



# LANDac



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

NARRATIVE REPORT BY LANDac -  
THE NETHERLANDS LAND ACADEMY



# Annual Report 2019

Narrative Report by LANDac – The Netherlands Land Academy

## **Credits**

Photo cover: LANDac learning event - Agents of Grassroots Transformation, Nairobi. By Jeffrey Mageria

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## 1. Introducing LANDac – The Netherlands Land Academy

LANDac – the Netherlands Land Academy – is a partnership between Dutch organisations and their Southern partners working on land governance for equitable and sustainable development. LANDac was formed in 2010 as one of the IS Academies, five-year programs of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to close the gap between research and policy in the field of sustainable development, poverty alleviation and international cooperation. The interest in land governance was prompted by the global concern with large-scale ‘land grabbing’ by foreign investors in developing countries, compromising food security and displacing local smallholders. Since then, the LANDac partnership, consisting of a range of knowledge institutes, practitioners and governmental actors, has been committed to developing a land governance agenda that centres on producing equitable and sustainable outcomes in the view of growing pressures on land worldwide.

The LANDac partnership provides a platform for knowledge exchange and debate, carries out short-term, applied research on topical issues in land governance and contributes to capacity building in land governance in the Netherlands and beyond. LANDac commits to a multi-stakeholder and participatory approach to ensure that human well-being is at the centre of the land agenda.

In 2016 LANDac entered its second phase that will run until mid-2021. In response to developments worldwide, LANDac II has expanded its initial scope beyond the impact of rural land acquisitions for food and biofuel production to include pressing themes related to urban and infrastructure development, women’s land rights, conflict-affected settings, and the role of land governance with respect to migration and, more recently, climate change adaptation. As the land governance landscape has become increasingly diverse and professionalised, LANDac has established itself as an important hub for researchers, policy makers and practitioners alike, with the Annual Conference and Summer School as key references in the domain.

The LANDac II Partnership consists of the following organisations:

Utrecht University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, African Studies Centre Leiden, Agriterra, ITC University of Twente, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Land Portal Foundation, Oxfam Novib, Royal Haskoning DHV, VNG International, Wageningen University and Research



## 2. LANDac in 2019: Highlights

This report gives an overview of the activities and outputs of LANDac between 1<sup>st</sup> of January and the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2019. **2019 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the LANDac partnership.** Over the years, LANDac has established itself as the leading platform in the Netherlands on land governance issues in the developing world. The LANDac partnership connects Dutch organisations in the Netherlands working on equitable and sustainable development, participates in global debates and, increasingly, extends its partnership to the global South.

Building on previous activities, including the Learning Platforms on Food Security and the LAND & CITY forum, **LANDac launched the Professional Learning Programme** in June 2019. The programme brings together professionals working on sustainable and/or inclusive land governance in different developing countries in a community of practice. These LANDac fellows are based at NGOs, governmental agencies, universities or businesses, and, after an extensive introduction and training programme in Utrecht, the Netherlands, conduct applied research on investments on the ground and bring together stakeholders in the field to work towards making these more inclusive and sustainable. The programme deepens our understanding of the impacts of investments on the ground and the room to make these more inclusive. It suggests new issues and challenges to be taken up by the LANDac partnership.

Within the land governance landscape in the Netherlands, LANDac plays a crucial role in bringing together actors from different backgrounds, especially during its Annual International Conference, but also through the organisation of different ad-hoc events on emerging land-related topics throughout the year. With regards to Training and Capacity Building, LANDac aims to increase the understanding of land governance issues by a variety of stakeholders, mainly through the Annual Summer School. **2019 was an extraordinary year for both the LANDac Annual International Conference and Annual Summer School: both events attracted more people from a wider audience than ever before.** The conference was attended by more than 290 people from around 50 different countries around the world, while the summer school was attended by 44 people from around 20 different countries.

Knowledge Management & Exchange, as well as Training & Capacity Building, continues beyond the Annual International Conference and Annual Summer School, as the LANDac secretariat continues to be the **main point of reference in the Netherlands for land governance-related questions**, and functions as a knowledge hub through the LANDac's website and newsletter. Beyond the Netherlands, and as aspired for in 2019, **LANDac has increased its collaboration with other land governance-centred organisations**, through the organisation of a masterclass with GLTN, and the establishment of internship opportunities for master students with ILC. This not only served to increase our reach, but especially to establish mutually beneficial relationships for now and the future.

These activities in 2019 have resulted in **improved coordination and synergy between partners** in the Netherlands, as well as with national and international stakeholders. Through the Annual Summer School and the Professional Learning Programme, LANDac has increased the understanding of land governance issues among a range of stakeholders and has informed and trained experts in a variety of topics. LANDac also continues to create an enabling environment to

exchange information about best practices and innovative solutions, mainstreaming land governance issues across different actors, sectors and institutions.

### 3. Secretariat and Management

The LANDac secretariat has played a central role in 2019, ensuring that LANDac remains a vibrant partnership and knowledge hub by nurturing the connections between LANDac partners, as well within the wider land governance community in the Netherlands and abroad. The secretariat plays an essential role in signalling upcoming issues within the land governance community, bringing relevant actors together to discuss these issues in various formats, including roundtable discussions, seminars and our Annual International Conference. Moreover, the secretariat ensures that knowledge generated by LANDac and its partners is widely disseminated, e.g. by regularly updating the LANDac website, newsletter, Twitter and LinkedIn.

The LANDac secretariat also coordinates and facilitates the regular meetings of the LANDac partnership, who met in January, May and September 2019 for half a day, and in October for a full day to discuss the Annual Plan for 2020. The LANDac secretariat also supported the Organising Committees formed for its main events, including the LANDac Annual International Conference 2019 & 2020, as well as for the LANDac 10-year anniversary, scheduled for April 2020.

#### The team

LANDac's secretariat is managed by the LANDac board, consisting of the LANDac chair and research coordinator. In 2019 the LANDac chairmanship has been handed over from Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University) to Guus van Westen (Utrecht University) and Gemma van der Haar (Wageningen University). The LANDac research coordinator, Griet Steel (Utrecht University) has supported the development of the Professional Learning Programme and the organisation of the LANDac Annual International Conference 2019.

The secretariat itself has been run on a daily basis by the LANDac coordinator and researcher, with the support of a student assistant. The coordinator has the responsibility to coordinate all LANDac's activities, liaison with LANDac partners and the wider network, answer external requests from the wider network and maintain LANDac's social media accounts, while the LANDac researcher has focussed on the development, kick-off and daily management of the Professional Learning Programme. A student assistant was hired via the Bright Minds Assistantship programme and has supported the LANDac coordinator with the organisation of the LANDac Annual International Conference 2019.

The LANDac secretariat 2019 comprised of:

- Chantal Wieckardt – Coordinator (joined LANDac in March 2019, replacing Marthe Derkzen, who left LANDac in September 2019);
- Romy Santpoort – Researcher;
- Bianca de Souza Nagasawa – Student assistant.

The LANDac secretariat also hosts the LANDdialogue. The LANDdialogue is facilitated by Alke Gijrath, replacing Gemma Betsema, who left the LANDdialogue in June 2019.

## Secretariat communication activities 2019

### ❖ Secretariat as Dutch contact point for land governance

The secretariat, with the partners, aims to create an enabling environment for the exchange of information about best practices and innovative solutions to key governance challenges and to provide an evidence base for policy. The LANDac secretariat frequently receives requests from the land community in the Netherlands and beyond, ranging from sharing interesting events with the wider land governance community, to assistance in the organisation of events or to find the right expertise on a particular topic. Besides requests to communicate events, LANDac received seven external requests for assistance in 2019. Requests ranged from an invitation to brief land governance experts from the He'nan Province in the Netherlands, to exploring the potential to link-up with Cordaid on a research initiative on land justice (concept note for the research still in development by Cordaid), linking The Hague Academy for Local Governance to inspiring experts for one of their courses, helping WUR researchers to find experts on access to land for young women and men, and linking master and PhD students to relevant experts in the Netherlands, as well as to (initial) contacts in the field.

### ❖ LANDac website entirely renewed

In 2019 the LANDac website ([www.landgovernanc.org](http://www.landgovernanc.org)) has been entirely renewed – not only the layout has changed, but the entire structure of the website has been redone in order to make it better navigable for visitors. Moreover, the website is no longer hosted by one of the LANDac I partners and maintained by a web designer but is now entirely managed by the LANDac secretariat.

Following an evaluation done by VNGi in 2017 and a brainstorm with Agriterre in 2018, the LANDac website is now structured by: activities, news, events, themes (in progress), publications, blogs, and has a separate section for the LANDdialogue. After the final blog of the successful Guatemala series by Jur Schuurman has been posted mid-2019, a new blog series has been launched on the Professional Learning Programme. A clear overview of all LANDac publications (under LANDac I as well as LANDac II) has been added to the website, which helps visitors to more easily manoeuvre through almost a decade of LANDac outputs. The website will continue to improve and shall be structured by themes in 2020, in order to further improve the navigability of the website in general, and to strengthen the function of the website as a knowledge hub for those in the Netherlands and further afield working on land governance related issues.

