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Afternoons (CEST)
Online

Book of Abstracts

Land, Crisis and Resilience



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I. REVISITING LAND RIGHTS REGISTRATION

1. Building Land Governance Resilience with Open and Transparent Land-data Systems

Organisers: Laura Meggiolaro (Land Portal Foundation).

The COVID-19 pandemic substantially exacerbated numerous land governance challenges, including addressing failures in land governance systems, a lack of transparency, systemic corruption, and lack of accessibility to data. It also is undermining decades of development progress on global food security and has driven hundreds of millions of people into poverty, while governments take license to develop indigenous and community lands and thus fuel the climate crisis. Good land governance is said to be efficient, effective and transparent, while ensuring participatory processes and outcomes that are equitable and secure, but data and its governance are key to assessing and monitoring if this is indeed the case. In order to stem the impact of COVID-19 and these intertwined crises on land governance, land-related data and information can provide the support needed to monitor key indices, especially those related to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as women's ownership of land or perceptions of tenure security, among others. However, land ownership data is consistently ranked lowest on both the Global Open Data Index and the Open Data Barometer and each year this data is highlighted as the least likely to be open.

In this context, the Land Portal Foundation and the Open data Charter have joined efforts to create an Open Up Guide on Land Governance that outlines key land governance data types, how they should be collected, stored, published for improving land governance and transparency. This session will showcase evidence of how open land governance systems can be used as a tool to untangle and ameliorate the damage caused by the lack of transparency and corruption fuelled by the COVID-19 crisis, and demonstrate how open land governance systems can serve as a tool to fight poverty and ultimately increase food security.

#1 Investigating the challenges of land value recordation in public land administration in Uganda.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Ronald Kaweesi, Nathan Kibwami, Nassir Mwanje, Godwin Obali, Department of Construction Economics and Management, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Abstract

Land valuation plays an important role in the economic progress of any country and it highly relies on available data and information. Despite the use of different methods for land and property valuation, the market approach is still the most favored approach for Market Value basis of valuation relying on properly organised and reliable valuation records of land. Given this economic focus, the lack of reliable open and transparent data and information on comparable land values possess industry and sector challenges in Uganda. This study sets out to investigate the challenges associated with recordation of land values in public land administration in Uganda. Responses were obtained using semi-structured interviews from Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development Zonal valuation officers attached to the different zonal offices throughout Uganda. The study was able to conclude that more than 70% of the zonal valuation officers conduct land values recordation as a self-initiative. Furthermore, the valuation officers generally agreed that lack of a collectively supported tool and silo systems differing from the Land Information System are responsible for discouraging land values recordation. Therefore, this study looks at the state of land values recordation from the Ugandan public sector valuer's perspective. It also highlights where room for improvement is required and ways in which future innovative tools can look at this issue from a broader industry standpoint. The study develops a Land Value Recordation Assessment criterion for guidance in land values recordation that has potential to catalyse broader developments for land governance and the economy.

#2 Central Asia performance review in global land governance indices and assessment programs.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Akbikesh Mukhtarova, Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

Abstract

Academic scholarship captures different land governance dimensions while focusing mainly on agrarian, legal, and economic aspects of it. However, little to no attention is paid to land governance consideration through public policy lenses (Deininger, Selod & Burns, 2012). In particular, this holds for Central Asian (CA) countries where there is a noticeable lack of academic works on land governance effectiveness and anti-corruption strategies in the land sector. (Childress, 2004, Jones, 2003). To fill the gap in the academic literature, the present review paper analyzes the question of how Central Asian countries are presented in international land governance indices and assessment frameworks such as the World Bank's Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF), Global Property Rights Index (Prindex), Global Land Governance Index (LANDex), and The Open Data Barometer. The paper is based on the review of academic works and the author's empirical study of data on Central Asian performance in global land governance indices and assessment programs.

The analysis revealed that while the Prindex results for the region sound promising, still visible the underperformance and lack of active engagement of Central Asian countries in The Open Data Barometer, LANDex and LGAF. This fact could be explained by various reasons, including lack of institutional and legal capacities in case-countries and the limitation in methodology and data collection techniques observed in present Indices. Taking into account that the subject is understudied, the author expresses the hope that this review paper will give impetus for both scholars and practitioners from the region and abroad for further discussions of ways to enhance land governance effectiveness and the improvement of Central Asian performance in global land governance indices and assessment frameworks.

(This review paper is currently under consideration for the publication in one academic journal).

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2. Critical Insights on the Land Governance Orthodoxy

Organisers: Kelly Askew, Howard Stein and Laura German.

Session format: panel

This panel takes a critical look at the land governance orthodoxy that has consolidated on the heels of the financial crisis and outcry over "global land grabs" at the end of the 2000s. The panel kicks off with a presentation on the "theory of change" guiding land governance interventions, with an emphasis on tenure (in)security and the formalization of property rights. Next, a paper entitled, "Land Governance, Crises and Resilience in Rural Tanzania" by Howard Stein, Kelly Askew, Faustin Maganga and Rie Odgaard explores the role of land titling in the resilience of rural households in Tanzania through a look at the relationship between formalization, conflict and security. The paper draws on surveys from nearly 3000 households spread across 45 villages and five regions of the country to ask whether the tenets of the theory of formalization and security hold up under scrutiny. Next, a paper by Milford Bateman entitled, "Land Titling Improves Access to Microcredit: Be Careful What You Wish For" explores the theorized connection between land titles, credit and poverty alleviation through a case study on Cambodia, which has become the world's most microcredit-penetrated country and where land titles are almost obligatory for access to microcredit. Finally, a paper entitled, "Contested Ontologies of Security" by Laura German, draws on published ethnographic evidence from across Africa to profile local conceptions and forms of security that are invisibilized by dominant framings, with a focus on livelihood systems and gender. Together, the panel reveals the emergent orthodoxy not only as deeply flawed, but as a project which advances a singular conception of security for the world that is neither universal nor guaranteed to advance the values that are claimed.

#1 Land Titling Improves Access to Microcredit: Be Careful What You Wish For

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Milford Bateman - Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, Croatia; St Marys University, Halifax, Canada; Honorary Research Associate, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK; FINDE, Fluminense Federal University, (UFF), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Abstract

The poverty reduction and developmental role of land titles has been a contested issue since the concept was popularised in the early 2000s by the Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto. Among other things, de Soto held that land titles could be used as collateral in order to increase the supply of microcredit, thereby supposedly allowing every individual in poverty an opportunity to escape their predicament by engaging in individual entrepreneurship. Initially, financial institutions in the global south resisted to accept land titles, which De Soto and others argued was the reason that land titling was not making the impact they argued it would. However, land titles are now increasingly used as collateral in many countries. The one country where this process has gone furthest is Cambodia, where land titles are now almost obligatory in order to access microcredit and this has helped Cambodia become the world's most microcredit penetrated country (volume of microcredit in circulation per capita). This paper addresses the question as to whether or not this breakthrough has had the positive impact on Cambodia's poor that de Soto and other advocates of land titling have long argued it would.

#2 The Theories of Change Underlying Contemporary Land Governance Programming

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Laura German, Faustin Maganga, Kelly Askew, Howard Stein and Rie Odgaard.

Abstract

This first contribution to the panel explores the theories of change underlying land governance programming by multilateral and bilateral development agencies, with a focus on tenure (in)security and property rights formalization and is aimed at laying the foundation for the other panel papers. Theories of change have been defined as “a structured set of assumptions regarding how an intervention works (or is expected to work) and how it influences (or is expected to influence) processes of change” (Vaessen 2016). They are a key component of any development intervention (Weiss 1972, 1995), yet do not always hold up under scrutiny. In fact, scholarship from economics, law and the social sciences has not only questioned the effectiveness of the theories of change underlying property law and land titling, but highlighted the tendency for such reforms to destroy existing social networks and property regimes, to deepen rather than mitigate dispossession, or to leave societies worse off (Blomley 2014; Bromley 2008; Nichols 2020; Upham 2018). This disconnect between theories of change and actual development outcomes underlies the use of theories of change in program evaluation (Weiss 1995), and has contributed to the call by social scientists to ask, How might we think land otherwise? (Burow et al. 2018; Coulthard 2010; Li 2014). Ultimately any theory needs to transcend the surface or ideological projections of how change is supposed to occur to examine the real underlying forces of change and the vested interests that gain from setting these forces in motion. Change is not strictly episodic but also alters and institutionalizes actors’ perceptions of land governance, its purposes and its impact.

#3 Contested Ontologies of Security: Centering the Silences of the Post-2008 Land Governance Era

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Laura A. German, University of Georgia

Abstract

Postmodern scholars have long argued for the inseparability of knowledge and power. Foucault, in particular, is credited with the insight that power is not just repressive but productive – shaping the thoughts that are thinkable, and the practices that become normalized. The knowledge created is not divorced from material conditions, but constitutive of these very conditions. Yet in advancing certain concepts and theories about the world, other ways of thinking, being and world-making are rendered invisible. By bringing ethnographic evidence from Anglophone Africa into conversation with dominant framings of (in)security, this paper surfaces alternative conceptions of tenure and livelihood security that have been documented in the literature but largely ignored in policy circles. In so doing, it complements the second paper's emphasis on evaluating the ideas that have been centered in the public imagination (the theory of change), by looking beyond these framings to explore how land and security might be thought and enacted "otherwise". The analysis reveals securities that would be considered heterodox within land governance circles – from relational forms of security conferred through membership in lineages, taboos on land alienation and porous territorial boundaries and social identities, to ontologies of land which center belonging, care, reciprocity and responsibility. The analysis also reveals the risks of evaluating the experiences of differently situated women and land users through western frameworks and a presumed uniformity of experiences and insecurities that does not exist. I close by reflecting on the work being done through dominant conceptions of tenure (in)security.

#4 Land Governance, Crises and Resilience in Rural Tanzania: The impact of property right formalization on security and conflict

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Howard Stein, Kelly Askew, Faustin Maganga and Rie Odgaard.

3. Challenges in 'Pro-poor' Land Registration: What lessons on crisis and resilience?

Organisers:

- Mathijs van Leeuwen (CICAM, Radboud University)
- Gemma van der Haar (SDC, Wageningen University)

Session format: Panel

Land registration is believed to do a number of good things: to provide tenure security, to reduce land conflict, to enhance investment on land and raise production levels, but also to foster women's rights. These expected benefits have justified efforts around the globe to implement pro-poor, fit-for-purpose land rights registration programmes. This session engages with a double challenge. On the one hand, we need to take stock of the evidence so far: What do we know about the results of such programmes, also over the longer term? Have we been asking the right questions about them? Have we been attentive enough to the potential risks involved? On the other hand, the current intertwining of climate change and COVID 19 suggests new questions: Does pro-poor land registration help people cope with the challenges of climate change and/or COVID19? What is the evidence to date (if any)? Key questions to ask here would be: does land registration help land users confront the risks posed by renewed or shifting scarcities as a consequence of these crises? Does it help them to 'crisis-proof' their livelihoods? For the session, we reflect on questions such as:

- What have we learnt about the effectiveness of land rights registration programmes to date on tenure security, conflict resolution, and the capacity to mitigate risk?
- What have been the impacts of such programmes produced in terms of social in- and exclusion and the production of risk?
- What have we learnt about the politics that develop around land registration programmes and how do these shape implementation and outcomes?
- How, if at all, is pro-poor land registration being reframed in the light of concerns with crisis and resilience and what might be implications of this?

#1 Land Tenure Formalization in Fragile and Conflict Affected States – What have we learnt? What deserves more attention?

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: David Betge (ZOA)

Abstract

Over the past decades, numerous attempts have been undertaken governments in conflict- and disaster-affected states to re-organize their land tenure systems, inter alia through land tenure registration (LTR). Formalization of rights was expected to bring numerous benefits, from production increases to reduced conflicts and climate change adaptation. However, formalization of land rights in Fragile and Conflict Affected States (FCAS) must be seen as a particularly sensitive case of land tenure registration. To improve the effects and effectiveness of formalization programs in FCAS, it is necessary to look more closely at the causes and consequences of land disputes, their relation with formalization of rights as well as potential synergies with other types of work aimed at supporting conflict-affected populations. Existing challenges, practical experiences and relevant solutions need to be identified and documented. The presentation highlights some of the crucial challenges and provides examples from current LTR programs which can further our understanding of the effects and stumbling blocks of legal protection of land tenure in FCAS. Practical lessons are derived from ZOA's LTR programming in Burundi, DR Congo and Uganda.

