



*Conference*

## **Land, Conflict, and Peace**

Utrecht, the Netherlands | 1-3 July 2026

### **OVERVIEW OF SESSIONS**





# OVERVIEW

<b>SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I. LAND AT THE 'TRIPLE NEXUS': HUMANITARIANISM, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE BUILDING.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. The importance of inclusive land governance and restoration for stability and resilience in the Sahel region.....	6
2. To what extent are improved land governance and land tenure security contributing to conflict reduction and peacebuilding? .....	7
3. Land governance, agricultural innovations and pathways to peace in fragile rural contexts.....	8
4. Promoting responsible use of housing and land in humanitarian and development programming: towards governing principles .....	9
<b>II. EVERYDAY POLITICS OF CONFLICT AND PEACE-MAKING AROUND LAND .....</b>	<b>10</b>
1. Environmental peacebuilding and land governance.....	11
2. Critical issues in land dispute resolution in contexts of conflict and displacement.....	12
3. Land, Livelihoods, and Everyday Peace: Rethinking 'Land Rights' in Times of Conflict .....	13
4. VNG International's approach to land governance: e-cadaster conflict resolution and climate-resilient land-use .....	14
<b>III. PEOPLE ON THE MOVE: ADDRESSING LAND RIGHTS FOR DISPLACED, REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND HOSTING COMMUNITIES .....</b>	<b>15</b>
1. Land rights, prolonged displacement and mobility.....	16
2. From Policy to Practice: Protecting Displaced Women's Housing, Land and Property Rights .....	17
3. Governance of Land and Property Rights Under Mobility-Driven Stress: Institutional and Legal Approaches for Protracted Crisis Contexts .....	18
4. When Titles Don't Exist: Making Informal Land Rights Visible for People on the Move.....	19
5. Conflict Inducted Displacement and Land Administration.....	20
6. Forced Displacement and Urban Agriculture; Building resilience aligning place, people and processes .....	21
7. Beyond land: Questioning land access for displaced people in context of climate change.....	22
8. Land Governance and Migration: A Rule of Law Perspective.....	23
<b>IV. LAND TERRITORY, AND IDENTITY: HOW TO UNDERSTAND LAND CONFLICT .....</b>	<b>24</b>
1. Struggles of the Soil: Farmers, Land, and Agrarian Protests in Contemporary India and South Asia.....	25
2. "Land as "fictitious commodity": property regimes, dispossession and struggles for belonging .....	26
3. Conflict Without War: Indigenous Land Rights, Internal Conflict, and the Limits of Peace in India .....	27
4. Wars and agrarian change.....	28
5. Reframing land conflict discourse: from land dispute to social cohesion.....	29
6. Cities, Land and Conflict: Dreams, Developments and Damages? .....	31
<b>V. GEOPOLITICS AND THE DYNAMICS OF LAND DISPOSSESSION .....</b>	<b>32</b>



1. Policies of Pastoral and Collective Land Dispossession and Displacement: A Comparative Analytical Approach across Indigenous and Pastoral Communities.....	33
2 From Farmland to Frontlines: Urban Expansion, Agricultural Land Loss and Conflict Dynamics in Fragile and Peri-Urban Contexts. ....	35
3. The Geopolitics of "Green Enclosures": Comparative Perspectives on Mining, Carbon Markets, and Land Sovereignty in the Global South.....	36
4. Global Capital, Local Conflict: The Neoliberal Logics of Rural Dispossession .....	37
5. Shadows of Green: The Global Green Transition as a Space of Conflict and Community Claims.....	38
<b>VI. CLIMATE SHOCKS AND LAND DISPUTES: FROM CONFLICT RISKS TO (RE)NEGOTIATING LAND RIGHTS</b>	<b>39</b>
1. Remaking Land Rights Amidst Climate-Conflict Dynamics.....	40
2. Re-thinking Power, Land, and Identity: Law from Below in a Changing Climate .....	41
3. Tenure Renegotiation as Adaptive Governance at the Intersection of Climate and Conflict.....	42



## SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

We now invite abstract submissions for the LANDac Conference 2026. 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 **27 February 2026**, in **English** and using the [Abstract Submission Form](#). Please submit your abstract **directly to the contact person of your preferred session and with [landac2026@gmail.com](mailto:landac2026@gmail.com) in CC**. The session organisers and Organising Committee will review all submissions. Notification on acceptance of abstracts will be done by 10 March 2026. 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. LAND AT THE 'TRIPLE NEXUS': HUMANITARIANISM, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE BUILDING**



## 1. The importance of inclusive land governance and restoration for stability and resilience in the Sahel region

**Organiser(s):** Annabelle Willeme – Both ENDS), Abasse Tougiani – INRAN (Niger)

**Contact details:** Annabelle Willeme ([a.willeme@bothends.org](mailto:a.willeme@bothends.org))

**Session format:** Round table followed by small group discussions on various specific topics

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** NEX-01

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

### **Session description:**

Across the Sahel, land degradation, land tenure insecurity and exclusive land governance systems are closely linked to conflict dynamics, social fragmentation and fragility. At the same time, local approaches to land restoration, such as farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR), demonstrate how inclusive land restoration and governance initiatives can strengthen livelihoods, reduce resource-related tensions, and contribute to social cohesion and resilience.

This session explores inclusive land governance as a key entry point linking land restoration, stability and peace in the Sahel. Drawing on experiences from Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal, the panel examines how community-led land restoration and land governance initiatives can influence conflict resolution, social cohesion and stability in fragile contexts by tackling root environmental, social and economic causes of conflict.

The session links local practices to national and international policy processes, including the role of civil society advocacy and global frameworks in promoting inclusive land governance. Participants will reflect on how land restoration initiatives can be implemented responsibly, how land governance can remain inclusive and conflict-sensitive in fragile contexts, and what this means for local communities, donors, governments and peace-focused programmes.

By bringing together practitioners, policymakers, and researchers, the session contributes to LANDac's "Land, Conflict, and Peace" programme by showing how inclusive land governance can serve as a basis for both environmental restoration and sustainable peace.

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

- Abasse Tougiani - INRAN

In addition to an invited speaker from Sahel-based partner organisation, we actively welcome abstracts from other regions and disciplines that engage with land governance, restoration, conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding.

Possible additional speakers from FMNR partner organisations (Burkina Faso, Senegal)



## 2. To what extent are improved land governance and land tenure security contributing to conflict reduction and peacebuilding?

**Organiser(s):** Mathijs van Leeuwen (Radboud University), Corita Corbijn/Alexandra 't Lam (ZOA)

**Contact details:** Corita Corbijn ([c.corbijn@zoa.ngo](mailto:c.corbijn@zoa.ngo))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** NEX-02

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

### Session description:

Inadequate land governance and competition for land can fuel violent conflicts, particularly in contexts with a history of war and displacement. For example, in Burundi, returning refugees may find their land occupied by others, creating renewed tensions. In Uganda, the influx of refugees and prolonged displacement can increase pressure on available land and strain relations with the host population. In the DRC, landless people and landowners often oppose each other.

Many organizations are incorporating improved land governance and land tenure security into their interventions, assuming this will contribute to conflict reduction and peace.

Through a panel discussion this session seeks to gain insights from practitioners' experiences and academic research that explore one of the following questions:

- What evidence exists that improving land governance and tenure security leads to more peaceful relations? What concrete examples can we draw on, and how to measure the peace effect of land governance and tenure security interventions?
- Can land- related interventions do harm, creating new conflicts between population groups or between communities and government? How can these risks be identified at an early stage and mitigated?
- What is needed to complement land-focused efforts when aiming for conflict reduction and peace, especially in contexts where social trust is weak? What could be the role of for example strengthening the (in)formal justice system or trust building intervention for improved land security and improved social cohesion?

Presenters are welcome to reflect on the Great Lakes region, but also on other contexts within and outside Africa.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Practitioners, researchers/evaluators.