### ❖ LANDac newsletter

The face of the LANDac newsletter has also been renewed, fine-tuning the lay-out with the LANDac logo and website. Subscriptions to the newsletter continue to increase, with a net increase of 60 new subscriptions in 2019. Though there is a steady growth in the number of requests by the land governance community to include particular items in the newsletter, there is still room for improvement, as the latest newsletter of 2019 has only been opened by 27,7% of the people on the mailing list. In 2020 the secretariat will formulate a plan to further align the newsletter to the demand for particular information within the land governance community.

## ❖ **Social media**

LANDac is increasingly visible on Twitter, especially around the time of the Annual International Conference. The hashtag #landac2019 has been intensively used in the run up to the 2019 conference: participants posted images and take-aways from keynote speakers, their own sessions or the sessions that they have attended at the conference.

The LANDac LinkedIn page was envisioned to finally take-off in 2019. However, this has not happened yet, as there are little followers (108) and there is little interaction on the page. Efforts to make the LANDac LinkedIn page a hub for exchange and a tool to increase LANDac visibility will need to be stepped up in 2020.

## 4. Knowledge Generation: Research

Land governance is relevant to a wide range of societal issues, including urban growth, migration, climate change, and recovery after crisis. Research is essential to understand these connections and to suggest how policies may serve equitable and sustainable outcomes in the view of growing pressures on land worldwide. LANDac seeks to contribute to the land governance research agenda in a number of ways: by identifying and framing key issues (mostly through the Annual Conference), by developing its own, applied research on topical issues, by joining broader research consortia, and by supporting the research capacity of junior researchers, both academic (students, PhDs) and young professionals in the Global South – as explained in more detail below. The collaboration with the open access MDPI journal *Land*, in the form of a special issue on the land-mobility- displacement nexus, provided LANDac a venue to showcase highly relevant research (also of its partners) and shape the agenda on this emerging topic. New opportunities were created to fund topical short-term research involving at least two LANDac partners, through an internal call for proposals (to be realised in 2020).

### LANDac research

#### ❖ Professional Learning Programme

On June 26th, 2019, LANDac launched the Professional Learning Programme on Land Governance and Field Mediation. The programme brings together professionals working on sustainable and/or inclusive land governance in a community of practice. For one year, while working at NGOs, governmental agencies, universities or businesses, these LANDac fellows (based in different African countries) will conduct research and exchange experiences and best practices. Hence, the programme's aim is twofold: to expand LANDac's research portfolio by monitoring land-based investments in 'investment hubs' across the region, and to build the capacity of the participating fellows by training them in a variety of land governance topics, making them aware of different perspectives and priorities. Furthermore, fellows will bring stakeholders together in the field to identify ways to make land-based investments – whether in agriculture, infrastructure, nature conservation or natural resource extraction – more inclusive and sustainable.

In March 2019, a total of 8 fellows from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Sudan and Uganda were selected for the programme, all recommended by LANDac partners. Below, activities carried out in 2019 related to capacity building and research are outlined. To continue activities and include results from 2019, in 2020 and 2021, LANDac and fellows have explored external funding opportunities and fellows will apply as a consortium for additional funds from NUFFIC, since the programme is eligible for funding under the Orange Knowledge Programme Tailor-Made-Training (OKP-TMT, deadline April 10, 2020). In addition, opportunities for collaboration with LAND-at-scale are being explored.

#### Capacity Building

In 2019, all fellows participated in an extensive introduction and training programme in Utrecht, which facilitated exchange among fellows on their experience with land-based investments and provided training on research methods, impact assessments and conflict mediation. Furthermore, all fellows attended the LANDac Conference and Summer School, during which they were also deployed as lecturers. Betelehem Beyene and Hiwot Tadesse co-chaired a session on inclusive

agribusiness and food security; Nzira Razão de Deus and Fridah Githuku facilitated a session on women's land rights; Teddy Kisémbó and Junior Sebbanja facilitated a half-day session on urban land governance; and Salah Abukashawa led a session on land mapping techniques. During the remainder of 2019, several fellows visited each other on-site and all fellows exchanged questions and experiences during conference calls. Finally, three blogs authored by fellows were published on the LANDac website.

## **Research**

After the training period in the Netherlands, fellows returned to their respective countries and started to conduct 7 in-depth case studies on a variety of topics related to large-scale land-based investments across Africa. This includes urban investments and infrastructure (Teddy Kisémbó and Junior Sebbanja), investments in agriculture (El Hadji Faye) and horticulture (Betelehem Beyene and Hiwot Tadesse), women's land rights (Nzira de Deus and Fridah Githuku), and land mapping techniques and empowerment (Salah Abukashawa).

By the end of 2019, all fellows have conducted field visits and collected data, which will continue in Q1 of 2020. The findings of their research are forthcoming (summer 2020) through reports and webinars and will be presented at the next LANDac conference.

### **❖ Migration, Youth and Land in West Africa (continued)**

At the inception of LANDac II in October 2016, LANDac and partners identified priority themes to focus on, including mobility and migration. Therefore, as identified in the Annual Work Plan 2018, LANDac conducted a small research project in 2018 on the various ways in which migration and land dynamics in West-Africa are intertwined. Together with ASC Leiden, VNG International, KIT and Utrecht University, local case studies were conducted in four West-African countries with the aim to shed light on the various relationships between migration and land, and to analyse in how far they may contribute to/obstruct (local) inclusive and sustainable development in Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Benin. The research resulted in several research reports that were the basis for a round table discussion at the LANDac Annual International Conference 2019, on possible ways for making the connection between migration and land more fruitful and productive for as many people as possible, with a specific concern for the opportunities and constraints facing different categories of West-African youth. The concrete outcomes of the research are analysed in a paper for the LANDac Special Issue in the MDPI journal *Land*, entitled "[Migration, Youth, and Land in West Africa: Making the connections work for inclusive development](#)", which has been published in 2019. A [policy brief](#) as also been published on the LANDac website.

#### **• Women's Land Rights (continued)**

In 2018 LANDac carried out the research project 'Securing Women's Land Rights in Africa: Scaling Impact in Senegal, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique', which received a separate funding from the MoFA. In 2019 women's land rights continued to take a central place on the agenda of both LANDac and the LANDdialogue. LANDac and its research partners in Senegal, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique, as well as several organisations in the wider land governance network in the Netherlands, explored opportunities for follow-ups for this successful programme.

Based on the results of the 2018 research, a policy-influencing trajectory on embedding women's land rights within the policies of the MoFA was kicked-off in December 2018. Small roundtable discussions with different MoFA departments were held early 2019 to discuss concrete tools to address women's land rights in the work of the different departments. In addition, the interest in an e-learning module for Dutch policymakers on women's land rights was discussed with relevant contacts within the MoFA. In 2019 LANDac concluded that there currently is no interest by policymakers in such an e-module, one the one hand due to time constraints to follow such a module, and on the other hand the topic was considered to be too specific, and should be embedded in an e-module on Gender Equality and Women's Rights, which had already been launched earlier in 2019. Conversations continue, however, on how to ensure that the results of the 2018 research will provide durable input into (Dutch) policymaking.

#### ❖ **PhD research**

In 2019 one of our PhD students continued her research, which has been carried over from LANDac I into LANDac II. Alda Salomão continued her research on the Land-based Investments in Mozambique. Two other PhD research projects, which were not funded by LANDac I but closely relate to LANDac topics and which were brought into the LANDac network, continued in 2019 as well. Murta Shannon finished and successfully defended his PhD research on infrastructure development and urban land governance in Beira, Mozambique, titled 'Making a Donor City: The contested trajectories of urban development in Beira city, Mozambique'. Erlis Saputra carried on his research on land subsidence in Indonesia.

Under LANDac II, LANDac's role shifted from initiating and funding PhD research, to supporting PhD research through our PhD Network and by tying relevant PhDs into the LANDac network. More information on the PhD Network can be found below (Knowledge Management & Exchange). LANDac continues to facilitate the publication of policy briefs when PhD students have completed and defended their thesis, to promote evidence-based policies. In 2019 there were no LANDac funded PhD students that finished their PhD; the last PhD student will finish in 2020 and will be approached to publish a policy brief on her research.

#### **Other Research**

##### ❖ **Diamonds in the Delta (continued)**

'Diamonds in the Delta' is a research programme by Utrecht University, IHE Delft (University of Amsterdam), ITC University of Twente and Deltares, supported by, among others, LANDac. The programme focusses on inclusive and resilient delta interventions in the Global South. These interventions include infrastructure plans, masterplans, and strategic regional delta plans. The programme started in December 2018 with a seed money grant from Utrecht University's Water, Climate and Future Deltas hub. The first programme phase will result in a research proposal for the Dutch National Research Agenda (NWA). The programme seeks to strengthen the linkages between the Dutch Delta Approach and the SDGs by focusing on the inclusiveness and climate resilience of delta interventions through systematic and multidisciplinary research. In addition to scientific knowledge the programme will also contribute to institutional innovations in the practice of delta interventions in the Global South.