#2 Exploring the origin of land inequality in Colombia. The allocation of Baldíos.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Álvaro Germán Torres Mora. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Paul Gellert. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Abstract

Since the beginnings of the Colombian republic, the state has promoted settlements through land colonization, thus building a rural structure dominated by large land-holders. Even before the independence of Colombia in 1819, landholders had already concentrated vast tracts of land through both legal and illegal methods, turning the land into private property. Nevertheless, large expanses of land known as Baldíos still remain without any ownership. As such these often became the object of disputes. According to Machado (2009), some of the appropriation methods used to acquire such lands included:

- The selling of Baldíos to pay off public debts.
- The awarding of Baldíos to members of the independentist armies, either as compensation or as civil war booty.
- Baldíos being awarded to immigrants as a reward from the independent state for populating certain regions.
- Colonization performed by entrepreneurs or peasants.
- Illegal appropriation of Baldíos. This included the extension of boundaries and the use of legal trickery such as the counterfeiting of land titles.
- The awarding of Baldíos to settlers (since 1848).
- The awarding of Baldíos for explorations of quinoa, rubber and tagua, in order to export them.
- The awarding of Baldíos to foreign companies as an exchange for infrastructure construction and urbanization or for oil and mining exploration.
- The appropriation of Baldíos located around swamps or lakes for cattle raising.

As stated by Machado (2009), most of these lands were awarded to entrepreneurs and capitalists, whilst settlers obtained the marginal areas. This practice, in addition to land expropriations resulting from armed conflict and market forces, led to concentration of land. More important than socioeconomic development in determining the distribution of land ownership, was the influence of large landholders, merchants, politicians and military forces. At the same time, this situation resulted in the perpetuation of conflicts between landless farm workers and their continued inability to emerge from mere subsistence agriculture.

After the independence war the Colombian state faced some salient economic problems. War debts had to be paid, and since the land was the only valuable resource the state had, Baldíos were used. Large extensions of territory with no area limitations applying, were awarded as payments. However, some small tracts were awarded to poor peasants in order to foster the occupation of inhabited lands. In 1870, an export boom forced the state to change its public policy on Baldíos, focusing increasingly on issuing titles to those who independently cultivated the land. This had the effect of targeting agrarian sector development, even though property rights did not guarantee the right to cultivate such land. At the

same time, other peasants were not able to obtain the titles, despite their occupation of those Baldíos. They were typically unable to pay the adjudication expenditures such as land surveying, attorney's fees, real state registrations or the travel expenses of the authorities. These difficulties are still ongoing and are serious problem for enabling the acquisition of property in Colombia (Machado, 2009).

At the end of the 19th century, the state awarded the better Baldíos to large landholders as an exchange for building public infrastructure. This occurred at the expense of landless peasants, who were thus compelled to work as servants. This eventuated in a social structure based on the concept of land intrinsically as a source of wealth, rather than a source for cultivation. Today Colombia has one of the highest levels of concentration of land ownership in the world (0.85 GINI index) (Salinas, 2012).

The purpose of this research is to explore how baldíos were appropriated and registered in the early stages of the Colombian republic and how this contributed to shape an unequal rural structure that persists until today. We utilize historical methods, by means of which we study official documents, legal initiatives and historical records. All in all, we study how appropriation and registration of baldíos by powerful stakeholders is one of the main causes of current land inequality in Colombia.

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#3 The politics of promoting land registration for sustainable peace in eastern DRC and Burundi

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Gemma van der Haar (Wageningen University) and Mathijs van Leeuwen (Radboud University)

#4 Thinking resilience through crises: Lessons from farmers and their farming activities under the social forestry programme in Indonesia

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Lubabun Ni'am, Azwar Najib Alhafi, Krisna Yulianta, Wibisono Aminoto; Alliance of Volunteers to Save Nature (Aliansi Relawan untuk Penyelamatan Alam or ARUPA), Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Abstract

The social forestry programme in the island of Java, Indonesia, aims to reduce enduring conflicts between farmers and the State Forest Company. It has been done by allowing farmers to cultivate parts of the State Forest areas through designated social forestry schemes. This programme is expected to end the crises over forest lands articulated in the forms of land degradation and access over the State Forest areas. Building on three years of experience (2018–2021) in facilitating the implementation of the social forestry programme in Banyuwangi District at the eastern part of Java Island, this paper provides a critical reflection on those intended objectives. First, we will demonstrate how severe conditions of degradation over forest lands have been unlikely to benefit farmers. We will evaluate the impacts of the teak cultivation system on lands and farming activities. Second, we will elaborate on how the access granting does not necessarily extinguish the conflicts. We will look at our involvement in the registration and implementation of different schemes of the social forestry programme. The way farmers have been dealing with the crises on farming over forest lands, however, provides a valuable resource of thinking resilience through crises. By doing so, we shall propose an alternative view of understanding the value of land and farming activities for farmers as a crucial part to consider in any further evaluation of the social forestry programme.

#5 Territorial peace: land governance and sustainable peacebuilding. Cases from Philippines and Colombia

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Francesca Vanelli, MSc., Daniela Ochoa Peralta, MSc., Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Abstract

Conflicts have a strong territorial dimension, with impactful consequences on land governance, in terms of land tenure, distribution, accessibility, capacity. These aspects need to be addressed in the peacebuilding phase, through the set-up of land-based institutional arrangements, that go beyond the peace negotiations and agreements and establish a path for sustainable peace. Based on the innovative concept of territorial peace, these arrangements have a key role in the reconstruction of the collective, productive, and symbolic function of the territory after the ceasefire, and in addressing the land-related conflict root causes. This contribution takes a step towards the further development of the concept of territorial peace, by linking its principles (stability and security, livelihood and identity, safety and power balance) to land governance institutional arrangements. Through analysis in two case studies, Colombia and the Philippines, it assesses the extent to which such mechanisms set the ground for territorial and sustainable peace in the post-agreement stage. Findings show that land may take the role of peacemaker in addressing territorial peace's collective dimensions, especially when at the core of a peace agreement; however, its implementation remains volatile if it lacks trust, security, and technical capacity. Land markets should reflect the same morality and ideology behind the peace agreement, so as not to become a perpetuation vehicle of the pre-conflict status quo. Lastly, land tenure, power balance and land administration are key steps to build social cohesion and address justice failure.

II. RESPONSIBLE LAND-BASED INVESTMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

1. Developmental Impact of Land-Based Investments in Times of Crisis: Learning and exchange facilitated by the LANDac Professional Learning Network 2x

Organisers:

- James Wangu (UU)
- Teddy Kisembo (Urban Action Lab)
- Annelies Zoomers (UU)
- Romy Santpoort (LANDac)

Session format: Panel

This panel discussion will address the impacts of land-based investments on poor and vulnerable people in the global South. Moreover, it will facilitate an exchange of knowledge about the strategies that are currently being employed on the ground to strengthen the position of these groups when it comes to negotiating for their interests with investors amidst the climate crisis and the global pandemic. How might we, as practitioners, researchers and policymakers contribute to increased developmental impact of land-based investments, especially in times of crisis? This is a question taken up by a professional learning community in the field of inclusive land governance: The Professional Learning Network (PLN). The network of 22 LANDac fellows from sub-Saharan Africa set out to contribute to a stronger position for local communities to negotiate for their interests when it comes to land-based investments and to ensure that these investments increase their developmental impact. During this session, participants will share their experiences and work on the ground. Examples of projects that are being implemented are related to the changing trends of large-scale land-based investments during and after COVID-19; a community perspective on fair compensation; the impact of land titling projects on tenure security and; the enabling drivers of positive impacts of land-based investments on women's land rights. Those interested are warmly invited to join the panel and our learning community by presenting their experiences and lessons learned on either of these issues.

#1 The financial costs of mitigating tenure risks in emerging markets

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Joseph Feyertag (ODI), Ben Bowie and Lou Munden (TMP)

Abstract

Analysis of 137 land investments in emerging markets reveals a strong business case for investing in actions that mitigate tenure risk (delays caused by disputes between investors and local communities). These costs are typically 2% of the Net Present Value (NPV) of an initial investment, averaging \$10 million. This compares to potential financial losses of \$25-40 million (24-37% of average NPV) from risks mitigated and avoided by these actions.

Qualitative evidence from interviews and a business perceptions survey of 85 investors operating in sub-Saharan Africa suggests that social dialogue processes represent the most effective action for mitigating these risks. Over 90 percent of investors considered social dialogue as a highly effective way of identifying community needs, targeting them, and achieving social license to operate. To mitigate risks and protect their bottom line, investors should invest time and resources in stakeholder mapping exercises, broad-based local community consultation and needs-based community development programmes. Capital should be structured in a way that gives operators the resources to act early and the time to take a patient approach that satisfies local buy-in, reduce long-term risks and avoid short-term profit maximising strategies that ignore the value of social license to operate.

Governments seeking to mitigate social risks should introduce requirements for spending, such as a 2% expenditure figure on social dialogue mechanisms, and for disclosure of related information, such as that already incorporated in some voluntary ESG standards and frameworks. This would lead to better business performance, a better investment environment and better local impact.

2. Behind the Brands 8 Years Later: An assessment of food and beverage companies' delivery of land rights commitments

Organisers: Barbara Codispoti and Chloe Christman Cole (Oxfam).

Session format: Roundtable

From 2013 to 2016, Oxfam's Behind the Brands campaign called on the world's 10 biggest food and beverage companies to adopt stronger social and environmental sourcing policies and spurred significant commitments on land rights. Now, as the coronavirus pandemic worsens inequality and food insecurity around the world, Oxfam has assessed whether the companies have taken meaningful steps to implement the commitments they made in response to the campaign.

The report is called "Shining a Spotlight: A critical assessment of food and beverage companies' delivery of sustainability commitments". It is underpinned by an external evaluation on The Coca-Cola Companies', PepsiCo's, Nestle's, Unilever's, and Associated British Foods' subsidiary Illovo Sugar Africa's efforts. The report and external evaluation find that while companies have taken action at the global level, progress stalls in translating those approaches to countries and through supply chains. There are positive examples and innovations happening in key sourcing countries. But key blockages must be addressed – including by providing the right incentives, disclosing suppliers and supporting suppliers to take up the agenda – to create change at scale. This session brings together a partner, Oxfam, and a Behind the Brands company to discuss progress to date, how to accelerate progress moving forward, and why private sector engagement on land rights matters for addressing the intertwining crises.

Speakers:

- Susanne Gauster (Oxfam in Guatemala)
- Andrew Slight (PepsiCo)
- Mtafu Manda (Mzuzu University, Malawi)

3. Investing in Formal Land Rights for Commodity Smallholder Farmers: Lessons from land tenure public-private partnerships

Session organisers: Meridia

Session format: Panel

The importance of securing access to and control over land for the most vulnerable increases along the current climate crisis, land pressure and other emerging global issues. Land registration efforts have been historically implemented by governments with support and funding from international development organisations. However, important challenges may remain. Such as insufficient funding for ensuring execution capacity from governments and large-scale implementation. As part of voluntary actions to promote good land tenure governance, the active participation from the private sector in land tenure efforts could bring new possibilities to the land governance landscape.

But, how could a business case look like for corporate investment in land tenure and for supporting governments more actively? How to innovative land administration public-private partnerships beyond the traditional models to leverage efforts and value amongst farmers, governments, companies, and international development agencies? In this session, we discuss a real-life case of industry-led land tenure security efforts to enable more sustainable and resilient value chains which have been double threatened by the COVID-19 crisis.

Speakers:

- Simon Ulvund (CEO Meridia, panel host)
- Federica Joele (The Hershey Company, Nutrition and Sustainable Sourcing Representative).
- TBC.

4. Land, Crisis and Resilience: How can Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) help sustain land governance solutions?

Organisers:

- Gwen van Boven, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
- Leyla Özay, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
- Annelies Zoomers, Utrecht University

Session format: Panel

Sustainable solutions for challenges in land governance – whether caused by changes in population dynamics, land use, climate change, pandemics or other – require resilient mechanisms that may go beyond what is currently being used in land governance systems. Often, decisions are taken without involving people that have a direct stake in the land. Or, even if more participatory planning is done, not all stakeholders are invited to take part. How could this be done differently? Also, with the fundamental changes in landscape and ecology that people face through climate change, should solutions not look at the longer term and use alternative approaches? Finally, how to anchor jointly agreed solutions in formal decision making in such a way that future generation decision makers also understand and respect them, yet allowing flexibility in implementation when circumstances and new insights require so?

Strategic Environmental Assessment is increasingly used to include environmental and social considerations in formal decision making at strategic planning level. It frequently deals with land issues. We see that SEA for land and landscape governance allows for coalitions to form and formalise, between government authorities, business and civil society actors, across legal/administrative boundaries and through an integrated, cross-sectoral approach. If well applied, SEA creates more equality in decision-making by making the planning and assessment process more transparent. Also, SEA creates linkages between that transparent and inclusive process and formal decision making and strengthens ownership – two important factors in support of enforcement of choices made. In this session, UU and the NCEA aim to explore the relation between SEA and land governance. When governments start out using SEA, it often gets applied to national plans or sectoral policies. SEA for regional planning, land use planning, delta or river basin management seems to be gaining momentum. Could it be even more widely applied?

