



Conference

Plurality of Knowledge:

The Future of Land Governance in Shifting Glocal Contexts

Utrecht, the Netherlands | 2-4 July 2025

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SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

We now invite abstract submissions for the LANDac Conference 2025. You can 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 **23 February 2025**, in **English** and using the [Abstract Submission Form](#). Please submit your abstract **directly to the contact person of your preferred session and with landac2025@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 organisers about the format of your session (hybrid/in-person). Kindly use the code of your session in all your communication.

I. SHAPING COLLABORATIONS FOR JUST LAND GOVERNANCE

1. Shaping Collaboration in Transdisciplinary Research Projects

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

Contact details: Ari Susanti (arisusanti@ugm.ac.id)

Session format: Roundtable

Hybrid: Yes

Code: COL-01

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Research funding providers have increasingly emphasized the need for transdisciplinary research, which has significantly contributed to addressing complex societal issues such as land governance. The roundtable "Shaping Collaboration in Transdisciplinary Research Projects" aims to promote transdisciplinary research to serve and develop the just land governance agenda by convening a diverse group of experts, practitioners, and thought leaders dedicated to tackling land-related challenges. The session focuses on fostering effective collaboration across various disciplines, acknowledging that land governance issues often intersect with environmental science, social justice, economics, and policy-making. Participants will engage in dynamic discussions on the complexities of promoting equitable land governance, including integrating different knowledge systems and perspectives. The conversation explores factors facilitating co-creation, addresses various viewpoints and cultural differences among stakeholders, and examines how we can learn from past experiences to inform future collaborative research projects. We invite experts, practitioners, and thought leaders to this roundtable to share their experiences and insights gained from conducting transdisciplinary research projects to foster better collaboration in the future.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Prof. Kei Otsuki (Utrecht University)
- Prof. Rijanta (Universitas Gadjah Mada)
- Dr. Edwin de Jong (Radboud University)
- Dr. Bagus Takwin (Universitas Indonesia)
- Dr. Laurens Bakker (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
- Dr. Erlis Saputra (Universitas Gadjah Mada)
- Dr. Rosalina Kumalawati (Universitas Lambung Mangkurat)
- Dr. Fitriansyah (Research and Innovation Council of East Kalimantan Province)
- Prof. Martin Zebracki (Leeds University)

2. Using Environmental Collaboration to Shape Peace-Positive Land Governance Structures.

Organiser(s): Luca Kroese (Tropenbos International)

Contact details: luca.kroese@tropenbos.org

Session format: Panel discussion with interactive Q&A

Hybrid: Yes

Code: COL-02

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Just land governance extends beyond equitable access to land and resources; it encompasses the right to peaceful landscapes and fair resource sharing. An integrated approach that combines environmental management and peacebuilding is essential for supporting local communities in shaping governance structures that promote sustainability, equity, and peace

Environmental collaboration forms the foundation for fostering sustainable and peaceful land governance. This session will bring together diverse perspectives from the Tropenbos International network, PENHA (TBI's local partner in Ethiopia), and HALO Trust, among others, to explore the role of environmental peacebuilding in achieving just land governance.

Unjust land governance and inequitable natural resource management often serve as root causes of conflict, creating tensions that undermine social cohesion. By addressing governance structures to simultaneously manage resources and foster peace, it is possible to create resilient, peace-positive landscapes. This session will delve into the transformative potential of combining customary mechanisms, traditional knowledge, and modern governance approaches to address these challenges.

Key questions include:

How can collaborations across sectors and knowledge systems strengthen governance structures?

What lessons can traditional knowledge and customary mechanisms offer for land governance and environmental peacebuilding?

How can peacebuilding and environmental management perspectives be effectively integrated for sustainable outcomes?

Contributors are invited to share insights that link environmental peacebuilding to just land governance. Contributions should highlight the power of local knowledge in this field and add to the diverse perspectives to these topics.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Speaker from Tropenbos International, to discuss the collaboration of network members from different landscapes on the topics of environmental peacebuilding and just land governance.
- Speaker from HALO Trust, to share experiences on how to support just land governance after de-mining fields.
- Speaker from PENHA, to talk about practical experiences from the field working with the customary institution *abo Gerebs* (to join online, and to be confirmed)
- Environmental peacebuilding expert (to be found)
- Researcher on link between environmental peacebuilding and just land governance (to be found)

3. Shared Land Due Diligence: Towards a Common Framework to Reduce Harm and Securing Tenure

Organiser(s): Fernando de Medina-Rosales (Norwegian Refugee Council) Paul Prettitore (World Bank)

Contact details: Paul Prettitore (pprettitore@worldbank.org)

Session format: Roundtable

Hybrid: No

Code: COL-03

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Strengthening land governance and promoting tenure security is critically important to address the of humanitarian crises and climate change, as well as to support overall inclusive development. Doing such effectively is challenging when interventions systematically fail to ensure due respect to the rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders, including landowners and users, land administration functionaries, government and local officials and the public at large.

There is a growing attention to 'do no harm' when implementing humanitarian activities and a focus on securing land tenure in development and climate action. The Sphere Standard on Due Diligence, the Good Practice Handbook for Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure currently provide guidance to conduct land due diligence and secure tenure. Yet, the practice is far from widespread or commonly applied, and there is a need to harmonize these guiding principles across multiple sectors.

This session is intended to break down siloes between humanitarian, development, and climate actors to better focus current thinking on the role of due diligence in addressing global challenges. The session will be an initial step toward developing an actionable framework for cross-sectoral support aimed at achieving responsible action regarding land rights and administration. Presentations about the experiences by practitioners from various backgrounds will anchor the discussion in practical realities and cover current trends and opportunities.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Academics, Field-based researchers/organization staff
- Confirmed Speakers include:
 - Fernando de Medina-Rosales (NRC);
 - Amy Coughenour Betancourt (Cadasta);
 - Paul Prettitore (World Bank);

4. Bridging Differences - Leveraging Collaboration: Overcoming the Challenges of Transdisciplinary and Inter-Institutional Project Implementation

Organiser(s): Claudia Lindner (Kadaster), Barbara Codispoti (Oxfam Novib)

Contact details: Claudia Lindner (Claudia.lindner@kadaster.nl)

Session format: Panel discussion/Roundtable with presentations

Hybrid: Yes

Code: COL-04

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Land governance projects are often implemented by large consortia that bring together a diverse mix of disciplinary perspectives and broad social, technical, and institutional expertise at both national and local levels. These consortia usually provide extensive outreach and maintain strong partnerships with key stakeholders, including government bodies, civil society, research institutions, and traditional authorities engaged in land administration processes. In theory, this setup offers an ideal foundation for successful project implementation. However, collaboration within such consortia can face challenges due to a lack of clear roles and responsibilities and acknowledge of complementary of roles as well as differing working modalities, focus areas, and cultural backgrounds. While the diversity of perspectives and experience is a strength, achieving effective collaboration requires coordinated activities with clear mandates and roles, mutual understanding, and clear communication to navigate the complexities of the project. This session will explore these collaboration dynamics, providing concrete examples and highlighting institutional risks and mitigation strategies. It will begin with input presentations reflecting on the merits and limits of collaboration from various perspectives followed by a panel discussion to share experiences and insights.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- The session is open to project implementers who would like to contribute to the discussion about collaboration for just land governance.
- Confirmed speaker: Mahamat Abdoulaye Malloum (Kadaster): Inter-institutional collaboration to improve local land governance in Chad – a SWOT analysis

5. Effective Collaboration for Inclusivity and Sustainability in Land Governance and Administration

Organiser(s): Kyei Ebenezer Bediako ((LEF ALLIANCE), Prof. Harrison K. Dapaah- Former VC (UENR/ AAMUSTED), Prof. Margarette Asirifi- Dean, Crops and soil Science Dept- (AAMUSTED), Dr. Eric Opoku Mensah- (CSIR- PGRRI), Berchie Daniel Frimpong- Volunteer, (LEF ALLIANCE), Amakye Philipson Wiredu- Volunteer, (LEF ALLIANCE)

Contact details: Kyei Ebenezer Bediako (ambitiouskyei@gmail.com, lefalliance@gmail.com)

Session format: Mixed methodology: World café, Round table discussion, Powerpoint presentations and Feedback sessions.

