

29 June – 1 July

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline for abstract submission: 15th of April

Land Governance for the Future – What (r)evolutions do we need?



The LANDac Annual International Conference offers a podium for knowledge exchange between researchers, practitioners and private sector representatives working on land governance for equitable and sustainable development. Anticipating that restrictions for travel and large-scale events will still be in place, the LANDac Annual International Conference 2022 will be held in a hybrid format.

This year's conference '**Governing land for the future - what (r)evolutions do we need?**' focuses on the future of land governance.

More than a decade into the 'land grab' debate it is time to ask ourselves some tough questions: What have our efforts to regulate land-based investments brought us? Where did we manage to make land governance work for equity and sustainability and where did we fail? From the outset some of us were more optimistic and others more pessimistic about the possibility to ensure fair outcomes. Today, however, most would agree that whatever successes have been achieved, these have not been able to change the overall pattern of dispossession, inequality and resource depletion. Have land governance interventions just been scratching the surface?

At this year's LANDac Annual Conference, we need to discuss what it takes to address today's and tomorrow's land issues. Do we need further evolution of current approaches, or rather a revolution in land governance thinking? This is an urgent question. While the early wave of mega land deals seems to have waned, on the

ground alienation and dispossession continue unabated, if in more diverse and stealthy ways. Pressures on land and other natural resources seem to be increasing, authoritarianism is omnipresent, and the violence against territorial defenders and human rights activists is increasingly worrying. As we review our efforts to address these issues the question arises: Should we tune the instruments at our disposal (“evolution”)? Or do we need a more radical re-think (“revolution”)?

We are now pleased to invite abstract submissions for the LANDac Annual International Conference 2022. This Call for Abstracts is open until **April 15, 2022.**

LAND GOVERNANCE FOR THE FUTURE – WHAT (R)EVOLUTIONS DO WE NEED?

The sessions selected for the 2022 Annual Conference, consider different land governance instruments, approaches, and trends. These address the ways instruments and approaches engage with power differences and various forms of structural, cultural/discursive, and direct violence. In these sessions, reflection on the way land governance has been conceptualised over the past decade and propose alternative frames is encouraged. Furthermore, the sessions reflect on knowledge construction at the intersection of academia, private sector, and civil society. Against this background, the following thematic streams have been determined:

- **Ethics, due diligence, and responsible investment:** What lessons can be drawn from a decade of attempts to regulate land-based investment? What track records do we find in different contexts, rural or urban, conflict- or disaster-affected? What is the scope for “responsible” investment in an unequal world?
- **Consultation, participation, and how to make it real:** We have seen too many instances where consultation is a mere ritual and participation just instrumental. What is there to learn about places where things went right? What promises do emancipatory approaches hold?
- **Protecting the land rights of the poor:** The past decade has seen an upsurge in land registration and formalisation projects (many of them using “pro-poor” approaches). What evidence do we have that these interventions provide the desired protection against encroachment and land grabbing (big or small)? What have we learnt about the challenges and risks involved? How do on the ground initiatives relate to (changes in) land laws?
- **Advocacy and shrinking civic space:** Civil society organizations in defence of land rights and the environment are increasingly under pressure. Civic space in many countries is shrinking, authoritarian regimes undo earlier forms of protection, and violence (sometimes lethal) against activists continues to rise. Do we understand enough of how this works? Do we have any answers?
- **Climate justice:** It is now evident that the climate agenda implies additional pressures on resources and space on a global scale. In view not only of climate change, but also of mitigation measures and the energy transition: How can we deal with climate change in a just way?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The programme of this conference will include a diversity of keynote speakers who will share their own message about the (r)evolutions in governing land for the future. This year’s key notes include **Dr. Richard Sliuzas** (Professor of Urban Planning for Disaster Risk Reduction, ITC University of Twente) and **Dr. Laura German** (Professor of Anthropology, Director of the Center for Integrative Conservation Research, University of Georgia).

Keep an eye on the [LANDac website](#) for further updates on keynote speakers!

HYBRID CONFERENCE FORMAT

As possibilities for travelling and coming together remain unclear for the coming year, the LANDac Annual International Conference 2022 will be held in a hybrid format, with the programme combining both online and on-site sessions. More information on the exact format will follow as soon as possible.

2022 CONFERENCE THEMES

- I. Ethics, due diligence, and responsible investment
- II. Consultation, participation, and how to make it real
- III. Protecting the land rights of the poor (Technical)
Protecting land rights of the poor (Social/Political)
- IV. Advocacy and shrinking civic space
- V. Climate Justice

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 below for more information on the sessions.