Panellists:

- Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University, the Netherlands).
- Omer van Renterghem (the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS/IGG)).
- Margriet Hartman (Royal Haskoning DHV).
- Karin van Boxtel (Both ENDS).
- Coenraad Voorhuis, RVO
- Charlotte Stam, student Wageningen University

III. URBAN LAND GOVERNANCE

1. Sustainable Corridors? Urban Land and Mobility Infrastructure Development in an Era of Climate Change

Organisers: Kei Otsuki, Abigail Friendly (Utrecht University)

Format session: Panel

In recent years, urgent concerns for climate change have been leading to new infrastructure development. In rapidly growing cities globally, new “corridor” development has increasingly become popular as a way to reduce traffic congestions and thereby carbon emissions and to establish transit-oriented and compact city development. The examples include bus rapid transit systems (BRT), highways and railways that promote stronger public transport networks to reduce car use, or new types of logistical corridors that promote new development pathways with low carbon footprints. While such infrastructural development addresses sustainability and affordability of urban infrastructure, what is often overlooked is that infrastructure significantly affects the ways that urban land is used, accessed and governed. A large-scale corridor extension in densely populated areas of growing cities in the global south inevitably causes forced eviction and displacement of very often poor communities and their livelihoods. Or even rumours of the coming of such infrastructure can raise land prices and affect the existing social and economic fabric of the city. Corridor development, as justified by climate change concerns, thus generates significant implications for spatial justice and urban geopolitics, social inclusion and exclusion. This session aims to generate discussions on different experiences of corridor development in cities.

#1 Assessment the accessibility of old airport, Tejgaon through Space Syntax analysis as a potential part of proposed Green Network of Dhaka city

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors:

- Gourab Kundu (Lecturer, Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh)
- Atique Ahammad Zawad (Lecturer, Department of Architecture, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh)
- Iftekhar Uddin Ahmed (Lecturer, Department of Architecture, University of Asia Pacific, Bangladesh)

Abstract

For a successful Urban Green Space (UGS), accessibility is one of the top-tier qualities. Accessibility, which is primarily about infrastructure connectivity and performance of road networks, also plays a central role in urban planning, land-use modelling, and policy development. Perplexed land use and land governance create different tangible and intangible barriers to prevent UGS provisions and poses a threat to urban sustainability. UGS can be underused of their potential in terms of urban ecology due to inaccessibility. The scattered green network affects the associability to the urban open space. To address this issue in the rapidly growing Dhaka, Dhaka Structure Plan (2016-2035) proposed a 'Green Network' centering 'Tejgaon Old airport'. Currently, Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) controls this 415 acres of land. And only an insignificant portion of this land is allotted for BAF museum, nation parade ground, and military airstrips. The main goal of this research is to find out the prospective of 'Tejgaon Old Airport' as a successful UGS based on its physical and psychological accessibility. Here, we measured the psychological accessibility through a methodological literature review and site analysis. Also measured the physical accessibility of that site in terms of Dhaka's existing road network by using Space Syntax based on the integration and choice map. Our research has found that the site is one of the least accessible open spaces in Dhaka city because of its land-use pattern and restriction, even if it is well connected and integrated with the city road network and other UGSs.

#2 Building climate resilient communities through Water Sensitive public space design and activation: Public parks program in Bucaramanga, Colombia

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors:

- Marino, Raul (Faculty of International, Political and Urban Studies, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá)
- Vargas, Elkin (BuroDAP, Bogotá).
- Acevedo, Iván (Colectivo Taller_Lab Profesional de Arquitectura y Urbanismo "TABUÚ" + IAA Studio)
- Medina, Mayerly (Colectivo Taller_Lab Profesional de Arquitectura y Urbanismo "TABUÚ" + IAA Studio)

Abstract

More than one third of urban dwellers worldwide live in areas that can be considered informal settlements or slums (UN-Habitat, 2018). While there are many initiatives to address this urban challenge, the problem keeps growing and these areas become denser with lack of access to public space, transportation infrastructure and community facilities and vulnerable to climate change effects (Davis, 2012). This paper presents the process of informal settlements upgrading in Bucaramanga, Santander, based on the provision of new public parks integrating Green Infrastructure to support the social, environmental and economic uplift of vulnerable communities. The program included urban interventions of different scale and purpose, from small local pocket-size parks (called Retazos) to large urban interventions in areas with the lowest access to public space in the city (Rio de Oro Lineal Park, Parque de los Sueños and Patio Escolar Colegio Tecnológico). These interventions were developed following a community-based participatory design methodology inspired by the placemaking framework and resilient communities to climate change, supporting the recovery of the urban water cycle, and involving members of community and stakeholders in the design process from early stages of the process in the development and management of the new public infrastructure implemented at neighbourhood scale. The results of the use and appropriation of the new public spaces showed a significant improvement in quality of life, activation of local economies, and socioenvironmental performance of the selected areas.

#3 Corridors and social transformations: the case of eastern Sao Paulo

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Kei Otsuki (Utrecht University)

#4 Mobility justice in the face of the development corridor paradigm – insights from the Kampala-Jinja Expressway in Kampala, Uganda

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Ian Plekker (Utrecht University)

2. The Accelerating Need for Urban Greenspaces (UGS) in Cities and How to Best Accommodate It

Organizers: Shaswati Chowdhury and Dr. Jenny Norrman (Chalmers University of Technology)

Session format: Panel

Urban Greenspaces (UGS) are vegetated open spaces that provide a multitude of ecological functions that are essential for the physical and mental well-being of the citizens as well as for the urban environment. However, land is an extremely competitive resource in cities that are struggling to sustain the ever-growing urban population and UGS are constantly under threat of urban encroachment. Even the well spread out cities are pressured to densify by the more commonplace 'sustainable dense urban neighbourhood' approach that in turn, increases the pressure on open spaces such as UGS. But UGS are lacking both by quantity and quality in most cities to support the need of the citizen. Their shortage and inadequacy of UGS were made obvious during the COVID-19 pandemic when the quarantine restricted the mobility of the urban populace and made UGS an essential, and often time, the only outdoor element in everyday city life. As well as lacking in quality and quantity, the pandemic and the resulting extended quarantine also pushed forward the inherent social issues with UGS, such as their unequal distribution, access, ongoing privatization, 'green gentrification, etc. The session focus is on the multifaceted challenge for UGS management and governance and how to accommodate the growing necessity of UGS in cities that are heightened in a world with COVID-19.

In our research group, we look at retrofitting 'brownfields' as a key to mitigate the rising need for UGS. The abandoned, barren, underutilized, and often contaminated land commonly known as 'brownfields' can potentially gain a second life as a UGS, but the process of remediation and redevelopment are challenged with issues such as social stigma, present and potential contamination, uncertainty about the risk associated with the contamination, etc. As well as evaluating the potential for brownfields as future UGS, we also discuss the possibility of plant-based remediation as a sustainable alternative for managing contamination risks and restoring soil health.

#1 Brownfield remediation and planning in Coal Regions in Transition

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Diego Baragaño, Arturo Colina, Luis M. Lara, Laura García, Eduardo Rodríguez-Valdés, José Luis R. Gallego, Institute of Natural Resources and Territorial Planning (INDUROT), University of Oviedo. Mieres, (Asturias), Spain.

Abstract

Urban decline is especially significant in cities of coal regions in transition, where the profusion of abandoned industrial sites (brownfields) demands environmental and urban planning measures. Following the best practices in the EU, these sites should be remediated using Nature Based Solutions (NBS) such as bio & phytoremediation or soil stabilization, since they are low-cost and sustainable options. Then, the creation of Urban Greenspaces (UGS) in the brownfields of these shrinking cities can be a transitory land use convenient to recover soil ecosystem services, to favour the potential appearance of new economic activities, and to modify social perception, which in the context of the pandemic is imperative to increase the quality of life. In this context, here we present an exemplifying case of study in Langreo (Asturias, NW Spain), a municipality with more than 10% of its urban areas occupied by both former (chemical and metallurgy plants, mining areas, etc.) and forthcoming brownfields (coal power plant) in a valley. This area requires not only occasional remediation of the degraded land but a complete planning to recover river banks. This could favour future settlements of revitalizing economic activities and thus, a strategic & action plan is shown in this work. The proposal includes an inventory and classification of brownfields, the selection of soil remediation approaches within NBS, the creation of UGS, and also socio-economic measures, all things together with a particular focus on a brownfield megasite (20 ha) located in the core of the study area.

#2 The accelerating need for Urban Greenspaces (UGS) in cities and how to best accommodate it: Potential for Urban Brownfields and Gentle Remediation Strategies (GROs)

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Shaswati Chowdhury, Paul Drenning (PhD student). Jenny Norrman (Associate Professor)

#3 Exploring land governance strategies for inclusive and sustainable development in the Kumasi landscape in Ghana

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors:

- Muhil Nesi, Johan Meijer, Like Bijlsma (PBL - Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)
- Paul Sarfo-Mensah, Albert Arhin (Bureau of Integrated Rural Development (BIRD), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana)
- Ore Fika, Saskia Ruijsink, Janssen Calvelo (Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Erasmus University, Rotterdam)

Abstract

The Kumasi landscape in Ghana is characterised by a juxtaposition of customary land governance and numerous contemporary land-use activities. The governance of green and blue infrastructures (GBI) is the core theme of this research, as they connect various actors/stakeholders across the rural-urban spectrum, and their quality affects progress towards sustainable development, securing local livelihoods, climate-change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. The research examines spatial, institutional and socio-economic dynamics that drive peri-urban land-use change. The significance of this project is embedded in the threat to GBI and the uneven distribution of development benefits produced by urban spatial expansion. In this context, the 'landscape approach' concept bears relevance as it aims to involve the interests of all stakeholders in landscape planning, while trying to streamline and balance multiple, often competing, land-use demands and actor objectives through an iterative and participatory process. The approach also emphasises on strengthening the position of vulnerable smallholders through secure land tenure in collaborative initiatives built upon a collective acknowledgement of the importance of natural landscapes to socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, integrated landscape management provides an opportunity for the Kumasi landscape to address the urgent need for natural habitat preservation coupled with sustainable agricultural production and liveable human settlements. The research on the Kumasi landscape is a part of PBL's broader research project on integrated landscape planning and management aimed at improving knowledge on participatory strategies and scenarios for advancing inclusive and sustainable development, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

IV. LAND RIGHTS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

1. Climate and Forced Displacement: Land, energy & clean water challenges of communities displaced from high-risk natural disaster and war zones in Mozambique

Organisers: Uacitissa Mandamule, Aix-Marseille Université/OMR; Jerry Maquenzi, OMR; João Carrilho, OMR; Prof. dr. Marja Spiereburg, Leiden University

Session format: Panel

Mozambique has been cyclically affected by the occurrence of extreme weather events: floods, cyclones, droughts or storms. The consequences of these events include hundreds of losses of human lives, destruction of public, private and housing infrastructure, forced displacement of populations, decrease in arable land, increased land tenure and food insecurity, as well as conflicts over access to land and water.

Along with these climate events, the country has also been facing military attacks in the central and northern regions, also resulting in forced displacements and land tenure insecurity. In addition to the necessary humanitarian aid to the victims of these two crises, mobilizing public and private actors, local civil society, States and international organizations, another challenge for this country, with weak land governance is linked, in particular, to the resettlement of people forced to leave their homes and farms, to move to safer places.

This session is motivated by the cases of Idai and Kenneth cyclones that hit the country in 2019, and the political and military instability in north-eastern Cabo Delgado province, in Mozambique. Presentations of case studies followed by question and answer debate will be held. The presentations focus on expectations, fears and challenges of the displaced and host communities, with regard to their rights on land and natural resources, the socio-economic destabilization of displaced communities, and impacts on agriculture production and productivity. Presentations also look at communities coping strategies to deal with climate crises and political instability.

#1 Land expropriation: The hidden danger of climate change response in Mozambique

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Bernardo Almeida, Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Society, Leiden University; Carolien Jacobs, Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Society, Leiden University

Abstract

This paper sets out why land expropriation is a hidden danger of the response to climate change; a danger that is not adequately captured in legislation and which risks disproportionately affecting the poor. Measures to mitigate the risks and impacts of climate change are often dependent on states' access to land. The legal mechanism through which states can obtain rights over land is expropriation, but a fair expropriation process depends on a number of structural conditions that are (partly or completely) lacking in many countries: effective recognition of people's land rights; a legally detailed expropriation process and adequate administrative capacity to implement it; and respect for the rule of law and access to justice for the affected populations. Climate change exacerbates the problems that many states have with their expropriation processes: it brings new and more complex questions about the limits of expropriation; provokes more urgent expropriations; and disproportionately impacts the poorest people. Based on legal analysis and empirical research, this paper looks into the case of Mozambique in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai to show how issues related with expropriation are a hidden danger for many Mozambicans, but also for citizens of other countries in similar situations.

2. The Politics of Crisis Framing

Organisers: Dr. Caitlin Ryan, University of Groningen

Session format: Roundtable

In considering access to land in relation to intertwining crises, this roundtable reflects on how the framing of 'crisis' makes possible particular actions, while foreclosing others. Recent debates within fields of Global Health and Political Economy have raised important questions about the label of crisis. For instance, Roitman (2013) calls attention to the 'practice' of the concept of crisis. This invites us to consider, for instance, how the concept of crisis, deployed in relation to climate breakdown, conflict, and/or COVID shapes approaches to land governance in ways that prioritize some imperatives (such as speed/urgency/security) and some forms of knowledge (such as technical expertise) over others. In this roundtable we welcome submissions that take a critical lens on the function and politics of the concept of crisis in relation to land governance. In particular, we are interested in submissions that engage with questions of how a label of crisis might make it harder to see structural inequalities, historical processes, and regimes of knowledge that underlie questions of land access and land use. For instance, if a crisis in land access or land use is seen as being acute, how does this obscure the structural inequalities of racial capitalism, and historical processes of dispossession and extraction? How might the language of crisis in relation to land governance make possible 'quick' technical solutions or a politics of 'exception' rather than 'slower' processes of collaboration and participatory governance?

