



**IOS  
Fair Transitions**

*Conference & Summit:*

**Land governance and the politics of fair transitions:**

**Deepening the search for social justice**

IoS Fair Transitions Platform & LANDac

Utrecht, the Netherlands | 3-5 July 2024

**OVERVIEW SESSIONS**

# OVERVIEW

<b>SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I. LAND GOVERNANCE: SAFEGUARDS AND THE DEFENCE OF RIGHTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. Climate change, Lost rights to land or Rights to lost land? .....	6
2. How and to what extent does land tenure influence the staying motivations of the people in vulnerable delta locales?.....	7
3. Environmental and human-rights risks in global supply chains in the context of weak land governance: Assessing the challenges for emerging supply chain regulations .....	8
4. European Environmental Policies impact on local communities, land governance and deforestation in the Global South .....	9
5. Land governance in dynamic contexts: how can formalisation of land rights do justice to informal right holders?.....	10
6. Exposing Land Corruption: Strengthening Solidarities for Justice .....	11
7. Addressing Ecological Crises or Natural Resources Rush: Political Ecology of Peasant Struggles for Access to Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.....	12
8. Land Rights for Sustainable Development: The Role of Data .....	13
9. Integrating Women's Land Rights and Transformative Leadership Effectively into Land Programming, Policy and Partnerships .....	14
10. Safeguards for responsible land governance - exploring ways to safeguard land and resource rights in land-based restoration and resilience projects.....	15
11. Southern urban justice roundtable: challenges for just urban transitions in the Global Southern cities.....	16
<b>II. CARBON COLONIALISM: A NEW SCRAMBLE FOR LAND IN THE NAME OF CLIMATE? .....</b>	<b>17</b>
12. Land-based carbon projects: New approaches for social and environmental success .....	18
13. Winners and losers in climate crisis' demands on lands: linking Indigenous women's land and resource rights and livelihoods to net-zero and climate mitigation plans .....	19
14. Inclusive Carbon Markets: Co-Creating Solutions for Smallholder Empowerment.....	20
15. Protecting Land Rights in the Era of Green Grabbing .....	21
<b>III. JUSTICE AS RESTORING, RE-CLAIMING, RE-COMMONING .....</b>	<b>22</b>
16. Women's right to land and the climate crisis.....	23
17. Widening the search for social justice through "earth justice": the Igbo-Ala case in discussion with other experiences.....	24
18. Conflict resolution and mediation practices in areas of return in Burundi, Iraq, Somalia and Uganda: innovations, lessons learned and best practices.....	25
19. Polycrises, critical island studies, and climate cultures: new bottom-up perspectives .....	26
20. Peoples' Landscape Approach, restoring and re-commoning natural resources in the Rangoon Watershed in Nepal .....	27
21. From Too Little to Too Much: the 'last true nomads' of Africa or the 'climate refugees' of today? .....	29
<b>IV. BUILDING MORE-THAN-HUMAN SOLIDARITIES IN THE SEARCH FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.....</b>	<b>30</b>

22.	Promoting forms of interspecies care to heal with nature in the Anthropocene.....	31
23.	Land and natural resources between heritage protection and development.....	32
24.	Building more-than-human solidarities or how to build the Buen Vivir .....	33
25.	Perspectives on the recognition of a human right to land: challenges and possibilities to move forward ..	34
<b>V.</b>	<b>ECOCIDE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE .....</b>	<b>35</b>
26.	The Concept of Ecocide: Interdisciplinary Perspectives .....	36
<b>VI.</b>	<b>RETHINKING DEMOCRACY AND THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE.....</b>	<b>37</b>
27.	Reversing the flow? The politics of knowledge co-creation on flooding and land subsidence in the South.	38
28.	Indigenous Research Methods' Contribution to Social Justice in Land and Natural Resources Governance .....	39
29.	Democratising local voices in donor-funded interventions .....	40
30.	Multistakeholder dialogues: unpacking facts and fables .....	41
31.	Contesting regulations: Unpacking European farmer protests to European Union environmental reforms .....	42

## SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

We now invite abstract submissions for the IoS Fair Transitions Platform / LANDac Conference & Summit 2024. IoS Fair Transitions and LANDac invite you to review the collection of conference sessions and submit your abstract to your preferred session. Abstract submissions should use the [Abstract Submission Form](#), and include:

- Title and code of the panel the abstract is submitted to;
- Title of the abstract;
- Name(s) and affiliation(s);
- Contact details of the presenter;
- Abstract of **max. 250 words** (*or follow the alternative instructions of the session you are submitting your abstract to*).
- Online or on location presence

**Important!** Abstracts should be submitted by **15 March 2024**, in **English** and using the [Abstract Submission Form](#). Please submit your abstract **directly to the contact person of your preferred session and with [ft.landac2024@gmail.com](mailto:ft.landac2024@gmail.com) in CC**. The session organisers and Organising Committee will review all submissions. Notification on acceptance of abstracts will be done in the beginning of April. Please consult the detailed list of sessions and session organizers about the format of your session (hybrid/in-person). Kindly use the code of your session in all your communication.

# **I. LAND GOVERNANCE: SAFEGUARDS AND THE DEFENCE OF RIGHTS**

## 1. Climate change, Lost rights to land or Rights to lost land?

**Organiser(s):** Wytse Chamberlain (LANDac – LAND-at-scale)

**Contact details:** Wytse Chamberlain (w.chamberlain-vanderwerf@uu.nl)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** LGR-01

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### **Session description:**

Climate change related developments leave land vulnerable. Coastal communities are already experiencing loss of land due to rising sea levels and climate-related hazards 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 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?

### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

We want to invite academics, practitioners and activists to share best practices and lessons learned in the field on tenure security and rights in cases of loss of land.

Moderated by Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University)

## 2. How and to what extent does land tenure influence the staying motivations of the people in vulnerable delta locales?

**Organiser(s):** Bishawjit Mallick, Janwillem Liebrand, Guus van Westen (Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Utrecht University)

**Contact details:** Bishawjit Mallick ([b.mallick@uu.nl](mailto:b.mallick@uu.nl))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** LGR-02

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### **Session description:**

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 marginalized 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 human, 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.

### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

- Kelsea Best, Ohio State University, USA
- Md. Nasif Ahsan, Khulna University, Bangladesh
- Jude Kimengsi, TU Dresden, Germany
- Amer Bazl Khan, MaritimEA Research, Pakistan
- Erlis Saputra, UGM, Indonesia
- Janwillem Liebrand, UU, Diamonds in the Delta

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

**Organiser(s):** Land Matrix Initiative (Christoph Kubitzka, Gabi Sonderegger), International Land Coalition (Eva Hershaw)

**Contact details:** Christoph KUBITZA ([christoph.kubitzka@giga-hamburg.de](mailto:christoph.kubitzka@giga-hamburg.de)), Gabi SONDEREGGER ([gabi.sonderegger@unibe.ch](mailto:gabi.sonderegger@unibe.ch))

**Session format:** Panel – dynamic panel, including short introductory presentations, followed by a chaired debate.

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** LGR-03

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

#### **Session description:**

The session focuses on the regulation of specific human rights and environmental risks in global supply chains that are related to weak land governance systems. In recent years, supply chain regulations such as mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence laws 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. However, the lack of traceability and transparency in commodity supply chains and the scope of emerging regulations pose a significant challenge for effective and just implementation. 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 emerging regulations.

#### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

The panel will consist of four inputs by different speakers. Further, the panel is open to additional abstract submissions.

- Environmental and human-rights risks of large-scale land acquisitions in global agricultural supply chains: Assessing the challenges for emerging due diligence law (Christoph Kubitzka, German Institute for Global and Area Studies)
- Regulating deforestation risks in South America and the global soy market (Louis Zwysig, Gabi Sonderegger – CDE, University of Bern)
- Attacks on Indigenous, Land and Environmental Defenders (ILED) in the context of weak land governance and global supply chains (tbc – ILC)
- tbd



#### 4. European Environmental Policies impact on local communities, land governance and deforestation in the Global South

**Organiser(s):** Kadaster (Mathilde Molendijk, Laura Becerra, Nicolas Porras, Piet Spijkers, Angie Melo)

**Contact details:** Nicolas Porras (Nicolas.porras@landinpeace.com)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** LGR-04

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

##### **Session description:**

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.

##### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

- Joyeeta Gupta (University of Amsterdam)
- Frank Biermann (Utrecht University)
- Maria Clara van der Hammen (Tropenbos Colombia)

## 5. Land governance in dynamic contexts: how can formalisation of land rights do justice to informal right holders?

**Organiser(s):** Wytse Chamberlain (LANDac – LAND-at-scale)

**Contact details:** Wytse Chamberlain (w.chamberlain-vanderwerf@uu.nl)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** LGR-05

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### **Session description:**

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?

### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

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.

- René-Claude Niyonkuru (Burundi – LAND-at-scale)
- Marta Cavallaro (Somalia – LAND-at-scale & Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies)

## 6. Exposing Land Corruption: Strengthening Solidarities for Justice

**Organiser(s):** Sabine Pallas and Amanda Segnini (Land Rights Now), Jonathan Ochom (Transparency International), Lola Tarnaud (Transparency International)

**Contact details:** Lola Tarnaud (ltarnaud@transparency.org)

**Session format:** Roundtable

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** LGR-06

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Melusi Ncala, a disability rights and anti-corruption activist from Corruption Watch South Africa.

Sam Barnes, Senior Researcher at Equal Rights Trust.

A representative from the Ogiek Peoples Development Program.

## 7. Addressing Ecological Crises or Natural Resources Rush: Political Ecology of Peasant Struggles for Access to Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

**Organiser(s):** Juwa Research Group (Université Catholique de Louvain)

**Contact details:** Patient M. Polepole ([patient.polepole@uclouvain.be](mailto:patient.polepole@uclouvain.be)), An Ansoms ([an.ansoms@uclouvain.be](mailto:an.ansoms@uclouvain.be))

**Session format:** Panel in FRENCH

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** LGR-07

**This session is NOT OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

Recent literature recognizes struggles for access to natural resources as inherent to societal transformation processes. Sources also emphasize 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 characterized 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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- Alain Midagu : Conservation, compensations et reconfigurations communautaires autour du parc Virunga, Est de la RDC
- Vedaste Cituli : 'Forêt à protéger ou à partager ?' conservation de la nature et déracinement identitaire des Peuples Autochtones Pygmées du Sud-Kivu, Est de la RDC
- Lucien Ramazani : L'eau et ses avatars : entre conflits et accaparement. Contester et négocier l'accès et l'autorité publique dans les Grands Lacs Africains.
- Patient Polepole: 'Gender rumble or masculinity constuction in customary arena?' Comprendre l'évolution des luttes des femmes dans l'accès à la terre à l'Est du Congo
- An Ansoms : What is 'climate-smart'? Top-down solutions versus knowledge from the ground up in rural Rwanda
- Mathijs van Leeuwen : Discussant

## 8. Land Rights for Sustainable Development: The Role of Data

**Organiser(s):** Prindex, Land Portal, ILC, Land Matrix Initiative

**Contact details:** Eva Hershaw (e.hershaw@landcoalition.org)

**Session format:** Panel – dynamic panel, including short introductory presentations, followed by a chaired debate

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** LGR-08

**This session is NOT OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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.

Introduction:

How are secure land tenure rights affected by environmental challenges and, in turn, affect land users' ability to adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change as well as their capacity to benefit from opportunities for adaptation and mitigation?

What does our data say?

- Prindex: Tenure security levels around the world > Prindex data indicates that one billion people globally feel insecure.
- LMI: large-scale land acquisitions for renewable energy and carbon/nature offsets.
- LANDex and ALLIED data: not all tenure rights are equally protected, while violence against ILEDs continues in face of increased interest in land.
- Land Portal: Local and national government bodies are the primary custodians of land data and information -- we need to make more of this existing data more open and readily accessible to the public.

How can our land data support monitoring processes dealing with environmental challenges and guide an evidence-based response to climate change?

- LandMark and LANDex: Mapping Indigenous Peoples and community rights to land, including strength of tenure rights provided to IPs and LCs.
- Prindex: tracking tenure security to identify hotspots of vulnerability and developing methodologies to capture collective rights.
- LMI: monitoring compliance of land-intensive climate action with global land governance frameworks
- LandPortal: putting land data into the climate context, such as through the SDG tracker or climate + land portfolios so that data acquires meaning and can lead to understanding and action.

Conclusion

### Presenters targeted or identified:

The panel, organised by a partnership of four data initiatives, will consist of inputs by the respective representatives of the partnership.

