In the framework of this project, the drafting of the implementing decrees of the Land code is not approached as a purely administrative or abstract exercise, but built on the experience and knowledge generated by on-site experiments that take into account diverse realities across the country. Since its beginning, the consortium has developed a whole series of approaches and activities likely to fill the knowledge and skills gap between local populations, State actors and experts for an inclusive process to improve land tenure security in rural areas.

This presentation sheds light on an innovative peer-learning experience, "***the Tchamba school***", an initiative bringing together local actors from the various areas covered by the project as well as national and international experts and that opens up prospects for a genuine involvement of local populations and stakeholders beyond the ritual of compliant participation. It promotes the experience, expertise and pre-existing land management systems & practices prior to the effective deployment of new projects.

#2 Achieving social justice in land rights through a broad understanding of land governance and supporting innovation on the ground: lessons from the Land at Scale Programme

Presenting author(s): Christopher Tanner PhD

Abstract: Securing land rights has long focused on land administration solutions where upgraded state services and issue smallholder and other land users with official proof of acquired rights. This approach reflects a western-based view of land governance where documents and efficient land administration equate to greater 'justice' for land users, who can then use their officially-endorsed rights to access formal credit, improve production, and enhance livelihoods. The FAO definition of land governance recognizes that it is far more

complex and diverse, especially in countries with very different socio-economic and cultural histories, and where customary systems offer an 'alternative formality' to the 'formal' statutory systems of national governments.   While the word 'justice' is commonplace in policy rhetoric, many governments are driven by growth and investment development models where justice is often overlooked. The FAO definition underlines how justice in very different cultural and historical contexts requires diverse, innovative, and gender-aware land governance solutions tailored to specific needs in very different locations, rather than the narrow land administration focus of many land programmes. This paper discusses how the Netherlands Government Land-at-Scale programme has developed a mechanism for identifying specific land governance needs ('demand') in widely diverse situations; and then delivering limited but well-targeted resources through activity bundles implemented by a mix of civil society and government actors working together. This approach can transform land governance and promote genuine social justice in land rights and how they are used to enhance livelihoods and achieve national (and global) sustainable development goals.

#3 Adaptive programming based on impact assessments of the local voices in land tenure interventions: Challenges and opportunities from an implementers' perspective of LAS Burundi.

Presenting author(s): Alexandra Emerusenge – 't Lam

Abstract: Over 85% of Burundi's population depends on agriculture, together with its high population density and growth, this causes fierce competition over resources, including land. The land tenure registration component of the *Amahoro*-at-Scale is implemented in Nyanza Lac, a densely populated and economically dynamic district characterised by population displacements (mainly returnees and economic migrants).

To assess the impact of the intervention, a longitudinal study is being carried out. It consists of gathering information, in four phases of project implementation, from the same 24 households on their experiences, perceptions and any changes they may have undergone before, during and after land certification. The focus is on perceptions of land tenure security, land conflict dynamics, women's land rights, and land rental markets.

The first two phases have given valuable insights on different interpretations of women's land rights; complex land conflict (resolution) dynamics; rural-urban dichotomy; and perceptions of the implementing organisations versus the local administration on being in charge of land tenure registration. The latter is especially challenging for implementers when local administration lacks capacity, visibility and legitimacy, or when it comes to conflicts over land between citizens and the state. How can an NGO position itself wisely without overtaking and undermining the government's role? The *Amahoro*-at-scale implementing partners are developing strategies to improve accountability and ownership of the local administration, while at the same time evaluating their own role and influence through the intervention. During the session we can share further about our experiences, challenges and opportunities for adaptive programming stemming from local voices.

DEM-04: Unpacking facts and fables on the effectiveness of multi stakeholder dialogues to meaningfully and effectively address power imbalances