#1

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Max Ajl, Wageningen University**Abstract**

The language of “climate crisis” or “ecological crisis” is increasingly put forward as a language that aims to form unity around what is “possible.” This language of crisis is omnipresent across the Eurocentric ideological spectrum, from the hard-right plans for top-down militarized response, to the more egalitarian green Keynesian proposals for green growth from Robert Pollin. This presentation will consider how the language of “crisis” omits that colonialism and neo-colonialism have produced permanent peripheral crisis – crisis as encompassing, structural, and built into the girders of an uneven world-system. Climate change accentuates but does not alter the contours of that crisis. Thus although crisis is purportedly meant to be a spur to political action, it can either reveal or hide the deeper violence, primitive accumulation, and super-exploitation which are the antecedents to the current climate crisis. Instead, we should consider: crisis for whom, a question which goes some ways towards shaping the dimensions of political responses to crisis.

#2

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Bikrum Gill, Virginia Tech**Abstract**

This paper advances a 'political ecology of racial capitalism' approach to further our understanding of the underlying systemic relations and logics of power driving planetary ecological crises. The particular concern here is to demonstrate how race underwrites the distinctively exhaustive society/nature relation fuelling both the productive excess and ecological exhaustion of the capitalist world-system. It does so by first identifying, as a foundational space-time of racial capitalism, a socio-ecological contact zone within which Indigenous and Black peoples' earthworlding capacity, situated in deep time and place, is indispensable to the survival of 'late arriving' Euro-Western settlers. It is out of the refusal of an emergent settler-master to recognize their dependence upon Indigenous and Black earth-world-making gifts that, this article argues, race emerges as a structuring relation of power transmuting such earth-worlds into lands and bodies given by nature/Earth. Such a transmutation functions to conceal the underlying reproductive conditions – Indigenous and Black earth-worlding capacity – of that which is now marked as nature/Earth. It is, then, the racialized production of nature that accounts, ultimately, for both the excess (from appropriation of Indigenous and Black earth-worlds) and exhaustion (from erasure of their constituting conditions) of the political ecology of racial capitalism.

#3 Land restitution against land distribution? Evidence from Colombia

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Jacobo Grajales, University of Lille (France)

Abstract

The scholarly and practitioner debate on land restitution has grown over the last two decades, in the aftermath of the adoption of the Pinheiro Principles on Housing and Property restitution by the UN in 2005. Land (and other property) restitution has come to be seen as an integral part of a ‘fourth generation’ of transitional justice, which would be more suited to address the economic causes and consequences of war. However, it has also been criticized by its focus on restoring a status quo ante rather than to addressing the economic injustices that often fed the logic of violence. Through a careful overview of the literature and a case study on Colombia, this paper outlines some of the mechanisms through which land restitution might end up encumbering or even undermining a distributive justice approach. Colombia offers a key case for advancing our knowledge on the contradictions between distributive and restorative approaches to peace-building and transitional justice. The Colombian Victims Law, enacted in 2011, has been internationally praised as probably the most ambitious asset restitution programme in the world. From its outset, it was labelled as the response to a land dispossession crisis, tightly linked to the internal displacement crisis that the country experienced over the 1990s and 2000s. The paper will inquire into the effects of the crisis label over the way in which the policy was framed, as well as over its aftermath, as restitution became part and parcel of a larger peace-building and post-conflict transition agenda.

#4 Global Interrelated Crises and Local Land Conflicts? Indigenous movements navigating between crisis framing and utopian imaginations.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Anja Habersang, Ruhr-University Bochum and Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Abstract

The Covid 19 pandemic has seen voices around the globe emerge which have framed it as part of a multifaceted, interrelated global crisis. Especially at risk are those who are already facing conflict-ridden everyday realities, such as Indigenous peoples, because local conflicts over land and other natural resources are caused or aggravated by mutually-influencing global crises. Argentina, an emblematic example of this trend, promoted fracking as the way out of economic recession when the country's economy collapsed during the pandemic in order to extract one of the world's largest shale gas and shale oil deposits. An in-depth case study of Indigenous movements in Argentina will reveal how these actors navigate between crisis framing and utopian imaginations in intensifying land conflicts. Empirical data collected in 2019 shows that the actors critique the present day as a crises-ridden dystopian age and it is against this background that politics and imagination are shaped. Crisis framing is but one aspect of strategy, while unravelling how capitalist, extractivist and patriarchal oppression, and exclusion shape structural inequalities through a decolonial and intersectional lens is another aspect of the movements' strategic approach. In turn, they aim to make the future possible by (re)constructing a reciprocity with nature as well as one between humans and other-than-human beings, a viewpoint that has become known as Buen Vivir (Good Life). Mobilising an apocalyptic, dystopian future scenario through crisis framing, the Indigenous actors position themselves as knowledge-providers for paving the way out of crises-ridden times through prefiguring alternative futures.

#5 The land crisis and political discourse in conflict-affected settings

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Rosine Tchatchoua Djomo, PhD Candidate, African Studies Centre Leiden & Wageningen University, NL

Abstract

It is often claimed that agrarian countries that experienced violent conflicts are facing a 'land crisis'. How dominant narratives of the land crisis have been framed and received? What actions have been taken in its name? With a focus on conflict-affected settings in sub-Saharan Africa, this contribution highlights that the notion of land crisis is elusive, evolving, contextual, and needs to be understood in historical perspective. We argue that the land crisis is purposely channelled through narratives which shape and legitimize subsequent policy actions. Crisis narratives bring about opportunities for new political narratives and new policies to emerge. Crisis narratives in relation to land access and competing claims have been constructed and politically channelled through political rhetoric and media discourse and become the grounds for policy actions. This has enabled the dissolution and delegitimization of previously held norms and beliefs, and policies. This has also created new opportunities and frameworks for the government to enforce piecemeal measures to land policy, and legal and institutional reforms. In addition, specific events in the post-conflict settings can create spaces for the articulation and emergence of new or alternative crisis narratives. Understanding how land crisis is represented and employed by the dominant political powers is crucial, because this defines and legitimizes the policy decisions and actions taken in the name of finding solutions to the crisis. As demonstrated in several settings, these policy actions have often produced mixed outcomes, as discourses are further complicated by the expectations of different actors concerning land. In some cases, even, they may fuel into existing tensions, and reignite violence. The political nature of land crisis narratives bears serious implications for the social and economic recovery of the nation due to the pivotal role that land access plays in the micro (household) and the macro (international commodity market) economies. In conflict-affected settings, power lies not only in responding to the land crisis, but also in identifying, defining and constituting it. While there is a historical trajectory to these processes, we also argue that the transition from war to peace creates new opportunities for resources/land-related crisis narratives or crisis 'myths' to be (re-) imagined and instrumentalized.

#6 Land Mobility, Climate Crisis, and the Governance Trap in Southeast Asia

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Dr. Lynn Thiesmeyer, Professor Emerita, Faculty of Environmental Information, Keio University, Japan

Abstract

In Southeast Asia rural land has been the object of an endless struggle, both physical and notional, surrounding 2 essential views of its uses. One is that land is a physical entity within the bounded area by which authorities and investors legally define it and that its resources are static and extractable. In the Upper Mekong Region, where governance crises and climate crises overlap, land mismanagement stemming from this view is often blamed. The other view is that land has no natural boundaries, that its resources are producible in symbiosis with human activity, and that it is a conduit of human mobility. In this region, rural populations have long used land to derive sustenance not only by settling on it, but also by migrating back and forth upon it, in work, in trade, and in displacement.

There is, however, a complex relationship among rural land users, national governing authorities, their urban and transboundary investors, and now 'crisis expertise.' This last diverts attention away from the slower-onset issues experienced by land users themselves, including land mismanagement that has rendered large, transboundary areas of land unuseable.

These issues subvert conventional notions of land governance based on stable and consistent exploitation of land as a bounded entity; while local land users' mobility evades the sedentarization upon which most modern forms of governance are based. The question presented here is, does land mobility help land users evade the reach of the 'governance trap' into which much of the region, most recently Myanmar, has fallen?

3. Working in Crisis Mode: Lessons from land governance interventions in fragile and conflict-affected settings

Organisers: David Betge, ZOA; Tony Piaskowy, Cadasta Foundation; Mathijs van Leeuwen, Radboud University

Session format: panel

People and organizations working in land governance in fragile and conflict-affected settings are used to crises and adverse working conditions. After all, interventions in land governance are increasingly becoming core business for peace and humanitarian organizations. However, the past year has proven particularly challenging. In some contexts, multiple crises hit; while COVID-19 not only obstructed working in fragile and conflict-affected settings, but also impeded global operationality.

While there were many negative impacts, creative solutions were also found. Technology helped bridge some of the gaps caused by travel restrictions and limited access to specific areas and enabled localized data collection sharing. Moreover, the past year showed NGOs and other actors in the field of land rights clearly the strengths, weaknesses and fragility of their approaches and institutional set ups. The limitations imposed by COVID-19 in combination with increasing insecurity highlighted the value and necessity of strong interpersonal and inter-organizational relationships; of trust and of the local legitimacy of the intervention and tested the organizational strength of government organizations. It also underlined once more the need for true 'localization': making interveners even more aware of the strength and resilience of local populations and organizations in dealing with adversary.

This session will bring together colleagues from different organizations working in the broad field of land rights. They will share their experiences as well as those of their partner organizations, the challenges they faced, the solutions they found and critically reflect on shortcomings and unsolved issues. Specifically, they will look at lessons from and for fragile and conflict affected settings and the need to address resilience on multiple levels.

An academic discussant will bring an analytical perspective to the insights from practice that can help to draw broader lessons from these experiences. Together with the audience, who will be able to share from their own contexts, we will explore key lessons from working in crisis mode for interventions in land governance.

#1 Artificial Intelligence as a Tool for Recovery from Climate-related Hazards

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Thomas Y. Chen; Academy for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering

Abstract

Climate change has brought on more intense and frequent extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and tornadoes. This has devastated communities, claimed tens of thousands of lives each year, and caused immense economic loss month after month. In order to recover from these events, governance structures, nonprofit organizations, and communities themselves must have mechanisms to allocate resources and personnel in a timely manner.

Machine learning-based information systems that aid in this allocation of these resources have emerged as a key tool in the initiative regarding climate adaptation. For example, deep learning-based remote sensing systems (such as those based on convolutional neural networks) can assess infrastructure damage after natural disasters by training on multitemporal satellite imagery in real time. In addition, using social media data using machine learning analytics during and after disasters to assess impacts is a recent development, especially as social networks are utilized often by people in times of crisis to communicate to loved ones and the world at large. Therefore, in order to increase resilience to the climate-related hazards that will continue to get worse unless aggressive climate change mitigation steps are taken, governance structures ought to harness artificial intelligence strategies to inform humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

#2 Why Land is Important in Understanding Violent Conflict: Strengthening Conflict Analysis and Prediction Tools

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Ian Langdown and Anne Locke, ODI

Abstract

Between 2000 and 2015, land was an element in over half of violent conflicts, and is likely to become an even more important factor in conflict, exacerbated by intensifying competition over land.

Building a deeper understanding of the roles which land play in conflict is important in supporting work to mitigate, manage and prevent violent conflict. The costs of violence and its containment reached an all-time high of US\$14.8 trillion in 2017 — equivalent to 13% of world GDP.

Yet, few conflict analysis and forecasting tools recognise the roles which land and property issues can play in instigating, sustaining and re-igniting conflict. Even fewer acknowledge or integrate the concept of tenure security; still less considered is perceived tenure security (PTS) — how people assess or view the risk that they will lose their right to use land or property in the future.

Measuring PTS can capture people's sense of security, whatever the tenure system; and tracking PTS regularly can monitor changes in security and signal rising tensions related to land. PTS can also help to identify what might be undermining people's confidence in their ability to hold onto their land.

Drawing on the Prindex dataset on PTS in 140 countries, this presentation will provide an overview of the link between (perceived) tenure security and violent conflict, and demonstrate how including measures of perceived tenure security PTS — and factors influencing it — in conflict analysis and forecasting tools could strengthen understandings of land-related conflict drivers and provide additional information about broader conflict contexts.

4. Solid Ground: Applying lessons from an advocacy campaign in the context of a global pandemic

Organisers: Habitat for Humanity Nederland

Session format: panel

The world has changed in the year and a half since Habitat for Humanity closed Solid Ground, a 4-year global advocacy campaign to increase access to land for shelter. The significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout are still unfolding. Many low-income vulnerable families who were already suffering from housing poverty saw their vulnerabilities substantially worsened in the face of this global crisis. This session captures the lessons learned from the Solid Ground campaign and applies these both in rural and urban context. During the session both field experts as well as academics are invited to start a dialogue and share their expertise.