Hybrid: yes

Code: COL-05

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

The need for inter and intra-institutional land sector collaboration cannot be overemphasized and that is the core reason why this session seeks to zoom into collaborations. More importantly, this session examines how well countries, institutions, and agencies have collaborated for the past decades in streamlining and ensuring land ownership among different stakeholders. The session also seeks to discuss access to land, housing, food and water resources by women and other vulnerable groups in different communities.

The session solicits abstracts and presentations from potential participants. It essentially focus on success stories, challenges, cross-cutting issues that need immediate attention from countries, institutions, communities, and groups and how that can be scaled up, sustained, or modified and adopted for general use. A mixed presentation format shall be employed. This will include but not be limited to the world café approach in soliciting information and generating information in the form of feedback. The world café approach is very interactive and will cause each member in the session to contribute to the discussion.

It also involves presentations from participants and feedback sessions open forum for participants to learn and share knowledge. The session is climaxed by a presentation from Ghana about a success story of a world bank supported land administration project. The project, among other things supported the creation of a Client Service Access Unit, one stop shop for land documentation in Ghana. The initiative has enhanced women's access to land service providers and consequently improved their land tenure, food, and housing security.

A virtual and actual presentation is allowed in our session to give equal opportunities to all to make input on how collaboration could be sharpened.

A position paper shall be produced at the end of the session on the best approach to collaboration to guarantee inclusivity and sustainability in land governance and administration for women and other vulnerable groups- A small team shall be composed to finalize document after the initial inputs have been generated- Note that the world café will help in this direction.

A strategy shall be developed to monitor government, institutional, and agency collaboration and to accordingly, give feedback to them- A small team shall also be composed to finalize the document after the initial inputs have been generated.

Our session shall be reviewed and participants will be allowed to examine and evaluate the various activities and to give feedback for future conference sessions.

A final session report shall be submitted to organisers of the 2025, LANDac Conference and it shall include reports, photographs, and videos of the session.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Kyei Ebenezer Bediako
- Prof. Harrison K. Dapaah
- Prof. Margarette Asirifi
- Dr. Eric Opoku Mensah

6. South-South Knowledge Exchange and Collaboration around Just Land Governance

Organiser(s): Pranab Ranjan Choudhury (Landstack), Janak Raj Joshi (Government of Nepal), Anu Verma (ILC Asia), Dr. Theresa Auma (Land and Equity Movement in Uganda)

Contact details: Pranab Ranjan Choudhury (pranab.choudhury@landstack.org), Janak Raj Joshi (richa.joshi@landstack.org), Dr. Theresa Auma (eiluteresa@land-in-uganda.org)

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: Yes

Code: COL-08

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Land governance in a country, evolves along diverse trajectories, shaped by history, socio-economic, political, and cultural imperatives, adapting to local contexts. Traditionally perceived as a source of identity and power, land transitioned into a resource for revenue and control, particularly under market-driven and resource-driven approaches, in the process shaping governance agenda. Post-colonial land reforms sought to address redistribute justice, but were often giving way to, increasingly dominant linear narrative around formalisation, digitisation, and individualisation. As the climate and planetary poly-crisis, intensify pressure on land and users, land governance now faces, a 3rd layer of challenge. It is now more imperative to make land governance, climate resilient along with addressing of justice and equity concern, while serving economic growth ambitions.

Globally, more than 1 billion hectares are required for land-based climate solutions. These shifts in land use, and targeting, pose significant challenges to land governance, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), women, pastoralists, agricultural tenants, and urban slum dwellers in global south. Climate narratives, like land admin solutions brought in by the Global North, however, clash with the realities and contexts in the Global South, often leading to negative externalities esp. around justice and equity.

Along with increasing evidences around the challenges and conflicts, instances of local solutions around just and resilient innovations are also unfolding in global south, esp in the geographies of land admin projects and climate actions. There have been legal, digital and institutional innovations, providing locally effective and just alternatives. They showcase, decentralised and democratised initiatives, mobile app based mapping and local actor led solutions around land administration and climate resilience.

Examples include, Nepal's localisation of land administration by rural municipality and impactful GO-NGO partnerships, India's Forest Rights Act (FRA), SVAMITVA and PESA (Tribal local governance) triggered democratised equitable land reform as well as decentralised digital mapping in customary tenure regime involving multi-stakeholders in Africa.

Building on shared histories and with sharing of such innovations and challenges by global south actors, this session seeks to leverage on South-South knowledge exchange, as a strategy to build and expand space for locally evolved and adaptive climate resilient land admin solution.

This session will be open to contributions from policymakers, researchers, and grassroots practitioners, while also pulling together relevant cases by session organisers. By discussing the innovations and challenges, the panel aims to trigger conversations around potential collaborative pathways for cross-learning solutions tailored to the unique contexts and needs of the Global South.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Partly (the proposers)

7. Fostering Food Security by Ensuring Access to Land for Persons with Disabilities

Organiser(s): Alexandra Emerusenge - 't Lam (The We are Able! Consortium), Jasper Oei (See You Foundation), Shitaye Astawes (African Disability Forum)

Contact details: Alexandra Emerusenge - 't Lam (a.tlam@zoa.ngo)

Session format: Interactive Session

Hybrid: Yes

Code: COL-06

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

In this session we share policy recommendations to increase inclusion of persons with disabilities in land governance.

Persons with disabilities are affected by exclusionary practices, conveyed by beliefs, customs and social norms that often consider disability as a curse and people with disabilities as incapable. This results in limited access to markets, agricultural techniques, knowledge and inputs, as well as limited access to land and exclusion from food security-related decision-making, all of which negatively affects their food security. While there is a lot of focus on the inclusion of marginalized groups (women, indigenous populations, displaced persons etc.) in land tenure registration and food security interventions, persons with disabilities are an often-overlooked group.

This session will discuss the different cultural/behavioral, institutional and physical barriers that persons with a disability experience in securing their access and rights to land. In the We are Able! program several initiatives aimed at mitigating these barriers for people with disabilities. Experiences will be shared on how to overcome the barriers through collaborations between communities, Organizations of Persons with a Disability (OPDs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and government authorities for more inclusive and just land governance.

Presenters targeted or identified:

From the We are able! consortium we have presenters from:

- Organizations of people with disabilities
- Consortium partner
- Government authorities

Specific names to be confirmed.

8. Power Asymmetries in Multi-Stakeholders Platforms: Putting Peoples' Organizations (POs) at the Centre of Land Governance

Organiser(s): Sara Manetto, Alain Christian Essimi Biloa (ILC)

Contact details: Sara Manetto (s.manetto@landcoalition.org), Essimi Biloa (a.essimibiloa@landcoalition.org)

Session format: Debate format

Hybrid: Yes

Code: COL-07

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Partnerships and collaboration are integral components of the broader trend of multi-stakeholder processes. These processes, also referred to as partnerships, platforms, forums, and initiatives, convene various stakeholders to negotiate, make decisions, and/or exchange knowledge, aiming to yield more effective and equitable outcomes compared with conventional top-down or unisectoral

decision-making pathways. National multi-stakeholder platforms on land advocate for policy and legal reform, strengthen capacities, and most of all support struggles to defend, secure or regain land rights by local communities. They are crucial in creating spaces for historically marginalized groups to voice their perspectives, advocate for rights recognition, and build capacities for political engagement. Among the MSP actors, peoples organisations (POs) are expected to play a lead role, as they represent directly those who depend on land for their livelihood: women, youth, family and peasant farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, forest dwellers, fisher folk, afro-descendants and local communities.