### Adjustments in 2019

Minor adjustments of the Annual Plan for 2019 have been made during the course of the year. The exact locations and topics of the research projects by the LANDac fellows under the Professional Learning Programme have slightly altered, based on the expertise of the selected fellows.

The possibilities have been explored for an e-learning module on Women's Land Rights, yet LANDac has concluded in 2019 that there currently is no interest in such a module. Other follow-ups to the Women's Land Rights programme will be further explored in 2020.

## 5. Knowledge Management & Exchange

As a knowledge broker LANDac aims to identify relevant trends in the global knowledge agenda, facilitate exchange amongst partners about these issues, and share insights with the broader development community concerned with land issues. We do this in a range of venues and settings, initiated by LANDac or at the invitation of others, creating an enabling environment to exchange information, best practices and innovative solutions.

The LANDac Annual International Conference is a key venue to bring together a wide range of experts (incl. academics, practitioners, business representatives and policymakers) to meet and exchange knowledge and experiences. In addition, LANDac has initiated seminars, roundtable discussions and other events in response to questions from within the partnership or by third parties (such as, in 2019, the World Bank and Utrecht University). We find that LANDac is increasingly appreciated as a hub that can bring land experts together to the benefit of third parties' agendas. Both events initiated by LANDac itself and those where third parties call upon us, offer LANDac and its partners the opportunity to bring in the land agenda, insist on the need to make land governance work for equitable and sustainable development and explore possible avenues to do so.

With a view to reaching a wider audience we have started to turn to webinars as a means to communicate findings from our (research) programmes and contribute to global debates. In collaboration with the Land Portal Foundation, we have been able to extend our reach to a wider global audience, especially in those parts of the world that face practical and financial constraints to participate in our Annual International Conference or other events. In 2019 LANDac, in collaboration with the Land Portal Foundation, ActionAid, ADECRU, Both ENDS, ENDA Pronat, Fórum Mulher, GROOTS Kenya and Oxfam International, organized a webinar on 'Realizing Women's Land Rights'. After the success of this webinar, LANDac and the Land Portal Foundation will continue their digital cooperation for the 2020 Annual International Conference.

### Knowledge management and exchange activities in 2019

#### ❖ **Annual International Conference 2019 'Land Governance in Transition. How to support transformations that work for people and nature?' – 4 & 5 July 2019**

LANDac's Annual International Conference 2019 focussed on the long-term dynamics around land, water and food production and asked: How is land governance itself transformed, as it seeks to respond to changing circumstances? And how is learning and knowledge building about these dynamics developing, what are promising concepts and tools? Particular questions related to the different aspects of land governance, such as gender, food security, land tenure security, investments, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In a fast-paced world of short-term projects and funding, how can we learn from past and current transitions, build sustainable partnerships and networks, and allow for seeds of innovation to bear fruit?

Interest for the Annual Conference continues to increase. This year, we registered a new record of about 290 people from around 50 different countries, who participated in 32 parallel sessions. Participants came from universities, knowledge institutes, the government, NGOs and the private sector. Themes that were discussed included: the future of agriculture, women's land rights, everyday experiences of 'development' and 'dispossession' in megaprojects, land and the role of

the state, farmer and indigenous access to land, as well as land governance and new technologies. The [full report](#) on the Annual International Conference 2019 can be found on our website.

We were also able to add a substantial and well-received day-long pre-conference programme this year, in cooperation with (and sponsored by), GLTN & IFAD, Utrecht University, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen & the ERC Infraglob project, Oxfam Novib, and the Land and Accountability Research Centre (LARC) (for an overview of the pre-conference events, Annex I, row 3.2). These pre-conference events offered the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with international land governance-centred organisations such as GLTN, and opened up further opportunities for collaboration with these organisations in the future.

#### ❖ **LANDac events in the Netherlands**

##### **Screening Documentary 'This Land' – 7 February**

LANDac Partner African Studies Centre, together with the Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Society, the Anthropology Department, and the Collaborative Research Group Africa in the World, screened the documentary 'This Land' early 2019. The screening was well attended and was followed up by a Q&A and discussion with experts from the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology, LARC and Van Vollenhoven Institute. After the success of this screening, LANDac screened the documentary again in the 2019 pre-conference programme (see above).

##### **Webinar: Realizing Women's Land Rights – 28 February**

Co-organised with: Land Portal Foundation, ActionAid, ADECRU, Both ENDS, ENDA Pronat, Fórum Mulher, GROOTS Kenya and Oxfam International

Following up on successful initiatives by local women's organisations in 22 countries across Africa and the 2018 LANDac research programme 'Securing Women's Land Rights in Africa: Scaling Impact in Senegal, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique', the webinar 'Realizing Women's Land Rights' aimed to share the experiences of grassroots organisations in their fight for women's improved access to and control over land and natural resources. During the webinar, a panel of experts from grassroots organisations addressed four key questions, including why it is necessary to pay attention to women's land rights, what are current good practices and successful strategies, what is needed to scale up these approaches and what is the message to policymakers in order to do so? The full report is published online [here](#) and the complete recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

##### **Consortium meeting & public event: Dutch Diamonds in the Delta – 8 May**

Utrecht University, in close cooperation with Deltares, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and LANDac organised a matchmaking event for the Diamonds in the Delta research programme, a collaborative research programme about inclusive and resilient delta interventions in the Global South (see Knowledge Generation: Research above). The event was attended by representatives from the private sector, government, civil society and universities and served to 1) further align the proposal with stakeholder experiences and needs to identify opportunities for academic and societal breakthroughs, and 2) build a strong consortium that includes stakeholders across the

knowledge chain in the Dutch water sector. The matchmaking event resulted in concrete research questions, suggestions for output, and expressions of interest to participate in the consortium.

### **Roundtable Discussion Land, Conflict and Inclusion – 4 December**

Co-organised with: the World Bank Group and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Responding to a request of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, LANDac hosted a roundtable discussion on a to-be developed Flagship report by the World Bank Group on Land, Conflict and Inclusion. LANDac brought together a group of 32 expert in the Hague, to provide input and reflections. Following up on the expressed interest of the participants, LANDac has established a separate mailing list for the land & conflict experts, as well as an online folder to share updated versions of the report.

#### **❖ Events attended as LANDac**

The LANDac secretariat and partners have been present at a range of venues to share concerns and insights on equitable and sustainable land governance and contribute to the promotion of more inclusive and land sensitive business practices. On several occasions, this led to further collaboration.

### **Pathways to Sustainability Conference – 24 January**

The LANDac coordinator attended the conference, to further increase LANDac's visibility within Utrecht University in general and within the different faculties that Pathways to Sustainability brings together. LANDac has been able to strengthen its ties with the programme, and its director, Maarten Hajer, sponsored and opened the LANDac Annual International Conference 2019, together with Annelies Zoomers.

### **Meeting with 'ethical investors' in Amsterdam, brief contribution on land rights - 1 April**

LANDac partner Gemma van der Haar was invited to speak to a selected group of 'ethical investors', interested in sustainable forestry and development, concerned with doing things rights regarding land rights.

### **EuroDig Conference 2019 – 18 June**

Following a hackathon organised by the Data Science Initiative in 2018, LANDac has contributed to two 'problem recognition' workshops, and co-organised a session at the EuroDig Conference in 2019, on how to design a tool that predicts and can therefore prevent or mitigate land-grabbing. LANDac addressed the challenges such tool poses for sustainable land governance.

### **LAND-at-scale Public Event & Roundtable Discussions – 5 September and 9 December**

In 2019 RVO's LAND-at-scale organised a public event during which they announced the first selection of preliminary ideas for their land governance programme, as well as several roundtable discussions around these ideas. LANDac is keen to contribute to the development of LAND-at-scale ideas, ensuring the continuity of knowledge and experiences that are already present within the land governance community, and is open to cooperate with RVO in the coming years to ensure

the management and exchange of the knowledge produced and the lessons learned at the different projects.

### **Launch Dutch Climate Fund – 14 November**

The Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD) aims to enable private sector investment in projects aimed at climate adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. LANDac was invited to the official launch of the fund late 2019.

### **Synergy within the LANDac partnership**

In 2019 LANDac continued to form a strong and committed partnership that is more than the sum of parts. In this year's annual report, and building on discussions during the 2019 yearly Strategy Day, we discuss these synergies and collaborations in w but more detail than in previous years.

### **Agenda-setting**

LANDac partners value LANDac's agenda setting function. Over the years, LANDac has not only put new land governance challenges firmly on the agenda of the wider land governance community, but it also supported its partners to develop the land governance agenda within their own organisations, and to link it to ongoing debates within their organisations.