### 3. Land governance, agricultural innovations and pathways to peace in fragile rural contexts

**Organiser(s):** Dr Fanta Barry, Dr Blaise Ouedraogo (INERA)

**Contact details:** Barry Fanta ([barryfanta2002@yahoo.fr](mailto:barryfanta2002@yahoo.fr))

**Session format:** Innovative session

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** NEX-03

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

#### **Session description:**

This session examines how land governance and agricultural innovations interact with conflict dynamics, broader instability and peacebuilding processes in Burkina Faso, a country severely affected by climate change, demographic pressure, and a prolonged security crisis. In this context, access to land and natural resources represents a key arena where local disputes intersect with wider patterns of fragility, displacement, governance deficits and insecurity. Drawing on action research experiences in Burkina Faso, the session analyzes how local land tenure systems, both formal and customary, influence the adoption and impacts of agricultural innovations such as land restoration techniques and soil and water conservation practices. While these innovations can strengthen livelihoods and reduce resource competition, they may also reinforce inequalities and exacerbate conflicts when land governance arrangements are weak or exclusionary. Unresolved land disputes and perceived injustices can contribute to processes of social marginalisation, which, in interaction with other political, economic and security factors, may increase the vulnerability of certain social groups, particularly youth, to radicalisation and recruitment by violent extremist movements. At the same time, the session explicitly recognises that land-related conflicts constitute only one among multiple, interconnected drivers of instability.

Anchored in the Triple Nexus perspective, the session brings together researchers and practitioners to discuss three key questions: (i) the role of local institutions in preventing and managing land-related conflicts; (ii) the place of gender and youth in land access and social mediation; and (iii) the conditions under which land and agricultural interventions can be designed in a conflict-sensitive and peace-enhancing manner.

The session aims to identify operational lessons for the design of land and agricultural policies and projects to strengthen resilience and contribute to sustainable peace in the country.

The organizers of this session from INERA, IRI, SNV, CARE, WUR and KIT collaborate in multiple projects on this topics, such as the 10 years Dutch ministry of foreign affairs Programme for resilience and economic development in the Sahel (Pro ARIDES).

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

- Haoua Belem (INERA),
- Karim Savadogo (INERA),
- Harouna Badiel (SNV),
- Bala SANOU (IRI),
- Marie SAWADOGO (CARE),
- Dieuwke Klaver (WUR),
- Gerard Baltissen (KIT).





#### 4. Promoting responsible use of housing and land in humanitarian and development programming: towards governing principles

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

**Contact details:** Paul Prettitore ([pprettitore@worldbank.org](mailto:pprettitore@worldbank.org))

**Session format:** Roundtable

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** NEX-04

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

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

Ensuring that humanitarian, development, and climate interventions that require land do not cause harm should be a priority for all actors. This is achieved by identifying legitimate rights to land and infrastructure and negotiating appropriate terms for their use with rights holders to ensure responsible and equitable distribution of benefits of assistance and investments. In the humanitarian sector, this process is often referred to as Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Due Diligence, while other sectors apply similar practices under different terminologies and frameworks.

Despite growing awareness of the need to respect existing land rights, there is no shared, cross-sectoral set of principles or standards guiding HLP due diligence. This gap persists even though land rights infringements by a single intervention can have long-term negative impacts on communities and undermine the effectiveness of future humanitarian, development, and climate actions.

At LANDac 2025, the World Bank and the Norwegian Refugee Council convened a session to assess interest among practitioners and donors in developing harmonized, cross-sectoral standards. While there was strong engagement and commitment, momentum slowed in the second half of 2025 as other priorities took precedence in a destabilized aid sector.

This follow-up session aims to revitalize that process. The organizers commit to draft standards and principles, re-engaging 2025 participants who expressed interest, and arriving at LANDac with a draft document and proposed action plan. The session will seek feedback on the draft, identify champions, and outline next steps to advance advocacy and adoption with donors and operational actors.

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

The document with the draft principles will be distributed to promote engagement by participants at the conference.



## **II. EVERYDAY POLITICS OF CONFLICT AND PEACE-MAKING AROUND LAND**



## 1. Environmental peacebuilding and land governance

**Organiser(s):** Mathijs van Leeuwen (Radboud University), Corita Corbijn/Alexandra 't Lam (ZOA)

**Contact details:** Mathijs van Leeuwen ([mathijs.vanleeuwen@ru.nl](mailto:mathijs.vanleeuwen@ru.nl))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** POL-01

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

### Session description:

Recent debate on 'environmental peacebuilding' suggests that addressing environmental problems can incentivize peace. This debate tends to concern nature conservation, common water sources, and responses to climate change; this panel introduces the debate to the land arena. Land is a strategic economic asset for recovery and development, and effectively protecting land claims and resolving disputes likely contributes to stability. Yet, the premise of environmental peacebuilding is more encompassing: policy reform processes can also nurture collaborative relationships, common institutions, and shared identities, and so contribute to peace also in more structural ways. This panel explores whether and to what extent this premise also holds for land and its governance; and how improved relationships and institutions around land impact wider dynamics of governance reform and peacebuilding.

The panel aims to bring together insights in and lessons learnt on the variety of peacebuilding effects of land governance and its reform, for instance whether and how it stimulates collective action between different communities and user groups; helps (re-)establish the legitimacy and sustainability of local public authorities; and provides a space for local emancipation, and alternative, more participatory forms of governance. A key question is also to what extent such beneficial effects may scale up, and impact governance more generally.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Academic researchers, practitioners.



## 2. Critical issues in land dispute resolution in contexts of conflict and displacement

**Organiser(s):** Fernando de Medina-Rosales (Norwegian Refugee Council), Anna Locke (Prindex and ODI Senior Research Associate), Paul Prettitore (The World Bank)

**Contact details:** Fernando de Medina-Rosales ([fernando.medina@nrc.no](mailto:fernando.medina@nrc.no))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** POL-02

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

### Session description:

Land disputes are both a root cause and a driver of violent conflict and displacement. Long-standing grievances over land and housing often originate in colonial legacies, authoritarian governance, weakened institutions, and unresolved tensions between customary and formal systems. In contexts of conflict and displacement, these disputes are frequently intensified by resource scarcity, population movements, occupation of land, and encroachment in areas of return or settlement.

Addressing land disputes is therefore central to humanitarian protection, social cohesion, and durable solutions to displacement. Beyond resolving individual claims, land dispute resolution methodologies are increasingly used to support humanitarian access, prevent conflict escalation, and enhance the sustainability of humanitarian and development interventions. Many organizations now implement land dispute resolution programming, often guided by internally developed toolkits that vary in approach, scope, and degree of formality.

Despite this growing body of practice, there remains limited shared understanding and consensus on several issues. This session aims to bring together practitioners and academics to explore unresolved questions:

- how land dispute resolution processes can meaningfully address power imbalances, including gender inequalities, and build resilience through land markets;
- how the impact of land dispute resolution on displacement solutions can be measured, including the relation with restitution and compensation processes;
- how customary and informal actors can be engaged to ensure the results of their interventions in disputes are coherent with formal tenure systems.

This session will seek to identify practical insights and research gaps to inform more effective and equitable land dispute resolution in conflict displacement-affected contexts.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

We want a combination of academics and practitioners.

The organisers -NRC, Prindex and the World Bank- will provide a moderator and presenters. We are open to adding one additional presenter who can share concrete experiences and lessons learned from specific countries, highlighting practical approaches and initiatives that can be adapted or replicated in other contexts.



### 3. Land, Livelihoods, and Everyday Peace: Rethinking 'Land Rights' in Times of Conflict

**Organiser(s):** Elnazir Ramadan (UAE University)

**Contact details:** Elnazir Ramadan ([elnazirr@uaeu.ac.ae](mailto:elnazirr@uaeu.ac.ae))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** POL-03

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

**Session description:**

This panel explores how land shapes both conflict and peace through the everyday realities of livelihood, mobility, governance, and displacement. Moving beyond formal peace agreements, the session focuses on how people's economic, political, and social reliance on land becomes a site of contestation—but also of cooperation and resilience.

Panelists are invited to examine how competition over farming, grazing, urban land, and access to natural resources gives rise to local conflicts, and how framing these disputes as 'land rights' issues can both open and close possibilities for resolution. The session particularly welcomes contributions that analyse the roles of 'outside' actors—such as international agencies, national elites, armed groups, and investors—in exacerbating or mitigating these dynamics.