ILC supports POs to take the lead in national land coalitions so their voices define the strategic vision and focus, and ensure they are responsive to local level priorities, including, importantly, those of women and youth. By doing so, they challenge power asymmetries, foster collective action and enable inclusive decision-making. They provoke action from local authorities, governments, their development partners, and corporations.

The main goal of this session is to discuss and share practical examples of how POs and their supporters can overcome power asymmetries in spaces like MSPs and other collaborations/partnerships they are part of.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- ILC
- LandCollaborative Partners (WHH, FAO)
- National Land Coalitions Facilitators / Members

II. IMPACT OF KNOWLEDGE

1. G(e)overnmentality: Unpacking the Roles of Geological and Geographical Knowledge for Earth Governance

Organiser(s): Hilary Reinhart (Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington), Erlis Saputra (Universitas Gadjah Mada)

Contact details: Hilary Reinhart (hilary.reinhart@vuw.ac.nz, hilary.reinhart@ugm.ac.id)

Session format: Panel presentations with a brief roundtable

Hybrid: Yes

Code: IMP-01

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Contemporary global environmental and developmental issues—such as climate change, global land grabbing, carbon colonialism—are shaped by the interaction between geological forces and political-economic institutions. These issues are materially driven by geological dynamics, including Faultline, the global carbon cycle, mineral extraction, and topography. In turn, political-economic institutions produce environmental and developmental discourses that frame how these issues are understood, interpreted, and managed. Modern-scientific geological and geographical knowledge forms the foundation of these discourses, legitimized by academia, governments, and corporations. As this knowledge and its related discourses are translated into policy and management practices, they engage with local and traditional knowledge, creating spaces for negotiation and contestation.

Drawing on perspectives from political geology, critical geography, and development geography, this panel aims to unpack the roles of geological and geographical knowledge in how authorities manage—or potentially exploit—these challenges. This panel seeks to explore these questions: What kinds of geological and geographical knowledge are used in producing these discourses? How is this knowledge embedded within political processes to address these issues? How do actors negotiate and contest this knowledge? And how can local and traditional geological knowledge contribute to managing these challenges?

This panel aims to provide a space for researchers to present their work and open possibilities to spotlight the often-overlooked geological rationality behind environmental and developmental issues in various contexts e.g., new city development, energy transition, coastal management, environmental conflict, etc. We invite the submission of empirical studies and conceptual frameworks to foster critical discussion and exchanges.

Presenters targeted or identified:

Researchers, students, geographers, government agency, NGOs, community members.

2. Faith and Farming: Exploring the Role of Spiritual Values in the Valuation and Understanding of Land

Organiser(s): Mariëlle van Es (Protestant Theological University), Alexandra Emerusenge-'t Lam (ZOA)

Contact details: Mariëlle van Es (gmavanes@pthu.nl)

Session format: Roundtable

Hybrid: Yes

Code: IMP-02

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

The agricultural sector is under pressure, due to small profit margins, agribusinesses and access to land among others and faces several (sustainability) challenges (e.g. soil degradation). Land and how human beings relate to the land is at the core of agricultural debates about the future of agriculture. This shows the importance of exploring underlying worldviews and values for the transformation towards a sustainable and just food system. Integrating diverse sources of knowledge is key for this transformation of the food system. Although religion and worldview matter in how farmers understand and value land, these spiritual values receive little attention in both academia and practice. Understanding the role of spiritual values can create possibilities for policymakers, academia and civil society to better understand farmers and their deeper motivations and to develop policies for the agricultural sector that are more effective. In this roundtable discussion we will explore the role of spiritual values in how people relate to land and how to integrate spiritual values with legal, social, economic and environmental knowledge and related values. We share insights from our work among farmers in Netherlands and East-Africa about the role of spiritual values in agriculture and how this intersects and creates tensions with other sources of knowledge. Other presenters are invited to share their knowledge and experience from other contexts about the role of spirituality in land governance, how spiritual knowledge intersects with other sources of knowledge, possible tensions and other topics related to spirituality in land governance.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Academics, policy makers and CSOs and others who want to share their knowledge about the role of spiritual values in land governance, how to incorporate these spiritual values in policies and/or integrate spiritual knowledge and values with legal, social, economic and environmental knowledge and values.

3. Potential Impacts and Limitations of the SDG Indicators 5.a.2, 5.a.1 and 1.4.2 and the Related Indicators in the Context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Organiser(s): Muriel Veldman and Ward Anseeuw, (FAO ESP)

Contact details: Muriel Veldman, (muriel.veldman@fao.org)

Session format: A combination of structured presentations, panel discussions, and group work

Hybrid: No

Code: IMP-03

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

The session will begin with an overview of land-related SDG indicators, highlighting their relevance to biodiversity (CBD) and desertification (UNCCD). It will then introduce the CBD and UNCCD frameworks and their connection to the SDGs. The **first session** will focus on the status of land-related SDGs, discussing challenges, opportunities, and synergies with the CBD and UNCCD through case studies. **A second session** will present how the CBD and UNCCD can support land-related SDGs, focusing on specific targets under each framework. This session will include a panel discussion with experts on the intersection between the SDGs, CBD, and UNCCD, followed by an open discussion on aligning national strategies with CBD, UNCCD, and SDG targets for land issues. **Group discussions** will develop policy recommendations.

This session will bring together stakeholders from academia, policy, and practice to support just and inclusive land governance, focusing on aligning global frameworks with national strategies (LANDac 2025 themes: Shaping Collaborations for Just Land Governance, Global Connections, Local Approaches, and Impact of Knowledge). It will explore the intersection of land rights, biodiversity, desertification, and climate change, and how global targets can be adapted to local contexts. Addressing issues such as gender inequality, climate change, and land tenure security, the session will identify innovative approaches for scaling land governance interventions, contributing to the conference's goal of enhancing collaboration and learning on land governance in interconnected global and local contexts.

Presenters targeted or identified:

Proposed presenters would include:

SDG Indicators & CBD-UNCCD indicators (FAO), Land Governance experts, Case Study Presenters, Academic Experts, Policy Makers and Practitioners, Gender and Land Rights Specialists, and/or Climate Change and Environmental Experts.-

4. A Critical Reflection on LAND-at-scale's Knowledge Management Programme – Tools to Enable the Plurality of Knowledge (Management)

Organiser(s): Rebecca Hallin (KIT), Wytse Chamberlain (Utrecht University)

Contact details: Rebecca Hallin (r.hallin@kit.nl)

Session format: Roundtable

Hybrid: Yes

Code: IMP-04

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

As is pointed out in this year's conference theme knowledge management in land governance programs has grown over the years. It is intended to not only bring different stakeholders together but to also facilitate these encounters to identify undocumented knowledge and make it visible and useable for practitioners.

Through the close to five-year experience of knowledge management within Land-at-Scale, sprawling 12 countries across the Middle East, Africa and South America, we as the knowledge management partners of the program would like to take this opportunity to together to reflect on what measure can be taken to enable the promotion of a plurality of knowledge and link it to policy. This includes asking questions such as:

- What are our assumptions of what constitutes knowledge and what does not? Why?
- How do we identify and address dominant models of knowledge?
- Who gets to decide what knowledge is relevant for policy making/makers?
- Finally, what measures can be taken to address barriers to the integration of diverse sources of knowledge to program adaptation, policy and decision making?