Academic Femke van Noorloos provides a fresh look at land issues in the incremental housing debate to build sustainable and inclusive urban futures during and after the global pandemic. A new understanding of the nexus around land and incremental housing is needed to view the role of land in a broader way. Raquel Ludermir - Solid Ground consultant - will share lessons learned from the Solid Ground campaign and dive into the details of the transformative impact of land and housing against the background of shocks and stressors, using a case in point from Habitat for Humanity Nepal.

Habitat for Humanity Nepal has been working to increase access to land for housing for vulnerable ethnic groups by implementing the federal government's land and housing program and promoting joint land titling, recognizing both women and men as landowners. During the session results of their work will be shared as well as the value of being part of a global campaign and the impact of COVID-19. All speakers will participate in a discussion on how to rethink and reinvest in inclusive housing strategies and build back better with a focus on land tenure.

Speakers:

- Rebecca Ochong, moderator (Housing and Land Policy Manager, Habitat for Humanity International).
- Raquel Ludermir (PhD in Urban Development, Architect and Urban Planner).
- Christy Stickney (National Director, Habitat for Humanity Nepal) and/or Ram Prakash Singh Danuwar (Program Operation Manager, Habitat for Humanity Nepal).
- Dr Femke van Noorloos (Assistant Professor of International Development Studies and Human Geography & Planning, Utrecht University, the Netherlands).

#1 Building sustainable and inclusive urban futures during COVID-19: a fresh look at land issues in the incremental housing debate

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Griet Steel, Femke van Noorloos, Abigail Friendly, Wanfei Pang, Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning (SGPL), Utrecht University

Abstract

Incremental housing is a key driver of contemporary urbanisation worldwide, and becoming all the more urgent given the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. Incremental building practices have been recognised as a necessary starting point for socially relevant, just, inclusive and realistic solutions for persistent housing shortages across the globe. As a consequence, private companies, civil society organisations and local governments working globally towards adequate housing are developing programmes to support inclusive, flexible and adaptive building strategies. Land and tenure security are important issues in these programmes and debates. However, we argue that a new understanding of the nexus around land and incremental housing is needed. We suggest to map the flows and systems of design, building materials, labour, finance, and infrastructure around incremental housing practices and projects. This allows us to view the role of land in a broader way, and scrutinize how incremental housing is made available in the context of pressured land markets and increasing urban land scarcities. In this sense, 'local' incremental and self-managed building practices are embedded within broader industries and city-making practices that have to be accounted for when identifying opportunities and bottlenecks for making incremental housing practices more sustainable, inclusive and scalable. We reflect on these lessons and apply them to the current times, as COVID-19 and its impacts are profoundly affecting deprived neighborhoods and the housing sector in global South cities.

5. Uneven Ground: The land inequality crisis, in the midst of our planet's broader inequalities and crises

Organisers: International Land Coalition (ILC) and OXFAM

Session format: Mix between panel and roundtable

In most countries, land inequality is growing. Worse, new measures and analysis show that land inequality is significantly higher than previously reported. This trend directly threatens the livelihoods of an estimated 2.5 billion people worldwide involved in smallholder agriculture.

Land inequality is also central to many other forms of inequality related to wealth, power, gender, health, and environment and is fundamentally linked to contemporary global crises of democratic decline, climate change, global health security and pandemics, mass migration, unemployment, and intergenerational injustice. Beyond its direct effects on smallholder agriculture, it is clear that land inequality undermines stability and the development of sustainable societies, affecting all of us in almost every aspect of our lives.

This session, based on the recently published 'Uneven ground' report and broader work of ILC members on inequality, endeavours

- to provide a broader context of the world inequality crisis;
- to shed new light on the scale and speed of the growing trends of the land inequality crisis;
- to show how this land inequality crisis is related to other inequalities and to broader crises our planet is confronted to, such as the environmental and climate change crises, the unemployment, youth and migration crises and the democracy crises;
- to analyse potential solutions of land inequality, and subsequently what these imply for the other inequalities and broader crises, offering as such a potential pathway to change.

Speakers:

- Head of inequality campaign Oxfam: Deepak Xavier (Oxfam International).
- 'Uneven Ground' report authors: Ward Anseeuw (International Land Coalition/CIRAD) and Giulia Baldinelli (International Land Coalition).
- Researchers land inequality: Marc Wegerif (University of Pretoria, South Africa), Research/activist, (GEMAP Study Group on Social Change, Agribusiness and Public Policy Brazil) (to be confirmed).

V. Community Governance and Responses from Below

1. Ground Up Land Governance Experiences

Organisers:

- Marc Wegerif, University of Pretoria
- Paul Hebinck, Wageningen University/Rhodes University
- Eileen
- Wakesho Mwangi, Namati
- Nxumalo Buhlebenkosi, International Land Coalition

Session format: Roundtable

This session will be a space for land activists to share how they are organizing grassroots land and land governance reforms to build resilience in the face of crises. These initiatives are many, from women organizing to defend their land rights in the face of gender discrimination, to land occupations led by landless and homeless people to meet their needs, and community initiatives to improve communal land governance.

The crises we face are many, from climate change, COVID-19, inequality, and instability. States are often failing to ensure access to land for those who need it (for production and homes) and failing to secure the rights of the most vulnerable. This leaves communities organizing their own solutions.

There is much that can be shared and learnt from such grassroots experiences around the world. Some of these cases are documented through initiatives such as the International Land Coalition's community land protection learning initiative and database of good practices, but there has not been much discussion of them. This platform will be an opportunity for those directly involved to share with others, share with communities facing similar challenges, and share with practitioners and academics working on these issues. The sessions will be recorded so that the presentations can be made accessible online and key lessons from it will also be written up to be shared more widely. We are lining up people with interesting experiences to share and welcome other suggestions and volunteers willing to share from their work, actions and practices in relation to people created land governance, and resilience in the face of crises.

#1 Traditional community driven land reform and agricultural development.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Chief Ravele Davhana (local traditional leader), Limpopo, South Africa

Abstract

This is the story of how a community removed from their land under apartheid have, under their traditional leadership, occupied, allocated land and supported agricultural production on that land. This in the context of their land claim not yet being settled by the government 27 years after the end of apartheid and the widespread failure of the government's land and agrarian reform programmes.

#2 Communities organising for a human rights-based approach to securing rural communities' land and development. Scotland

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Community Land Scotland. United Kingdom

Abstract

This is the story of how communities in Scotland have advocated for and implemented a human rights-based and community controlled process of securing land rights and rural development. This in the context of extreme land inequalities (under private land ownership) and rural decline.

#3 Urban women organising to secure land, water and homes. Cape Town, South Africa.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Faeza Mayer-Fourie (local activist), Tafelsig, South Africa.

Abstract

This is the story of how homeless and landless people, in particular women, have organised to occupy land and construct homes for themselves and continue to struggle to defend their rights to a place to live and to basic services, such as water. This is in the context of government housing programmes failing to meet the needs of millions of homeless people.

#4 Promoting small-scale land reform initiatives as an alternative method for tackling unfair land distribution. Indonesia

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: KPA (Consortium for Agrarian Reform), Indonesia.

Abstract

This is the story of how a consortium has organised local communities, equipping them with knowledge and skills to protect their land rights and to implement local small-scale land reform solutions as well as engaging the national government. This is in the context of national policies that lack coherence and numerous conflicts related to land and natural resource pressures.

#5 Women leading in securing indigenous land rights. Kenya

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Samburu Women's Trust, Kenya.

Abstract

This is the story of how indigenous women have organised for social justice and land rights. This includes struggling to register their land and working for their own empowerment within the wider community. This in the context of new land laws in Kenya that such communities should benefit from, but government's implementation has been slow and indigenous people's land and natural resource rights are under pressure from investors and others.

2. How Community & Women's Land Rights Relate to Climate and COVID-19 Vulnerability and Resilience?

Organisers:

- Swaleh Kitasi (ActionAid Kenya)
- Abul Azad (ActionAid Bangladesh)
- Sophie Kwizera
- Danny Wijnhoud (ActionAid Netherlands)

Session format: Mini-workshop

Land is power, land is wealth, and, more importantly, land is about gender, race and class. The relationship to land – who owns it, who accesses it, who uses it and who has control over it – reflects obscene levels of gender inequality in the world. Equitable land governance can help reverse three types of phenomena: gender discrimination; social exclusion of vulnerable groups; and wider social and economic inequalities.

Unfortunately, despite progress made in reforming the land sector across the globe, equitable land governance remains a pipe dream. Land is increasingly attractive and prone to grabbing especially if it is fertile and has good potential for agricultural practices, even more so, considering the context of the climate crisis and drought, if there is access to and control over potable and irrigation water.

Deprived communities, in particular women, with weak land tenure and user rights arrangements are also those being most challenged and hardest hit by the COVID-19 and climate crises, usually extreme droughts and flooding, usually translating into more severe food security and livelihood challenges.

This session zooms in on the local situation and challenges faced by grassroots communities and women in some Low-Income countries. It provides an overview of support provided by governments and CSOs facilitating communities, women in particular, to step up the efforts to strengthen their land rights and to generate resilience in face of climate and COVID-19 challenges they are facing. It reveals that more secure land tenure provides much better opportunities to face climate and COVID-19 challenges by investing in high biodiversity local food & income systems.

Lessons learned and remaining challenges are being summarized with the stakeholder contributions and debate expected to result in policy & practice recommendations

There shall be a thorough conversation about a feminist (equitable, inclusive, and sustainable) land rights and land-use governance agenda in the context of climate and COVID-19 crises. Challenges, practices and recommendation are presented based on experiences and recommendations from Kenya, Bangladesh and the Netherlands (international trade & development cooperation agenda) and brief contributions from a few other countries in the Global South and/or from international experts are being welcomed.

3. How Does Community Land Governance Intersect with Factors of Resilience in Rural Areas to Support Adaptation to Crisis Situations?

Organisers:

- Annie McKee, Rosalind Corbett, Mags Currie (The James Hutton Institute)
- Rob Mc Morran and Jayne Glass (Scotland's Rural College)

Session format: Panel and group discussion

In Scotland, two decades of land reform has led to a shift from a pattern of predominantly private rural landownership, to one where community bodies have themselves become landowners. It is notable that over 80% of the Western Isles of Scotland are in community ownership, and around 3% of Scotland's land mass overall (Scottish Government, 2019). Other communities have become empowered through the transfer of land and other property from public bodies (Mc Morran et al., 2018). Land ownership by community organisations can support multiple factors of community resilience.

Early reports indicate that community landowners have played a key role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, both in the initial adaptation to lockdown restrictions (e.g. providing services and supplies to community members, and supporting those most vulnerable) and in responding to longer-term concerns, for example regarding pressure on key economic sectors such as tourism, as well as community members' mental health (Ross, 2021). Research in Scotland's rural communities indicates the importance of local governance and autonomy in recovering from the pandemic (Currie et al., 2021), and beyond there is evidence of the role of Scottish community landowners in seeking to mitigate and adapt to the anticipated climate crisis. This session seeks to explore examples of international community land ownership and to collate the experiences of community land governance during the pandemic. It aims to respond to the following questions: (i) How does community land and asset ownership support adaptation to crises, such as public health emergencies and the climate emergency? (ii) What are the factors of resilience that community landownership facilitates, and how could that be further promoted (i.e. in different land tenure regimes)? (iii) What options are there for policies to support greater community land governance in different international contexts, and what barriers remain?

#1 A contribution for the knowledge of the communal lands of northwest Iberian Peninsula

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Lopes, J.A., Faculty of Agrarian Sciences, University of Lúrio, Niassa, Mozambique & *Diaz-Maroto, I.J., Department of Agroforestry Engineering, University of Santiago de Compostela

Abstract

The communal lands of northwest Iberian Peninsula – “baldios” in Portugal and “Montes Veciñais en Man Común” (MVMC) in Galicia – play an essential role in the rural economy of their owner communities. This role was lost during the twentieth century due to the massive forestation and the decline of agriculture. The restoration of democratic regimes in both countries returned both to their owner communities, now declining, aging, and disorganized. As the rural world they belong to, they are now facing several challenges.

Communal lands occupy nearly 1 million ha, 400,000 in north Portugal and 600,000 in Galicia, with high average areas (500 ha in Portugal and 200 ha in Galicia). They are owned by approximately 2900 communities in Galicia and 1000 in north Portugal. Their use is primarily forestry, but several reasons resulted in a current sub-utilization of their potential. The objectives were to (1) compare the situation in Galicia and north Portugal in respect to the main historical determinants and illustrate their present-day significance; (2) determine the potentialities and limitations, in the current conditions, of the contribution of communal lands to rural development.

We have studied two cases, one in north Portugal – group of seven communal lands (baldios) located in Amarante, and one in Galicia – group of 23 communal lands (MVMC) located in Ponte Caldelas. In both cases the environmental aspects were considered the most relevant. When evaluated individually, the indicators job generation, accessibility and efficiency in forest fire fighting and prevention were considered very important.