We are also interested in how transformations in land governance—customary, religious, and statutory—may serve as an entry point for wider transitions towards peace, justice, and inclusive development. Empirical, historically grounded, or comparative papers on different regions, including borderlands and displacement settings, are especially encouraged.

**Presenters targeted or identified:**

We hope to attract presenters who combine empirical, field-based work including

- Researchers and scholars working on land governance, displacement, resource conflicts, and peace processes
- Practitioners from NGOs, civil society, and international agencies engaged in land, livelihoods, or mediation work
- Policy-makers and analysts focusing on land reform, customary/statutory law, and natural resource management



#### 4. VNG International's approach to land governance: e-cadaster conflict resolution and climate-resilient land-use

**Organiser(s):** Adrien Trocmé / Yvonne Kraak (VNG International)

**Contact details:** Adrien Trocmé ([adrian.trocme@vng.nl](mailto:adrian.trocme@vng.nl)), Yvonne Kraak ([Yvonne.kraak@vng.nl](mailto:Yvonne.kraak@vng.nl))

**Session format:** 3 short presentations with different case studies (from Benin, DRC, South Sudan) by local key note speakers and subsequent Q&A led by moderator

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** POL-04

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

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

Land governance, whether done by the local authorities or local religious leaders, plays a crucial role in preventing or solving conflict and making peace. For more than 25 years, VNG International has been supporting local governments worldwide including on land governance, land registration and administration.

##### **Bénin:**

The PPMEC project has focused on the scale up of the digital land register (e-cadastral system eFB) in Bénin. Several mayors have emphasized the extent to which the distribution of the cadaster registration certificates has drastically reduced the number of land-related conflicts. Without clarification on land titles, they had to deal with dozens of cases per week, which significantly limited their ability to focus on other priority issues at the municipal level.

##### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):**

The TRIDE project focuses on improving food security through 1) improving access to land and reducing conflict over land 2) smarter water resource management 3) boosting the local economy through supporting cooperatives. TRIDE has equipped 5 agricultural land cadaster offices, and has trained 98 officers in administration and archiving to operationalize the offices. These cadaster offices as well as TRIDE's mediation led to the resolving of several conflicts.

##### **South-Sudan:**

Together with GIZ and three regional experts, VNG International developed different approaches to reduce land related conflict in South Sudan. These approaches were:

- Systematic Land Adjudication: Manual / Facilitators Guide
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Toolkit
- Community Sensitization Toolkit
- A study report on land rights in South Sudan was published alongside the tools.

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

- Loochi Muzaliwa – TRIDE
- Adrien Trocmé - Benin
- Sanne van Amerongen – South Sudan



### **III. PEOPLE ON THE MOVE: ADDRESSING LAND RIGHTS FOR DISPLACED, REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND HOSTING COMMUNITIES**



## 1. Land rights, prolonged displacement and mobility

**Organiser(s):** Mathijs van Leeuwen, Juul Kwaks (Radboud Universiteit), Corita Corbijn/Alexandra 't Lam (ZOA )

**Contact details:** Mathijs van Leeuwen, ([mathijs.vanleeuwen@ru.nl](mailto:mathijs.vanleeuwen@ru.nl))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MOV-01

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

### Session description:

In many conflict-affected settings, prolonged displacement and return result in significant reshuffles of land rights, and raise questions on how to organize restitution of land rights or compensation for land lost. At the same time, displacement and claims to land tend to become more permanent; and even difficult to distinguish from more regular mobility and migration. This has implications for mutual expectations of and relationships between on-staying populations and returnees on the one hand and more or less permanent refugees and displaced on the other. In several of such settings, government, international development organizations and local partners are now piloting strategies to take such realities into account, for instance registration of land rental agreements.

This panel provides space to present and discuss research and practitioners' experiences on questions like:

- How does protracted displacement affect refugee-host interactions surrounding land access and -claims?
- How do refugees' continued mobility practices affect their land claims and -rights in their country of residence or their country of origin?
- What are the impacts of this on prevailing practices of accessing land, legitimacy of diverse claims to land, and the role of local land governing institutions?
- How do intervention strategies that take mobility into account impact tenure security and refugee-host interactions?

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Academic researchers, practitioners.





## 2. From Policy to Practice: Protecting Displaced Women's Housing, Land and Property Rights

**Organiser(s):** Laura Cunial, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Esther Mwaura-Muiru, Stand For Her Land (S4HL)/Landesa, Victoria Stanley, World Bank (WB)

**Contact details:** Laura Cunial ([laura.cunial@nrc.no](mailto:laura.cunial@nrc.no))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MOV-02

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

### Session description:

This panel will explore strategies to strengthen legal and governance frameworks that protect and enable women's housing, land, and property (HLP) rights during and after conflicts, including displacement, refugee and return situations. Displaced women often face legal, social, and practical barriers to accessing HLP rights, including disrupted documentation, insecure tenure, gender-based violence, and restrictive social norms. Women in host communities frequently encounter similar challenges, making it critical to address HLP rights across populations. Ensuring women's rights to housing and land is essential for gender equality, social and economic development durable solutions, and community resilience.

The discussion will highlight practical strategies and policy approaches that have successfully supported women's HLP rights in conflict-affected contexts. Examples from countries will showcase strategic initiatives such as legal reforms promoting joint land ownership and access, and targeted support for women returnees and host communities. Panelists will emphasize the importance of putting grassroots women and communities at the center to advocate for their rights, challenge discriminatory practices, and ensure that governance mechanisms promote gender equality. Lessons learned from these experiences will underline the value of integrating gender perspectives into land governance, supporting social norms change interventions, fostering community engagement, and strengthening coordination among governments, civil society, and humanitarian actors.

The panel will conclude with key takeaways, focusing on actionable recommendations to improve women's access to housing, land and property during and after conflicts to inform policymakers, practitioners, and academics.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

The organizers will moderate the roundtable and propose panelists to discuss specific approaches tested by NRC, the World Bank, and/or S4HL.

They are also seeking presenters who can share concrete experiences and lessons learned including grassroots women leaders from specific countries, highlighting practical approaches and initiatives that can be adapted or replicated in other contexts.



### 3. Governance of Land and Property Rights Under Mobility-Driven Stress: Institutional and Legal Approaches for Protracted Crisis Contexts

**Organiser(s):** Oxfam and ODI

**Contact details:** Barbara Codispoti ([barbara.codispoti@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:barbara.codispoti@oxfamnovib.nl)), Camille Laville ([c.laville@odi.org](mailto:c.laville@odi.org))

**Session format:** Hybrid Roundtable/workshop

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MOV-03

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

#### **Session description:**

In today's landscape of protracted, conflict-related crises, forced displacement, and cyclical mobility, land and property rights cannot be addressed through standard land-governance approaches. Conflict-driven mobility creates governance environments where legal frameworks are incomplete or inapplicable, institutions are weakened, and social trust is deeply fractured. In these settings, land is not only a resource to be managed but often both a root cause and a direct casualty of violence, shaping territorial control, identity claims, and patterns of displacement.

This session examines the distinctive features of land governance in areas with a significant presence of displaced populations and refugees and challenges several persistent myths that continue to shape policy and practice.

It highlights why people on the move, whether displaced internally, across borders, or in repeated cycles, require approaches that differ fundamentally from those used in stable settings. Standard land governance tools, restitution mechanisms, and legal remedies often fail when applied without adaptation to environments marked by insecurity, contested authority, and overlapping claims.

Drawing on concrete cases (Sahelian countries and Chad) the session examines how mobility-driven stress reshapes land systems, why temporary or hybrid legal and administrative arrangements may be required, and how humanitarian, development, and peace actors often assume de facto governance roles. It highlights the need for conflict-sensitive, and mobility-aware approaches that acknowledge the political nature of land, the fragility of institutions, and the centrality of land and property rights to durable peace.

Designed as a hybrid roundtable and workshop, the session seeks not only to share evidence but also to open a structured debate on what truly distinguishes land governance in crisis and displacement settings. Participants will be invited to reflect on emerging practices, identify gaps in current approaches, and consider how more adaptive, mobility-aware frameworks can strengthen pathways toward durable solutions.