Short Title:	Multi stakeholder dialogues: unpacking facts and fables
Organiser(s):	Lisette Meij (RVO), Sara Manetto (International Land Coalition)
Contact Person:	Lisette Meij (lisette.meij@rvo.nl)
Session Format:	Debate
Description of Session:	An often-proposed solution to addressing power imbalances are multi-stakeholder dialogues and platforms (MSDs). Giving all parties an equal seat at the table would remove these imbalances and ensure everyone's perspectives are heard, understood, acknowledged and incorporated into actions. Particularly now in times of important transitions, decision-makers that may very well be favourable to hear diverse perspectives, are under enormous pressure to implement solutions fast. In this context, MSD are hardly a silver bullet to address existing power imbalances, if even instituted at all. This session aims to unpack the 'fables and facts' around MSDs. Whereas criticism is warranted and important, it is equally important to study experiences where MSDs have been successful in addressing power imbalances. The interactive session is built around three specific challenges of inclusivity: 1) meaningful inclusion of 'marginalised groups'; 2) defining success or failure; and 3) exploring monitoring tools for accountability. These three challenges will be highlighted with a concrete example from three different countries in the Global South, followed by group discussions between panellists and audience.
Presenting Authors:	1. Lisette Meij (RVO, Netherlands) 2. Alain Christian Essimi Biloa (ILC) 3. Angelique Mbelu (ILC DRC) 4. Juan Pablo Sarmiento (CIFOR-ICRAF) 5. Doreen Nancy Kobusingye (National Land Coalition, Uganda) 6. Marja Spierenburg (Leiden University) 7. Dharm Raj Joshi (Habitat for Humanity, Nepal)

#1 Multi Stakeholder Dialogue Process in Nepal: what has been done, what has changed and what next?

Presenting author(s): Dharm Raj Joshi, Tripti Mahaseth

Abstract: Multi Stakeholder dialogue processes are viewed as key strategies to have transformative system change by providing inclusive and easily accessible space for dialogue, exchanging experiences, knowledge and learning and formulating joint action plans to address governance challenges at multiple levels and achieve common goals.
To this end, various types of multi-stakeholder processes are being piloted/practised across the countries; however, the results achieved are a mix of successes and failures yet lessons for future are of tremendous importance.

Natural resource management, livelihood security, environmental sustainability, adequate housing, and economic development involve immense challenges and require collaboration among government, civil society, community, and private sector actors to breakthrough systems change for social transformation and social justice. However, governance modality, ownership, and sustainability of MSPs remained a key concern.

Habitat for Humanity Nepal, as a key actor in the land and housing sector, has extensive engagement with Government, communities, CSOs and private sector at policy and practice levels despite the complex challenges inextricably intertwined with everchanging social, political, and environmental contexts.

In this paper, we will discuss multi stakeholder platforms activated and multistakeholder partnership enacted between and among the state actors and non-state actors in Nepal working on land, housing, and related sectors to deliver people centred land and housing solutions in Nepal. Additionally, MSPs are also used to transmit knowledge, discourse building, raise awareness and generate evidence for effective policy advocacy that democratises the policy process, governance reform and system change.

#2 Power and politics in multi-stakeholder engagements: farm dweller (in)visibility, land rights, and conversions to game farming in South Africa

Presenting author(s): Marja Spierenburg

Abstract:This contribution addresses tensions inherent in multi stakeholder approaches addressing conflicts over land. The discussion is built on knowledge and experiences generated by a collaborative research project focusing on the impacts of private farm conversions to game farms in South Africa. Research focused on the consequences of conversions for farm dwellers, constituting one of the most marginalized groups in the South African countryside. Research findings revealed how conversion processes were shaped in ways that undermined governmental attempts to strengthen farm dwellers' land rights, resulting in numerous evictions. This presentation contributes a reflection on stakeholder engagement in the research, and in a series of (multi)stakeholder workshops we organized to disseminate our research findings among the stakeholder groups, and explore ways to mitigate the negative impacts of conversions. In the organization and engagement processes we sought to address the power

differences between game farmers, the state, and farm dwellers. The workshops were organized in two provinces in South Africa: the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Differences in local socio-political and historical contexts had an impact on how the workshops were and could be organized, and on the outcomes.