The answers to these questions can help to bridge the gap between practice and policy, while recognizing the complexity in translating diverse experiences and needs into sustainable and impactful land governance interventions.

Presenters targeted or identified:

We aim work with some of our country partners from Land-at-Scale and initiate the roundtable discussion with them sharing experiences of working with different forms and partners for knowledge management within the program.

5. Understanding Grand Corruption in Land Governance: Key Features, Manifestations and Impacts

Organiser(s): Jonathan Ochom (Transparency International), Claire Leduc (Transparency International)

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

Session format: Roundtable

Hybrid: Yes

Code: IMP-05

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Grand corruption, involving high-level officials, severely undermines land governance systems and weakens tenure security, with lasting impacts on communities globally. It often manifests itself in the form of land grabs, that is the acquisition of land either by elites or with their collaboration without due process. The stage of knowledge production on this issue remains limited so far, highlighting varying understandings of its specificities, particularly among land rights and anti-corruption experts.

Transparency International recently completed a scoping study on grand corruption in land governance, drawing on case studies from Kenya and Malaysia, along with a global trend analysis. Building on the experience of developing this study, this session will explore how compiling diverse knowledge sources -including legal frameworks, civil society insights, and firsthand experiences- is crucial for identifying vulnerabilities and common patterns in this underexplored phenomenon. This foundational step is essential for advancing the field and directly influencing policy and practice. The session will also go beyond the study to explore real-life examples, such as the Mulago Tree case from Zambia, illustrating how civil society experiences also informs policies and practices.

Following a key recommendation from the study, the session will foster dialogue between anti-corruption and land rights experts to build a shared understanding of grand corruption in land governance and develop strategies to address it. Key strategies include beneficial ownership transparency, asset declaration, open contracting, conflict of interest laws, risk assessments, effective oversight bodies, whistleblower protection laws, and due diligence requirements for banks, financial institutions, and professional advisors.

Presenters targeted or identified:

We will be convening civil society actors and researchers to the panel.

We have already confirmed 3 speakers.

1. Tim Law or Michael Barron, Engaged Consulting Ltd, co- authors of Transparency International's "Grand Corruption in Land Governance scoping study" (to be published in April 2025)
2. Daniela Patiño Piñeros, Programme Lead Public Resources, or Jonathan Ochom, Land Governance Specialist, Transparency International Secretariat
3. Transparency International National Chapter representative (TI Kenya or TI Zambia)
4. Land actor (ILC/Oxfam/GiZ)

III. SCALING AND INNOVATING APPROACHES TO LAND GOVERNANCE

1. Innovative Ideas in Land Administration and Management: Lessons From Digitalizing Land Documents

Organiser(s): Kabogoza Simon, Namuddu Cissy Settumba, Kizito Bashir Juma (INSTITUTION: BUGANDA LAND BOARD)

Contact details: Namuddu Cissy Settumba (cissynkiyaga@gmail.com)

Session format: Innovative Session

Hybrid: No

Code: SCAL-01

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Land management and administration must constantly evolve and align to the diversifying world and its increasingly digital needs. The world continues to become paperless and digital in all sectors especially in land registration and transactions where issues such as ownership, false identities, misrepresentation, and document forgeries are widespread making land a basis for conflict. Different countries, agencies, institutions, and organizations have introduced innovative technological solutions to address the above challenges and enhance security of tenure. Uganda provides an insightful example but it is important to share, broaden the discussion and learn from experiences and innovations from various countries regarding their successes, challenges, and dilemma.

Institutions like Buganda Land Board innovated the Land Electronic card. This card is a solution to the aforementioned challenges that are faced in the land sector. Using biometric palm vein technology, a client is registered once, their palm vein is captured and attached to the land documents immediately. One is required to either have the card or authenticate using their palm vein before a land transaction is considered successful, making it difficult for fraudulent transactions to occur. This machine will practically be showcased.

The proposed session will not only share insights into the development and implementation of the Land electronic card but aims to foster a broader discussion on the adoption of similar or alternative technologies in diverse contexts regarding security of tenure. While Buganda Land Board will show case the machine and demonstrate the great potential the technology holds, it acknowledges that it still has room for improvement and can be adapted and customized to meet the needs of different regions. We will share with participants the experience, successes and challenges as well as highlighting the potential for scaling up the land electronic card as an innovative solution to curb land fraud. In line with the theme of the conference, we invite land actors, land administration professionals, technology innovators, policy makers and other stakeholders to share their innovations or innovative ideas that can be adopted by other countries in regard to better future land governance practices. This will be a collaborative space for open exchange, sharing experiences, dilemmas and lessons learned.

Abstracts are welcomed from experts in land administration, digital technologies, statutory and customary land registration, governance, anti-fraud measures and policies as well as those who have faced challenges or have succeeded in digitalizing land systems. The purpose of this session is to build global synergies and support systems in search for better and more sustainable land governance through innovations for the future.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Speaker: The Land Electronic Card
- Bashir Kizito Juma
- Expert in Land administration and management
- Project Manager – Land Electronic Card
- Discussant: Critical analysis of the land electronic card and other innovative ideas in the land sector.
- Expert in IT and Land – Pranab Choudhury – Land Stack, Email: pranab.choudhury@landstack.org
- Panelists from different countries and contexts – sharing technological ideas or new innovations within the land or land related sector. (E.g Experts in land conflicts/Fraud to share how innovations have helped them in resolving land conflict.)
- Experts in Land administration and documentation
- Participants with experience in Designing and implementing projects on Digitalising land documents or systems.

2. Living apart together: Land Commissions as attempt to marry customary rules and state legislation for securing land tenure, building peace and settling land conflicts in the Sahel/West-Africa

Organiser(s): SNV - Netherlands Development Organisation in Mali and knowledge organisation “Groupe ODYSSEE”, with (to be confirmed):

- farmers’ confederation CNOP (Mali) and civic network RP-SéFA (Mali), and,
- knowledge org. IRI (Burkina Faso) and network ONF (Burkina Faso) and knowledge org. LASDEL in Niger.

Contact details: SNV: Baba Togola (btogola@snv.org), Groupe ODYSSEE (G.O.): Amagoïn Keita: (leuk.keita@gmail.com), SNV/ G.O.: Joost Nelen: (joost.nelen@gmail.com)

Session format: Roundtable

Hybrid: Yes

Code: SCAL-02

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

A latent land tenure and -access crisis have become open in the past 25 years. This crisis is one of the root causes of current local war and insecurity in the Sahel.

Although most conflicts over natural resources are not violent, they reveal a grim picture : large contested land acquisitions; scarcity and competition over resources, leading to violence between, and exclusions of social groups or of entire communities.

The state is facing difficulties in resolving them. Legislation has foreseen Land Commissions (LC/ “Commissions Foncières”), wherein customary and state institutions have to collaborate. It is only in the past eight years that local leaders and customary chiefs have been frequently consulted by state agents in their efforts to restore peace. The LC are a ‘nouvel acteur’, a new institutional stakeholder, acting with two archetypes (customary/ state agents). They can be understood as an intermediary or bridge between local, village stakeholders and administrative-judicial authorities.

The LC progress but are not (yet?) a determinant stakeholder. Most conflicts and disputes and most allocations are settled by user groups and customary authorities, or in case of developed lands by state authorities. In some areas jihadist groups have taken over.

The gap between informal, customary and formal (state) authorities remains a challenge. Village stakeholders reluctantly submit cases to the classic state authorities (administration, courts), because they lack information or confidence in the outcome of the judgement. The recognition by judges of the local conciliation/resolution records remains problematic.

Make local institutions work for conflict resolution.

In Mali the case of Land Commissions.