#2 The role of community landownership in adapting to the climate emergency

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Dr Bobby Macaulay; Dr Chris Dalglish

Abstract

Climate policy focuses on reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change on people's lives and livelihoods. Adaptation includes physical solutions (e.g. flood or coastal defences) and people-centred solutions; encouraging behaviour change, enabling people to respond to foreseeable changes, and building resilience in the face of uncertainty.

In this presentation, we will share findings from research undertaken in Scotland in 2020 and 2021. We looked at how community owners – i.e. communities that own land, buildings and/or other built assets – are addressing the climate emergency and generating local community and wider public benefits. The research was undertaken on behalf of Community Land Scotland in partnership with Community Energy Scotland, the Community Woodlands Association and the Woodland Crofts Partnership.

We found that community owners are demonstrating climate leadership at the local level. They are trusted communicators and encourage climate awareness and behaviour change. They are democratically accountable and act in the interests of local people, which helps to engage and include people in climate action and to ensure that the local community benefits. These are fundamental aspects of a Just Transition to net zero, which community owners may be uniquely placed to facilitate at the local level. Community-based adaptation can enhance preparedness and ultimately the ability of communities to respond to the ongoing climate crisis. Our research shows that, when community owners lead on climate action, it helps to address the climate emergency and also to build confident, cohesive, empowered and resilient communities.

#3 The role of asset owning community organisations in place-based responses to Covid-19

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Rob Mc Morran, Jayne Glass, Elliot Meador, Carly Maynard, Marcus Craigie, Abigail Williams (Rural Policy Centre, Scotland's Rural College – SRUC)

Abstract

Approximately three per cent of Scotland's land is owned by community groups, with land purchases since 2003 directly or indirectly enabled by land reform legislation and policy that supports the transfer of land and assets into community ownership. During the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, landowning community groups often played an important role in place-based, community responses. Our paper discusses the extent to which ownership of community assets enabled a resilient response to the Covid crisis in rural areas.

We studied four case studies in two administrative regions in Scotland to explore factors of rural community resilience in place-based responses to the pandemic and lockdowns. The case studies were in the Western Isles region (the island of South Uist and Stornoway) and in Fife (Burntisland and Elie and surrounds). Interviews with local and regional actors enabled assessment of: socio-economic impacts; community responses; the importance of resilience and community capacity; opportunities for recovery; and variation of responses between communities. In all of the case studies, community organisations have played a critical role during the pandemic in many ways. In the Western Isles, where 40% of the land is owned by local community organisations, asset-owning community organisations were generally able to respond rapidly and in a flexible way, particularly in relation to obtaining and distributing available financial support locally. These organisations are also fully engaged in addressing issues that will help or hinder recovery, including: depopulation, reliance on the tourism industry, and the availability of housing.

4. Who Benefits? Inclusive governance and equitable benefit sharing in the context of community forestry

Organisers: Tropenbos International, together with Forest Foundation Philippines and RECOFTC.

Session format: Panel discussion

Strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to forest land, for example through community forestry models, has the potential to contribute to sustainable livelihoods, forest conservation and social justice.

Tropenbos International and partners have analysed community forestry models in ten countries, looking at the outcomes and the conditions and barriers. In all countries, the internal governance within communities came up as a challenge; decision-making processes within IPLCs are not always inclusive and (financial) benefits of collectively managed forests may end up in the hand of local elites. Therefore, CSOs often work to support communities in strengthening their internal governance processes, but this brings forward the question:

- How to ensure fair benefit sharing within the community in the context of community forestry?
- What is the role and importance of individual benefits in model that is based on collective forest rights?
- Who decides what is fair?
- What is the (potential) role of customary governance institutions, governments and CSOs in ensuring fair benefit-sharing?

In this session we will explore these questions together with the panellists and the audience.

Moderator: René Boot (Director Tropenbos International)

Speakers:

- Charlotte Benneker (Programme coordinator, Tropenbos International).
- Heidi Mendoza (Forest Foundation Philippines).
- Shambhu Dangal (Country director Nepal, RECOFTC).

VI. Just Transitions

1. Extractivism, Bio-cultural Diversity and Climate Justice: Geographies of “unburnable carbon” for energy transition

Organisers:

- Salvatore Eugenio Pappalardo (ICEA Department, University of Padua, Italy)
- Lorenzo Pellegrini (International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- Massimo De Marchi (ICEA Department, University of Padua, Italy)

Session format: panel

In the midst of the global climate crisis, the “carbon-based economic model” remains the current paradigm for global economic and energy development. In contrast, to limit global warming at 1.5°C within 2035, the IPCC re-assessed the baseline scenario for the international climate policy agenda (2019). To pursuit this target, global emissions should be drastically reduced to 840, 580, and 420 Gt CO₂ to have respectively 33%, 50% and 67% of probability of maintain global warming below the 1.5°C limit. These targets have obvious implications for the consumption and for the production of fossil fuels. While much of the attention and climate negotiations has been on the demand of fossil fuels, the supply side and the associated land governance issues are experiencing a surge of interest (Pellegrini et al. 2020). In particular, interventions to limit the supply of fossil fuels have spatially explicit implications and intersect with land rights. On the other hand, recent estimations suggest about the 66% of oil, 43% of natural gas and 82% of coal should remain “locked underground” (Pye et al. 2020; Friedlingstein et al. 2020). In this framework, an interdisciplinary research was inspired by the “Yasuní-ITT Initiative” (Ecuador, 2007), the first political experiment worldwide about leaving fossil fuels underground in a crucial sector of Amazon Rainforest (Yasuní Biosphere Reserve), by combining nature conservation priorities with human rights protection. This inclusive approach is stimulating the international scientific debate about geographical criteria and institutional mechanisms to define Unburnable Carbon for climate justice and energy transition policies, in very high biologically and culturally diverse areas of the world. Geographical Information Science, which combines qualitative with quantitative methodologies, represents a cross-cutting approach to geovisualize and analyse overlaps between energy production and bio-cultural values. We will discuss the spatial criteria for supply-side climate policies, climate justice paths and the way they intersect land governance. This session aims to i) explore the concept of “unburnable carbon” and the sociocultural, environmental and political dilemmas tied to its implementation; ii) collect cross-cutting methodologies, case studies and reflections to leave fossil fuel underground, towards for climate justice and energy transition policies.

#1 Arctic region and hydrocarbons' extraction: from mapping to multi-criteria analysis toward the definition of the Arctic "Unburnable Carbon"

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: F. Ammaturo; G. Lazazzera; A.G. Stralla

Abstract

The Arctic, besides being affected by climate change-related phenomena, is also compromised by the extensive use of natural resources such as hydrocarbons, with industrial development impoverishing the environment for its infrastructural impact and consequences related to oil spills, leading to challenges about the Arctic future.

The region is affected by intense extraction, because of the large amount of reserves located in the subsoil: the US Geological Survey estimates the undiscovered oil in the Arctic, especially offshore, is 13% of the world reserves; the number rises at 30% for gas stocks. Besides, the Arctic releases 21% of the global CO₂ emissions per year and the multi-scalar impact of the extractions has repercussions on the arctic habitat with progressive disruption of the life of indigenous communities that rely on it for subsistence.

This work, based on a consolidated methodology from studies on the Amazon region, applies a data collection and a multi-criteria analysis to understand if and how it is possible to manage the extraction activity, respecting Arctic cultural and ecological values. The research led to an in-depth data mining aimed at gathering spatial data on oil and gas extraction and transport; the geo-data mapping served as the first cartographic analysis, allowing the evaluation of the extraction influence on protected natural areas and indigenous populations-inhabited sites, more vulnerable to external phenomena. The study follows the "Unburnable Carbon" approach, suggesting that around 80% of coal, 50% of gas and 30% of oil reserves should remain untapped to contain CO₂ emissions.

#2 Action research for climate justice: participatory mapping of “unleakable carbon” from gas flaring in the Ecuadorian Amazon Region

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Francesco Facchinelli¹, Salvatore Eugenio Pappalardo¹, Giuseppe Della Fera², Edoardo Crescini¹, Alberto Diantini¹, Daniele Codato¹, Massimo De Marchi¹

¹Lab GIScience Drones for Good, Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, University of Padova, Padova, Italy

²GisHub, Padova, Italy

Abstract

In the framework of the unburnable carbon paradigm, a less considered issue regards ‘fugitive’, ‘leaked’, ‘vented’ or ‘flared’ emissions related to fossil fuel extraction and production, also referred as unburnable carbon. However, estimations show that, to limiting warming to 2°C, these emissions may require to leave underground 80-280% of natural gas, meaning that even current, ongoing leakage may present a challenge (Hendrick et al., 2017). Specifically, gas flaring causes the emission for about 400 Mt yr⁻¹ of CO₂eq, besides involving a wide range of socio-environmental impacts. In the Ecuadorian Amazon Region (EAR), a key area for cultural and biological diversity conservation, the only data sources on gas flaring are oil companies and remote sensing.

This work presents the first participatory mapping of gas flaring, realized with the aim to support demands from local communities for environmental and climate justice. By identifying 295 gas flaring sites, this study highlights the extension of the gas flaring in the EAR is well beyond what reported the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and Nightfire satellite estimations, which included respectively 24% and 33% of the sites.

Additionally, 75 sites were detected in the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve. Besides, 39 sites were venting instead of flaring, a phenomenon never documented in the EAR.

Finally, maps and data produced were included in the legal demand which led to the ban of gas flaring in this region. Thus, this study represents a successful example of combining scientific research and local communities efforts to prompt the implementation of climate justice policies.

#3 Contested participation at the unburnable carbon frontier: challenges and dilemmas from Ecuador´s Yasuní Biosphere Reserve

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Margherita Scazza (School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh), Danilo Borja (Geography Department, University of Calgary)

Abstract

The Yasuní Biosphere Reserve (YBR) is recognised for its unique cultural and biological richness. It is the home of the Waorani people and two related Indigenous groups living in “voluntary isolation”. It also holds Ecuador´s largest oil reserves. The coexistence of these overlapping and competing territorialities played a role in its recognition as a potential site of unburnable carbon. This, alongside the mobilisation of social movements, has attracted attention at both national and international level. Drawing on two case studies from the YBR, the paper offers an empirically grounded analysis of participation mechanisms promoted in unburnable carbon-rich territories, discussing the dilemmas, contradictions and tensions that arise from them. The first case illustrates participation mechanisms activated by government and civil society after the cancellation of Yasuní-ITT initiative and the mobilisation of resource nationalist discourses. These mechanisms, which include citizen oversights and popular consultation, are aimed at regulating or cancelling oil operations. The second case presents insights from the Resistencia Waorani, a successful campaign pursued by Waorani communities in the province Pastaza to oppose the auctioning of Block 22, the only portion of their territory free from oil extraction. By examining these cases of rejection and contestation of profoundly flawed and inadequate state-led participation processes, we will discuss their shortfalls and their relevance for the design of supply-side climate policies. Our paper draws on extensive ethnographic data from local and national-level observations and interviews with key actors, as well as literature and document reviews.

2. Just Future: Effective justice pathways for the protection of people's land rights and prevention of conflict

Organisers: Janine Ubink and Bernardo Almeida (Van Vollenhoven Institute) and Connor Clerke (Rift Valley Institute).

Session format: panel

Land is a central resource in most people's lives, with economic and strategic value, cultural significance and political relevance. The increased demand for land caused by phenomena such as population growth, migrations, and climate change is a source of tensions between the state, individuals, communities, actors from the private sector and other land users. The connection between land and conflict is not new, but the ever-growing competition for land has highlighted its role in generating conflict. States and development agencies have been searching for strategies that can enable justice seekers and communities facing problems related to land access to find effective resolutions, consistent with the law and human rights standards. This panel brings together researchers and practitioners working on or researching about land-related conflict and land justice initiatives and aims to share knowledge and compare the findings of their research.

#1 Judging the Effectiveness of Land Rights Adjudication and Advocacy at the Inter-American System of Human Rights: A case study from Brazil's Indigenous Peoples

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Erick da Luz Scherf, University of Stavanger (NO),
Department of Social Studies

Abstract

Brazil has been a part of the Inter-American System of Human Rights for almost thirty years now, and a lot of debate has taken place surrounding the level of influence and efficacy of the System concerning social transformation processes, human rights reparations, and “socialisation” of human rights norms (amongst other relevant topics) within the national scenario. This research is a small contribution to the larger debate on the role of the Inter-American System in safeguarding or advancing human rights, especially the land rights of Indigenous peoples, in the Brazilian context. Since 2016 and especially after President Jair Bolsonaro was elected in 2018, Indigenous peoples have experienced negligence or slowness in regularizing their lands, accompanied by violence, persecution, and rights violations. The goal of this article is to understand the effectiveness of land rights adjudication and advocacy at the Inter-American System of Human Rights, based on the previous experiences of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples. In order to do that, I revisited human rights compliance theories, their critiques, as well as the existing literature, legislation, and jurisprudence on the matter of Indigenous and land rights. The research design and approach is essentially qualitative. In addition, this article can contribute to enlarging the discussion on the international adjudication of land-related conflicts in Brazil and elsewhere, as well as portrait the fight for Indigenous lands demarcation and recognition in the country.