#3 Promoting effective government and CSOs partnerships in the land governance sector

Presenting author(s): Alain Christian Essimi Biloa, Juan Pablo Sarmiento

Abstract:Partnerships are purposefully organized and mutually beneficial relationships where two or more parties form an agreement to do something together that they may not be able to achieve alone. They are based on identifiable responsibilities, joint rights and obligations, and with a shared governance. They are also complementary to government efforts; they do not replace institutional forms of decision-making. Partnerships are also at the heart of the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. They are mentioned in various international and regional land governance frameworks and guidelines, including the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G, 2009), and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT, 2012).
In this presentation/paper, we will introduce the different types of partnerships that exist, including the consultative/advisory, contributory, operational, or collaborative partnerships; the enabling conditions (e.g. collaborative design and implementation, transparent and adaptive governance structure, or capacity development and co-learning or adequate resources/finances) and barriers (e.g. lack of trust and unresolved conflicts, ineffective communication of trade-offs of being in a partnership, or unequal access to resources). The challenges and benefits of GOV-CSOs partnerships will also be presented, based on some case-studies.

#4 Achieving inclusive land policy reform processes through multi-stakeholder platforms: cases of Malawi and Uganda

Presenting author(s): Doreen Nancy Kobusingye, Kate Chibwana Chimwemwe

Abstract: Multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms (MSPs) can play an important role to advance sustainable and equitable land tenure and governance by fostering collaboration and co-learning, as well as pooling the expertise and resources of different stakeholders. At the same time, their potential is challenged by power inequalities, differences of interest, lack of trust, or difficulties in accessing resources. Multi-stakeholder approaches are recommended in various international and regional land governance frameworks and guidelines, including the AU F&G and the VGGT. Building on these frameworks, the International Land Coalition (ILC) is supporting MSPs, also known as National Land Coalitions (NLC) to achieve people-centred land governance in more than 30 countries, including Malawi and Uganda.
Established respectively in 2015 in Malawi and 2021 in Uganda, each NLC comprises over 50 members spanning from international organisations, development partners, academia, cultural institutions, religious bodies, media and NGOs. These NLC work in close coordination with state and non-state actors at national and local levels to collectively advocate, formulate, review and implement people centred land policies. In Malawi, the NLC has contributed to the formulation and adoption of the new land legislation, namely the Land Act 2016, the Customary Land Act

2016 as well as the Customary Land Regulations of 2018. In Uganda, the NLC is actively contributing to the ongoing review of the National Land Policy enacted in 2013, while the members were very active in the amendment of the inheritance law in 2023 that grants more rights to women and girls over land.

DEM-05: Just and fair sustainability transitions: Untangling the role of institutions to European farmers' discontent and protests

Short Title:	Just and fair sustainability transitions: Untangling the role of institutions to European farmers' discontent and protests
Organiser(s):	Anna Hajdu (Leibniz Institute Of Agricultural Development In Transition Economies (Iamo)
Contact Person:	Anna Hajdu (hajdu@lamo.de)
Session Format:	Panel
Description of Session:	How does the European Green Deal and similar regulatory initiatives reshape agricultural practices across Europe? How do personal, organizational, and institutional factors intertwine to shape the future of farming? This session invites participants to a pivotal conversation exploring the complex interplay of individual actors, organizational dynamics, and institutional frameworks.
	As new regulations take hold, farmers are voicing their concern through widespread protests. However, farmers' grievances expose deep-rooted problems that predate current protests and expose longstanding issues stemming from various local aspects, revealing discrepancies between state discourse and actual policies unfolding on the ground.
	Session focus
	Individual level:
	Farmers' personal experiences, worldviews, mental models, and values drive their responses to policies. Recent European protests and local policy responses illustrate how individual farmers' perspectives and perceived injustices shape their reactions to sustainability measures.
	Organizational level:
	Various entities, including financial institutions, trading entities, NGOs, social movements, lobby groups, and community organizations, mediate between individual farmers and broader policies. What is the role of these organizations in the ongoing clash between farmers and policymakers? How do farmers' (community) organizations and social movements represent and support diverse farmers' perspectives, addressing justice issues (e.g. related to landownership, access to credit, market dynamics), highlighting divergences between different farmers' groups and other actors?

