

30 June – 2 July

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline for abstract submission: 16th May 2021

Land, Crisis and Resilience



The LANDac Annual International Conference offers a podium for knowledge exchange between researchers, practitioners and private sector representatives interested in land governance for equitable and sustainable development. Anticipating that the COVID-19 global crisis will continue to restrict travel and large-scale events, the LANDac Annual International Conference 2021 will be held in an online format.

This year's conference '**Land, Crisis and Resilience**' focusses on the challenges that global, intertwining crises pose to land governance systems, processes and actors. The global pandemic and the expected economic decline play out simultaneously with ongoing effects of climate change and persistent food insecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic put land access and land governance under pressure, and both uncovered and deepened underlying problems. While we have only started to document the impacts of the pandemic on rural and urban livelihoods, we also need to ask how it plays out in relation to these other crises, chronic (such as poverty) or acute (e.g. climate-related hazards). To this background, the conference addresses three interconnected questions:

- How do different global crises impact land access? (And where do we see the biggest problems?);
- How does the land governance landscape respond? (And where does it need to do better?);
- What can we learn about resilience in response to these intertwined crises? (And how could land governance support that?).

We are now pleased to invite abstract submissions for the LANDac Annual International Conference 2021. This Call for Abstracts is open until **16th May 2021.**

LAND, CRISIS AND RESILIENCE

In response to the **COVID-19 crisis**, governments all over the world have taken unprecedented measures to contain the spread of the virus, curtailing individual freedoms, closing borders, shutting down non-essential businesses and services, imposing curfews, and restricting national and international travel. The consequences of these restrictions have hit hard on the poorest and the most marginalized. Issues such as urban-to-rural migration, discontinuation of land administration services, disruption of food supply chains, and a shrinking civil space have been reported at the beginning of the global pandemic, but much is unclear about the mid-to-longer term effects.

Climate change had only started to gain prominence on the land governance agenda and there is a clear need to reflect on the land footprint of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Both alternative sources of energy, such as wind and solar energy, and infrastructural interventions translate into claims on land and will compete with existing rights or other potential uses of the land. Another concern relates to the shifts in land use patterns and people's mobility (from and between rural and urban areas) in response to differential effects of climate change such as extreme weather events, or unpredictability of rainfall. We may expect this to increase land scarcity in some places while potentially reducing it in others. There are important questions to be asked about the way these claims are dealt with and whether principles of 'good governance' are upheld in the face of the climate imperative; how this will shape rural and urban landscapes; and how land governance institutions and instruments may support sustainable land use and food security.

The conference is also an opportunity to take a critical look at the **concept and experiences of resilience** to these crises. Key concerns are to what extent adaptation and coping strategies have helped different population groups get by so far but also where future coping is clearly undermined. Important questions pertain to the resilience in the face of multiple crises at different spatial and temporal scales, but also where social protection measures seem needed to avoid vicious circles of loss of assets and the undermining of livelihoods.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

We are pleased to announce this year's keynote speakers: **Dr Shuaib Lwasa** (Principle Researcher at the Global Center on Adaptation), **Silas Siakor** (longstanding environmental and human rights activist, Liberia Country Manager with IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative), and **dr Wytske Chamberlain** (Land Matrix).

Visit the [LANDac website](#) for more information on our keynote speakers!

ONLINE CONFERENCE FORMAT

In response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 global crisis, the LANDac Annual International Conference 2021 will be held in an online format. This online format broadens the ways for participants to attend the conference: people from all over the world can join us without having to travel. The programme of this conference will include a diversity of keynote speakers from research and practice and several parallel sessions (roundtables, workshops, discussions) that participants can actively join.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Note: times are displayed in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

| 30 th June | 1 st July | 2 nd July |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | 11:00 – 12:30 PhD session | 11:00 – 12:30 PhD session (TBC) |
| 14:00 – 15:30 Welcome, keynotes 1 and 2 + Q&A | 13:30 – 14:15 Keynote 3 + Q&A | 13:30 – 14:45 Sessions 4 |
| | 14:15 – 14:30 Break | 14:45 – 15:00 Break |
| 15:30 – 15:45 Break | 14:30 – 15:45 Sessions 2 | 15:00 – 16:15 Sessions 5 |
| 15:45 – 17:00 Sessions 1 | 15:45 – 16:00 Break | 16:15 – 16:30 Break |
| 17:00 – 17:30 Online networking | 16:00 – 17:15 Sessions 3 | 16:30 – 17:00 Closing panel |
| | | 17:00 – 17:30 Online Networking |

2021 CONFERENCE THEMES

- I. Revisiting Land Rights Registration
- II. Responsible Land-Based Investments and Private Sector Involvement
- III. Urban Land Governance
- IV. Land Rights in Times of Crisis
- V. Community Governance and Responses from Below
- VI. Just Transitions

For a complete overview of the sessions and their descriptions, [click here](#). More information on the submission guidelines can be found below. Click on the title of the conference theme for more information on the sessions.