- Anna Locke (Prindex) (online)
- Laura Meggiolaro (Land Portal) (in-person)
- Christoph Kubitzka (Land Matrix Initiative) (in-person)
- Eva Hershaw (ILC) (tbc)

## 9. Integrating Women's Land Rights and Transformative Leadership Effectively into Land Programming, Policy and Partnerships

**Organiser(s):** Naomi Shadrack – Oxfam International

**Contact details:** Naomi Shadrack (naomi.shadrack@Oxfam.org)

**Session format:** Workshop

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** LGR-09

**This session is NOT OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- Naomi Shadrack – Oxfam International
- Katja Koegler - Oxfam Novib

## 10. Safeguards for responsible land governance - exploring ways to safeguard land and resource rights in land-based restoration and resilience projects

**Organiser(s):** UNCCD – Global Mechanism, Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency – Kadaster International

**Contact details:** Enni Kallio ([ekallio@unccd.int](mailto:ekallio@unccd.int)), Jeroen van Dalen ([jdalen@unccd.int](mailto:jdalen@unccd.int)), Marije Louwsma, ([marije.louwsma@kadaster.nl](mailto:marije.louwsma@kadaster.nl))

**Session format:** A combination of a quiz, presentation, and interactive discussion.

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** LGR-10

**This session is NOT OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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 sector.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

The UNCCD engages with key technical partners in the development of the tenure guidance for project developers, these partners will be invited to participate in the session as presenters.

Kadaster engages with partners in evolving projects around the theme of land tenure and responsible governance, e.g. climate resilient land use planning and inclusive recordation of land rights.

## 11. Southern urban justice roundtable: challenges for just urban transitions in the Global Southern cities

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

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**Session format:** Roundtable

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** LGR-11

**This session is NOT OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

Following soon.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Roundtable participants/presenters (planned):

- Judith Mbabazi (Makerere University)
- Peter Kasaija (Makerere University)
- Ritah Nakanjako (Makerere University)
- Anna Paula Pimentel Walker (University of Michigan)
- Ari Susanti (Gadjah Mada University)
- Rijanta (Gadjah Mada University).



## **II. CARBON COLONIALISM: A NEW SCRAMBLE FOR LAND IN THE NAME OF CLIMATE?**

## 12. Land-based carbon projects: New approaches for social and environmental success

**Organiser(s):** Dominique Schmid (Wyss Academy for Nature at University of Bern), Anna Duden (Utrecht University), Pranab R Choudhury (Landstack)

**Contact details:** Dominique Schmid (dominique.schmid@wyssacademy.org)

**Session format:** Roundtable

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** COL-01

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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 into 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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

We invite practitioners and scholars from civil society, the private sector, and from academia, who work on innovative land-based carbon projects (i.e. meaningful local ownership of project design and monitoring, new approaches of benefit sharing/forms of compensation or design of conservation/restoration activities). We also invite participants who engage in innovative forms of environmental data collection (i.e. through citizen science) with the aim to measure reduced/avoided emissions and/or biodiversity more accurately. Contributions can be on ongoing work or on potential solutions that are still under design.

Presenters identified:

- Dominique Schmid: Digital twin of wetlands in Kenya: A new approach to measure carbon?
- Pranab R Choudhury: Localising measurement and monitoring of carbon and biodiversity in community stewarded forests.

### 13. Winners and losers in climate crisis' demands on lands: linking Indigenous women's land and resource rights and livelihoods to net-zero and climate mitigation plans

**Organiser(s):** Elisa Scalise, Director, Land and Resource Rights Initiative, World Resources Institute, Celine Salcedo-La Viña, Senior Associate, Land and Resource Rights Initiative, World Resources Institute

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**Session format:** Panel or roundtable

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** COL-02

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

#### **Session description:**

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 TBD.

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.

#### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

Speakers or representatives of organizations or groups working on women's land rights, IP and LC land rights, gender and climate, gender and nature-based solutions, and similar organizations. Celine Salcedo-La Viña will share WRI's research. Elisa Scalise will moderate the panel or roundtable.

## 14. Inclusive Carbon Markets: Co-Creating Solutions for Smallholder Empowerment

**Organiser(s):** Rabobank (Acorn), Solidaridad, and Maastricht University (FSD)

**Contact details:** Sidi Amar (s.amar@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

**Session format:** Innovative session organised in a World Café format, introduced by short pitches about the different topics

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** COL-03

**This session is NOT OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Table hosts:

- Noura Hanna, Head of the PES team Solidaridad
- Jelmer van de Mortel, Head of Acorn
- Sidi Amar, Researcher at FSD Spearhead
- FSD partners have good networks and will invite a well-known and reputable key note speaker for this session.