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

- Oxfam (reference policy brief : [Terre, paix et sécurité : L'accès sécurisé à la terre comme garantie vitale pour la protection des communautés au Sahel](#))
- ODI (Camille Laville) and ADES (Alix Hurson) (reference study: [Accès à la terre et résilience des femmes réfugiées soudanaises au Tchad : Enjeux systémiques et perceptions locales | ODI: Think change](#))
- UNHCR Chad (Gerard Djimarassem)

Some cases (see above) will be presented and discussed in a roundtable format, allowing speakers to highlight key governance challenges and emerging practices from conflict-related crisis contexts.

For the workshop component, targeted invitations will bring together practitioners and experts for a focused debate on emerging solutions, gaps in current approaches, and how more adaptive, mobility-aware frameworks can strengthen pathways towards durable solutions.



#### 4. When Titles Don't Exist: Making Informal Land Rights Visible for People on the Move

**Organiser(s):** Jim Robinson (Norwegian Refugee Council NRC), Ibere Lopes, Melina Holder (International Organization for Migration (IOM))

**Contact details:** Melina Holder ([melsmith@iom.int](mailto:melsmith@iom.int))

**Session format:** Roundtable

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MOV-04

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

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

This session explores how land rights for people on the move can be protected when formal documentation does not exist, and what lessons can be drawn from restitution experiences in protracted displacement contexts such as Syria and Colombia. Drawing on these cases, the session highlights how the absence of early and inclusive documentation of land and housing relationships has delayed restitution processes, inhibited return, and exacerbated tensions between displaced populations and host communities. Innovative approaches to recordation demonstrate how alternative forms of evidence and data collection—such as narrative-based intake processes, witness testimonies, and community validation—can help make informal land rights visible and support more equitable restitution outcomes.

The session will discuss how documenting land and housing relationships before or during displacement, rather than waiting for post-conflict recovery, can reduce risks to peacebuilding and contribute to durable solutions. Particular attention will be given to the role of multi-sector coordination, including the recently established Settlement, Land and Site Coordination cluster, in bridging humanitarian shelter responses, camp and site management, and housing, land and property (HLP) considerations. By breaking sectoral silos and aligning data, evidence, and community engagement, coordinated approaches can strengthen the protection of land rights throughout displacement, return, and recovery processes.

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

The session seeks contributions from researchers and practitioners working on land rights, displacement, and restitution in conflict and post-conflict settings or multi-sector coordination mechanisms in humanitarian and development contexts. We particularly welcome abstracts from those with experience documenting informal land and housing rights, supporting restitution or return processes, or working at the intersection of shelter, Camp Management, and housing, land and property (HLP).

- Jim Robinson - HLP Coordination Global Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster (GSLSCC) / Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Ibere Lopes - HLP Advisor, International Organization for Migration (IOM) / GSLSCC
- Melina Holder - HLP Officer, IOM



## 5. Conflict Induced Displacement and Land Administration

**Organiser(s):** Dimo Todorovski (University of Twente), Christelle van den Berg (Kadaster)

**Contact details:** Dimo Todorovski ([d.todorovski@utwente.nl](mailto:d.todorovski@utwente.nl))

**Session format:** Auditorium/debate

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MOV-05

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

### **Session description:**

We are living in an era marked by a continuous rise in armed conflicts and special military operations. These developments result in widespread destruction of housing and large-scale displacement of populations. Conflict-induced displacement occurs in the form of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, who flee across borders in search of safety, leaving behind their homes and land. In many cases, displaced populations settle on land and in locations where they lack formally recognized property rights, while their original properties may be occupied by secondary occupants. Under such complex circumstances, the relationship between displacement and land administration becomes critically important. To address this evolving and dynamic relationship, this session aims to: (i) analyse major challenges and highlight emerging best practices at the intersection of conflict-induced displacement and land administration; (ii) examine how insecure land tenure can contribute to displacement, particularly in contexts of armed conflict and military operations; and (iii) present case studies and outline policy recommendations that support inclusive, adaptive, and sustainable land governance frameworks.

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

We will target presenters with experience from academia on the topic of the session and from practice.



## 6. Forced Displacement and Urban Agriculture; Building resilience aligning place, people and processes

**Organiser(s):** René van Veenhuizen (Hivos), Andrew Bradford (University of Coventry), Joe Nasr (University of Toronto, Springer Publications)

**Contact details:** René van Veenhuizen ([rvanveenhuizen@hivos.org](mailto:rvanveenhuizen@hivos.org))

**Session format:** Presentation, Panel discussion

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MOV-06

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

### Session description:

The world is urbanizing, so is warfare and conflict, bringing ever greater urban humanitarian need. Food insecurity is also rising, driven by conflicts, disasters, and climate change. These challenges are driving forced displacement (FD). Globally there are now over 120 million FDPs, which include refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and returnees, a number higher than ever before in human history.

UN and aid agencies increasingly acknowledge the need to allocate land; invest in cities, rather than in camps; seek integration and connection to host communities; and align local and national planning and financing.

Building resilience includes management of place, processes and people. Land access and availability is key in this integrated approach and determines adequate responses: allocating land to FDPs, building new settlements and urban neighborhoods, supporting FDPs and Host Communities, and building resilient city region food systems.

Integrating city region agriculture into humanitarian assistance and development provides opportunities for both FDPs and host communities along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. In the often-fragile contexts of forced displacement, it can increase resilience at both the livelihood and landscape levels. The session will highlight the role of urban food systems in improving the livelihoods for FDPs and host communities in various locations and stages of displacement, as well as in contributing to sustainable and resilient settlements and cities more broadly. It will also discuss adequate support by UN agencies, NGOs, and government bodies, who, together with cities across the world, recognize the importance of urban agriculture for healthy, green, resilient and inclusive cities.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

We have presenters for an introduction, and potentially on 3-4 cases from around the world (contributors to the upcoming Springer Publication on the subject). But we are open to presenters with cases. This can be contributions to related issues, by academics or practitioners.

Confirmed presenters:

- René van Veenhuizen, Hivos
- Andrew Adam-Bradford, UK
- Bram Jansen, Wageningen University, Netherlands
- Kat Pittore, ATNi (Access to Nutrition Initiative), Netherlands.



## 7. Beyond land: Questioning land access for displaced people in context of climate change

**Organiser(s):** Lucien Ramazani, Pierre Shamavu (UCLouvain, Belgium)

**Contact details:** Lucien Ramazani ([lucien.ramazani@uclouvain.be](mailto:lucien.ramazani@uclouvain.be))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MOV-07

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

### Session description:

This session examines how displaced persons in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo negotiate access to land before, during, and after displacement in a context marked by armed conflicts and climate stress. Considering the various case studies, the diversity of urban contexts, and the richness of the ethnographic data, one observes structural dynamics that simultaneously shape and hinder this negotiation over access to land. The session argues that land access for displaced people cannot be understood solely through formal land rights frameworks, but must be approached as a dynamic social, political, and environmental process shaped by violence, urban pressure, and climate variability. Focusing on saturated urban cities in African Great lakes region, the session highlights how mass displacement from rural areas has intensified competition over already scarce and contested land. Urban expansion through anarchic construction, rising rental prices, and settlement on non-aedificandi sites reflects displaced people's constrained strategies for securing shelter and livelihoods. These practices intersect with deeply rooted land conflicts characterized by overlapping land titles, corruption, elite capture, and weak land governance institutions—dynamics that are recurrently exacerbated during cycles of AFC/M23-related violence.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- Espoir Mugabo (UAmsterdam/ISDR-BKV);
- Grâce Mbanzi (UCLouvain /UCC);
- Joseph Kabasele (UCLouvain);
- Lucie Bahati (UAmsterdam);
- Jules Bangirinama (Université de Toulon);
- Parfait Kaningu (Université de Mons)..



