

30 June – 2 July

OVERVIEW SESSIONS

Land, Crisis and Resilience

Taking place online



*Registration for the 2021 Conference is now open! **You can register here.***

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SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

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

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

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

I. REVISITING LAND RIGHTS REGISTRATION

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

Organiser(s): The Land Portal Foundation.

Contact details: Laura Meggiolaro (laura.meggiolaro@landportal.info).

Session format: Roundtable.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

The COVID-19 pandemic substantially exacerbated numerous land governance challenges, including addressing failures in land governance systems, a lack of transparency, systemic corruption, and lack of accessibility to data. It also is undermining decades of development progress on global food security and has driven hundreds of millions of people into poverty, while governments take license to develop indigenous and community lands and thus fuel the climate crisis.

Good land governance is said to be efficient, effective and transparent, while ensuring participatory processes and outcomes that are equitable and secure, but data and its governance are key to assessing and monitoring if this is indeed the case. In order to stem the impact of COVID-19 and these intertwined crises on land governance, land-related data and information can provide the support needed to monitor key indices, especially those related to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as women's ownership of land or perceptions of tenure security, among others. However, land ownership data is consistently ranked lowest on both the Global Open Data Index and the Open Data Barometer and each year this data is highlighted as the least likely to be open.

In this context, the Land Portal Foundation and the Open data Charter have joined efforts to create an Open Up Guide on Land Governance that outlines key land governance data types, how they should be collected, stored, published for improving land governance and transparency.

This session will showcase evidence of how open land governance systems can be used as a tool to untangle and ameliorate the damage caused by the lack of transparency and corruption fuelled by the COVID-19 crisis, and demonstrate how open land governance systems can serve as a tool to fight poverty and ultimately increase food security.

2. Critical Insights on the Land Governance Orthodoxy

Organiser(s): Kelly Askew, Howard Stein and Laura German.

Contact details: Laura German (lgerman@uga.edu).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions. There is space for 1 or 2 additional abstracts.

Session description:

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

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

Organiser(s): Mathijs van Leeuwen (CICAM, Radboud University), Gemma van der Haar (SDC, Wageningen University).

Contact details: Mathijs van Leeuwen (m.vanleeuwen@fm.ru.nl) and Gemma van der Haar (gemma.vanderhaar@wur.nl).

Session format: Panel.

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

For the session, we invite contributors to reflect on questions such as:

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

II. RESPONSIBLE LAND-BASED INVESTMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

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

Organiser(s): James Wangu (Utrecht University), Teddy Kisémbó (Urban Action Lab), Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University), Romy Santpoort (LANDac).

Contact details: James Wangu (j.wangu@uu.nl) and Teddy Kisémbó (kteddy58@gmail.com).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

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

Organiser(s): Oxfam.

Contact details: Barbara Codispoti (Barbara.Codispoti@oxfamnovib.nl) and Chloe Christman Cole (chloe.christman@oxfam.org).

Session format: Roundtable.

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions. However, we remain open to other experiences that might strengthen the session.

Session description:

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

The report is called "Shining a Spotlight: A critical assessment of food and beverage companies' delivery of sustainability commitments". It is underpinned by an external evaluation on The Coca-Cola Companies', PepsiCo's, Nestle's, Unilever's, and Associated British Foods' subsidiary Illovo Sugar Africa's efforts.

The report and external evaluation find that while companies have taken action at the global level, progress stalls in translating those approaches to countries and through supply chains. There are positive examples and innovations happening in key sourcing countries. But key blockages must be addressed – including by providing the right incentives, disclosing suppliers and supporting suppliers to take up the agenda – to create change at scale.

This session brings together a partner, Oxfam, and a Behind the Brands company to discuss progress to date, how to accelerate progress moving forward, and why private sector engagement on land rights matters for addressing the intertwining crises.

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

Organiser(s): Meridia.

Contact details: Simon Ulvund (simon@meridia.land) and Ana Garcia-Moran (ana.garciamoran@meridia.land).

Session format: Panel.

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

But, how could a business case look like for corporate investing in land tenure and supporting governments more actively? How to match corporate sustainability agendas with the land security topic? How to innovative land administration public-private partnerships beyond the traditional models? How to leverage funding and value amongst farmers, governments, companies, and even donors? In this session, we discuss how industry-led land tenure security efforts could enable an environment for more sustainable and resilient value chains, which are already threatened by the vulnerability of farmers that has been double exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.

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

Organiser(s): Gwen van Boven (Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment), Leyla Özey (Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment) and Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University).

Contact details: Gwen van Boven (gboven@eia.nl).

Session format: Panel.

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment is increasingly used to include environmental and social considerations in formal decision making at strategic planning level. It frequently deals with land issues. We see that SEA for land and landscape governance allows for coalitions to form and formalise, between government authorities, business and civil society actors, across legal/administrative boundaries and through an integrated, cross-sectoral approach. If well applied, SEA creates more equality in decision-making by making the planning and assessment process more transparent. Also, SEA creates linkages between that transparent and inclusive process and formal decision making and strengthens ownership – two important factors in support of enforcement of choices made.

In this session, UU and the NCEA aim to explore the relation between SEA and land governance. When governments start out using SEA, it often gets applied to national plans or sectoral policies. SEA for regional planning, land use planning, delta or river basin management seems to be gaining momentum. Could it be even more widely applied?

III. URBAN LAND GOVERNANCE

1. Sustainable Corridors? Urban land and mobility infrastructure development in an era of climate change

Organiser(s): Kei Otsuki, Abigail Friendly, Martijn Oosterbaan (Utrecht University).

Contact details: Kei Otsuki (K.Otsuki@uu.nl).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions. There is space for 1-2 additional paper presentations.

Session description:

In recent years, urgent concerns for climate change have been leading to new infrastructure development. In rapidly growing cities globally, new “corridor” development has increasingly become popular as a way to reduce traffic congestions and thereby carbon emissions and to establish transit-oriented and compact city development. The examples include bus rapid transit systems (BRT), highways and railways that promote stronger public transport networks to reduce car use, or new types of logistical corridors that promote new development pathways with low carbon footprints.

While such infrastructural development addresses sustainability and affordability of urban infrastructure, what is often overlooked is that infrastructure significantly affects the ways that urban land is used, accessed and governed. A large-scale corridor extension in densely populated areas of growing cities in the global south inevitably causes forced eviction and displacement of very often poor communities and their livelihoods. Or even rumours of the coming of such infrastructure can raise land prices and affect the existing social and economic fabric of the city. Corridor development, as justified by climate change concerns, thus generates significant implications for spatial justice and urban geopolitics, social inclusion and exclusion.

This session aims to generate discussions on different experiences of corridor development in cities. It in particular welcomes papers based on empirical research, but theoretical and methodological papers are also welcomed. The organizers envision to propose a special issue on “sustainable corridors?” as an outcome of this panel.

2. The Urgent Need for Urban Greenspaces (UGS) in a World with COVID-19 and How to Best Accommodate It

Organiser(s): Shaswati Chowdhury and Jenny Norrman (Chalmers University of Technology).

Contact details: Shaswati Chowdhury (shaswati@chalmers.se).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

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

IV. LAND RIGHTS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

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

Organiser(s): Uacitissa Mandamule (Aix-Marseille Université/OMR), Jerry Maquenzi and João Carrilho (OMR), and Prof. dr Marja Spierenburg (Leiden University).

Contact details: Uacitissa Mandamule (uacymanda@gmail.com) and Prof dr Marja Spierenburg, (m.j.spierenburg@fsw.leidenuniv.nl).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

Along with these climate events, the country has also been facing military attacks in the central and northern regions, also resulting in forced displacements and land tenure insecurity.

In addition to the necessary humanitarian aid to the victims of these two crises, mobilizing public and private actors, local civil society, States and international organizations, another challenge for this country, with weak land governance is linked, in particular, to the resettlement of people forced to leave their homes and farms, to move to safer places.

This session is motivated by the cases of Idai and Kenneth cyclones that hit the country in 2019, and the political and military instability in north-eastern Cabo Delgado province, in Mozambique.

Presentations of case studies followed by question and answer debate will be held. The presentations should focus on expectations, fears and challenges of the displaced and host communities, with regard to their rights on land and natural resources, the socio-economic destabilization of displaced communities, and impacts on agriculture production and productivity. Presentations should also look at communities coping strategies to deal with climate crises and political instability.

2. The Politics of Crisis Framing

Organiser(s): Dr Caitlin Ryan (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen).

Contact details: Caitlin Ryan (c.m.ryan@rug.nl).

Session format: Roundtable.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

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

Organiser(s): David Betge (ZOA), Tony Piaskowy (Cadasta Foundation) and Mathijs van Leeuwen (Radboud University).

Contact details: David Betge (d.betge@zoa.ngo).

Session format: Panel with strong Q&A component.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

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

It also underlined once more the need for true 'localization': making interveners even more aware of the strength and resilience of local populations and organizations in dealing with adversary.

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

An academic discussant will bring an analytical perspective to the insights from practice that can help to draw broader lessons from these experiences.

Together with the audience, who will be able to share from their own contexts, we will explore key lessons from working in crisis mode for interventions in land governance:

- How does land governance in fragile settings need to be set up and organized to be resilient?
- How do actors in this field organize themselves to stay effective in crisis?
- What structures do already exist to support this?
- And what do we need to set up to be ready for whatever lies ahead?
- And what are the wider lessons to make land-related interventions crisis-prone?

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

Organiser(s): Habitat for Humanity Nederland.

Contact details: Yulan Duit (y.duit@habitat.nl).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

The world has changed in the year and a half since Habitat for Humanity closed Solid Ground, a 4-year global advocacy campaign to increase access to land for shelter. The significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout are still unfolding. Many low-income and vulnerable families already suffering from housing poverty saw their vulnerabilities substantially worsened in the face of this global crisis.

Where security of tenure exists, families are more likely to invest in their homes, neighbourhoods and futures. Further, housing is central to achieving socially just, economically viable and ecologically healthy and sustainable communities.

Habitat for Humanity's Solid Ground campaign helped to change policies and systems to improve access to land for shelter for over 12 million people. This session will share the lessons learned from Solid Ground and dive into the details of the transformative impact of land and housing against the background of shocks and stressors, using a case in point from Habitat for Humanity Nepal. During the session the participants start a dialogue sharing their expertise. If technology and format allow there will be space for Q&A.

In Nepal, marginalized groups have long endured severe discrimination, most apparent in property distribution, leading to approximately 1.6M Nepalese families living on land without formal title, inhabiting unsafe, poorly built homes without access to basic services. Nepal's 2015 constitution mandates the government provide land and adequate housing and encourages land registration for women. However, implementation remains low due to deep-rooted perceptions, traditions and cultural practices dictate how land is accessed, used and transferred in many communities such as Haliyas, formerly bonded agricultural laborers freed in 2008 and promised land and housing by the federal government.

Habitat for Humanity Nepal has been working to increase access to land for housing for Haliyas by implementing the federal government's land and housing program and promoting joint land titling, recognizing both wives and husbands as landowners.

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

Organiser(s): International Land Coalition (ILC) and Oxfam.

Contact details: Barbara Codispoti (Barbara.Codispoti@oxfamnovib.nl) and Ward Anseeuw (w.ansseeuw@landcoalition.org).

Session format: Mix between panel and roundtable.

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions. However, we remain open to other experience that might strengthen the session.

Session description:

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

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

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

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

V. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND RESPONSES FROM BELOW

1. Ground Up Land Governance Experiences

Organiser(s): Marc Wegerif (University of Pretoria), Paul Hebinck (Wageningen University/Rhodes University), Eileen Wakesho Mwagae (Namati) and Nxumalo, Buhlebenkosi (International Land Coalition).

Contact details: Marc Wegerif (marc.wegerif@up.ac.za), Paul Hebinck (Paul.hebinck@wur.nl), Eileen Wakesho Mwagae (eileenmwagae@gmail.com) and Nxumalo Buhlebenkosi (b.nxumalo@landcoalition.org).

Session format: Roundtable.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions. Note: that no complex abstract is needed, just an email explaining the work the speaker does and where and what they would like to share.

Session description:

This session will be a space for land activists to share how they are organizing grassroots land and land governance reforms to build resilience in the face of crises.

These initiatives are many, from women organizing to defend their land rights in the face of gender discrimination, to land occupations led by landless and homeless people to meet their needs, and community initiatives to improve communal land governance.

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

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

We are lining up people with interesting experiences to share and welcome other suggestions and volunteers willing to share from their work, actions and practices in relation to people created land governance, and resilience in the face of crises. No academic paper is required. People willing to present can email us with some basic information on what they do and what they would like to share in this panel.

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

Organiser(s): Swaleh Kitasi (ActionAid Kenya), Abul Azad (ActionAid Bangladesh), Sophie Kwizera and Danny Wijnhoud (ActionAid Netherlands)

Contact details: Danny Wijnhoud (danny.wijnhoud@actionaid.org)

Session format: Mini-workshop, followed by some “voices” (statements & propositions), mainly from the global south and an interactive debate with different stakeholders from Kenya, Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact details: Annie McKee (annie.mckee@hutton.ac.uk).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

Early reports indicate that community landowners have played a key role in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, both in the initial adaptation to lockdown restrictions (e.g. providing services and supplies to community members, and supporting those most vulnerable) and in responding to longer-term concerns, for example regarding pressure on key economic sectors such as tourism, as well as community members' mental health (Ross, 2021). Research in Scotland's rural communities indicates the importance of local governance and autonomy in recovering from the pandemic (Currie et al., 2021), and beyond there is evidence of the role of Scottish community landowners in seeking to mitigate and adapt to the anticipated climate crisis.

This session seeks to explore examples of international community land ownership and to collate the experiences of community land governance during the pandemic. It aims to respond to the following questions: (i) How does community land and asset ownership support adaptation to crises, such as public health emergencies and the climate emergency? (ii) What are the factors of resilience that community landownership facilitates, and how could that be further promoted (i.e. in different land tenure regimes)? (iii) What options are there for policies to support greater community land governance in different international contexts, and what barriers remain?

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Mc Morran, R., Lawrence, A., Glass, J., Hollingdale, J., McKee, A., Campbell, D., and Combe, M.M. (2018). *Review of the effectiveness of current community ownership mechanisms and of options for supporting*

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Scottish Government (2019). *Community ownership in Scotland 2019*. Available online: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-ownership-scotland-2019/pages/4/> [Accessed: 21.3.21; Last updated: 9.9.20].

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

Organiser(s): Tropenbos International.

Contact details: Maartje de Graaf (maartje.degraaf@tropenbos.org).

Session format: Panel.

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

Tropenbos International and partners have analysed community forestry models in ten countries, looking at the outcomes and the conditions and barriers. In all countries, the internal governance within communities came up as a challenge; decision-making processes within IPLCs are not always inclusive and (financial) benefits of collectively managed forests may end up in the hand of local elites. Therefore, CSOs often work to support communities in strengthening their internal governance processes, but this brings many questions, such as: What is equitable benefit sharing, and who decides this? How do so-called 'good governance principles' relate to the traditional governance structures in these communities? And what is the role of CSOs in strengthening community governance?

In this session we will explore these questions together with the partners who conducted the reviews of community forestry and with researchers on community governance and benefit sharing.

VI. JUST TRANSITIONS

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

Organiser(s): Salvatore Eugenio Pappalardo (ICEA Department, University of Padua, Italy), Lorenzo Pellegrini (International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Massimo De Marchi (ICEA Department, University of Padua, Italy).

Contact details: Salvatore Pappalardo (salvatore.pappalardo@unipd.it).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

In the midst of the global climate crisis, the “carbon-based economic model” remains the current paradigm for global economic and energy development. In contrast, to limit global warming at 1.5°C within 2035, the IPCC re-assessed the baseline scenario for the international climate policy agenda (2019). To pursue this target, global emissions should be drastically reduced to 840, 580, and 420 Gt CO₂ to have respectively 33%, 50% and 67% of probability of maintain global warming below the 1.5°C limit. These targets have obvious implications for the consumption and for the production of fossil fuels.

While much of the attention and climate negotiations has been on the demand of fossil fuels, the supply side and the associated land governance issues are experiencing a surge of interest (Pellegrini et al. 2020). In particular, interventions to limit the supply of fossil fuels have spatially explicit implications and intersect with land rights. On the other hand, recent estimations suggest about the 66% of oil, 43% of natural gas and 82% of coal should remain “locked underground” (Pye et al. 2020; Friedlingstein et al. 2020). In this framework, an interdisciplinary research was inspired by the “Yasuní-ITT Initiative” (Ecuador, 2007), the first political experiment worldwide about leaving fossil fuels underground in a crucial sector of Amazon Rainforest (Yasuní Biosphere Reserve), by combining nature conservation priorities with human rights protection. This inclusive approach is stimulating the international scientific debate about geographical criteria and institutional mechanisms to define Unburnable Carbon for climate justice and energy transition policies, in very high biologically and culturally diverse areas of the world. Geographical Information Science, which combines qualitative with quantitative methodologies, represents a cross-cutting approach to geovisualize and analyse overlaps between energy production and bio-cultural values. We will discuss the spatial criteria for supply-side climate policies, climate justice paths and the way they intersect land governance.

This session aims to i) explore the concept of “unburnable carbon” and the sociocultural, environmental and political dilemmas tied to its implementation; ii) collect cross-cutting methodologies, case studies and reflections to leave fossil fuel underground, towards for climate justice and energy transition policies.

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

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

Contact details: Janine Ubink (j.m.ubink@law.leidenuniv.nl), Bernardo Almeida (b.ribeiro.de.almeida@law.leidenuniv.nl) and Connor Clerke (connor.clerke@riftvalley.net).

Session format: Panel.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

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

This panel aims to share initial findings of the research and explore the existing knowledge on land-related issues and land justice initiatives in the target and similar countries, as well as identify possible pathways for the next steps of the research. Therefore, we invite researchers and practitioners interested in this subject to submit their abstracts to this panel.

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

Organiser(s): Romy Santpoort and Guus van Westen (LANDac/Utrecht University), Janwillem Liebrand (Utrecht University).

Contact details: Romy Santpoort (r.m.santpoort@uu.nl).

Session format: Innovative session: fishbowl discussion (see [this link](#)). Four 'panellists' start the discussion with a short presentation or statement. Afterwards, anyone from the audience can 'enter' the fishbowl (and the discussion) by turning their video on. Panellists can also leave the discussion, and make space for others, by turning their video off.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

Through a 'fishbowl' discussion, this session will facilitate a discussion among researchers, practitioners and policymakers on the necessary steps towards more sustainable and equitable food systems in the Global South, with a focus on land-related interventions. We invite four panellists to share their work and lessons learnt on ways towards fair and sustainable food systems in the global South, highlighting the role of land-based investment flows, business models, the underestimated role of small-scale farmers, and the language used to frame food and land issues. Next, we invite anyone from the audience to take part in the discussion. Ultimately, the aim of the session is to contribute to the deliberations of the UN FSS: what may not be overlooked when working towards just and sustainable food systems?

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

Organiser(s): Buhle Nxumalo and Rukshana Nanayakkara (International Land Coalition).

Contact details: Buhle Nxumalo (b.nxumalo@landcoalition.org) and Rukshana Nanayakkara (r.nanayakkara@landcoalition.org).

Session format: Roundtable.

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions. There is room for two additional speakers. Other speakers will be invited by the ILC.

Session description:

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

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

To this end, this session seeks to present these approaches and track changes in land policies and practices in response to the Covid-19 crisis, showing how these approaches are essential elements of building back better.

OTHER

1. PhD Session

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

Contact details: Dominique Schmid (d.v.schmid@uu.nl)

This session is OPEN for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

2. Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival

Organiser(s): Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP).

Contact details: a.denayer@vsf-belgium.org.

Session format: Film festival, screening of films with speakers.

This session is CLOSED for abstract submissions.

Session description:

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

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

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

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