I. **Ethics, due diligence, and responsible investment**

1. Governing frontiers of large scale land-based developments in Indonesia (*open for abstract submissions*)
2. Rethinking sustainability certification of tropical commodities in the context of changing foodscapes (*open for abstract submissions*)
3. "Do No Harm" in theory and in practice: Exploring the fine line between benefiting and harming local communities in development (*open for abstract submissions*)
4. Successes and failures of the contemporary land rush: Taking stock of more than a decade of research (*open for abstract submissions*)
5. Taking stock of the global land rush – Evolutions, impacts and perspectives for responsible investment (*open for abstract submissions*)
6. Governance by guidelines: Shifting regulatory regimes of agribusiness and plantation investments in Southeast Asia (*closed for abstract submissions*)
7. The impact of Finance on Forests (*closed for abstract submissions*)
8. Can Foreign Agricultural Investments be regulated as Development Interventions? Examining the development outcomes related to foreign agricultural investments in six research locations in Tanzania and Uganda (*closed for abstract submissions*)
9. Making land-based investment work for all? What is the touch stone? (*open for abstract submissions*)

II. **Consultation, participation, and how to make it real**

1. LANDex Index study cases in Latin-America (*closed for abstract submissions*)
2. Land decision-making: how to improve land actors participation in the Arab World? (*open for abstract submissions*)
3. Creative partnerships for land: Reaching across sectors, constituencies, and geographies to find solutions (*closed for abstract submissions*)
4. Ten years after: A "reality check" on impact assessments of infrastructural projects (*closed for abstract submissions*)
5. What can commons of the Iberian Peninsula northwest teach us about their role in sustainable rural development? Approach, function, and participation of multiple stakeholders (*open for abstract submissions*) - NEW

III. Protecting Land Rights of the Poor (Technical)

1. Experiences and tools for measurement of perception of tenure security and securing of land rights *(open for abstract submissions)*
2. Land Governance and land administration: what is needed to scale up the existing solutions *(open for abstract submissions)*
3. Using Technology to Promote Pro-Poor Land Formalization *(open for abstract submissions)*
4. Is the land sector prepared for the data revolution? *(open for abstract submissions)*

Protecting Land Rights of the Poor (Social/Political)

1. The protection of fragile tenure rights beyond land tenure registration *(open for abstract submissions)*
2. The impact of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods and access to land in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for the future *(open for abstract submissions)*
3. Why land tenure security is not enough: the need for a radical, justice oriented framework for land and resource rights *(open for abstract submissions)*
4. Protecting land rights in conflict-affected settings; are existing instruments innovative enough? *(open for abstract submissions)*
5. Access to natural resources: conflict, regulation and marginalization of peripheral actors *(open for abstract submissions)*
6. Sustaining and Scaling Tenure to Land and Forests : Challenges and Opportunities to achieve sustainable solutions at scale *(closed for abstract submissions)*
7. Lessons from Impact Evaluations of National Land Administration Reform in Burkina Faso, Mongolia and Mozambique *(closed for abstract submissions)*
8. Key Challenges and Lessons Learned from Systematic Land Titling: Promoting Pro-Poor Land Rights in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals *(open for abstract submissions)* - NEW

IV. Advocacy and Shrinking Civic Space

1. Revolutions need revolutionaries: how to secure land rights wins in adverse political contexts. *(open for abstract submissions)*
2. The Human Right to Land – do we need Human Rights based Land Governance and what could it deliver? *(open for abstract submissions)*
3. Land rights and human rights *(open for abstract submissions)*
4. E-learning in land governance, a key to youth employability in Africa *(open for abstract submissions)*
5. Women's Land Rights: What have we achieved and how to move forward? Experiences from the last ten years of Civil Society, Academia and Grassroot women's leaders *(open for abstract submissions)*
6. Community-driven land rights advocacy; the power of grassroots voices on land governance *(closed for abstract submissions)*
7. Women's Dispossession from Land and Home in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe *(closed for abstract submissions)*
8. Reparations through commoning *(open for abstract submissions)* - NEW

V. Climate Justice

1. The challenges of governing land in the context of climate change: rebuilding communities, the right to food and implications to rural livelihoods *(open for abstract submissions)*
2. The impact of climate change on traditional governance of land and natural resources *(open for abstract submissions)*
3. Fighting climate change with land-based solutions: risks & opportunities *(open for abstract submissions)*
4. Energy and Climate Justice: A Community Gaze *(open for abstract submissions)*

5. Sustainable land Management Model (*closed for abstract submissions*)
6. Brownfields to green energy: how land repurposing supports the World Bank's Just Transition for All approach (*closed for abstract submissions*)

Other

1. PhD Session (*open for abstract submission*).

SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

We now invite abstract submissions for the LANDac Annual International Conference 2022. 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*).
- Online or on location presence

Important! Abstracts should be submitted by **April 15, 2022**, in **English** and using the [Abstract Submission Form](#). Please submit your abstract **directly to the contact person of your preferred session and with landaconference2022@gmail.com in CC**. The session organisers and LANDac Organising Committee will review all submissions, please use the code of your session in communication. Notification on acceptance of abstracts will be done by 1 May, 2022. Some sessions will be hosted on location and others online. You can join all formats, as we will ensure hybrid interactions.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Registration for the conference will open in Spring 2022 and close mid-June 2022. Session organisers and abstract submitters will be informed about the exact date via email.

The fee to join the full conference on-site is €200. If you would like to join us for a dinner, you pay an additional €25 as a contribution. For students and a limited number of other participants we are able to offer a reduced conference fee. Please contact us at landaconference2022@gmail.com if this applies to your situation.

The fee to join the conference online is €50.

Organising committee 2022: Joanny Bélair (Utrecht University and LANDac), Wytske Chamberlain (LAND-at-scale, LANDac), Gemma van der Haar (Wageningen University and LANDac), Mayke Kaag (Leiden University), Divyani Kohli (ITC Twente), Ezra Litjens (LANDac), Guus van Westen (Utrecht University and LANDac), Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University).

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 4-15 July 2022 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. For questions, please email landa.geo@uu.nl