## 8. Land Governance and Migration: A Rule of Law Perspective

**Organiser(s):** International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

**Contact details:** M. Lankhorst, ([mlankhorst@idlo.int](mailto:mlankhorst@idlo.int))

**Session format:** Panel discussion, moderated by IDLO, with speakers from three to four country contexts.

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** MOV-08

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

### Session description:

Land and migration are deeply interconnected, yet their relationship has received limited attention in land governance research and policy debates. Land provides livelihoods, security, and identity, while migration – both internal and international – reshapes patterns of land access, use, and dispute. Drawing on case studies from Afghanistan, Kenya, Somalia, and Tunisia, this session explores the multiple ways in which land and human mobility intersect, and why these linkages matter for development, equity, and resilience.

Access to land can influence migration decisions in contrasting ways: secure tenure may reduce the need to move, while land scarcity, insecurity, or exclusion can push people to seek livelihoods elsewhere. Conversely, migration, displacement, and return can intensify pressure on land and natural resources, particularly in contexts of weak land administration or overlapping legal systems. Returning refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants may face contested claims, unclear documentation, or limited recognition of customary and informal rights, increasing the risk of disputes and marginalization.

The session places particular emphasis on access to justice and legal empowerment as critical dimensions of the land-migration nexus. Across the featured country contexts, migrants and returnees often encounter significant barriers to asserting land rights, including limited legal literacy, lack of affordable dispute resolution mechanisms, and unequal power relations within households and communities. These challenges are frequently gendered, with women facing additional obstacles to land access and decision-making in situations of migration and return.

Climate change further deepens these dynamics, as environmental stress and livelihood insecurity shape mobility patterns and exacerbate competition over land in both areas of origin and return. By bringing together comparative experiences from different regions, the session aims to provide an overview of key connections between land governance and migration, identify shared challenges and context-specific responses, and highlight the role of justice systems and legal empowerment in mediating outcomes.

### Programme

- Intro & framing: Define key themes - migration as both cause and effect of land change – (IDLO)
- Individual presentations:
- Land tenure security and migration decisions – Tunisia (UTAP)
- Displacement, return, and contested land claims – Somalia (TBC)
- Gendered land rights, mobility, and access to justice – Afghanistan (IDLO)
- Climate stress, mobility, and land governance challenges – Kenya (TBC)
- Closing: Map how governance can mediate outcomes across all these axes and identify gaps and collaborative pathways for research and policy – (IDLO)

### Presenters targeted or identified:

More details about partners and speakers will be confirmed



## **IV. LAND TERRITORY, AND IDENTITY: HOW TO UNDERSTAND LAND CONFLICT**





## 1. Struggles of the Soil: Farmers, Land, and Agrarian Protests in Contemporary India and South Asia

**Organiser(s):** Dr. Apala Vatsa (Manav Rachna University)

**Contact details:** Dr. Apala Vatsa ([apalavatsa@mru.edu.in](mailto:apalavatsa@mru.edu.in))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** IDE-01

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

### **Session description:**

The Indian farmers' protest of 2020–21 emerged from decades of rural distress, contested land relations, and agrarian inequality, becoming one of the most significant social movements in independent India. Triggered by the passage of three agricultural reform laws aimed at deregulating markets and inviting private capital into agricultural trade, the movement reflected deeper structural vulnerabilities in rural India. Many farmers perceived these reforms as a direct threat to the minimum support price system and smallholder livelihoods, highlighting broader issues of economic insecurity, debt cycles, and unequal land relations (Moliner and Singh 2025; Admankar 2024; Singh et al. 2022).

The protests were sustained and coordinated by organizations such as the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, which facilitated collaboration among geographically dispersed farmers at Delhi's borders. The collective action lasted more than a year and ultimately succeeded in securing the repeal of the contested laws (Singh 2025). Beyond opposition to policy, these mobilizations articulated alternative visions of democracy, economic justice, and participatory governance, challenging dominant state narratives of reform and modernisation (Moliner and Singh 2025; Admankar 2024).

This session situates the Indian experience within broader South Asian contexts, recognizing that patterns of agrarian distress, land insecurity, and rural mobilization resonate across the region. Comparative perspectives from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan, among other contexts, can illuminate shared structural challenges, regional variations, and innovative strategies for negotiating land and livelihood rights under conditions of socio-economic uncertainty.

The session format includes up to four presenters, each speaking for 10–12 minutes, followed by short clarification questions. A 30-minute period will allow for broader discussion and reflection on shared lessons and comparative insights. Presenters are expected to submit abstracts rather than full papers, enabling the session to accommodate diverse perspectives while maintaining coherence with the session's core objectives. One of the presentations will be delivered by the session organizer, leaving space for three additional presenters.

### **Core Research Questions**

- How did long-standing agrarian distress and patterns of land and market insecurity shape the farmers' responses to the 2020 farm laws, and what does this reveal about structural roots of land conflict in India?
- In what ways did the mobilisation redefine ideas of economic justice, democratic participation, and belonging in relation to state narratives of reform?
- How can insights from the farmers' movement inform broader frameworks for conflict transformation and peacebuilding in land governance settings where policy reforms intersect with lived insecurity and resistance?
- What lessons can be drawn from the Indian case in comparison with agrarian mobilisations in other South Asian countries, and how do regional similarities and differences inform approaches to land governance and socio-economic justice?

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

Both academics and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts



## 2. “Land as “fictitious commodity”: property regimes, dispossession and struggles for belonging

**Organiser(s):** Aditi Saraf (Utrecht University)

**Contact details:** Aditi Saraf ([a.saraf@uu.nl](mailto:a.saraf@uu.nl))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** IDE-02

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

### **Session description:**

This session engages with Karl Polanyi’s concept of land as “fictitious commodity” to examine how transformation of land into marketable commodity generates violence, resistance and contested claims to belonging. Polanyi argued that land (along with labour and money) are “fictitious” commodities because they are not originally produced for sale yet capitalism treats them as such, creating profound social dislocations. When land is subject to market logics, existing systems of access, use, meaning and habitation are disrupted, often violently.

This panel seeks to bring together ethnographic and historical analyses that trace how land commodification unfolds in specific contexts, the forms of resistance it generates, and how it reshapes territorial sovereignty and belonging. We examine the gap between land market as object and land as lived terrain – exploring what happens when customary practices, cultural/spiritual geographies, and community-based governance systems confront state-led formalization, corporate extraction, or financialized property regimes. We are particularly interested in papers addressing commodification in contexts of colonial and postcolonial dispossession (for eg: in Palestine or Kashmir), large scale land acquisitions ( eg: land concessions for rubber and palm oil plantations in south-east Asia), extractive industries (eg: bauxite mining in Odisha, Lithium extraction in the Atacama), and digital cadastral and land governance programs to ease property transfers (eg: Kenya and India’s digitalization of land registries, Sweden’s use of blockchain in the land registration process).

Some guiding questions:

- How do communities engage or resist land commodification through everyday practices, legal claims and magical rituals or alternative property frameworks?
- What historical sources and injustices to claims to land spring from and how do they shape contemporary conflicts over citizenship, identity and territorial control?
- What happens when states, corporations, or digital governance systems attempt to render land mappable, exchange-able and legible – and what remains illegible or resistance to such translations?
- How do processes of land commodification create new political subjectivities and forms of belonging, even as they displace existing ones?

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

Scholars and students of anthropology history, geography and other social sciences are welcome, as are land activists and policy-makers.



### 3. Conflict Without War: Indigenous Land Rights, Internal Conflict, and the Limits of Peace in India

**Organiser(s):** Ishrat Jahan (Forest Future Alliance / World Economic Forum)

**Contact details:** Ishrat Jahan ([Ishratjahaan10@gmail.com](mailto:Ishratjahaan10@gmail.com))

**Session format:** Panel + moderated discussion

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** IDE-03

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

#### **Session description:**

Across South Asia, some of the most enduring conflicts over land unfold outside the frame of formal war or armed confrontation. Instead, they take the form of protracted struggles between Indigenous and forest-dependent communities and the state over land ownership, resource control, development projects, and the meaning of legality itself. Often framed as governance failures or implementation gaps, these conflicts represent for affected communities a deeper crisis of justice, dignity, and self-determination.