The Migration, Youth and Land in West Africa research, allowed putting land governance more firmly on ASC's existing migration and urbanisation agenda. KIT shared lessons-learned from the same research during its 'Afrikadag' with the broader organisation itself and guests present. Utrecht University's participation in LANDac has ensured that land governance issues now take a prominent place within the curriculum of the master International Development and the master on Sustainable Development, as well as the Bachelor in Human Geography and Planning. The LANDac partnership also offered the inspiration, network and knowledge to initiate the development of a BSc minor programme at Wageningen University on Natural Resource Conflict and Governance.

### **Translate between different organisations**

As the LANDac partnership consists of eleven different organisations, an important element and added value of the partnership is the opportunity to learn from each other. The LANDac partnership offers the partners a platform to translate between the different organisations and to establish new forms of cooperation between the partners themselves. Partners now easily find each other for other projects and initiatives.

Another important function of the LANDac partnership are the links that can be established with other organisations or programmes, and to receive timely updates on these programmes. Those links are not a one-way street; partners also appreciate the frequent invitations that they receive through LANDac to contribute to the creation of new research or policy programmes. These invitations not only offer a podium to the expertise of our partners, but importantly, they help to ensure the continuity of knowledge and experiences that are already present within the land governance community. For example, through the LANDac research on Migration, Youth and Land in West Africa KIT had the opportunity to establish new links with the embassies in Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal, as well as with consultants on the ground, who carried out part of the field research. LANDac partners have also been invited to contribute to the development and

launch of the LAND-at-scale programme, as well as provide input during roundtable discussions on the development of the project and the project ideas, ensuring the continuity of knowledge and ideas within the Dutch land governance community.

### **Staying up to date**

For most partners, land governance issues are part of their broader work on sustainable development. LANDac's Knowledge Management & Exchange activities are therefore especially valuable to stay up to date on the continuously developing land governance debate and learn about the latest research results, policy developments and practices. The Annual International Conference is one of the main platforms for this, while also providing ample opportunity for our partners (as well as the other participating organisations) to establish new connections. The Annual International Conference also serves as a podium for the partners themselves, at which they can share their own projects, experiences and expertise. For example, during the 2019 conference, Agriterro firmly put the 'farmers voice' at the forefront through their local partners, especially through the keynote contribution of Denis Kabiito and the plenary reflections by Raul Socrates Banzuela.

LANDac's capacity building activities also provide the opportunity for partners to ensure that they, and their local partners, stay up to date. Especially the Annual Summer School and the Professional Learning Programme play a central role for the partners in training their own (local) colleagues or to establish new links in the field through the LANDac fellows. In 2019, for example, Agriterro sponsored one of its local, junior partners, to attend the Annual Summer School.

### **Adjustments in 2019**

In the LANDac Annual Plan 2019, LANDac committed to being present at the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in Washington. As expenses for the 2018 conference had been higher than expected, participation in 2019 was not possible. We intend this to be a one-time exception.

## 6. Training and Capacity Building

Since its creation in 2010, LANDac has been committed to training and capacity building. LANDac's Annual Summer School in particular has attracted early and mid-career professionals, both from the 'Global North' and the 'Global South', as an opportunity to strengthen their knowledge base and professional network in land governance. In 2019, we have managed to build up the Professional Learning Programme which combines research and capacity building of young professionals from the Global South, all of them well-embedded in local organisations or companies. The PLP aims to strengthen their capacities to engage in (or initiate) multi-stakeholder processes, conduct on-site research and feed this into these local debates.

Efforts towards master students and early-career professionals can be improved in 2020, e.g. by further reinforcing the connections *between* the PhD students within the LANDac PhD network and by further developing the ILC-LANDac internship opportunities for master students, as will be explained below.

### Training and Capacity Building Activities in 2019

#### ❖ **LANDac Summer School 2019 – 8-19 July**

This edition of the Summer School was the best attended edition so far: 44 participants from all over the world travelled to Utrecht to follow guest lectures, join working groups and explore theory and practice related to land governance. As in previous editions, guest lectures were given by LANDac partners and guests, focussing e.g. on the global land rush, agribusiness and food security, land and conflict, land administration, and women's land rights. Participants in the Professional Learning Programme were also invited to give a guest lectures on the topic of their expertise. In cooperation with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, the group played a land market game, simulating land transactions by different stakeholders. All participants in the 2019 Annual Summer School successfully finished the course and are now brought together in a digital community to continue to exchange experiences. One of the PhD students that attended this year's Summer School has successfully applied for a position at Utrecht University's Social Geography and Planning Department to continue her PhD research on land governance issues in forestry and climate adaptation measures.

#### ❖ **Tailor-made in-house training**

Aligned with the agenda of the LANDdialogue, several LANDac partners took part in organizing and conducting awareness-raising and training sessions for specific target audiences: desk managers of banks at the Netherlands Association of Banks (NWB; 5 February) and gender specialists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (15 February).

#### ❖ **PhD network**

The LANDac PhD Network has been established under LANDac II and aims to facilitate exchange among PhD students in the field of land governance, working in the Netherlands and abroad. Through this exchange, LANDac contributes to the expertise and visibility of PhD researchers. The PhD network met three times in 2019. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July the network met for a workshop 'Researching Land Conflicts. Taking care of the researcher in emotionally-intense settings', by Prof

dr An Ansoms from University of Louvain-la-Neuve. The workshop was attended by PhD students from different institutes in the Netherlands and abroad. The network also came together for the yearly PhD Network Event at the LANDac Annual International Conference 2019 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The network lunch was well received and will be continued into 2020. Later in 2019 (18 December), the Centre for Space, Place and Society at Wageningen University invited Prof dr An Ansoms for a PhD masterclass and public lecture entitled 'Land lost – land regained in transforming rural landscapes?' on developments in land governance and land access in Rwanda.

#### ❖ **Internships for master students**

To support the LANDac secretariat and OC with the organisation of the LANDac Annual International Conference 2019, LANDac has hired an intern for communications and logistics through the Bright Minds Assistantship Programme of Utrecht University.

In 2019 LANDac and ILC have also initiated a collaboration with regards to internships positions for Utrecht University International Development and Sustainable Development students. LANDac and ILC act as a liaison between the university and ILC's member organisations, who offer students the opportunity to conduct research at their organisations. The collaboration will be continued in 2020 and will be extended to LANDac's other academic partners as well.

## 7. LANDdialogue and Policy Influencing

As part of the second phase of LANDac, the LANDac secretariat co-hosts the secretariat of the LANDdialogue, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The LANDdialogue – the Dutch Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue – aims to improve land governance, in line with international guidelines and agreements (with a focus on the CFS-Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure). Within the LANDdialogue, learning about, and the development and application of, practical tools for more inclusive and sustainable land governance are at the centre. Organisations and businesses who are part of the LANDdialogue have committed to jointly develop practical solutions and approaches to effectively contribute to improve the impact of these institutions abroad; and to improve their own policies, practices and risk management strategies. The format of the LANDdialogue consists of periodical High-level dialogue sessions with the Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, and an Organising Committee (OC) supported by the Coordinator. Activities may be undertaken by thematic working groups around specific questions, topics and developments.

The OC consists of Both ENDS, Oxfam Novib, FMO, Rabobank, Utrecht University/LANDac, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and IDH (the Sustainable Trade Initiative), the latter having joined the OC in 2019. The OC of the LANDdialogue coordinates and supports dialogues and activities; takes strategic decisions about priority topics and cases; organises and invites participants to the High-level dialogue sessions; and is responsible for communication with the wider network of organisations in the Netherlands who work on land governance issues. The OC members met every 6 to 8 weeks and for a full-day brainstorm at the end of May 2019, to take strategic decisions about the focus and priority topics for the coming year.

### High-level Dialogue 2019

The High-Level Dialogue with the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation was held in April 2019 and touched upon two basic aspects: the way forward, and how to turn joint learning into actual practice 'on the ground'.

The High-Level Meeting and the brainstorm touched upon a wide variety of topics, including policy coherence; identifying chances, challenges and subsequent collaboration on good practices; innovation; stronger involvement with companies, including the Dutch infrastructure sector (companies, consultants, financiers, government); gender; and, building on local knowledge and capacity. From these, the OC identified a number of priority topics to work on; stronger collaboration on Responsible Business Conduct (including the OECD guidelines); focus on trade missions and context-sensitive investments to seek ways to deal with conflicting claims on land, gender issues relating to land, and seeking mutual learning from the newly launched LAND-at-scale program. As the remarks on the High-Level Dialogue indicated that implementation practices should get more emphasis, the LANDdialogue started to put more energy on collaborative processes.