Questions:

- Recognition of land tenure insecurity as major root cause of current conflicts and violence.
- Dualism can become counter-productive: (institutional) voids; denial of local, customary mechanisms for land tenure security and conflict resolution; institutional shopping by user groups.
- Risks of elite capture: instrumentalization of institutions as LC by powerful stakeholders.
- Whether the state? The (ambiguous) position and functioning of the state and its institutions/apparatuses. They constitute as much the problem as the solution.
- Short term, short sighted and/or fragmented support by (development) agencies.
- Financial sustainability: how to mobilise State and local governments’ (public) funds to keep LC’s functional? Also taking into consideration that support by external/ development organisations is often too expensive to be sustainable.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Speaker(s) will be Amagoïn Keita (G.O.) or Joost Nelen (SNV/G.O.)
- Contribution/additional participation by Baba Togola (Mali) and Bala Sanou (Burkina Faso – to be confirmed).
- Other contributions/ presenters (Niger, others) will ideally raise some of the same questions above.
- Languages: French (1st), English.

3. Breaking Ground on Land and Housing Rights: Grassroots Solutions for Security of Tenure and Adequate Housing

Organiser(s): Eva Grevinga, Grace Ananda, Paulene Santos (Habitat for Humanity)

Contact details: Eva Grevinga (e.grevinga@habitat.nl)

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: Yes

Code: SCAL-03

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Adequate housing and tenure security foster social stability and environmental resilience. However, global challenges including urbanization, land and housing affordability crises and climate change have resulted in increasingly insecure land and housing rights. Conventional methods fail to meet the surging demand: 1.1 billion people live in informal settlements where they lack access to adequate housing and tenure security.

The scale of challenges exceeds what individual entities can accomplish and demand collaborative solutions. A starting point to building trust between stakeholders is an exchange of innovative fit-for-purpose, bottom-up initiatives, foundational to Habitat for Humanity's Home Equals campaign. The session "Breaking Ground on Land and Housing Rights: Grassroots Solutions" will prompt discussion of successful community-led solutions. We will explore how participatory planning and indigenous knowledge have been integrated into strategies to address housing insecurity and promote secure land tenure. The session will also explore how these approaches can be replicated across different contexts while respecting local perspectives.

The session seeks to lend to the exchange of knowledge through presenters sharing best practices and lessons learned from community-based approaches. The session encourages participants to focus on the process of collaboration and innovation along with community impact. By showcasing case studies, research insights, and actionable solutions, presenters emphasize the pivotal role housing and tenure security play in achieving the SDGs, equipping participants with strategies to address land and housing challenges in an integrated and sustainable way.

To facilitate open exchange, we invite other presenters to co-organize this session with us. Please reach out to Eva Grevinga (e.grevinga@habitat.nl).

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Representatives from Habitat for Humanity in the Asia Pacific and the Africa region
- Presenters with knowledge of community-led approaches for security of tenure including but not limited to grassroot organizations, communities, entrepreneurs, practitioners and academia.

4. Secure Land Tenure in Customary Land: Unlocking Opportunities or Not?

Organiser(s): Godiramang Motlhagodi (Afriq Research Institute for Human Settlements)

Contact details: Godiramang Motlhagodi (geemotlha@gmail.com)

Session format: Workshop

Hybrid: Yes

Code: SCAL-04

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Secure land tenure and property rights (LTPR) have long been recognized as a foundation for economic growth in both rural and urban areas. Responsive Land Administration (RPA) requires three (3) critical elements, namely Spatial, legal and institutional framework. Land titling is the critical to spatial framework as allows for mapping and collecting land and property rights information on land parcels. Digitization also brings opportunities to drive land administration.

Studies have revealed different levels of progress across regions in terms of formalization of land rights. In South and East Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the post-Soviet countries, significant land rights have been formalized through land titling by the state, and titling is proceeding on a significant scale. In sub-Saharan Africa, where customary land tenure systems prevail, the level of protection provided varies widely within and between countries. There is significant diversity in the ability of these customary tenure systems to provide security and predictability in contractual obligations and in the definition and scope of transfer rights afforded to parties.

The session will present best practices, especially from developing countries, on approaches used to secure customary land and property rights. In some countries customary land do not get the recognition as other tenures and this jeopardizes its economic potential to the owners. This session aims to allow presenters to share best practices on titling of customary land highlighting opportunities and challenges. The session will share the experiences and lessons learnt and allow other participants to input on areas of improvement.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Government departments, academics, civil society organization

IV. LAND GOVERNANCE IN CONTEXTS OF INCREASED MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

1. Homemaking and Land in Situations of Protracted Displacement

Organiser(s): Juul Kwaks & Mathijs van Leeuwen, (Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management – Political Science, Radboud University Nijmegen)

Contact details: Mathijs van Leeuwen (mathijs.vanleeuwen@ru.nl)

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: Yes

Code: MIG-01

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

In the past, governments and humanitarian organizations have often assumed that refugees will or should eventually return home. Yet, in many situations of conflict-related migration it is clear that refugees might stay for prolonged periods of time. This impacts land access and tenure security of both these refugees and residents. In this panel we explore both local strategies and efforts of policy makers and development practitioners to shape land tenure in situations of protracted displacement.

First of all, refugees try to create control over and predictability in their lives, and to establish a sense of 'home'. Land is a vital element in this process. It involves the development of both material relationships with residents - including of renting land, wage labor- and social/affective relationships -including of friendship and mutual support.

In this panel we are interested in contributions that explore the development of such relationships:

- To what extent do such relationships result in sustainable livelihoods and peaceful cohabitation? To what extent are such relationships unequal and exploitative in nature?
- To what extent do such relationships contribute to a sense of home for refugees, and/or influence their sense of identity and belonging?
- How do these strategies feed into decisions on return and permanence, and the establishment of multi-sited livelihood strategies?

Secondly, we are interested in contributions on how these local efforts to negotiate access to land and tenure security interact with efforts of policymakers and development practitioners:

- To what extent may efforts of policymakers and development practitioners support and legitimize or instead undercut such local efforts?

Contributions focusing on refugee settlements/camps, as well as contributions focusing on urban settings, or a comparison thereof are welcomed in this panel.

Presenters targeted or identified:

Both academics and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts

2. Slum Blind: The Overlooked Links Between Climate Migration and Informal Settlements

Organiser(s): Eva Grevinga, Grace Ananda, Paulene Santos (Habitat for Humanity)

Contact details: Eva Grevinga (e.grevinga@habitat.nl)

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: Yes

Code: MIG-02

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

The panel session “Slum Blind: The overlooked links between climate migration and informal settlements” will explore the nexus between rapid urbanization, increasing climate vulnerability and climate migration patterns, and the growth of informal settlements. It aims to showcase examples of successful models for collaboration among stakeholders to start up or scale up interventions that address land governance and equitable housing issues arising from climate-induced migration.

Through Habitat for Humanity's experience in working with displaced communities, the session will highlight how mobility patterns influence informal settlement growth and housing needs, showcasing innovative responses that balance immediate shelter needs with long-term community resilience. The session will build on Habitat for Humanity's 2024 published issue brief which was launched as part of the Home Equals campaign. This publication highlights how existing models of climate-induced displacement and migration hide the critical role that informal settlements play in mitigation and adaptation and as host communities. Moving into informal settlements often presents increased exposure to new environmental hazards, compounded by inadequate housing and tenure insecurity.

The session will explore innovative, scalable solutions to challenges faced by vulnerable communities in informal settlements, particularly those exacerbated by climate change. Participants will examine how community-driven approaches can be adapted to different contexts, addressing housing insecurity, land tenure issues, and low communal resilience. The link between land and housing rights and mobility will be a key topic, delving into how migration patterns—both internal and cross-border—impact informal settlements and how advocating for appropriate policies can be an effective solution.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Representatives from Habitat for Humanity in the Asia Pacific and the Africa region
- A variety of presenters with knowledge of climate migration and its consequences for communities (e.g. for tenure security, but also other areas like social cohesion and access to basic services), including but not limited to grassroots organizations, communities, entrepreneurs, practitioners and academia.