I. Revisiting Land Rights Registration

1. Building Land Governance Resilience with Open and Transparent Land-data Systems (*open for abstract submission*);
2. Critical Insights on the Land Governance Orthodoxy (*open for abstract submission*);
3. How Does Community Land Governance Intersect with Factors of Resilience in Rural Areas to Support Adaptation to Crisis Situations? (*open for abstract submission*);
4. Challenges in 'Pro-poor' Land Registration: What lessons on crisis and resilience? (*closed for abstract submission*).

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 (*open for abstract submission*);
2. Behind the Brands 8 Years Later: An assessment of food and beverage companies' delivery of land rights commitments (*closed for abstract submission*);
3. Investing in Formal Land Rights for Commodity Smallholder Farmers: Lessons from land tenure public-private partnerships (*closed for abstract submission*);
4. Land, Crisis and Resilience: How can Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) help sustain land governance solutions? (*closed for abstract submission*).

III. Urban Land Governance

1. Sustainable Corridors? Urban land and mobility infrastructure development in an era of climate change (*open for abstract submission*);
2. The Urgent Need for Urban Greenspaces (UGS) in a World with COVID-19 and How to Best Accommodate It (*open for abstract submission*).

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 (*open for abstract submission*);
2. The Politics of Crisis Framing (*open for abstract submission*);
3. Working in Crisis Mode: Lessons from land governance interventions in fragile and conflict-affected settings (*open for abstract submission*);
4. Solid Ground: Applying lessons from an advocacy campaign in the context of a global pandemic (*open for abstract submission*);
5. Uneven Ground: The land inequality crisis, in the midst of our planet's broader inequalities and crises (*closed for abstract submission*).

V. Community Governance and Responses from Below

1. Ground Up Land Governance Experiences (*open for abstract submission*);
2. Women's Rights in Crisis: Conservation and climate change policies (*TBD*);
3. Who Benefits? Inclusive governance and equitable benefit sharing in the context of community forestry (*closed for abstract submission*).

VI. Just Transitions

1. Extractivism, Bio-cultural Diversity and Climate Justice: Geographies of "unburnable carbon" for energy transition (*open for abstract submission*);
2. Just Future: Effective justice pathways for the protection of people's land rights and prevention of conflict (*open for abstract submission*);
3. Land and Food: Towards fair and sustainable food systems (*open for abstract submission*);
4. Re-imagining our Future: Building back better through progressive land policies and practices post COVID-19 (*open for abstract submission*).

Other

1. PhD Session (*open for abstract submission*).
2. Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival (*closed for abstract submission*).

SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

We now invite abstract submissions for the LANDac Annual International Conference 2021. LANDac invites you to review the collection of conference sessions and submit your abstract to your preferred session. Abstract submissions should use the [Abstract Submission Form](#), and include:

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

Important! Abstracts should be submitted by **16th May 2021**, in **English** and using the [Abstract Submission Form](#). Please submit your abstract **directly to the contact person of your preferred session and with landac2021@gmail.com in CC**. The session organisers and LANDac Organising Committee will review all submissions. Notification on acceptance of abstracts will be done by the end of May. Please note that all sessions will be hosted online.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Registration for the conference is open now and will close mid-June. The fee to join the full conference (incl. keynotes) online is €25. We regret that LANDac is unable to cover any participant expenses.

REGISTER NOW!

One or two weeks before the start of the conference you'll receive your personal link to join the online conference platform, where you can set-up your own profile and create your personalised conference schedule. More information will follow as soon as possible.

SUMMER SCHOOL: LAND GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

The conference takes place back-to-back with the LANDac/Utrecht University Summer School *Land Governance for Development*, which will take place 5th – 16th July 2021 in Utrecht. For more information and to register, please visit the [Utrecht Summer School website](#). Summer School participants may join the conference free of cost.



Organising committee 2021: Joanny Bélair (Utrecht University and LANDac), Gemma van der Haar (Wageningen University and LANDac), Dominique Schmid (Utrecht University), Richard Sliuzas (ITC - University of Twente), Marja Spierenburg (Leiden University), Guus van Westen (Utrecht University and LANDac), Chantal Wieckardt (LANDac).



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



African Studies Centre



KIT



OXFAM NOVIB



Royal HaskoningDHV
Enhancing Security Together



VNG International



WAGENINGEN UR