### LANDdialogue Trajectories in 2019

#### ❖ Infrastructure

The coordinator of the LANDdialogue organised a meeting with representatives of the infrastructure sector, government officials, CSOs and academics to explore stronger involvement

of the infrastructure sector in the LANDdialogue. The meeting led to the conclusion that a constructive dialogue could only be started after clarification of the most pressing differences in perspectives between certain crucial parties within the LANDdialogue. As such, it was decided to have an independent consultant take stock of these differences outside of the LANDdialogue, but with the several stakeholders concerned. This consultation and separate process will be finalised in 2020, after which the parties will re-engage with the LANDdialogue.

Notwithstanding this separate trajectory, the LANDdialogue continued its engagement with the infrastructure sector throughout 2019. A follow-up session of the 2018 meeting with the World Bank on their newly launched Environmental and Social Framework was planned in November 2019, for which several consultations took place with World Bank Officials, officials from RVO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Development Bank FMO, and representatives from the infrastructural sector. Unfortunately, the LANDdialogue had to cancel the announced workshop, as it proved difficult for the World Bank experts in this particular field to travel to the Netherlands at the same time as the Industry Engagement Program in November for the infrastructure and water sector. The LANDdialogue is still seeking collaboration with the World Bank on the envisaged practice-related follow-up on their Environmental and Social Framework.

#### ❖ **The inclusion of land rights in the OECD guidelines**

As part of strengthening collaboration on companies, a study was done on the OECD guidelines. These are the guiding principles for multinational companies on Corporate Social Responsibility, which at present do not mention land rights at all. The lack of clarity in the OECD Guidelines has two negative consequences: it represents a serious gap in practical guidance for MNEs on their responsibilities toward land rights. It also has impeded the consistency and clarity with which National Contact Points (NCPs) under the Guidelines have handled complaints over land rights. The issue was the subject of an information and discussion session at the LANDac International Conference in July 2019.

The OC approved and financed a proposal for a Guidelines Revision study by OECD Watch and Oxfam Novib. The study will be taken further by webinars and consultations leading to a practical strategy in 2020.

#### ❖ **Context-sensitive investments and trade missions**

In 2019 the LANDdialogue started working on trade missions and provided advice on a mission to Nigeria. The objective is to inform Dutch companies taking part in trade missions about possible land governance issues in the targeted countries, seeking new ways to provide practical knowledge and approaches continued throughout 2019. The LANDdialogue also started a proposal to collaborate closely with companies, Dutch embassies, CSOs and RVO on a common approach for context-sensitive investments. Lessons-learned from Ethiopia, where an intensive program was launched after conflicts over land led to the destruction of five Dutch investment projects form the basis for this proposal. This will be continued in 2020, as the ambition is to develop a structural approach that can be scaled-up to other countries.

### ❖ **Women's Land Rights**

Following a LANDac initiative, in collaboration with Oxfam Novib, Both Ends, and Utrecht University, to take the issue of land and gender to the level of grassroots women in a number of African countries, a new women's land rights trajectory was started in 2018 and continued in 2019, led by the LANDdialogue Coordinator and Both ENDS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a large group of experts from civil society and knowledge institutions from the Netherlands and the Global South. Groups of experts exchanged knowledge, experiences and ideas with policymakers of seven departments at the MoFA working on topics ranging from trade to food security, investments and sustainable economic growth, to strengthen efforts on women's land right. It resulted in, amongst others, increased knowledge about women's land rights amongst policymakers, concrete ideas on the integration of women's land rights in public events and processes (including setting women's land rights on the agenda of the trade mission to Nigeria).

### ❖ **Agreements for International Responsible Business Conduct in the Netherlands**

In the context of the Agreements for International Responsible Business Conduct (IMVO Convenanten in Dutch), the LANDdialogue commissioned two studies in 2018, which were published and shared with the Socio-Economic Council (SER) of the Netherlands and the different parties involved. In 2019 several meetings took place with the Socio-Economic Council to include land issues in the evaluation of the Agreements for International Responsible Business Conduct. For those agreements that incorporated land issues (in particular the financial agreements), follow-up activities took place in 2019; members of the OC of the LANDdialogue conducted several consultations with the Dutch Banking Association. The consultations resulted in developing a new approach for Phase 2 of the Dutch Banking Sector Agreement, which is more directed towards actual implementation and less on policies. As such, a new process is initiated and developed in close collaboration with the Dutch Development Bank, the Dutch Banking Association and the commercial banks to focus more on desk-officers working within the banks. This process aims at identifying gaps in knowledge and practice. This process is in the start-up phase and will be continued during 2020.

### **LANDdialogue 2015-2019**

The main objective of the LANDdialogue is to influence and strengthen policies of Dutch organizations and businesses (more information can be found [here](#)). The outcomes of the High-level Dialogue, in combination with activities mentioned above, have led over the course of 2019 to increased knowledge on land governance related problems and issues; more collaboration between and among government, private sector, knowledge institutions and NGOs. Building on the tools previously developed, the LANDdialogue is now in a more mature state trying to start collaborative processes to ensure improvement of the implementation of the VGGTs on the ground. There has also been a gradual extension of the dialogue to other sectors: i.e., after finance, gradually infrastructure companies are increasingly aware of risks and possible damage. These processes have proven to be challenging, yet they provide the opportunity to make more impact.

## LANDdialogue 2020

In 2020 The LANDdialogue will proceed with the implementation of the agenda set out by the last High-level meeting and subsequent deliberations of the OC. Key issues identified are conflict-sensitive investment, including the development of mechanisms for advance warning of land rights problems; addressing land governance issues in the operations of the infrastructure sector, possibilities to entrench land rights in the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises, the promotion of equitable and sustainable land governance practices in (selected) sectors covered by Dutch 'IMVO-convenanten', and the promotion of women's land rights. Moreover, the LANDdialogue will endeavour to strengthen the network of stakeholders interested in or working with land in practice. In support of the latter it will continue to work with its partners and with LANDac, and seek ways to connect to the LAND-at-Scale programme that was launched in 2019 as a funding facility for initiatives in support of equitable and sustainable land governance. LAND-at-scale is a government programme whereby Dutch Embassies can submit their ideas for projects that benefit economic development, peace and stability in developing countries by means of just land governance. In 2019, 13 of the most promising ideas were selected to start off with. This challenging program will hopefully lead to even more lessons from the ground, and the LANDdialogue is interested in finding ways to ensure that lessons learned can be further incorporated in the Dutch Landscape on improved land governance.

## 8. Publications in 2019

- ❖ Policy-oriented publications:
  - Baltissen, G., Kaag, M., Lodder, A., and Steel, G. (2019). Migration, youth and land in West Africa: challenges for inclusive development. LANDac Policy Brief 7. Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Available at: <https://www.landgovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/LANDac-Policy-Brief-07.pdf>
  - Betsema, G., Namaganda, E., and Santpoort, M. (2019). Oil and Gas Investments in Palma District, Mozambique – Findings from a local context analysis. Available at: <https://www.landgovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/final-edits-20190313-Infobrief.pdf>
  
- ❖ LANDac Special Issue ‘Land Governance and (Im)mobility: Exploring the Nexus between Land Acquisition, Displacement and Migration’ publications in MDPI Land:
  - Andrianto, A., Komarudin, H., & Pacheco, P. (2019). Expansion of Oil Palm Plantations in Indonesia’s Frontier: Problems of Externalities and the Future of Local and Indigenous Communities. *Land*, 8(4), 56. doi:10.3390/land8040056
  - Betge, D. (2019). Land Governance in Post-Conflict Settings: Interrogating Decision-Making by International Actors. *Land*, 8(2), 31. doi:10.3390/land8020031
  - Carte, L., Schmook, B., Radel, C., & Johnson, R. (2019). The Slow Displacement of Smallholder Farming Families: Land, Hunger, and Labor Migration in Nicaragua and Guatemala. *Land*, 8(6), 89. doi:10.3390/land8060089
  - Kaag, M., Baltissen, G., Steel, G., & Lodder, A. (2019). Migration, Youth, and Land in West Africa: Making the Connections Work for Inclusive Development. *Land*, 8(4), 60. doi:10.3390/land8040060
  - Lindsay-Herrera, F. (2019). One City for All? The Characteristics of Residential Displacement in Southwest Washington, DC. *Land*, 8(2), 34. doi:10.3390/land8020034
  - Menge, T. (2019). How Far Does the European Union Reach? Foreign Land Acquisitions and the Boundaries of Political Communities. *Land*, 8(3), 44. doi:10.3390/land8030044
  - Ogwang, T., Vanclay, F., & van den Assem, A. (2019). Rent-Seeking Practices, Local Resource Curse, and Social Conflict in Uganda’s Emerging Oil Economy. *Land*, 8(4), 53. doi:10.3390/land8040053
  - Saputra, E. (2019). Beyond Fires and Deforestation: Tackling Land Subsidence in Peatland Areas, a Case Study from Riau, Indonesia. *Land*, 8(5), 76. doi:10.3390/land8050076
  - Shannon, M. (2019). Who Controls the City in the Global Urban Era? Mapping the Dimensions of Urban Geopolitics in Beira City, Mozambique. *Land*, 8(2), 37. doi:10.3390/land8020037
  - Todorovski, D., & Potel, J. (2019). Exploring the Nexus between Displacement and Land Administration: The Case of Rwanda. *Land*, 8(4), 55. doi:10.3390/land8040055
  - Uwayezu, E., & de Vries, W. (2019). Expropriation of Real Property in Kigali City: Scoping the Patterns of Spatial Justice. *Land*, 8(2), 23. doi:10.3390/land8020023
  - Van der Haar, G., & van Leeuwen, M. (2019). War-Induced Displacement: Hard Choices in Land Governance. *Land*, 8(6), 88. doi:10.3390/land8060088