#2 Where Bottom-Up and Top-Down Meet: Challenges in Shaping Sustainable & Scalable Land Interventions

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Lisette Meij, Thomas Vintges RVO

Abstract

LAND-at-scale is a land governance support program for developing countries from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, launched in 2019. The aim of the program is to directly strengthen essential land governance components for men, women and youth that have the potential to contribute to structural, just, sustainable and inclusive change at. The program is designed to scale successful land governance initiatives and to generate and disseminate lessons learned to facilitate further scaling. Since its launch, the LAND-at-scale programs has invited Dutch embassies to submit ideas for scaling successful land governance initiatives. In total 63 ideas from 33 different countries have been submitted. From those ideas, land interventions are being developed in fourteen countries. The project ideas that were submitted to the program for consideration were highly diverse, in geographical coverage, in the issues to be address as well as the suggested approaches to address those issues. Despite this high level of diversity, similar challenges were observed across the board with regards to achieving or attaining scalability and sustainability.

In essence, two types of scalability were observed: small-scale, community-level approaches that should be scaled across the country, and national-level, government-led approaches that should be implemented across the country. In LAND-at-scale's definition of sustainability, both aspects are essential criteria for success: local buy-in and national-level adoption. Therefore, the challenge posed that we would like to discuss in the roundtable is: how to make these bottom-up and top-down approaches meet in a way that can be sustained and further scaled?

#3 The influence of land conflicts on farmers' tenure security and title possession –Evidence from Tanzania

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Lisa Murken¹, Kati Krähnert¹, Gregor Mager², Rahel Laudien¹ and Christoph Gornott^{1,3}

¹Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Member of the Leibniz Association

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³Agroecosystem Analysis and Modelling, Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences, University of Kassel

Abstract

Farmers' tenure security is central to their livelihoods, yet its determinants are poorly understood. In this study, we analyse whether the experience of land conflicts affects farmers' perceived tenure security. Drawing on a detailed household panel survey with three waves, we employ a household fixed effects approach to analyse this question in two regions of Tanzania. Land conflicts may be endogenous and itself be affected by tenure security of farmers. Our identification strategy thus relies on an extreme weather event, the occurrence of 15 consecutive dry days in the current agricultural season, as an instrument for land conflicts. In addition, we investigate the relationship between land conflicts and land titles, using a lagged instrument. Results show that conflicts considerably lower farmers' tenure security, a finding robust across specifications. We further find that previous experience of land conflicts leads to a significantly higher likelihood of farmers acquiring titles. This indicates that household heads appear to view formal land title as an effective remedy against land conflicts. A key limitation of our study is the focus on the household as a whole, masking dynamics of distribution and marginalisation within the household. Although we cannot completely rule out other impact channels, we find land conflicts to be by far the largest channel of extreme dry conditions influencing tenure security. We conclude that well-functioning land dispute resolution mechanisms are even more important under extreme weather conditions and are likely to grow in importance with progressing climate change.

#4 Just Future: Effective justice pathways for the protection of people's land rights and prevention of conflict

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Van Vollenhoven Institute (Janine Ubink; Bernardo Almeida) and Rift Valley Institute (Anna Rowett)

Abstract

The Just Future Consortium is a five-year project (2021-2026), developed through a participatory process and with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which brings together activists, practitioners and academics from the Global North and South with the aim of promoting more inclusive, constructive and legitimate power relations for justice seekers in Afghanistan, Burundi, DRC, South Sudan, Mali, and Niger.

Land rights are one key focus of Just Future, with the aim of enabling justice seekers and communities facing problems related to land access to find effective resolutions, consistent with the law and human rights standards. During the first two years of the project, consortium members will document and analyse specific practical land justice interventions in South Sudan, Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of Congo. The results of this research will contribute to regional- and global-level programming and advocacy on land management and land conflicts, in light of SDG16+ (peaceful, just and inclusive societies).

This presentation aims to share initial finding of the research and explore the existing knowledge on land-related issues and land justice initiatives in the target and similar countries, as well as identify possible pathways for the next steps of the research.

3. Land and Food: Towards fair and sustainable food systems

Organisers: Romy Santpoort (LANDac/IDS)/ Guus van Westen (LANDac/IDS), Janwillem Liebrand (UU)

Session format: Innovative Session

Today's food systems will require radical transformations to change the way we produce, consume and think about food. Especially for people in the global South, the climate and COVID-19 crises will disproportionately affect their access to safe, sufficient and healthy food. Considerable efforts are being made to improve the global food conditions. By and large, interventions tend to (1) favour technological solutions ('technofixes') that can be presented as politically neutral, and (2) focus on food availability, adopting productivist approaches to boost food supply. However, much more must be done to ensure food and nutrition security around the globe. One dimension that tends to be overlooked in the debate about just and sustainable food systems is the role of land governance. Land rights regimes have implications for who gets to produce food, what crops are produced, how and for whom. The current shift towards an integrated 'food systems' approach may offer opportunities for a more balanced appreciation of food issues. The upcoming UN Food Systems Summit in the fall of 2021 may provide an opportunity to push for more resilient and inclusive transformations that also consider the importance of land governance.

Through a 'fishbowl' discussion, this session will facilitate a discussion among researchers, practitioners and policymakers on the necessary steps towards more sustainable and equitable food systems in the global South, with a focus on land-related interventions. We invite four panellists to share their work and lessons learnt on the subject, highlighting the role of land-based investment flows, business models, and the language used to frame food and land issues. Next, we invite the audience to take part in the discussion. Ultimately, the aim of the session is to contribute to the deliberations of the UN FSS and formulate key recommendations for working towards just and sustainable food systems.

#1 Mapping Farmer-led irrigation development (FLID) in Africa, examining FLID through a Remote Sensing lens and how this influences interpretation and engagement.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Pieter Wouter Beekman, PhD researcher Wageningen University, Director of Resilience BV; Vera Hollander, Water Management Expert, Future Water; Janwillem Liebrand, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University.

Abstract

In the last few years, Farmer-Led Irrigation Development (FLID) has moved from a mostly research based topic, trying to call attention for the dominant modus of irrigation expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa, towards a methodology for Irrigation development that is being embraced by leading development agencies like WorldBank. Even though this has led to recognising farmers as active agents in developing their own production systems, the limited understanding of the extend of FLID and its diverse forms of expression, makes it difficult to formulate appropriate policy and (large scale) projects to engage with FLID. Often falling back to pushing certain technologies earmarked as FLID technologies, rather than designing an engagement to facilitate and catalyse Farmer-led development. The design of appropriate methods for engagement for FLID, depend on how you interpret what you see, which in turn is influenced by the methods you use find FLID, which in turn depends on current policy and what you want to engage with. This is an iterative design cycle that can either be used to reaffirm current views, or break away from traditional engagement forms. Using Remote Sensing (RS) techniques has become a promising method for mapping FLID. In this study we present different efforts to map the extend and local characteristics of FLID using RS. And by analysing FLID through a RS lens, we aim at improving the understating of the myriad forms of expressions of FLID, the difficulty to map FLID and how this influences interpretation and engagement.

#2 Landing a better deal? Women negotiating access to land and water for farming in the context of a Dutch-supported gender-inclusive water-productivity project in Mozambique

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Isabella Schultz (former Utrecht University Student); Janwillem Liebrand (Utrecht University); Griet Steel (Utrecht University); Wouter Beekman (Resilience BV and Wageningen University)

Abstract

In gender development debates, women are presented playing a key role in African food production, but simultaneously, they are presented in these debates as 'marginalized' (having less say in the community and household) and 'excluded' (lacking formal land and water rights). It is a powerful frame – it presents women as 'victims' and legitimizes gender goals to ensure 'women's inclusion'– but it is not necessarily correct, i.e., women agential actors and negotiate access to land and water. Based on research on women's access to land and water, and their involvement in (commercial) agriculture in the context of the APSAN Vale project in Mozambique, we show how women conduct such 'negotiations' and we compare them with the project's objectives on gender. The APSAN Vale project is an ongoing Dutch-funded agricultural project that aims to contribute to fair and sustainable food systems. It has goals to ensure women's inclusion (fairness) and goals to increase water productivity (sustainability). Our analysis is informed by our insider-positions, as a master student doing research (first author), student supervisors (second and third author), and project consultant (fourth author). Based on our analysis, we observe that 'landing a better deal' for women – and for farmers in general – resembles reconciling the near incommensurable, i.e., to align the heterogeneity of women's strategies to use land and water with that of donor priorities and bureaucratic requirements of project implementation. We plea for (more) explicit recognition and discussions on women's strategies in contemporary science-policy debates on food security and land rights.

#3 Decolonizing communication in food security innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa? Towards sustainable and fair policies and interventions

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Janwillem Liebrand (Utrecht University).

#4 Inclusive agribusiness and local food security: findings from the Follow the Food project

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Guus van Westen (Utrecht University)

4. Re-imagining our Future: Building back better through progressive land policies and practices post COVID-19

Organisers: Buhle Nxumalo (International Land Coalition); Rukshana Nanayakkara (International Land Coalition)

Session format: Roundtable discussion

Land rights should be a key element in building back better, resilient and sustainable communities in post-COVID-19. ILC identifies land rights as foundational to various pillars of sustainable development such as resilient local food systems, gender equality, equitable labour and youth-friendly socio-economic models, sustainable environmental management and stronger local democracies. Instead of reverting to past practices and policies, ILC identifies eight concrete approaches through which secure land rights could contribute to resilience to the COVID-19 socio-economic crisis. These include:

- Land rights for localised, resilient and sustainable socio-economic and food systems;
- Land rights for inclusive and equitable land governance and economic opportunity;
- Strengthening democratic land governance;
- Centralised management for healthy landscapes and ecosystems;
- Positioning land rights to mitigate migration while assuring the urban-rural nexus;
- Indigenous peoples' territorial rights for resilient social systems;
- Women's land rights for gender justice;
- The democratisation of land data for inclusive, evidence-based decision-making and future crisis-preparedness.

This session seeks to present these approaches and track changes in land policies and practices in response to the COVID-19 crisis, showing how these approaches are essential elements in building back better. To this end, session will present a number of practical examples from Africa, Asia, EMENA and Latin America.

Moderator: Rukshana Nanayakkara, Global Policy and Advocacy Expert, International Land Coalition

Thought Provokers:

- Nxumalo, Buhlebenkosi (Knowledge Management Consultant, International Land Coalition).
- Dr Stasja Koot (Wageningen University, the Netherlands).
- Celina Salcedo-La Viña (Associate II, Land & Resource Rights Initiative, World Resources Institute).

Organisations who present case studies:

- Community Land Scotland (CLD).
- COMITÉ CAMPESINO DEL ALTIPLANO (CCDA).
- Member, ILC Asia.

#1 Transforming tourism: Indigenous lands and degrowth

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Stasja Koot, Sociology of Development and Change, Wageningen University

Abstract

Indigenous peoples living in or adjacent to conservation and tourism lands have often been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Already before the pandemic they have in many cases borne the brunt of the growing biodiversity crisis and socio-economic inequality. This is often due to a lack of land rights and access to land and its resources. The COVID-19 pandemic raises important questions regarding the future of indigenous land rights. I address some of these questions by looking into future development possibilities, with a specific focus on biodiversity conservation and tourism. Drawing on a discourse of endless growth under neoliberal capitalism, it is currently hard to envision such developments beyond growth. In many cases, land continues to be privatised for conservation and tourism purposes, in the long run often denying indigenous people's rights despite much rhetoric to the contrary. In this research I investigate the dynamics of indigenous peoples in and on tourism conservation lands during and post-COVID-19, and how the core principles of 'degrowth' are or could be applied regarding land rights. In particular, I want to investigate how indigenous perceptions of what land is, align with the dominant, utilitarian approach in which land is considered a commodity one can use to develop economically. Empirically, I will focus on the San of southern Africa, the Bato Katak of Sumatra, Indonesia, and the Sámi of Northern Scandinavia.

#2 On Equal Ground: Promising Practices for Realizing Women's Rights in Collectively Held Lands

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Celine Salcedo-La Viña, Land and Resource Rights Initiative, World Resources Institute (WRI); Renee Giovarelli, Resource Equity (RE)

Abstract

The ability to own land and access natural resources allows women to secure food for their families, increase their agricultural productivity and livelihoods, and help drive local economies. Land rights position women to be change agents in protecting natural resources, enhancing community resilience to climate change, and ensuring food security. Yet, merely 14% of agricultural landowners globally are women. An analysis of 80 legally established community-based tenure regimes found that less than a third explicitly extended membership rights to women. Women in rural communities typically access lands and natural resources through male relatives, putting them in a precarious position if their marital status changes. Not owning land can also hamper women's ability to cope during crisis. For example, landless women who work as agricultural laborers were left out of social protection measures during the COVID-19 pandemic due to their informal status.