This session examines how land governance regimes produce forms of internal conflict without war. Using India as an anchor case, it explores how colonial-era land classifications, post-independence development priorities, and contemporary climate and conservation agendas have collectively constrained Indigenous land rights, even where progressive legal frameworks such as the Forest Rights Act (2006) formally exist.

The session invites comparative case-based perspectives from South Asia and potentially other Global South contexts where similar dynamics are visible, including Nepal, Bangladesh (Chittagong Hill Tracts), Sri Lanka, and parts of Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The focus is on specific cases that illuminate shared patterns: how internal conflict is managed, depoliticised, or normalised through law; how resistance is framed as illegality or security threat; and how Indigenous communities continue to assert land rights through legal, institutional, and movement-based strategies.

It asks three central questions:

1. How do land policies and development projects generate internal conflict in non-war settings?
2. What does peace mean when land rights remain unresolved or selectively recognised?
3. How can land governance move beyond legal recognition towards durable peace and justice?

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

Presenters are partially identified. The session will include one or two confirmed contributors working on Indigenous land rights and land governance in India (anchor case).

In addition, the session will be open to a targeted call for abstracts from scholars and practitioner-researchers working on comparable land-state-Indigenous conflicts in South Asia and selected Global South contexts (e.g. Nepal, Bangladesh/Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sri Lanka, parts of Africa or Latin America).



#### 4. Wars and agrarian change

**Organiser(s):** Jacobo Grajales (Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris), Mehdi Labzaé (National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France), Caitlin Ryan (University of Groningen)

**Contact details:** Jacobo Grajales ([jacobo.grajales@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:jacobo.grajales@univ-paris1.fr))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** IDE-04

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

**Session description:**

This session will discuss the connections between wars and agrarian change. We see this connection as complex and intricate. While agrarian causes by themselves are very seldom the cause of wars, they play a key role in understanding how certain people join armed struggles. Also, wars have a deep impact on agrarian relations of production and social reproduction, people's relation to land, as well as connections between rural areas and global markets.

The panel welcomes submissions in relation to the complex articulation between armed struggle and transformations in global capitalism. We hope to discuss how war-making often favors certain forms of accumulation and re-fashions territorial and agrarian identities, thereby transform the relationship between people and land. We also acknowledge that wars should be analysed with a longer-term view, and as part of processes of accumulation and integration of people and territories into capitalism. They also play out through gendered fault lines and gendered divisions of labour, and play a fundamental role in the transformation of gendered identities and gendered claims about land.

We particularly encourage submissions which consider questions such as:

- How do regional and global value chains push societies down into political and violent crises?
- How do wars impact food systems and the international food regime?
- How are armed violence and environmental struggle connected to agrarian change?
- At a micro-level, we are also interested in papers that consider:
  - How does war cause deep transformations in agrarian systems?
  - How do these transformations generate persistent cycles of armed mobilization?

**Presenters targeted or identified:**

Both academics and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts.



## 5. Reframing land conflict discourse: from land dispute to social cohesion

**Organiser(s):** Dr. Musoke Charles and Namuddu Cissy Settumba (Makerere Institute of Social Research, Equiland Africana Foundation)

**Contact details:** Namuddu Cissy Settumba ([admin@equilandafricana.org](mailto:admin@equilandafricana.org))

**Session format:** Roundtable

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** IDE-05

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

### Session description:

Round table with testimonies and case study presentation/discussion. The round table session will explore experiences of practitioners through their everyday work interactions with clients, landowners and dealing with land conflict issues, projects that dealt with conflict resolution, comparative case studies for example civil society that have had experience in conflict resolution.

The session will be a narrative and discursive session, targeting participants' experiences in dealing with land conflict and how these interrelate with ethnicity, history and identity. Practitioners have rich empirical experiences that can enhance the knowledge of researchers. Through these lived experiences, researchers can better understand and theorize or find gaps for further research.

Land conflicts are often framed narrowly as technical disputes over boundaries, ownership, or access. However, evidence from diverse contexts demonstrates that such conflicts are rarely about land alone. They are deeply embedded in histories of dispossession, identity formation, power relations, cultural meaning, livelihoods, and collective memory. Consequently, purely technical or legal land solutions often fail to produce sustainable peace or social cohesion. This session advances a critical discourse that conceptualizes land as a social, political, cultural, and economic construct central to human welfare and survival.

Through a round table format grounded in practitioner experiences, testimonies, storytelling and comparative case studies will explore how selected countries and communities have integrated land governance into the wider fabric of society. These approaches deliberately engage with historical injustices, identity claims, customary systems, and intangible values attached to land moving beyond titling and adjudication to inclusive governance frameworks that acknowledge trauma, displacement, belonging, and intergenerational ties to land. Narratives that demonstrate how land resolution processes can contribute to reconciliation, equity, and long-term stability are solicited. Comparative narratives will illustrate how land has been used as an entry point to address wider societal challenges, including social exclusion, ethnic tensions, political marginalization, and economic vulnerability. Importantly the session will benefit from stories from countries that do not have land conflicts as a major threat interrogating the conditions and governance choices that enabled such outcomes. Ultimately, this session reframes land from a commodity or administrative unit to a lived space of identity, memory, peace, security and survival.

### Objectives

- To unravel practitioner knowledge and lived experiences in land conflict and resolution.
- To examine land as an entry point to address other challenges such as social exclusion.
- Bridge empirical practice and academic research by identifying lessons, patterns and gaps for further study.

### Guiding Questions

- How do history, identity and power shape land conflicts in different contexts



- Share your experience in resolving land conflict beyond or away from technical/legal towards reconciliation and social cohesion.
- How can practitioner experiences inform theory, policy and future research on land conflict, peace and security?
- In what ways does land function as a barrier or enabler of survival for the majority in your community?

**Presenters targeted or identified:**

Political economists, economists, scholars on land conflict in Africa and elsewhere, practitioners from ministries, development partners/CSO that have implemented land projects, legal practitioners, displaced persons.



## 6. Cities, Land and Conflict: Dreams, Developments and Damages?

**Organiser(s):** Forest City Consortium in collaboration with IOS Fair Transitions platform.

Janwillem Liebrand, Kei Otsuki, Femke van Noorloos (Utrecht University), Michelle van Kooy (IHE Delft), Erlis Saputra (Universitas Gadjah Mada, UGM)

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

**Session format:** Panel or roundtable

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** IDE-06

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

### **Session description:**

Taking the work of the Forest City consortium on Indonesia's new capital city IKN as a reference, we aim to discuss how large-scale urban modernization plans across the globe are tied to land and conflict, and to ways of being and living on contested imaginaries of land/human relations. We aim to discuss what sort of futures are being imagined and produced ('dreams'), and how this drives changing land use and land rights conflicts, mediated by the creation of new livelihood opportunities and precarities; new forms of identity and citizenship ('developments'), and irreversible damages to the planet and more-than-human relations of belonging ('damages').

Governments and private actors across the globe are actively pursuing new urban modernization plans. Notably, in 2022, the Indonesian government started the construction of a new capital city in East Kalimantan, Ibu Kota Nusantara (IKN). Yet examples of recent urban modernization dreams abound worldwide, including new capital cities (Naypyidaw in Myanmar, Putrajaya in Malaysia, Egypt's New Administrative Capital) and private or public-private new towns around the world. Conflicts and contestations around land are almost always tied to these modernization dreams, the existing relations/cosmologies they replace or layer onto, and once they are implemented, they tend to create new development opportunities and sites of belonging for some while excluding others. In the process, they risk producing irreversible planetary damages to landscapes, ecologies and more-than-human relations at large.

We welcome empirical research work in this subject, in relation to: land, water, forests, housing, energy, livelihoods, conflicts, contestations, and more-than-human practices.

### **Guiding questions:**

- How do large-scale urban modernization plans 're-structure' conflicts and contestations around land, and how do they produce forms of estrangement and/or belonging among various actors in terms of livelihood, identities and practices?
- How do proponents of large-scale city projects reconcile 'dreams' of modernization and progress with irreversible 'damages' to the planet; how do they envision and respond to new forms of development and/or precarity?
- How do urban modernization plans and big city construction projects such as IKN "layer onto" existing cosmologies and more-than-human relations; how to re-think "land" and "urban", conceptually and politically? If the built environment and say, the forest, are both "cities" (of species); and if they are connected, what research strategy or method might be required to do justice to these realities?