	Institutional level:
	Broader frameworks and norms shape the agricultural sector's response to external pressures. This aspect of the session questions the fairness and inclusiveness of EU policies, delving into regulatory scrutiny on landownership, financial markets, investment flows, as well as state discourses on (land) justice.
Presenting Authors:	1. Oane Visser (ISS) 2. Sylvia Kay (TNI) 3. Anna Hajdu (Leibniz Institute Of Agricultural Development In Transition Economies (Iamo)

#1 How to protest against a platform? Contestation, refusal, alter-digitalisation and agrarian politics in the digital era

Author(s): Oane Visser, Louis Thiemann

Abstract: While proponents widely hail the benefits of digitalization in farmland and farming (in terms of food security, economic, environmental benefits) there is an emerging literature that examines the challenges and risks. A growing literature of critical social sciences studies identifies the numerous threats that the digitalization of farming and farmland (potentially) pose to farmers and farm workers, such as digital land registration ignoring indigenous land claims, loss of autonomy, growing surveillance, de-skilling, and substitution of workers by drone services. Yet, studies on farmers' resistance against the (downsides of) digital agriculture are virtually absent. This is especially striking in the context of the rich literature on farm mobilization against earlier technologies (e.g. pesticides and GMOs) and the emerging literature on the recent growth of farmer protests and new (right-wing) agrarian populism.

There is an urgent need to analyse what the digitalization of farming and farmland means for repertoires of contestation. This article outlines a new playbook for agrarian politics in the era of digitalization, that will affect non-adopters as much as adopters of digital technologies. We discuss why seasoned forms of protest may prove ineffective against intangible technologies, the more diverse set of corporate actors involved, and proponents of 'sophisticated' discourses embracing sustainability. We argue that new tools, concepts and alliances are urgently needed for critical agrarian activists (and scholars) in a digital age. We present a categorisation of farmers' responses (including contestation, refusal and alter-globalisation), drawing on literature on farmer mobilization and resistance, farmland conflicts, and critical data studies.

#2 What scope for new forms of emancipatory rural politics in the face of growing farmers' unrest in Europe?

Author(s): Sylvia Kay

Abstract: The causes and forms of rural discontent throughout Europe, manifest in a number of countries through farmers' protests, are complex and diverse. The tensions between farming

and environmental protection have been identified as a driving force with the role of powerfully connecting agro-industrial and big farm lobby groups leading to the failure of the regulation on pesticides in agriculture and a retreat from the objectives of the European Green Deal. In the Netherlands, this populist discontent has led to the stunning rise of the new political party – the Boer Burger Beweging (Farmer Citizen Movement) - now in the ruling coalition government and with a majority in the Senate. This 'greenlash' is however only part of the picture. It overlooks the systemic and intersectional nature of the crisis facing European farmers as a result of a global neoliberal economic model. What role is there in today's Europe for market regulation and public policies to guarantee fair incomes for farmers and reduce administrative burdens? How can the extreme land and wealth inequality be addressed through, for example, a new EU Land Directive? How can young, new, and agroecological farmers who want to combine farming with environmental and biodiversity protection expand their ranks? What does a trading framework based on the principles of food sovereignty look like? In this session, these questions will be explored, with a focus on a number of upcoming processes and moments geared towards cross-sectoral alliance building.

#3 Navigating pressure: Corporate social responsibility in Eastern European agriculture amid growing criticism and protest

Author(s): Anna Hajdu

Abstract: In recent decades, the agricultural sector has faced extensive criticism. With global crises like climate change, resource depletion, and social inequality, farmers and farming enterprises experience mounting pressure to mitigate their social and environmental impact. This pressure is exercised through regulatory scrutiny and criticism from various stakeholders, as evidenced by recent nationwide farmers' protests in Germany and Eastern Europe, e.g. Romania. The removal of tax breaks for agricultural diesel fueled farmer discontent.

While this has been the trigger for discontent there is no systemized understanding of the underlying plurality of farmers' perspectives and the farmers' organizations and social movements they are part of. A variety of perspectives derive from the available online interviews in Germany with different key informants (agricultural economists, conventional farmers, bio-farmers, activists etc.). This paper adopts an institutional theory framework to probe deeper into the values and narratives of European and Eastern European farmers. Secondly, it explores the existence of normative and cultural expectations regarding farming practices and institutional norms. The paper analyses thematically interviews from the recent farmers' protests with key informants in Germany and Romania (agricultural economists, conventional farmers, bio-farmers, activists etc.). Additional insights come from in-depth and semi-structured interviews with agricultural enterprises in Romania on their social responsibility and with financial investors in primary agriculture. The results show how farmers navigate public controversies based on their values and worldviews. It highlights how perceived institutional voids in Eastern Europe and the complex interplay of regulatory and societal demands create additional obstacles and opportunities.