This presentation aims to share the findings from our recent report, *On Equal Ground*, which is based on case studies of five indigenous and customary communities—in Cameroon, Mexico, Indonesia, Nepal, and Jordan—where women have secured rights to communal lands and resources. The report examines the extent and strength of women's tenure rights and draws out the main factors and promising practices that enabled women to claim and exercise rights. It shows the types of interventions targeting the structural framework and the operational environment that enabled women to realize land rights. The insights from the case studies provide an invaluable guide for building back better post COVID-19.

VI. Other Sessions

1. Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival

Organisers: Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP)

Session format: Screening of films with speakers

A selection of films from the First Edition of the Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival will be shown to deepen understanding of how diverse peoples across the world gain their livelihoods from extensive livestock production, using primarily rangelands that are not suitable for sedentary arable crop production.

The relationships of pastoralist people and their animals and food production systems reflect an intimate intertwining of culture, economy and ecology in harsh environments such as drylands and mountainous regions. In such environments, mobility of animals plays a key role in creating resilience. This capacity of pastoralists to move their herds in a flexible manner, sometimes over long distances, renders them more adaptable to climatic and some other crises than are sedentary food producers – as long as pastoralists have the space and freedom to move. However, restrictions to mobility resulting from large-scale energy projects and other land uses are undermining this food production system.

Films of multiple genres – spanning documentary, narrative and animated – made by pastoralists and/or about pastoralists offer different insights into issues important to pastoralists. Additional films from the Second Edition of the Festival will also be launched. More information about the films can be found at: <http://www.pastoralistfilmfestival.com>.

Speakers Shoba Liban and Hussein Wario will contextualise the films and provide updates related to how pastoralists have been impacted by government responses to COVID-19. Discussion will include features of pastoralism, the importance of mobility, strengths for producing value from rangelands and co-governance in multi-stakeholder use of the land.

Film	Description
Pastoralism: the future in food production	CELEP animation film
Ngaynaaka: herding chaos (Niger, 2017)	This documentary focuses on how pastoralists thrive despite climate change. As the environment becomes more unpredictable all over the world, people face higher costs in an effort to sustain the usual strategies to control it. The WoDaabe pastoralists in Niger show that there is another way.
Tes River Mongolians (Mongolia, 2019)	The Tes River flows from the Bulnai Mountains through three Mongolian provinces – Khuvsgul, Zavkhan and Uvs – feeds into Lake Uvs, which is registered by UNESCO in 2013 as a Natural World Heritage site. On the banks of river live nomadic herder families who believe the river is

	<p>God's blessing for them, being the source of their livelihood and of water for humans and animals. The full-length film (56 minutes, of which this is an excerpt) shows the lifestyle of Mongolian herders, rotational grazing of rangelands and people's attitudes to and respect for their natural environment, by depicting the lives of three families living near the beginning, middle and end of the Tes River Valley. Contact the filmmakers for the complete film: namiigina@gmail.com / enkhangalan@greengold.mn</p>
<p>Lower Omo: local tribes under threat (Ethiopia, 2013) Filmmaker: deliberately not named https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-D-9ZUvaZtg</p>	<p>This advocacy film by the Oakland Institute (USA) reveals the situation of agropastoralists in the Lower Omo Valley in Southern Ethiopia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is home to about 200,000 people from several ethnic groups, e.g. the Bode, Dassenach, Hamer, Karo, Kwegu, Mursi, Nyangatom and Suri. Most of them raise livestock where the annual flooding of the Omo River replenishes grazing areas and practise flood-retreat cropping on the riverbanks. Their cattle are a source of food, wealth and pride, and are intimately tied to their cultural identity. The lives and culture of these peoples are threatened by the construction of the Gibe III dam.</p>
<p>Olosho (Tanzania, 2015) Filmmakers: 6 Maasai community members in Loliondo InsightShare facilitation for Participatory Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRvRRxoDggQ</p>	<p>This video on their struggles for land rights was made by six community members from five Maasai clans in northern Tanzania during a training by InsightShare in participatory video (PV). In 1992, a hunting company from the United Arab Emirates occupied 1500 km² of village land in Loliondo to set up a private game reserve beside the Serengeti National Park. Since then, Maasai have been denied access to vital pasture and waterpoints for their herds. The people suffered mass eviction from their villages within the disputed land. The PV training strengthened the Maasai's self-advocacy to resist land-grabbing by foreign investors.</p>
<p>Bayandalai (Mongolia, 2018, 11 min.) Filmmakers: Aner Etxebarria Moral and Pablo Vidal Santos</p>	<p>From inside his yurt in northern Mongolia, the reindeer herder Bayandalai – an elder of the Dukhas tribe – muses about the significance of life and death in the largest forest on Earth, the Taiga. Through his connection with the reindeer and with the Taiga, Bayandalai has access to spiritual truths and higher consciousness that he may not be able to pass on to his family members before the lures of city life — jobs, money, houses, things — entice them away.</p>

2. PhD Session

Organiser(s): Gemma van der Haar (LANDac, Wageningen University, the Netherlands) and Dominique Schmid (Utrecht University, the Netherlands).

In this session, PhD candidates have the opportunity to present and discuss one of their papers in progress regarding land governance and the themes of this year's conference. Each PhD candidate will briefly present their work, followed by feedback of an assigned discussant. Then, we will open the floor to the audience for questions and comments. Presenters are also welcomed to raise specific issues they are currently facing in their research, which can be taken up by the discussant and the audience. The organisers will select the paper's discussants based on the topic of each paper and distribute a detailed program ahead of the session. Presenters are asked to submit a full draft of their paper to the organisers 10 days before the session, which the organisers will then distribute to the respective discussant.

#1 The Impact of Land Certification on the Adoption of Multiple Soil and Water Conservation Technologies: Evidence from Southern Ethiopia

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Tilahun Habtamu Adere^{1,2}, Miet Maertens¹, Kewan Mertens^{1,3}, Liesbet Vranken¹

¹KU Leuven, Division of Bioeconomics, Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Leuven, Belgium

²Arbamic University, Department of Economics, Arbaminch, Ethiopia

³Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Department of Geography, Brussels, Belgium

Abstract

This paper analyzes the impact of land certification on the adoption of soil and water conservation (SWC) technologies. We evaluate the impact of land certification on different types of interrelated multiple SWC technology adoption and the intensity of adoption. Plot and household-level survey data from Ethiopia are collected and used to estimate a multivariate probit, correlated random-effect and fixed-effect Poisson regression model. We find that adoption decisions are interrelated, and that land certification has a positive significant impact on the adoption of agronomic SWC techniques – intercropping, contour-ploughing and minimum-tillage, and on the adoption of biological practice -tree planting and grass strips whereas no effect on the adoption of physical measures can be found. In addition, we find that the land certification has a positive significant impact on the number of agronomic and total SWC technologies adopted. Furthermore, the impact of land certification is stronger for relative more risk-averse farmers. These results highlight the importance of improving the efficiency of land certification programs that potentially enhance household welfare through the adoption of land conserving technologies.

#2 Path Dependence and Critical Junctures in the Land Rights and Tenure Security Dynamics of Informal Settlements in Abuja, Nigeria.

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Nuhu Adeiza Ismail, PhD Candidate at Cultural Geography Group, Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands.

Abstract

The dynamics around informal settlements in global south cities are often considered to be messy, complex and less understood. The Land rights and tenure security of informal settlement dwellers that are fundamental in the dynamics are also very complicated, controversial and often less understood. This paper argues the need for a retrospective approach to the analysis and understanding of the current dynamics in informal settlements. I used the theoretical framework of historical institutionalism (especially the concepts of path dependence and critical junctures) to explore the historical dynamics around two informal settlements (Mpape and Mabushi slums) of Abuja; this is to provide a better understanding to why land rights and tenure security issues in Abuja informal settlements are so controversial and yet to be resolved 42 years after the creation of Abuja as the new capital city of Nigeria. In addition to the fundamental socio-political and power dynamics in Abuja land governance, this study explains how the 1978 Land use Act; the 1979 Abuja master plan resettlement recommendations; the massive demolitions of informal settlements between 2000 to 2007; the failed resettlement attempts of Mabushi; and the attempted demolition of Mpape in 2012 represent the critical moments that have defined the current dynamics around the settlements especially the contentious politicking over land rights and tenure security.

#3 Soil Inequalities and Their Effects in Sub-Saharan Africa

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Karla Molina Galindo, PhD candidate, The University of Edinburgh

Abstract

This research focuses on soil inequalities in Sub-Saharan Africa and its relations to other cycles which the same perpetuates. Some of the cycles perpetuated by soil inequalities that are analysed in this research are gender inequalities and fair access to subsidies. This paper compares the two countries of Zambia and Nigeria with the aim of highlighting the different ways in which they have dealt with said inequalities. Gender inequalities are a main point of interest in relation to soil inequalities since female farmers often have to deal with less fertile or undesirable land and lack of access to inputs like improved seed and fertilizer among others. Subsidies are closely intertwined with soil inequalities. The aim of these subsidies is to help poor small-scale farmers; however, this is not always the case. In Zambia, it has been found that subsidies are not going to the farmers that need it the most but rather to wealthier farmers. Nigeria is an interesting case when it comes to subsidies since they have resourced technology to help improve the efficiency of subsidies. The role that gender and subsidies play in soil inequalities is essential to further understand and provide practical solutions to small-scale farmers. By identifying and understanding the role that soil inequalities play in relation to other health and social inequalities we can help provide farmers with managerial solutions that would help not only improve their soil and yields but also the quality of life.

#4 Unsettled ownership, distrusted administrators, and localized land registration in Burundi

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Camille Munezero, Radboud University (CICAM)

Abstract

Localized approaches to land registration are promoted based on the assumption that they can provide tenure security to rural landholders through mapping and formalizing locally legitimized land claims. Research has found, however, many cases where people are hesitant to have recourse to land registration, and it is still difficult to explain this state of affairs. This paper suggests two explanatory factors, that are, the unsettled nature of the ownership of the land occupied, and the experiences people have with those in charge of land administration. Fieldwork conducted in Burundi suggests that the circumstances in which people gain access to land are critical to their conception of tenure security and of the way this impacts localized land registration. While localized land registration assumedly is a straightforward technical procedure of recording unambiguous claims to land, local actors interpret differently land ownership and land use conditions, which creates uncertainty of land tenure and the possibility of its manipulation. Consequently, people in the communities are never sure whether their claims will be acknowledged. On the other hand question the use to which the administration will put registration since it is responsible for part of the uncertainty of land ownership. Concretely, people fear that land certification might lead to losing their land or that it would implicate unjustified extortion of money for the interest of the administration. Their decision to resort to localized land registration will be made according to whether or not it will leave them better off and taken account of the risks associated.

#5 Subaltern (Adivasis) & their struggle for the forest: a case study of Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 implementation in the district of Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Tejendra Pratap Gautam, Centre for Policy Studies, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India.

Abstract

Under the colonial regime, tribals (Adivasis) were subjected to primitive accumulation by dispossession, displacement, and colonial laws. Their exploitation continued after independence, too, as post-colonial governments paid less attention to tribal upliftment and welfare. On the contrary, the state focused on the urban needs and national development projects; hence, tribals were further trapped under the development discursive practices. In most marginalized social groups, tribals are the most debated and contested social category as a subaltern, for which Spivak argued that “can the subaltern speak?” (Spivak, 1988). However, after deliberation, and lobbying by civil society organizations with the central government, the scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act, 2006, also known as Forest Rights Act (FRA), was enacted by the parliament to undo the historical injustices against the tribals and forest dwellers. Here, the paper aims to examine and review the situation of FRA implementation at the national level and explain the asymmetrical implementation through a case study of the district of Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. It provides a bird's eye view of the FRA implementation to determine its structural failure at multiple levels. The facts were gleaned through semi-structural interviews and discussions with key stakeholders involved in the process of FRA implementation.

Keywords: FRA, Tribals and Development.

#6 Gendering Rule and Rupture: Land Mediation and Registration in Burundi

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the authors: Ladd Serwat, University of Sussex

Abstract

Research on women and justice in Africa frequently focuses on their role as victims and recipients of justice rather than women in justice as lawyers, judges and mediators. This paper aims to address this gap by analysing Burundian institutions involved in mediation during land registration through a gendered lens. Existing dispute resolution institutions in Burundi discriminate against women's participation as mediators, creating gender bias in inclusion and outcome. In the legally pluralistic setting of Burundi, both local elders and state courts invoke customs in their decisions that discriminate against women's land rights. Research with land mediation during registration revealed ways institutions of land mediation during registration creates preferential rules and norms for women's participation in the process and politics of land mediation. However, this chapter finds women's participation does not necessarily lead to gender equity in decision making. Women and men mediate conflicts by hearing disputing parties but also inform and instruct land users concerning their rights and customary practices, reinforcing unequally gendered inheritance practices on family land. Lastly, disaggregated data in three communes of Makamba reveal the differing effectiveness of land mediation depending on the type of conflict. In areas with a high prevalence of land disputes over repatriation, mediation during land registration showed limited effectiveness. However, local land mediation showed a much stronger capacity to resolve disputes arising from inheritance, boundaries and market transactions. These findings allow a much more nuanced approach to the use of localised land mediation during registration and when this institution may be effective.