❖ Other publications

- Muskens, M. (2019) Annual International Conference 2019 Report. Available at: [https://www.landgovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LANDac-Conference-Report-2019\\_final.pdf](https://www.landgovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LANDac-Conference-Report-2019_final.pdf)
- Land Portal Foundation (2019). Realizing women's land rights in Africa and Beyond. A Webinar Report. Available at: <https://www.landgovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/RealizingWomensLandRightsReport-1.pdf>

## 9. Conclusions

In 2019, LANDac has continued to serve its partners and the wider land governance community both through well-institutionalised activities such as the Annual Conference and the Summer School and by developing new initiatives to step up its contribution, such as the Professional Learning Program and the use of webinars. We have been pleased to find that partners appreciate the added value of LANDac to strengthen their work in the field of land governance for equitable and sustainable development, and that third parties increasingly reach out to us to draw on the expertise in our network.

### LANDac in 2020 and beyond

In October 2019 the LANDac partners met for a full day to discuss the plans for 2020. It was an important day for the partnership to briefly pause and reflect not only on the past year, but also on the progress we have made during the LANDac II phase. We discussed where we are now, what still needs to be done, what goals we have already achieved and where we need to step up our joint efforts. In terms of activities, the partners decided to give our research and capacity building agenda a strong boost by releasing an internal call for proposals to reach concrete and significant outcomes in two core areas of the LANDac II plan: Knowledge Generation (in particular academic and applied research), and Capacity Building (in particular facilitating learning and multi-stakeholder exchange, as well as e-learning). Thematically, the focus in 2020 lies on the link between land governance and climate change. As the current debate around climate change often highlights the ‘urgency to act’, many of the important lessons drawn by LANDac and others in the past 10-years risk being forgotten by different stakeholders in pursuit of mitigation or adaptation strategies.

Importantly, in 2020 the LANDac partnership will think about the future of LANDac beyond 2021, not only in terms of activities and outputs, but also in terms of the partnership itself. This not only depends on opportunities and constraints due to funding possibilities, but also on the wishes of the LANDac partners and the broader Dutch land governance community. In order to explore these wishes, it is essential that third parties think along as well. As such, Both ENDS and the Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology Chair at Leiden University joined the 2019 Strategy Day. Together we concluded that the partnership was still vibrant and that all partners agreed that there was still a need to continue the partnership, possibly opening it up for other organisations as well. To this purpose, Both ENDS, the Palladium Group and Leiden University will join the partner meetings in 2020.

Between now and June 2021, we have to further explore the objectives, programme and possibilities for funding of ‘LANDac III’. This not only to continue those activities that were identified by the partnership itself as essential, but also to continue the LANDac secretariat, which plays an essential role in nurturing the relationships between the partners, as well as acting as a contact point for other organisations in the Dutch land governance community. The LANDac management takes the lead in exploring the possibilities, though essentially this task needs to be taken up by the partnership as a whole.

## Annex 1. Overview activities 2019

	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
<b>1. LANDac secretariat activities</b>			
1.1	Dutch contact point for land governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 external requests answered</li> <li>Several events organised (see 3.2)</li> </ul>	Knowledge brokerage; improved exchange and dialogue; improved coordination and synergy between stakeholders in the NL as well as international stakeholders; agenda-setting.
1.2	Representing LANDac at relevant events in the Netherlands and abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathways to Sustainability Conference (24 January)</li> <li>RVO Policy implementation event (18 March)</li> <li>MoFA: stakeholder dialogue on Food Security (19 March)</li> <li>EuroDig Conference (18 June)</li> <li>Public event LAND-at-scale Meeting the Commission (5 September)</li> <li>Launch Dutch Climate Fund (14 November)</li> <li>Roundtable discussion RVO on specific country project ideas (9 December)</li> </ul>	Agenda-setting; knowledge brokerage; improved exchange and dialogue; promotion of land-sensitive (business) practices
1.3	Website maintenance; social media outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website entirely updated</li> <li>60 new subscriptions to Newsletter</li> <li>152 new followers on Twitter</li> <li>Start LinkedIn page</li> </ul>	Knowledge brokerage; exchanging information about best practices and innovative solutions; improved understanding of land governance among a range of stakeholders; informed Dutch public.
1.4	Editing and disseminating publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LANDac Policy Brief #7: Migration, Youth and Land in West Africa: Challenges for Inclusive Development</li> <li>Oil and Gas Investments in Palma District, Mozambique – Findings from a local context analysis</li> <li>LANDac conference report 2019</li> <li>Report Webinar Realizing Women's Land Rights</li> </ul>	Evidence-based policy & practice; policies based on our research findings; better policy coherence; promotion of land-sensitive (business) practices; knowledge brokerage, informed private sector, civil society actors and policymakers.
<b>2. Knowledge generation: Research</b>			
2.1	Migration, Youth and Land in West Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication LANDac Policy Brief #7: Migration, Youth and Land in West Africa: Challenges for Inclusive Development</li> </ul>	Evidence-based policy & practice; policies based on our research findings; better policy coherence.

2.2	Professional Learning Programme (PLP) fieldwork activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal writing for fieldwork by participants PLP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Uganda: impact of urbanisation &amp; land-based investments on Kibugambata community;</li> <li>○ Uganda: infrastructure development impacts on communities in Kampala and Jinja</li> <li>○ Senegal: impact of SEZ on farming communities;</li> <li>○ Kenya: alternative land investment models;</li> <li>○ Ethiopia: impact of Dutch floriculture companies on local communities;</li> <li>○ Sudan: empowering women and men through community mapping;</li> <li>○ Mozambique: foreign land-based investments and the empowerment of local communities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Informed and trained experts in a variety of land governance topics; capacity development and improved understanding of land governance among a range of stakeholders; agenda-setting; improved exchange and dialogue & increased mutual understanding: awareness of differing perspectives, and priorities; creating an enabling environment for exchanging information about best practices and innovative solutions.
2.3	PhD research & activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LANDac PhD research Alda Salomão continued</li> <li>• Related PhD Murtah Shannon 'Making a Donor City' completed and PhD research Eris Saputra continued</li> <li>• PhD Workshop: Researching Land Conflicts: Taking care of the research in emotionally intense settings (3 July)</li> <li>• PhD Network event during LANDac conference (4 July)</li> <li>• PhD Masterclass with Prof. An Ansoms (18 December)</li> </ul>	Informed and trained experts in a variety of land governance topics; evidence-based policy & practice; policies based on our research findings
2.4	Internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bright Minds Assistantship</li> <li>• Start ILC – LANDac internships</li> </ul>	Capacity development and improved understanding of land governance among a range of stakeholders.
<b>3. Knowledge management: Conferences and events</b>			
3.1	LANDac Annual Conference 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Land Governance in Transition. How to support transformations that work for people and nature? (4-5 July) attended by 293 people.</li> </ul>	Creating an enabling environment for exchanging information about best practices and innovative solutions; knowledge brokerage; informed civil society and private sector actors, policymakers and academics; increased

			mutual understanding: awareness of differing perspectives, and priorities.
3.2	Public lectures and presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar: Realizing Women's Land Rights – in collaboration with Land Portal Foundation (28 February)</li> <li>• Consortium meeting and public event: Dutch Diamonds in the Delta (8 May)</li> <li>• Masterclass: Studying Infrastructure in Mozambique – in collaboration with RUG, UU, ERC Infraglob project (3 July)</li> <li>• Masterclass: Measuring the impact of land tenure and governance interventions: A guide for experts and practitioners – in collaboration with GLTN (3 July)</li> <li>• Keepers of the Land: A Training of Trainers by Rukia Cornelius – in collaboration with Oxfam Novib and Oxfam South Africa (3 July)</li> <li>• Movie screening This Land – in collaboration with LARC (3 July)</li> <li>• Roundtable Discussion Land, Conflict and Inclusion – in collaboration with the World Bank (4 December)</li> </ul>	Knowledge brokerage; improved exchange and dialogue; improved coordination and synergy between stakeholders in the NL as well as international stakeholders; agenda-setting.
<b>4. Capacity building</b>			
4.1	LANDac Annual Summer School 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Summer School (8 – 19 July) attended by 44 participants</li> </ul>	Informed and trained experts in a variety of land governance topics; <b>capacity</b> development and improved understanding of land governance among a range of stakeholders; <b>creating</b> an enabling environment for exchanging information about best practices and innovative solutions.
4.2	Professional Learning Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and exchange in the Netherlands</li> <li>• Establishing a community of practice</li> </ul>	Informed and trained experts in a variety of land governance topics; capacity development and improved understanding of land governance among a range of stakeholders; agenda-setting; improved exchange and dialogue & increased mutual understanding: awareness of differing perspectives, and priorities, creating an enabling environment for exchanging information about best practices and innovative solutions.

<b>5. LANDdialogue</b>			
6.1	Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (LG-MSD) support	❖ High-Level meeting of Land Dialogue, 3 April 2019	Improved exchange and dialogue; improved coordination and synergy between stakeholders in the NL; promotion of land-sensitive (business) practices; better policy coherence.

## Annex 2. Work Plan 2019

### LANDac II Annual Work Plan 2019

LANDac is a knowledge platform for policy makers, practitioners, researchers, and development professionals working in the Netherlands and further afield. This document details the proposed activities of LANDac in the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

Item	Activity	Results	Budget 2019 (EUR)	Time frame 2019
<b>1. LANDac secretariat activities</b>				
1.1	Coordination and running the LANDac secretariat	Two full-time positions responsible for the daily management of the LANDac secretariat and project implementation	150,000	Q1-Q4
1.2	Dutch contact point for land governance	Ad hoc contact point for questions and issues related to land governance, via email, website and meetings and events	-	Q1-Q4
1.3	Representing LANDac at relevant events in the Netherlands and abroad	Masterclass or session at international land conference; presence at other conferences where deemed applicable	5,000	Q1-Q4
1.4	Website maintenance; social media outreach	Updating the website and other online activities, incl. social media outreach; strengthened hub function with LinkedIn page; publish LANDac Newsletters	1,000	Q1-Q4
1.5	Editing and disseminating publications	Published policy and research briefs related to output from 2.1, 2.2, 5.1 and 5.2	2,000	Q1-Q4
<b>2. Knowledge generation: Research</b>				
2.1	Academic and applied research	Short-term, applied research (pilot studies, fact-finding missions, baseline data collection) aligned with the activities in 5.1	26,000	Q2-Q4
2.2	PhD network	Organise twice-annual meetings of the PhD network of researchers based in the Netherlands working on land-related issues; facilitate publication of policy briefs when a PhD is completed	1000	Q1-Q4

<b>3. Knowledge management: Conferences and events</b>				
3.1	LANDac Annual Conference 2019	Two- day international conference	20,000	Q1-Q2
3.2	Public lectures and presentations	Organise public events around emerging topics, particularly related to output from items 2.1, 3.1, 4.2, 5.1 and 5.2	3,000	Q1-Q4
3.3	Dissemination of event proceedings	Report on and share output from items 1.3, 3.1 and 3.2 with participants, LANDac partners and the wider audience via the LANDac News, website and social media	3,000	Q1-Q4
<b>4. Capacity building</b>				
4.1	LANDac Annual Summer School 2019	Training of students and professionals on land governance, closely related to items 3.1 and 5.1	3,000	Q2-Q3
4.2	On-site training programme in SSA	Training of local professionals on land governance, food security, women's land rights and inclusive cities and business	12,000	Q2-Q4
4.3	In-house training programme on land governance	Tailor-made training for companies and organisations on land governance to raise awareness about land issues in their projects and daily business	2,000	Q1-Q4
4.4	Land governance e-course	Development of an e-module on women's rights and gender equality in land governance (follow up WLRA programme)	3,000	Q1-Q4
<b>5. Learning hubs</b>				
5.1	Pilots with area experts in 4 locations: Benin, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda	Area experts, trained by LANDac partners, are our eyes and ears in the field. They monitor and communicate developments in selected hubs: urban infrastructure, agri-business, drylands and post-conflict areas. This includes costs for meetings and travel	40,000	Q1-Q4
5.2	Multi-stakeholder learning platforms	Facilitation of multi-stakeholder meetings, including those proposed by participants during these meetings (e.g.	28,000	Q1-Q4

		CITYforum on inclusive urban development) and follow up of and new research and activities related to the country-specific learning hubs		
<b>Total budget LANDac II 2019</b>			302,000	Q1-Q4

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### 6. LANDdialogue

6.1	Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (LG-MSD) support	Secretariat activities including meeting facilitation and budget management  <i>Funds to be allocated by LG-MSD Organising Committee and agreed upon by LANDac partners</i>	100,000	Q1-Q4
<b>Total budget LANDdialogue support 2019</b>			100,000	Q1-Q4

## Activities

### 1. LANDac secretariat activities

LANDac is a knowledge centre for land governance expertise in the Netherlands with a secretariat to expedite connections between actors and topics, and to organise and implement a research agenda. The secretariat coordinates the activities detailed in this plan, represents LANDac at (inter)national events, manages the website, ensures publications are produced and disseminated, and designs and leads research activities.

### 2. Knowledge generation: Research

In collaboration with civil society, businesses, research institutions and embassies, LANDac conducts bottom-up research and opens up new funding opportunities for pilot projects. In 2019, research activities will be concentrated on the four countries in which LANDac will start pilots with area experts who will systematically research selected locations, organise multi-stakeholder meetings and set-up training programmes. LANDac will play an initiating role in joint proposal writing to scale up these activities and follow up the Women's Land Rights in Africa (WLRA) programme, with a focus on grassroots movement building and local champions. In 2019, LANDac will also continue the PhD Network and link master's students to relevant research projects and internships – for the latter LANDac initiated a collaboration with the International Land Coalition.

### 3. Knowledge management: Conferences and events

One of LANDac's core activities is the Annual International Conference in Utrecht that brings together stakeholders from around the world, and from a wider variety of backgrounds (academia, policy makers, private sector) than usually the case in land-related events. The 2019 Conference theme *Land governance in transition – How to support transformations that work for people and nature?* focuses on long-term dynamics around land, water and food. Other events such as lunch lectures, book launches and seminars disseminate research results, facilitate dialogue and exchange and inform Dutch stakeholders about outcomes of international events and emerging land-related topics. Between 3 and 5 ad hoc events will be organised in response to demands and needs identified by LANDac partners.

### 4. Capacity building

To meet the demand for an improved understanding of land governance from Dutch and international organisations, LANDac provides opportunities for capacity development. LANDac partners and the area experts will provide trainings to local professionals on land governance, food security, inclusive business and topics on demand. This activity fits with LANDac's strategy to generate action and impact on the ground. In this line, LANDac will develop an e-module on women's rights and gender equality in land governance as a follow up of the WLRA programme. This is a demand from the WLRA partners – who will co-develop the module – to facilitate exchange between countries, and also from the Ministry to engage embassy personnel on the issue.

In the Netherlands, LANDac will start facilitating tailor-made in-house trainings for companies and organisations that need to raise awareness about land issues in their project work. This is a down-scaled version of LANDac's annual two-week Summer School for practitioners, government officials, PhD and master's students in July. The Summer School is an opportunity to invite the

network of area experts to the Netherlands for learning and exchange. The Summer School is co-funded by Utrecht University, and participants pay course fees, which ultimately makes this an income-generating activity. Also, the company trainings may generate income.

## 5. Learning hubs

LANDac strives for common understanding and brings actors together to contribute to more inclusive solutions. Following the success of multi-stakeholder learning initiatives in 2018 (in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda), these work streams will be given follow up in 2019 with the network of area experts. Pilots with area experts, trained by LANDac partners, will start in Benin, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda. They are our eyes and ears in the field and will take up monitoring and impact studies, multi-stakeholder dialogues and a 'train the trainer' programme for local professionals. The network of area experts will be integrated in the LANDac partner network and initiatives such as the CITYforum, a multi-stakeholder learning platform launched in 2017 in response to the many Dutch players (engineering firms, consultancies, NGOs and government) involved in urban masterplans. The initial focus on Jakarta and Manila was widened in 2018 to include organisations working in Beira and Port Harcourt.

## 6. LANDdialogue

Since the inception of the Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (LG-MSD, or LANDdialogue as it is now commonly known) in 2014, LANDac has been involved as a participant in the Organising Committee (OC). As of the start of LANDac II, it was decided that the LANDac secretariat would also play a more fundamental role in the organisation of the LANDdialogue, facilitating meetings and overseeing the budget. The OC remains responsible for allocating the LANDdialogue budget; however, LANDac partners will also be asked to give their consent on major activities before they are approved.

In 2018, part of the LANDdialogue budget was used to hire a part-time support officer to liaise with LANDdialogue OC members and the broader network, coordinate the formulation of a new activity agenda for the coming years, and initiate new activities in line with this agenda. In 2019, this post will be continued on a part-time basis and the main activities will be related to the implementation of the LANDdialogue's new action agenda, including a new High-Level with participation of the new Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. The LANDac secretariat will continue to play a more fundamental role in the organisation of the LANDdialogue, by facilitating meetings and overseeing the budget. Some of the priorities identified within the LANDdialogue are consolidation of the organisational structure, alignment with international processes, policy coherence within Dutch policies, and its work on the knowledge sharing and joint learning agenda.

## **LANDac in 2019: Systematically monitoring transformations in investment hubs**

In 2019, after a first period in which the focus was on fact finding (what is happening on the ground?) and how to prevent land grabbing (e.g. by promoting the VGGTs), in this second period LANDac will continue to work together for inclusive and sustainable land governance. Central to our work is understanding the drivers of large scale land investments (public and private investments in agri-food and biofuels, infrastructure, urbanisation, climate change); analysing the consequences in terms of landscape change and socio-economic consequences (regarding food security, land access for women and youth, displacement, migration); and searching for solutions (via the VGGTs, fair compensation, stakeholder dialogue). In this phase of LANDac II, we would like to put more emphasis on finding ways to systematically follow what is happening on the ground, focusing in particular on land related investments originating from Dutch organisations and businesses.

This shift in the direction of the global South is reflected in the budget expenditures for 2019 which allocate increased budgets for on-site learning, monitoring and training in a network of localities as identified by the partners. In each of these localities we would like to train a 'LANDac scout' to become an area expert responsible for collecting information (together with residents), analysing trends and informing interested actors about issues that need to be taken up by LANDac or partners in our network.

More specifically, these LANDac scouts will carry out the following activities (in discussion with the partners):

1. Bottom up data collection on large scale land investments (also in collaboration with the Land Matrix) – what is the 'state of the art' and which transformations are taking place;
2. To the extent that Dutch or European actors play a role, LANDac scouts can establish contacts (through the LANDac secretariat) and organise multi-stakeholder meetings, locally and in the Netherlands; and
3. Related to 1 and 2 LANDac scouts can also play a role in organising trainings to build local capacity and allow for early engagement with communities, raise awareness about FPIC and inclusive business. Such trainings can result in a pool of professionals who could assist organisations and businesses to implement responsible business based on 'do no harm, do good'.

The LANDac scouts will be selected and trained by LANDac, and in constant collaboration. They will visit the Netherlands on selected occasions, linked to the annual conference, Summer School and relevant meetings. These visits will be used for training by partners. While in the field these persons play important bridging roles between LANDac, Dutch partners and the situation in the field.

### **Building a network of research localities**

Rather than continuing case-study research on an ad hoc basis, we aim to look at the transformations taking place on the longer term. Focusing on current patterns of large-scale land investments and thinking about the type of localities where land issues are centre stage, we propose to focus on locations where Dutch stakeholders are active in one of the following fields:

urban infrastructure, agri-business, drylands, and post-conflict areas. What these focus areas have in common, is that at current, they all attract public or private investments from Dutch (and other European) companies and organisations, and/or are foreign policy priority areas. Also, the focus areas may showcase distinct and successful projects that offer opportunities for upscaling.

By hiring local area experts, and asking them to keep track of ongoing developments, we will be able to analyse trends and transformations taking place in these focus areas. It is in our common interest to have people based locally to better understand what happens locally. That is why, following the LANDac strategy day on 31 October 2018 and based on our experience and network, LANDac partners identified priority locations for each focus area and suggested individuals that could take up the role of area expert in this location. In 2019, LANDac will start monitoring specific localities systematically through the appointment of such area experts who can build a local network and support a long-term engagement in the area.

More concretely, based on an inventory of our current network, we propose to hire one or two persons per country to monitor the situation in a fixed set of localities. A first inventory is sketched in below table:

<i>Focus area</i>	<i>Urban infrastructure hubs attracting (climate change planning) investments: rapid development leading to displacement and resettlement</i>	<i>Agri-business hubs attracting commercial investments: impact on water, food and livelihood security (FPIC, inclusive business)</i>	<i>Drylands with little commercial investments but large climate change impacts: land and water scarcity, outmigration</i>	<i>Post-conflict areas dealing with the return of refugees and overlapping land claims</i>
<i>Mozambique</i>	<i>VNGi partner RHDHV partner UU-IDS partner</i>	<i>UU-SVF partner LANDdialogue</i>		<i>Partner</i>
<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>ITC partner UU-IDS partner</i>	<i>Agriterra partner UU partner</i>	<i>UU partner</i>	<i>Partner</i>
<i>Benin</i>	<i>VNGi partner RHDHV partner</i>	<i>Agriterra partner?</i>	<i>ASC partner?</i>	
<i>Uganda</i>		<i>Agriterra partner LANDdialogue UU-SVF partner</i>		<i>WUR partner?</i>

We will also take into consideration possible interventions at the regional scale, i.e., in the Sahel, Horn of Africa and MENA.

We propose to focus on four focus areas which are mutually complementary:

*Urban infrastructure hubs*

Cities in this profile are experiencing major investments in infrastructure, often related to climate change adaptation. For example, cities where port expansions are being planned with the involvement of Dutch actors. Dutch engineering firms are prominently exporting their expertise into delta cities' masterplans. These plans for urban development and renewal lead to issues of displacement, resettlement, compensation, and dealing with the 'informal'. Marginalised groups such as women, migrants and slum dwellers tend to become even more marginalised if urban development does not happen in an equitable and inclusive manner. Identified cities are Beira in Mozambique, Jakarta in Indonesia, Manila in the Philippines, Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, Port Harcourt in Nigeria, Cotonou in Benin, Ziguinchor in Senegal and Barranquilla in Colombia.

#### *Agri-business hubs*

Agri-business hubs are locations that see a large influx of commercial investments, sometimes with public co-funding: food, flowers, biofuel, timber and other commodities. Such hubs experience a strong commoditisation of land and water. LANDac wants to map the impact of investments on food, water and livelihood security, income generating capacity, youth employment and biodiversity loss, while working toward more inclusive business practices with all stakeholders involved – including women. Important here is to monitor and bundle experiences, for instance with FPIC and early engagement, and share good practices across regions and sectors. Identified agri-business hubs are in Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda.

#### *Drylands*

Drylands represent zones that attract less investments from the planning or business perspective, but which are in the picture because of the large (indirect) impacts of climate change, aggravating land and water scarcity – the latter being especially problematic for women and girls who spend hours every day fetching water. Issues in drylands are food security, outmigration in search of jobs, conflicts over natural resources and tensions between pastoralists and farmers. Investments do take place here: drought and desertification trigger public and private investments in landscape restoration projects with the aim to reverse land degradation. A huge international effort is the Great Green Wall: an 8000km long investment in land restoration across Africa, supported by UNCCD. Locations for this hub are the Sahel and northern parts of Ghana, Benin and Nigeria.

#### *Post-conflict areas*

Post-conflict areas represent areas that experienced an exodus of people after a conflict took place, and that are now dealing with the return of refugees looking to resettle on their home grounds. This process generally is not flawless – a major issue here is overlapping land claims related to displacement and return. Other issues are related to youth inclusion, youth economic agency, and harnessing protection vis-à-vis investments. LANDac particularly identified a need to strengthen the capacity of local authorities in this type of setting. Also, regional migration is an issue if neighbouring countries received large numbers of refugees at the time of conflict, an example is Jordan. Identified countries are Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan and Colombia.

This approach will be the basis of LANDac's work and activities in 2019, and integrate LANDac's core topics: women's land rights, youth access to land and jobs, infrastructure, migration and

climate change; and core methods: learning, training and multi-stakeholder dialogue. The area experts become part of LANDac and participate in the Summer School, Conference and Board meetings. They become our focal points in the region and will have a leading role in the facilitation and organisation of on-site training and regional meetings. Pilots will start in four countries, for which LANDac will hire individuals liaised with our network partner organisations. The pilots can be scaled up, with continuous evaluation and learning, to other locations. Together with the area experts, LANDac will write a proposal to scale up the approach, one possibility is a proposal for LAND@scale. With this approach, LANDac will move towards a more locally active network of land governance advocates.

### **About LANDac**

LANDac, the Netherlands Land Academy, is a partnership between Dutch organisations and their Southern partners working on land governance for equitable and sustainable development. LANDac was formed in 2010 as one of the IS Academies, a series of five-year programs designed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen the role of knowledge and research in sustainable development, poverty alleviation and international cooperation. As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, LANDac entered its second phase (until 2021), where partners who share a concern for understanding and addressing new and existing types of land-related conflicts and increasing land inequality continue to work together to promote equitable and sustainable development in the Global South through robust and inclusive land governance.

For more information, visit [www.landgovernance.org](http://www.landgovernance.org) or contact [landac.geo@uu.nl](mailto:landac.geo@uu.nl).