3. Rethinking Relocation Practices: Land Rights, Spatial Politics and Social Ordering

Organiser(s): Wytse Chamberlain (LAND-at-scale)

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

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: No

Code: MIG-03

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Relocation and resettlement are transformative processes that reshape landscapes, communities, and governance structures. These practices are often tied to land politics, influencing land access, ownership, and rights, while reflecting broader dynamics of power and spatial control. This panel explores the multifaceted implications of planned relocation and resettlement for different purposes, examining their intersections with land governance, spatial politics, and socio-economic outcomes.

What are the political and spatial logics underpinning planned relocation schemes? How do these practices influence land tenure, access, and governance at local, national, and global levels? To what extent do they reinforce or challenge existing power structures and inequalities? How do these processes vary across purposes driving relocation?

This session invites contributions that critically analyse planned relocation and resettlement patterns in diverse contexts, including displacement areas affected by urbanization trends, conflict patterns, climate and environmental change, and large-scale investment purposes. We seek contributions uncovering the tensions between planned relocation initiatives and lived realities, and the possibilities for more critical and equitable approaches to resettlement. By bringing together insights from varied disciplines, this panel hopes to foster a deeper understanding of the spatial and political dimensions of relocation and resettlement.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Marta Cavallaro, LAND-at-scale Somalia
- Margriet Hartman, Royal Haskoning DHV (TBC)
- Femke van Noorloos, Utrecht University (TBC)

4. Land Governance and Women's Rights in the Context of Migration and Mobility in Africa

Organiser(s): Oxfam in Africa

Contact details: Paul Vingi, (pvingi@oxfam.org.uk)

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: Yes

Code: MIG-04

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

In Africa, land represents not just a resource but a source of identity, dignity, and power, especially for women smallholder farmers. As migration increases due to climate change, conflict, and economic opportunities, land governance dynamics become more complex. **This session** explores the intersection of land rights and gender in the context of migration, emphasizing the challenges women face.

Despite progress in policy reforms securing women's land rights, substantial gaps remain in implementation. Women, often accessing land through male connections, face heightened risks of displacement and loss of rights as land commodification accelerates. The Kilimanjaro Initiative exemplifies grassroots mobilization, where rural women from 22 African countries advocated for equal access to land and resources. Their Charter of Demands to the African Union underscores the need to address gender inequalities in land ownership and governance.

As migration patterns shift, it is crucial to adapt land governance frameworks to support the rights of mobile populations, especially women, who are often left vulnerable by traditional tenure systems. This session will present case studies from Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia, illustrating how land governance can evolve to enhance women's rights amid increasing mobility.

Key discussions include examining the implications of land commodification on women's access in migratory contexts, and how customary and formal laws protect women's rights during migration. Policy recommendations will explore leveraging frameworks like the AfCFTA and Post-Malabo to strengthen women's land rights, and the need for inclusive policies addressing challenges in both sedentary and migratory contexts.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- We aim to attract presenters with expertise in land governance, gender equality, and migration to target key audiences, including policymakers and government officials to promote inclusive policies protecting women's land rights, development practitioners and NGOs to address gendered challenges in land access, academics and researchers to advance studies on land rights, gender, and migration, women's rights organizations to share grassroots advocacy efforts, and community leaders and rural women farmers to empower local communities in advocating for their land rights amidst migration.

5. New Urban Land Development and (Im)Mobilities in Indonesia: Learning from Nusantara

Organiser(s): Kei Otsuki (Utrecht University), Rijanta (Gadjah Mada University)

Contact details: Vandy Swara (v.y.swara@uu.nl)

Session format: Workshop

Hybrid: Yes

Code: MIG-05

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions (but participants are welcome from all areas).

Session description:

This workshop aims to locate the experience of moving the capital city from Jakarta to East Kalimantan within the context of various mobilities – of people, materials and capital – in Indonesia. The new capital city – Nusantara- is being built in the area where different migrants had been shaping the society and the new flows of people including construction workers, business opportunity seekers and expected new governmental officials will create new dynamics. In addition, the city building itself mobilized quite a lot of new construction materials and capital that shape and reshape urban land development in the area where different land claims had long existed through the palm oil plantations, coal mining and industrial forestry. At the same time, indigenous communities in the area are forced to accept new ways of living as they struggle for keeping their land. We want to engage with scholars working mainly on the case of Nusantara but also other similar cases in deepening our understanding of the relationship between new urban land development and various mobility and immobility dynamics.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Forest city project members – apart from the organizers:
- Erlis Saputra (UGM)
- Ari Susanti (UGM)
- Fitriyansah (East Kalimantan Provincial Government)
- Aris Pratomo (Twente/ITK)
- Vandy Swara (UU)
- Bosman Batubara (NUS)
- Agung Jahauri (UU)
- Rizki (UU)

6. Learning from SPARC Research on Gender and Youth Issues in Farmer-Herder Conflicts and Land and Natural Resource Management.

Organiser(s): Fiona Flintan, (ILRI, SPARC) Lead Elizabeth Daley, (SPARC GESI)

Contact details: Elizabeth Daley, (lizdaley@mafinga.co.uk)

Session format: Roundtable

Hybrid: Yes

Code: MIG-06

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Given the focus on land governance in contexts of increased migration and mobility, we propose to share insights from the FCDO-funded SPARC-Knowledge Hub's research in climate-fragile and conflict-affected arid and semi-arid lands of Africa and the Middle East, where nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralism and agro-pastoralism is a predominant livelihood system. SPARC research projects over the past 5 years have investigated different aspects of gender and youth issues in farmer-herder conflicts, and in land and natural resource management more widely in contexts of mobility and (forced and unforced) migration. We feel that the learnings will be of interest to participants at LANDac, with some of our research ongoing in countries where Land-at-Scale also has projects (e.g. Chad, Uganda).

Presenters targeted or identified:

- National and local researchers from across the SPARC-Knowledge Hub research consortium will drawn on in developing a gender-balanced panel of speakers to share research findings on different aspects of the theme. Specific presenters will need to be confirmed during March to facilitate logistics and visas.

V. LAND GOVERNANCE IN POST-CONFLICT CONTEXTS/SETTINGS

1. Tenure Security in Post-Conflict Settings: Differentiated Effects of Land Governance Strategies.

Organiser(s): Wytse Chamberlain, LANDac/LAND-at-scale

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

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: No

Code: CONF-01

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Since decades, many people across several countries have been forcefully removed from, or have chosen to abandon, their location of origin following severe conflicts. As years pass, people make decisions on where to stay in the longer-term. Some decide to return as circumstances in their place of origin have improved. Others choose to settle permanently in a new location. In both cases, challenging contexts emerge when it comes to rights to land. In this session we want to delve into how land governance tools that have been implemented to bring lasting solutions towards peace and livelihoods in post-conflict areas have affected the tenure security of the different groups. In particular, we want to address questions such as: How have efforts for long-term integration of displaced people in new locations affected the tenure security of both host community members and IDPs? How have land rights that overlap across time been dealt with, when returnees find their lands being occupied by others? How has this impacted the tenure security of the returnees, and of current right holders? Which processes and which stakeholders have been engaged when finding long-term solutions? What lessons can be extrapolated to different contexts?

Presenters targeted or identified:

- We invite contributions from academics, practitioners and policy makers to share their experiences.
- René-Claude Niyonkuru, Local researcher Burundi LAS
- Marta Cavallaro, Local researcher Somalia LAS

2. Plurality of Knowledge in Conflict-Sensitive Land Governance Addressing the Past for a Resilient Future

Organiser(s): Bethel Kisaarwot, Candela Fito Onrait (LANDnet Uganda with the support of GIZ Civil Peace Service (Uganda Programme))

Contact details: Bethel Kisaarwot (kisaarwotbethel@gmail.com)

Session format: Panel Presentations

Hybrid: Yes

Code: CONF-02

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

This session, themed “Plurality of Knowledge in Conflict-Sensitive Land Governance: Addressing the Past for a Resilient Future” will examine the critical role of conflict-sensitive land governance addressing land conflicts arising from displacement, overlapping land rights, and the erosion of customary and communal land tenure systems. It will explore the impact of government-endorsed reallocations, prolonged refugee occupation, and conflicting tenure systems, which are oft exacerbated by rapid urbanization, climate change, and natural resource extraction. LANDnet and two other organizations will examine how these shifts in the "global" context – the interplay of global and local forces – are impacting land rights and livelihoods in communal environments. The discussion will focus on rebuilding trust and legitimacy in post-conflict settings through inclusive reform. Case studies from various jurisdictions will highlight how displacement has led to the land-grabbing, the escalation of conflicts due to competition for resources, and the erosion traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. The session will also investigate legal and customary frameworks vulnerabilities to external pressures and how power inequalities and historical injustices intersect with land governance. By integrating traditional, legal, and technical expertise, this session aims to provide actionable insights for addressing contentious reallocations and overlapping land rights. It will showcase conflict sensitive best practices, including participation land use planning, strengthening community-based land management, and ensuring equitable access to justice for marginalized and displaced populations.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- This session will benefit from presenters including legal experts in land and property law, customary and traditional leaders, conflict resolution specialists, policymakers and government officials, academics and researchers, international development practitioners, civil society and advocacy groups, environmental and climate change specialists, refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) representatives, and technology and data experts.

3. Rebuilding Land Governance in Post-Conflict Africa: Challenges and Opportunities for Women's Rights

Organiser(s): Oxfam in Africa

Contact details: Paul Vingi, (pvingi@oxfam.org.uk)

Session format: Panel Discussions

Hybrid: Yes

Code: CONF-03

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Overview: In Africa, land is a critical component of identity, dignity, and livelihoods, especially for women smallholder farmers. Armed and political conflicts often disrupt land governance, worsening gender inequalities. Women, crucial to agricultural production, frequently lack secure land rights, making them vulnerable in post-conflict situations. This session will explore the relationship between land governance, women's rights, and post-conflict recovery in various African contexts.

Context: Regions like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Northern Uganda have faced challenges from protracted conflicts, leading to displacement and contested land rights. Despite their essential roles in agriculture and community rebuilding, women are often excluded from land governance discussions. This session will use case studies to show how patriarchal land tenure systems hinder women's access to land and resources post-conflict.

Key Questions: What is the role of land governance in rebuilding war-torn societies? How can inclusive land policies help reintegrate displaced populations, particularly women? How do overlapping land rights complicate post-conflict recovery? What strategies can address contested land claims and ensure equitable access for women? What lessons can be learned from successful land governance reforms in less conflictive settings? Can these reforms be adapted to post-conflict African contexts?

Case Studies: Democratic Republic of the Congo: Women's groups reclaim land rights through community-based initiatives.

South Sudan: Customary land tenure systems and women's advocacy for rights will be explored.

Northern Uganda: Challenges faced by women in accessing land after displacement, focusing on the Acholi people.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- We aim to attract presenters with expertise in land governance, gender equality, and post-conflict recovery, particularly those with experience in African contexts. Presenters should have a deep understanding of the complex dynamics between land rights and women's roles in rebuilding communities after conflict. Expertise in the intersection of traditional land tenure systems, legal frameworks, and inclusive land policies is highly sought after. We are particularly interested in case studies that highlight innovative approaches, successful reforms, and practical strategies to address contested land claims and ensure equitable access for women in post-conflict settings.

4. Governing Land Amidst Protracted Armed Conflict

Organiser(s): Claude Iguma Wakenge (Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural (ISDR)), Judith Verweijen (Utrecht University)

Contact details: Judith Verweijen (j.e.c.verweijen@uu.nl)

Session format: Paper Session

Hybrid: Yes

Code: CONF-04

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

While there is a growing literature on land governance in post-conflict settings, how land is governed in contexts of ongoing violence remains under-researched. In this session, we will look at the specific challenges of land governance and the resolution of land conflicts in settings of protracted armed conflict. We will explore questions such as: How is land governed within rebel-held areas or areas that regularly switch between government and rebel control? To what extent and how do armed groups, including local self-defence militia, interfere in land conflicts? How are land conflicts intertwined with other conflicts that feed into violence, notably, conflicts over natural resources, nature conservation, local authority and identity? And how are land disputes affected by heavily fluctuating waves of internally displaced persons (IDPs)? We also aim to look at the intersections between land governance and peacebuilding. To what extent do different (e.g., community, NGO or state-led) initiatives to resolve land conflicts or improve tenure security actually contribute to peacebuilding? What are the challenges of implementing such initiatives amidst conflict? Finally, we are interested in exploring the effects of climate change on ongoing land conflicts, and how these effects inter-relate with violent conflict.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- We will send a call for papers to researchers working on areas such as Sudan, eastern DRC, CAR, and Mali.

VI. GLOBAL CONNECTIONS, LOCAL APPROACHES

1. The REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Mechanism: Impacts on Land Tenure and Local Empowerment

Organiser(s): Magdalena Grus, Luc Groot (Kadaster International)

Contact details: Magdalena Grus (Magdalena.grus@kadaster.nl)

Session format: Innovative Session

Hybrid: No

Code: LOC-01

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

This workshop will investigate the critical role of secure land tenure in the success of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) initiatives. Participants will share their experiences and explore how unresolved land claims and unclear land tenure create conflicts, discourage investment, and undermine the effectiveness of REDD+ projects. Additionally, we will discuss strategies to better represent local voices.

Key objectives:

- How do unclear tenure rights impact REDD+ investments and the communities targeted by such investments?
- How can these communities be better involved in resolving conflicts that emerge from such investments and how can they benefit from these?

The form of the workshop: presentations, discussions and short brainstorm.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Target group associated with the subjects: carbon credits; impact of unclear land tenure and ownership rights on effectiveness of REDD+ initiatives; local ways for land governance; climate resilience; national strategies for sustainable forest management and conservation.

2. Discourses on Sustainable Agricultural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa and Their Impact on Land Tenure

Organiser(s): Liza Steultjens & Mathijs van Leeuwen (Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management – Political Science, Radboud University Nijmegen)

Contact details: Mathijs van Leeuwen (Mathijs.vanleeuwen@ru.nl)

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: Yes

Code: LOC-02

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

In many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, national policies and international support for agricultural development need to cater for a multiplicity of challenges, including climate change, loss of biodiversity, state fragility and political instability, limited employment outside agriculture, and food insecurity. Competing discourses or models of agricultural development play a large role in global policy debates. Discourses on sustainable intensification highlight the need of improved technologies, industrialized and large-scale agricultural production, and integration into global markets. Alternative discourses instead emphasise agroecology, food sovereignty, and empowerment of smallholder farmers. These different discourses often draw on particular knowledges and understandings of land security, land access and land justice. Policy makers in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as donors, development organizations and the private sector strategically and pragmatically adopt, adapt and contest these discourses, with particular implications for land governance.

In this panel, we will explore policy outcomes of the interactions between local, national and global discourses on sustainable agricultural development, with a particular focus on their implications for the organisation of land tenure. Examples of questions that we would like to explore are:

- What synergies and trade-offs emerge from the interaction between global and national discourses of agricultural development, with respect to ambitions such as food security, productivity, and sustainability on the one hand, and land tenure security on the other?
- More specifically, what do policy outcomes mean for land tenure, use, access and distribution; for example, for the individualization of land ownership, or for the gendered reorganization of agricultural production?
- What do these discourses and the policies they inspire imply for the reordering of rural landscapes and social relations -for instance the mobility of nomadic peoples and pastoralists- the relationships between agriculture and livestock farming, and the position of women and youth?
- How do discourses and policy outcomes conceptualize sustainability and resilience differently?
- How are global and national discourses promoted, and how are different conceptions of land negotiated in agricultural development policymaking? And what is the role of both academic and local knowledge production and dissemination in their development and diffusion?

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Both academics and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts

3. Measuring and Monitoring Social and Human Wellbeing in Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Projects

Organiser(s): Dominique Schmid (Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern), Marieke van der Zon (Wageningen University, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group (FNP))

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

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: Yes

Code: LOC-03

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

The global degradation of ecosystems has prompted the implementation of numerous payment for ecosystem services (PES) projects, incentivizing Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to adopt sustainable practices. These projects encompass diverse interventions, including watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, agroforestry, ecotourism, or carbon sequestration through initiatives like REDD+. PES projects are a central component of land governance because they integrate the management of natural resources, promote sustainable land use, safeguard land rights, and facilitate equitable agreements among stakeholders.

Such interventions also influence the relationship between IPLCs and their lands and this impact varies based on heterogeneous values and perceptions of social and human wellbeing (Carmenta et al. 2023). Measuring and monitoring IPLCs' wellbeing in PES projects remains complex and challenging. Objective wellbeing, often assessed through economic metrics, relies on national statistics or satellite data, but these lack the granularity to capture changes in remote areas. Additionally, tools to systematically measure subjective wellbeing, such as relational values or human and natural capital, are lacking.

PES projects are largely financed by Western donors through which control over IPLCs land is exerted. Western donors often lack a nuanced understanding of the social and well-being aspirations of the diverse IPLCs involved in PES projects. This oversimplification of complex local realities frequently results in suboptimal outcomes, both in terms of well-being and environmental goals, as project objectives and designs fail to align effectively with the unique needs and contexts of these communities.

Presenters targeted or identified:

In this panel we look to bring together scholars and practitioners that work on the development of innovative tools and approaches to measure IPLCs wellbeing in a multidimensional way. Hence, addressing some of the challenges outlined above. This can be at a landscape level (e.g. rangelands, tropical rainforests), at an intervention level (e.g. wellbeing specific for a type of PES intervention), or at project level (e.g. community-based PES projects).

Confirmed speakers:

- Marieke van der Zon, Wageningen University: Developing a Community-Based Conservation and PES Model for Protecting the Peatlands of the Pastaza-Marañón Foreland Basin in Northern Peru
- Solomon Aboagye, The Nature Conservancy: Community Conservancies and Human Wellbeing

4. Local Land Governance for Peace and Climate

Organiser(s): Caitlin Ryan (University of Groningen)

Contact details: Caitlin Ryan (c.m.ryan@rug.nl)

Session format: Panel or Roundtable

Hybrid: No

Code: LOC-04

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Despite their differences, organizations such as the World Bank, bi-lateral aid agencies, and the United Nations Peacebuilding Organization treat the strengthening of local land rights and land governance as a means to achieve goals of reducing violent conflict and managing the effects of climate change. Therefore, one could speak of a new global agenda for **'land, peace, and climate.'** This latest iteration of the land governance debate places **more responsibility on 'local communities'** to govern their own land and manage their own land disputes, based on a belief that local-level land governance can help to sustain national-level peace while also providing a foundation for communities' adaptive capacity to climate change. This has become practically a consensus amongst the international community, as evidenced by the range of funded projects and programs launched in states affected by conflict and vulnerable to climate change. However, this consensus has not received adequate critical attention. It remains a question as to what this new land governance agenda will accomplish in its ambitious aim to link land, peace, and climate. This paper session welcomes **proposals that consider the interaction between local and global agendas to link land, peace, and climate.** Possible questions include (but are not limited to):

- How does the global agenda on land, peace, and climate provide or foreclose pathways for grassroots movements?
- Whose knowledge 'counts' in the development and implementation of this agenda?
- How do actors at different levels compete and/or cooperate to advance or limit the linking of land, peace, and climate?

Presenters targeted or identified:

I would be happy to target both academics and practitioners. I have not reached out to anyone in advance.

5. Knowing Land Locally, Knowing Land Globally: Translations, Negotiations, Tensions

Organiser(s): Gemma van der Haar (WUR), Carolien Jacobs (Leiden University)

Contact details: Gemma van der Haar (Gemma.vanderhaar@wur.nl)

Session format: Panel with presentations

Hybrid: Yes

Code: LOC-05

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

As Laura German has reminded us in her recent book (Power, knowledge, land: contested ontologies of land and its governance in Africa) people in different places and with different positionalities hold varying ideas about what land and property is and means. Despite a discourse around recognising customary, indigenous or community-based land tenure, intervening actors often operate with only a limited understanding of the intricacies of specific localised forms of knowing the land and the workings of property relations (excluding the odd anthropologist). Land registration or formalisation interventions interfering in such lived realities often fall back on generalised and universalised notions of land and property, with limited (discursive or procedural) room to contest the dominant understandings these interventions imply.

This session reflects on these dynamics, hoping to increase recognition of knowledge about land and property as situated, and reflect on ways this might (or should) inform land policy.

Questions we hope presenters will address are:

- What happens at the interface of different knowledges, in the context of land registration and formalisation programmes? What are the effects on vernacular understandings of land and property as they are being confronted with conceptualisations that claim “universal” validity? How do inequalities in power and representation shape these processes? What are the impacts of “misreading” vernacular understandings of land and property?
- Are there experiences where local understandings of land and property have been taken as the starting point in land programmes, in serious and transformative ways and what can be learnt from those?

Presenters targeted or identified:

We hope to attract contributions based on deep knowledge and analysis (from anthropological research, from experience, or other) about land and property in particular places and/or on the translations and tensions occurring in the negotiation of understandings of land and property in the context of interventions.

6. People Power for Social and Environmental Justice in (Global) Value Chains - Experiences From Community-Led Advocacy for Just Transitions and Social & Environmental Safeguards in Extractives and Energy Value Chains in Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. Impacts and Ongoing Challenges.

Organiser(s): Linda Fokkema (ActionAid, the Netherlands)

Contact details: Linda Fokkema (Linda.fokkema@actionaid.org)

Session format: Panel

Hybrid: Yes

Code: LOC-06

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

Against the background of the global economic, debt, and climate crises and increasing economic inequality, large scale (foreign) investments in the extractives, energy and other sectors continue to increase in many Global South countries in search of “development”. Such investments, however, often go hand in hand with violations of multiple rights of host communities, manifested in the form of land grabs, forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, environmental pollution, and violation of the rights to health and food, amongst others.

The session will highlight the critical role of a strong civil society in calling on governments and private sector to take responsibility to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an inclusive way, to comply with international human rights principles, and to strengthen the social contract between governments and citizens.

ActionAid and partners will share experiences from working with the affected communities to advocate for corporate accountability and social and environmental safeguards in these (global) value chains, and demonstrate both the impact of people power as well as the continuing challenges and need for further collaboration, awareness raising and solidarity.

Presenters targeted or identified:

- Abul Kalam Azad, Manager Just Energy Transition – ActionAid Bangladesh
- Darlington Chidarara – Projects coordinator – ActionAid Zimbabwe
- Linda Fokkema – Sr. Programme Coordinator – ActionAid Netherlands