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

We will contact the following persons: Marie Belland (University of Amsterdam), Diana Suhardiman (Leiden University), Rita Padawangi (Singapore University of Social Sciences), Rick Dolphijn and/or Janwillem Liebrand (Utrecht University, IOS Fair Transitions).

We can welcome one or two abstracts if they fit the topic.



## **V. GEOPOLITICS AND THE DYNAMICS OF LAND DISPOSSESSION**





## 1. Policies of Pastoral and Collective Land Dispossession and Displacement: A Comparative Analytical Approach across Indigenous and Pastoral Communities.

**Organiser(s):** Tifsa Atlas Association for Sustainable Development (Morocco)

**Contact details:** Mohamed Souhassou ([souhassoumohammad@gmail.com](mailto:souhassoumohammad@gmail.com))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** GEO-01

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

### Session description:

This session is grounded in the understanding that the dispossession of collective lands and the restriction of access to pastoral rangelands faced by Indigenous and pastoral communities constitute a structural driver of pastoral displacement and marginalization across diverse geographical contexts. Despite differing historical trajectories, pastoral communities worldwide share a fundamental reliance on collective land tenure systems and pastoral mobility as the basis of livelihoods, social organization, environmental knowledge, and the continuity of cultural and linguistic identities.

The session focuses on the mechanisms through which pastoral land dispossession is produced and intensified. It examines the role of state land policies, the dismantling of collective land tenure systems, land appropriation, the contraction of transhumance territories, and the reconfiguration of pastoral mobility in generating forced displacement and undermining customary systems of land access and mobility.

The session further highlights how land governance frameworks including land registration programs and spatial reorganization policies progressively exclude pastoralists from decision-making processes and erode their collective land rights. It also addresses the impacts of large-scale development projects, extractive activities, and the establishment of national parks and protected areas, which restrict seasonal mobility, criminalize customary pastoral practices, and expose pastoral communities to displacement and loss of livelihoods.

Through a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, the session aims to foster critical discussion on pastoral land dispossession and displacement, while exploring alternative and just pathways of land governance that support pastoral mobility and protect collective rights.

### Themes and Areas for Contribution

#### Theme 1:

Collective Land Dispossession and Forced Displacement of Pastoralists: The Dismantling of Collective Tenure Systems in Rangeland Areas

This theme focuses on the ways in which state policies, legal frameworks, land titling processes, and spatial reorganization contribute to the dispossession of pastoralists from collective lands and undermine historically established systems of collective land tenure governing access to rangelands. It examines the social, economic, and cultural consequences of these processes, including the loss of pastoral livelihoods, the fragmentation of social structures, and the transformation of pastoralists into marginalized and vulnerable groups, often accompanied by forced displacement and territorial exclusion.

#### Theme 2:



Mobile Pastoralism under a Changing Climate: Public Policies, the Contraction of Rangeland Spaces, and the Criminalization of Pastoral Mobility This theme examines the erosion of traditional pastoral adaptation strategies to climate change in the context of public policies that restructure pastoral landscapes, including national park and protected area policies, extractive activities, and administrative territorial divisions. It explores how these policies restrict seasonal mobility and grazing access, introduce legal and regulatory constraints on mobile pastoralism, and contribute to the criminalization of customary pastoral practices through sanctions and enforcement measures. The theme highlights how these dynamics deepen pastoral vulnerability and increasingly push pastoral communities toward displacement, dispossession, and the erosion of mobile pastoral livelihoods.

**Presenters targeted or identified:**

- Researchers working on land governance, Indigenous rights, and pastoral systems;
- Civil society actors engaged in issues of collective, communal, and customary lands;
- Experts and practitioners in pastoralism, mobility, and mobile livelihoods;
- Early-career researchers and graduate students (Master's and PhD) from universities and academic institutions;
- Indigenous representatives and activists from pastoral and Indigenous communities across different regions of the world;
- All scholars and practitioners interested in land dispossession, access to land, and natural resource governance in pastoral and tribal contexts.



## 2 From Farmland to Frontlines: Urban Expansion, Agricultural Land Loss and Conflict Dynamics in Fragile and Peri-Urban Contexts.

**Organiser(s):** Association marocaine des chercheurs en Géomatique et en Gouvernance Foncière

**Contact details:** Erreddaf Chaimaa ([chaimaaerreddaf@gmail.com](mailto:chaimaaerreddaf@gmail.com))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** No

**Code:** GEO-02

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

### Session description:

Rapid urban expansion is increasingly transforming agricultural land into peri-urban and urban spaces, often under conditions of weak land governance, political exclusion, and socio-economic inequality. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, this process frequently fuels land dispossession, livelihood loss, and tensions between farmers, investors, local authorities, and displaced populations.

This session explores how the conversion of agricultural land for urban development intersects with conflict dynamics, peacebuilding efforts, and post-conflict reconstruction. It examines how development-driven land acquisition, infrastructure expansion, and real estate speculation reshape land rights and access, often exacerbating existing grievances and social fragmentation.

Bringing together scholars, practitioners, and policy-oriented actors, the session analyses urbanisation as a political process embedded in broader struggles over land, identity, and power. Particular attention is given to peri-urban zones, where rural and urban governance systems collide and where land-related conflicts are most visible yet often insufficiently addressed in humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions.

The session invites critical reflections on conflict-sensitive land governance approaches, inclusive urban planning, and mechanisms to protect agricultural land and livelihoods in contexts of displacement, climate pressure, and post-conflict recovery. Through comparative case studies and conceptual contributions, the session aims to contribute to debates on how land governance can support peace, social justice, and sustainable urban futures.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- Early Career Researchers working on land governance, urbanisation and conflict
- Practitioners from NGOs, development agencies and land institutions
- Policy-oriented researchers on peri-urban land, displacement and post-conflict reconstruction
- Case studies from Africa, the Middle East and other conflict-affected regions



### 3. The Geopolitics of "Green Enclosures": Comparative Perspectives on Mining, Carbon Markets, and Land Sovereignty in the Global South.

**Organiser(s):** DRC Climate Change Network (RCCRDC)

**Contact details:** Gaston Alimasi, ([Gaston-alimasi@rccrdc.org](mailto:Gaston-alimasi@rccrdc.org))

**Session format:** Paper Presentations + Roundtable Discussion

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** GEO-03

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

#### Session description:

This session investigates the global emergence of "Green Enclosures"—a phenomenon where land is increasingly appropriated for environmental goals, such as strategic mineral extraction (cobalt, lithium) and carbon credit concessions. While these activities are framed as essential for the global energy transition, they often reproduce colonial patterns of dispossession, militarization, and structural violence against rural communities across the Global South.

Using the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a primary lens, the session invites comparative reflections on how the "green" transition redefines land rights and state sovereignty. Key questions include:

- How does the global demand for transition minerals transform local land governance into a frontier for geopolitical competition?
- In what ways do carbon market mechanisms (REDD+) impact the territorial rights of indigenous and local communities?
- What sovereign financial tools can secure land justice in extractive frontiers?

We will present primary data and welcome abstracts offering comparative case studies from Africa, Latin America, or Asia. The objective of this session is to bridge the gap between geopolitical theory and everyday struggles for land justice, proposing decolonial approaches to land governance in conflict-affected landscapes.

#### Presenters targeted or identified:

We target a transdisciplinary mix of academics (political ecology, geography), policy makers (UN, African Union), and practitioners.



#### 4. Global Capital, Local Conflict: The Neoliberal Logics of Rural Dispossession

**Organiser(s):** Dr Theresa Auma, Makerere University; Land and Equity Movement in Uganda (LEMU), Dr Moritz Koenig, Oxfam, Adventino Banjwa, Makerere University; LEMU, Liz Neate, LEMU

**Contact details:** Dr Moritz Koenig ([moritz.koenig@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:moritz.koenig@oxfamnovib.nl))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** GEO-04

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

##### Session description:

On this panel, we will discuss the novel forms of dispossession and rural conflict the last 30 years of transnational neoliberalism have brought to land tenure regimes. Ever since De Soto's arguments on the unlocking of 'hidden capital' through land titling reform were picked up and mainstreamed by development actors across the globe, we have observed forms of dispossession that manifest themselves not only as state-directed violence but especially as decentralized and transnationalized processes playing out at the local level while purportedly having the best interest of rural communities in mind. As such, transnational neoliberalism has created regimes of dispossession where global capital leverages formalised property rights to dismantle communal structures from within while transposing macro-political struggles into micro-legal conflicts amongst rural communities.