## 15. Protecting Land Rights in the Era of Green Grabbing

**Organiser(s):** Oxfam International, Land Rights Now Campaign

**Contact details:** Pubudini Wickramaratne (Pubudini.Wickramaratne@oxfam.org)

**Session format:** Presentations or panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** COL-04

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### **Session description:**

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.

### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

Potential speakers include Oxfam and partners in Timor-Leste (on a gold standard carbon offsetting project), Kenya and allies such as Land Rights Now campaign and Global Forest Coalition.

### **III. JUSTICE AS RESTORING, RE-CLAIMING, RE-COMMONING**

## 16. Women's right to land and the climate crisis

**Organiser(s):** Priscilla Claeys, CAWR, Coventry University, UK; Stefanie Lemke, IDR, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

**Contact details:** Priscilla Claeys ([priscilla.claeys@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:priscilla.claeys@coventry.ac.uk)), Stefanie Lemke ([stefanie.lemke@boku.ac.at](mailto:stefanie.lemke@boku.ac.at))

**Session format:** Panel (each person will get 15 min to present and 15 min for feedback and discussion). Videos, podcasts and other formats than academic papers are welcome.

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** JUS-01

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

This panel will explore different dimensions of women's right to land in the face of the climate crisis. We put specific emphasis on efforts that recognize and protect women's rights in the context of communal land ownership, which is important in light of increased privatization, land grabbing and the rush for carbon and biodiversity credits. In current debates on the protection of collective rights to land and resources, we note that the voices of women and youth in communal land governance are often lacking. We believe that adopting an intersectional lens can help shed light on the specific situation of different categories of women and youth and the challenges they face in relation to realizing their right to land in the face of the climate crisis.

We invite contributions that look at the following topics, or are related to these:

1. Impacts of the climate crisis on women's right to land
  - How the climate crisis is impacting women's right to own, use, access and control land in different contexts
  - How rural women's organisations (including peasant and pastoralist) are responding to the climate crisis, both through local initiatives and legal and policy efforts at different levels (local, national, global)
  - Masculinities and men's perspectives on gender inequalities around land and climate
2. Impacts of climate projects on women's right to land
  - How climate projects (afforestation, reforestation, carbon farming and offsetting) are bringing new opportunities but also challenges for women, from an intersectional perspective
  - How the global governance of food security, agriculture, biodiversity conservation and climate change is re-shaping women's right to land now and for future generations
3. Climate governance and women's participation
  - Challenges with ensuring the participation of diverse groups of women and youth in climate governance at various levels, i.e. in the elaboration of climate mitigation and adaptation policies, projects and in accessing climate funding schemes
  - How multiple forms of discriminations and gender-based violence impact women's right to land.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Academics, scholar activists and civil society organisations working on this topic.

## 17. Widening the search for social justice through “earth justice”: the Igbo-Ala case in discussion with other experiences

**Organiser(s):** Lawrence Ogbo Ugwuanyi, Department of Philosophy, University of Abuja, Nigeria.

**Contact details:** Lawrence Ogbo Ugwuanyi (lawrence.ugwuanyi@unibauja.edu.ng)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** JUS-02

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

The panel will expose and interrogate how/whether a notion of the land –herein captured through the concept of the earth- can function as a principle, a norm and a force that suggest a paradigm for justice and the implications of this form of thought. It will explore, debate and engage the potentials of the earth as a paradigm for an ethics of social justice and the wider implication of this form of thought. The panel will explore how a form of earth ethics such as those dominant among the cultural Igbo-African group emanate from the notion of the land provide some possible clues to a theory of earth that can lead to social justice. It will apply this, to seek to locate other forms of thought, that may harbour related thoughts on the notion of the land (earth) and in a wider but critical manner distil what notion of earth and justice is implicated in such forms of thinking. To do this, the panel will address a number of questions including but not limited to the followings: (i) Can the earth have a normative value and be influential to the idea of social justice? (ii) Assuming that the earth is reconfigured to serve as a basis for normative thoughts that can lead to justice what would it amount to? (iii) What other related forms of thought can be drawn from the notion of the land/earth such as will lead to normative thoughts that can be influential to the ethics of social justice?

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- Damian Opata- Emeritus Professor of English and Literary Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
- Jude Okpala- Professor of Instruction, Department of Philosophy and Classics, University of Texas at San Antonio



## 18. Conflict resolution and mediation practices in areas of return in Burundi, Iraq, Somalia and Uganda: innovations, lessons learned and best practices

**Organiser(s):** Gemma Betsema, LAND-at-scale, RVO, Gemma van der Haar, WUR & LANDac

**Contact details:** Gemma Betsema (gemma.betsema@rvo.nl)

**Session format:** Participants will provide short pitches after which we will go into several rounds of discussion.

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** JUS-03

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Mix of academics and practitioners working in (post-)conflict settings, IDPs and returnees.

- MIPAREC, Burundi (tbc)
- GLTN, Uganda (tbc)
- IOM, Somalia (tbc)
- HiiL, Iraq (tbc)

## 19. Polycrises, critical island studies, and climate cultures: new bottom-up perspectives

**Organiser(s):** Dr. Mucahid Bayrak (National Taiwan Normal University and Utrecht University), Dr. Bishawjit Mallick (Utrecht University)

**Contact details:** Dr. Mucahid Bayrak ([m.m.bayrak@uu.nl](mailto:m.m.bayrak@uu.nl)), Dr. Bishawjit Mallick ([b.mallick@uu.nl](mailto:b.mallick@uu.nl))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** JUS-04

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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 to 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").

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- Dr. Bishawjit Mallick
- Daniel Mambo Tampi MSc
- Julia van den Berg MSc
- Dr. Mucahid Bayrak
- Prof Huei-Min Tsai
- Prof. Nasif Ahsan
- Prof. Tuhin Ghosh)

## 20. Peoples' Landscape Approach, restoring and re-commoning natural resources in the Rangoon Watershed in Nepal

**Organiser(s):** Oxfam in Nepal, Oxfam Novib, CSRC

**Contact details:** Petra Hamers (Petra.hamers@oxfamnovib.nl)

**Session format:** Workshop with presentation, panel discussion, break-out groups.

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** JUS-05

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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 its 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.

- Presentation by each group (15 minutes)
- Summary remarks (5 minutes)

**Presenters targeted or identified:**

- Jagat Deuja, Executive Director, CSRC, Local NGO of Nepal, Land right Activists from Global South
- Rajan Subedi, River Basin Manager, Oxfam in Nepal, closely working with governments of Nepal and partners from Global South
- Petra Hamers, Policy Lead Climate Resilient Livelihoods, Bridging southern and Northern CSOs for cross learnings, from Global North

## 21. From Too Little to Too Much: the 'last true nomads' of Africa or the 'climate refugees' of today?

**Organiser(s):** Studio B.

**Contact details:** Mia Barnard (barnard.mia@gmail.com)

**Session format:** Presentation and panel (presenting topics based on the same keywords: climate refugees, climate migrants, privatisation of land, nomadic cultures, climate change, and colonial and post-colonial land occupation).

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** JUS-06

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### **Session description:**

Today, Africa is considered the "frontline" of a perplexing new struggle caused by colonialism, the Anthropocene, and, most importantly, climate change. This marks and draws attention to the ubiquitous and notorious new phenomena of "climate refugees," "climate migration," and "displacement theory" that are looming over the Global South. The latter is contributing to Africa's extraordinary urbanisation, which was previously regarded as the product of the macro-political economy and seeking job opportunities. However, all of this has a tremendous impact on culture, livelihoods, access to citizenship inside the urban fabric, migration, and ties to their homesteads, while having limited movement and access to their land due to land privatization and governance.

Therefore, the Himba people of Namibia (West Africa), who are regarded as the "last true nomads" of Africa, serve as a case studying the relationship between the theories and phenomena indicated above. It studies Namibia's current climate predicament and Himba culture, as well as the Anthropocene aftermath and postcolonialism. This further illustrates the relationship between home and homeland, citing Labelle Prussin's work: "For the nomad, 'home' cannot be understood except in terms of a journey, just as space is defined by movement," as opposed to "What's the use of roots if you can't take them with you?"

Overall, this demonstrates an array of the challenges nomadic cultures face in the wake of climate change, including being labelled as "climate refugees." It seeks to learn from extremes, where nomadic societies are referred to as 'climate refugees' who are wrestling with the concepts of 'displacement theory' despite the fact that their culture and traditions revolve around constant movement. All of this is explored via the lens of the female perspective, domesticity, and role, as well as how the urban fabric struggles to accommodate female 'climate migrants'.

### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

Fellow presenters will consist of those with a close affiliation with Africa, the Global South (like African Architecture Matters members or African Studies Centre Leiden), or others with knowledge or interest in migration, land occupation, colonialism or nomadic cultures.

## **IV. BUILDING MORE-THAN-HUMAN SOLIDARITIES IN THE SEARCH FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

## 22. Promoting forms of interspecies care to heal with nature in the Anthropocene

**Organiser(s):** Marta Cavallaro (Somalia – LAND-at-scale & Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies)

**Contact details:** Marta Cavallaro (marta.cavallaro@santannapisa.it)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** MTH-01

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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 interdependency 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 response-ability 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-prioritize 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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Academics, activists

### 23. Land and natural resources between heritage protection and development

**Organiser(s):** Dr Francesca Marzatico (University of Otago, New Zealand), Ms Nora Weller (University of Cambridge, UK)

**Contact details:** Dr Francesca Marzatico, (Francesca.marzatico@otago.ac.nz)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MTH-02

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

#### **Session description:**

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.

#### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

Researchers, experts and members of the academia



## 24. Building more-than-human solidarities or how to build the Buen Vivir

**Organiser(s):** Gustavo Hernandez (Cross Cultural Bridges - Peru), Henkjan Laats (Cross Cultural Bridges – The Netherlands)

**Contact details:** Henkjan Laats (laats@crossculturalbridges.org)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MTH-03

**This session is NOT OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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 civilized 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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- Gustavo Hernandez, PhD (Cross Cultural Bridges - Peru, UN Expert Harmony with Nature)
- Henkjan Laats, PhD (Cross Cultural Bridges – The Netherlands, UN Expert Harmony with Nature)
- Rembrandt Zeger, PhD (Natuur Centraal – The Netherlands, UN Expert Harmony with Nature)
- Juan Mulul, indigenous activist (Cross Cultural Bridges- Guatemala)

## 25. Perspectives on the recognition of a human right to land: challenges and possibilities to move forward

**Organiser(s):** Veronica Torres; Christophe Golay; Jeremie Gilbert; Miloon Kothari; Lorenzo Cotula; Priscilla Claeys

**Contact details:** Veronica Torres-Marenco (veronicatorresmarenco@gmail.com)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MTH-04

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### **Session description:**

Land has been long recognised as an essential component of other rights such as the rights to food, housing, property, and other economic, social, and cultural rights.

However, efforts to recognise a self-standing right to land to communities beyond indigenous peoples have lacked wide consensus. The recent adoption of instruments such as UNDROP and CESCR General Comment N. 26 on Land are example 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 realization of human rights. While this is true, governments and international human rights bodies have been timid to recognise land as right.

Therefore, drawing from the recent legal activism experience, questions include considering issues such as: How to involve free, prior and informed consent process to non-indigenous peoples?; What is the relationship between the evolving rights of nature and the right to land?; Does benefit-sharing contribute to the recognition of a right to land?; What is the role of just energy transition projects?.

### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

Academics but also NGOs working on land as a human rights or having experience with legal activism around land.

## V. ECOCID AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

## 26. The Concept of Ecocide: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**Organiser(s):** Prof. Cedric Ryngaert (International Law), Dr. Susanne Knittel (Comparative Literature), Dr. Marijke van Kuijk (Tropical Forest Ecology), Dr. Carolina Sánchez (Philosophy), Dr. Daan van Uhm (Criminology)

**Contact details:** Daan van Uhm (d.p.vanuhm@uu.nl)

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** ECO-01

**This session is NOT OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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?.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Confirmed speakers:

- Prof. Cedric Ryngaert (International Law)
- Dr. Susanne Knittel (Comparative Literature)
- Dr. Marijke van Kuijk (Tropical Forest Ecology)
- Dr. Carolina Sánchez (Philosophy)
- Dr. Daan van Uhm (Criminology)

## **VI. RETHINKING DEMOCRACY AND THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE**

## 27. Reversing the flow? The politics of knowledge co-creation on flooding and land subsidence in the South

**Organiser(s):** Janwillem Liebrand (UU, IDS, IOS Fair Transitions), Abraham Abishek (13man communication, film maker), Annelies Zoomers (UU, IDS, LANDac)

**Contact details:** Janwillem Liebrand (j.liebrand@uu.nl)

**Session format:** Film presentation (10-12 minutes) and debate on the Dutch water (research) agenda and the politics of knowledge co-creation on flooding and land subsidence in the South

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** DEM-01

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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, legitimizing 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 democratize (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?

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Yes, we are open to one additional case/abstract of knowledge co-creation, alongside the film screening. However, the focus is debate and discussion, and pitches of participants would fit better.

- Members of the Diamond in the Delta (DiD) network, which covers 6 delta regions (some of the members will be visiting the conference, notably from UGM, Indonesia).
- Academic researchers from Northern and Southern universities, who aim to attract funding for research on water and social justice issues, like flooding.
- Non-academic participants (e.g. government, NGOs, activists, consultants) who are part of (research) coalitions and consortia.
- Artists who are interested in the politics of knowledge co-creation and film making.

Concrete names:

- Ain Contractor, film maker and PhD student IHE Delft
- Erlis Saputra, Department of Geography, UGM.

## 28. Indigenous Research Methods' Contribution to Social Justice in Land and Natural Resources Governance

**Organiser(s):** Dr Francesca Marzatico, Dr Ruth Toumu'a (University of Otago, New Zealand)

**Contact details:** Dr Francesca Marzatico, (Francesca.marzatico@otago.ac.nz)

**Session format:** Roundtable

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** DEM-02

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### **Session description:**

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 marginalize Indigenous ways of knowing and relating to the land, thus furthering the process of colonization through laws, institutions, and the shaping of knowledge through exclusively Western research practices. This marginalization 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 re-centering 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 marginalized worldviews of Indigenous peoples. It represents a forum here 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.

### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

Researchers, experts (representing both Western and Indigenous knowledge systems) and members of the academia.

## 29. Democratising local voices in donor-funded interventions

**Organiser(s):** Wytse Chamberlain (LANDac – LAND-at-scale)

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**Session format:** Roundtable

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** DEM-03

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

### Session description:

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 democratize 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 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.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- René-Claude Niyonkuru (Burundi – LAND-at-scale)
- Marta Cavallaro (Somalia – LAND-at-scale & Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies)
- Alexandra ‘t Lam (ZOA Burundi LAND-at-scale)(tbc)
- Sophos Sophianos (UN-Habitat Somalia Saameynta)(tbc)
- Lisette Meij (RVO LAND-at-scale)
- Xavier Codjia & Egy Sossou (VNGi Togo)
- Moderator: Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University).



### 30. Multistakeholder dialogues: unpacking facts and fables

**Organiser(s):** Lisette Meij, Netherlands Enterprise Agency/LAND-at-scale, Sara Manetto, International Land Coalition)

**Contact details:** Lisette Meij (lisette.meij@rvo.nl)

**Session format:** Group debate around three key challenges

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** DEM-04

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

#### **Session description:**

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 'marginalized 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.

#### **Presenters targeted or identified:**

Following the spirit of the session, the presenters/panellists must represent diverse groups, gender and Global North/South representation.

We will seek to include and welcome the perspectives of the following:

- Governments (LAND-at-scale partners?)
- Civil Society Organizations (ILC / LAS partners)
- Academia / Research Institutions (CIFOR)
- Development partners (donors – NL MoFA)

### 31. Contesting regulations: Unpacking European farmer protests to European Union environmental reforms

**Organiser(s):** Robin Smith, Copenhagen Business School & Utrecht University

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**Session format:** Panel, roundtable, debate/discussion

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** DEM-05

**This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.**

**Session description:**

The EU has ambitious carbon emissions goals and expects its farmers to embrace regulatory changes to their sector to transition them to greener, less-carbon-producing food production. However, recent protests reflect their unhappiness with the new legal regimes, and it seems the divide is only widening.

What can we learn from Europe's farmers? What are the roots of their grievances, and where can we find productive, common ground? At stake is whether the green transition can be 'fair' in the democratic West.

The session hopes to foster critical reflections on EU food production policies, taking farmers' perspectives seriously, and lay open space for common ground to emerge.

It also asks:

What roles do supermarkets, financial institutions, and other food sector actors play in this clash between farmers and policymakers?

Why do farmers contest or protest policies that seem on their surface to be benign, straightforward, or for the common good? Relatedly, what may be some of their unintended or overlooked consequences on farmer livelihoods, farming practices, and the market?

By addressing such thorny questions, this panel seeks to bridge the widening gap between farmers and policymakers.

This session seeks papers and diverse perspectives to develop a productive discussion on the questions above, as well as the values, perspectives, and knowledge of European farmers.

It asks how these can contribute to governance efforts including but not limited to encouraging ecological farming, biodiversity regeneration, stronger solidarity with the natural, more-than-human world, and resources communing.?

**Presenters targeted or identified:**

This session is open to practitioners, stakeholders, NGOs, policymakers, and academics as broadly defined.