On this panel, we will elaborate on the transnational neoliberal mechanisms, epistemic structures, and techno-administrative interventions at local level that, together, make such contemporary regimes of dispossession possible. We interrogate some of the political, legal, and financial instruments that localize neoliberal finance and engender novel forms of conflict playing out amongst rural communities and trace these instruments through the complex currents of knowledge formation, ideological consent building, and the creation of asset classes. An analysis of these processes will be accompanied by a discussion of how such transnational forms of neoliberal legality cause rupture and conflict amongst East African communities.

##### Presenters targeted or identified:

See organisers above.



## 5. Shadows of Green: The Global Green Transition as a Space of Conflict and Community Claims

**Organiser(s):** Matteo Sposato (ILC), Jeremy Bourgoïn (ILC), Danique de Ronde (ILC)

**Contact details:** Danique de Ronde ([d.deronde@landcoalition.org](mailto:d.deronde@landcoalition.org))

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** GEO-05

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

### Session description:

The accelerating climate and biodiversity crises demand systemic transformations that go beyond technical solutions to address the political and territorial dimensions of climate action. This session explores shadows of the global green transition, showing how land has become a space of conflict and community claims. Although Indigenous Peoples and local communities govern lands in many different ecosystems, and play an important role in biodiversity conservation, they face growing dispossession, exclusion, and violence as climate, energy, and conservation projects expand.

The session brings together two global complementary research series by ILC based on case studies from more than twenty countries, that speak on local territorial dynamics of conflict across various geographic locations and manifesting through different forms of violence (not only physical but also economic, administrative, social etc).

The first series highlights how secure land rights are key to locally grounded biodiversity and climate initiatives, and how quantifiable evidence of impact can support community narratives against external threats. The second documents land-related conflicts brought about by approaches to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises (e.g. renewable energy infrastructure, fortress conservation, carbon markets etc). The case studies reveal how green initiatives often restructure land access, control, and use, generating new forms of enclosure and conflict.

The findings show that land rights are central to climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation; and how top-down approaches to environmental crises risk reinforcing historical injustices and fueling conflict. Centering land governance and community agency is essential for a just and peaceful transition.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

- International Land Coalition's representative
- At least one case study representative (from the local communities that authored them)
- Geospatial data expert
- International policy expert (e.g. Rio Conventions' Secretariat, UN agency, researchers etc)



## **VI. CLIMATE SHOCKS AND LAND DISPUTES: FROM CONFLICT RISKS TO (RE)NEGOTIATING LAND RIGHTS**



## 1. Remaking Land Rights Amidst Climate-Conflict Dynamics

**Organiser(s):** Patrycja Maria Stys (Utrecht University), Gauthier Marchais (IDS)

**Contact details:** Patrycja Maria Stys ([p.m.stys@uu.nl](mailto:p.m.stys@uu.nl))

**Session format:** Paper session, bilingual (English, French)

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** CLI-01

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

### Session description:

Climate shocks and more gradual climatic changes increasingly reshape the conditions under which land is accessed, governed, and contested in conflict-affected settings. Droughts, floods, and shifting seasonal patterns do not simply intensify land disputes; they interact with violence to reconfigure authority, claims, and governance arrangements around land. This panel examines how climate variability intersects with protracted armed conflict to transform the everyday politics of land rights.

Drawing on empirical research from conflict-affected contexts, the panel approaches land as a site of ongoing negotiation rather than a fixed object of ownership. Particular attention is paid to the role of armed organisations and other non-state authorities in shaping land governance in practice. In many settings, armed actors regulate access to land, arbitrate disputes, or enforce claims, becoming embedded—often unevenly and coercively—within local land governance systems. These dynamics are especially salient during periods of climatic stress, when livelihoods are under pressure and land claims are renegotiated.

Across cases, the panel explores three interrelated questions. First, how do climate shocks and more gradual changes alter relations between land users, state authorities, customary institutions, and armed actors? Second, under what conditions do environmental pressures open space for the renegotiation of land rights, and which groups are enabled or excluded in these processes? Third, how are justice, legitimacy, and belonging reworked as land governance adapts to overlapping climatic and security pressures?

By foregrounding land governance as a political process shaped by climate stress and armed authority, this panel advances a conflict-sensitive and justice-oriented understanding of land rights in fragile and violent contexts.

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Researchers working on areas such as Sudan, eastern DRC, CAR, Mali, and Niger.





## 2. Re-thinking Power, Land, and Identity: Law from Below in a Changing Climate

**Organiser(s):** Dr Francesca Marzatico – University of Otago)

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

**Session format:** Panel

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** CLI-02

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

### Session description:

Climate change is not only transforming the landscape and livelihoods. Climate shocks by increasing competition over land and resources are reconfiguring the relationship between power, land and identity.

As environmental change unsettles established tenure systems and regulatory frameworks become progressively unable to meet the needs of the affected communities, new and longstanding forms of Law from Below become a valid alternative to engage with unjust laws from the ground up.

Suggesting communities may work to change law from the ground up as they function within the legal system, not just outside it, the concept of the Law from Below aims to open space for justice-oriented approaches that recognise Indigenous sovereignty, local and indigenous knowledge systems, and relational understandings of land as vital to addressing the climate crisis. This session examines how changing climates create openings to re-think power, land, and identity through the lens of legal pluralism.

This session focuses on the ways Indigenous peoples and local communities articulate, maintain, and re-negotiate land rights in contexts of ecological transformation. It explores how plural legal orders coexist with, contest, or reshape state law in climate-affected landscapes, and how climate change can both exacerbate dispossession and generate opportunities for asserting Indigenous jurisdiction and community authority.

The session invites contributions that critically engage with questions of social justice and recognition in climate governance. How do community-based practices and traditional knowledge challenge technocratic or market-driven climate interventions? How can legal pluralism offer more equitable and grounded pathways for climate adaptation and mitigation? How can the Law from Below enhance the inclusion of principles of participatory governance, equity, and social justice in the decision making on climate interventions?

### Presenters targeted or identified:

Academics, Indigenous People, community members, practitioners.



### 3. Tenure Renegotiation as Adaptive Governance at the Intersection of Climate and Conflict

**Organiser(s):** Paul Omondi (Moi University)

**Contact details:** Paul Omondi ([pomondi2024@gmail.com](mailto:pomondi2024@gmail.com))

**Session format:** Moderated panel discussion

**Hybrid:** Yes

**Code:** CLI-03

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

**Session description:**

This session seeks to address the critical intersection of climate change, resource tenure, and conflict transformation through the lens of adaptive governance.

As climate shocks undermine the sustainability of established land tenure arrangements, competition over land and natural resources escalates, often exacerbating inequality, undermining livelihoods, and precipitating social tension and violent conflict. This proposal makes the case that tenure renegotiation is essential to navigating the complexities and uncertainties of socio-ecological systems and sustaining social cohesion.

This session focuses on the outcomes and implications of employing tenure renegotiation proactively as a strategic tool for adaptive response and conflict transformation. Through empirically grounded case studies, this session will explore the mechanisms through which states, communities, and traditional authorities are renegotiating tenure and rights associated with land—access, use, and ownership, and how these renegotiations function as adaptive strategies. By foregrounding adaptive governance, the session aims to identify pathways through which tenure renegotiation can build legitimacy as much as it mitigates conflict—whether through formal legal reforms, informal and community-led adaptations, or the strategic blending of customary and statutory systems. Ultimately, the focus is on identifying innovative processes for balancing claims, fostering social cohesion and strengthening collective resilience.

**Presenters targeted or identified:**

Both academics and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts.