



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAND GOVERNANCE FOR EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
**- JOINING FORCES -**

When: 8-10 July 2015

Where: Utrecht, the Netherlands

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**

This conference is organized by the Netherlands Academy on Land Governance (LANDac) and its partners and aims to present state-of-the-art knowledge on how land governance may contribute to equitable and sustainable development, as well as setting the agenda for future research and fostering collaborations for new research, policy and practice.

Context

Since the start of the land grab debate in 2008 our knowledge has advanced greatly: we now know much more about the diversity of drivers, actors and alliances involved, and the scope and impacts of the developments. We also know that there are strong historical roots to these developments; many problems are the outcomes of policies in the past. At the same time, land has now become embedded in a diversity of related discussions about sustainable development, food security, rural development and agriculture, investments, housing, urbanization, biofuels, climate change, gender, and many more. But new questions have also emerged, e.g. what stakeholder interaction takes place and how does that impact on land governance; what are effective policies, at which level; how can land tools and data be used effectively and equitably; how can investments be made more beneficial for all by means of benefit sharing mechanisms; how to effectively implement principles and guidelines for strengthening land governance. This conference seeks to bridge gaps between disciplines, sectors, theory and practice, investment advocates and critics, recipient and investing country debates; and is aimed at making an effort to move the frontiers of the land debate in the direction of equitable and sustainable development.

LANDac

This conference is organized by the LANDac ([www.landgovernance.org](http://www.landgovernance.org)), a network of Dutch organizations interested in how land governance can contribute to equitable and sustainable development. The network exists since 2010 and is involved in both long-term and short-term research on the multiple dimensions of land governance. Its partners share a specific interest in linking up the fields of research, policy and practice, in making a difference on the ground.

The LANDac Conference 'Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development' 2015 will bring together researchers, policy makers, practitioners, private sector representatives and other interested stakeholders to share state-of-the-art knowledge and to set the agenda for future research, policy and practice. This LANDac Conference explicitly allows for flexible approaches and innovative set-up of sessions to actively stimulate exchange between the academic world and policy makers and practitioners (examples: through the use of art, media, games or Pecha Kucha-style presentations). Parallel sessions allow for in-depth discussions among thematic experts, round tables will offer the room and opportunity to highlight outcomes from different sessions and allow for synergy and comparison.

***We are inviting abstract submissions for papers, posters and other forms of contributions on the topics outlined in this call. You are kindly invited to submit your abstract of no more than 300 words to [landac.geo@uu.nl](mailto:landac.geo@uu.nl) by 1 February 2015 mentioning 'LANDac conference 2015' in the subject line. Abstracts should be written in English. The organizing committee will decide on the selection of abstracts. Following this process, selected authors are invited to submit their full papers or other contributions by 1 June 2015. In case of any questions, please contact the conference organizers through: [g.betsema@uu.nl](mailto:g.betsema@uu.nl).***

Panels will be organized around the following issues:

- Innovative land tools (Jaap Zevenbergen)
- How to promote policy debates in recipient countries? (Jur Schuurman)
- Urban(izing) land grabs (Femke van Noorloos)
- Local governments (Gemma van der Haar, Gerard Baltissen)
- Conflict related displacement (Gemma van der Haar)
- Alternative agricultural business models (George Schoneveld)
- Land grabbing for nature conservation (Marja Spierenburg)
- Agency, brokerage and mediation (Gerben Nooteboom)
- 'Zones of intermediality' (Sandra Evers, Froukje Krijtenburg)
- Understanding the role of finance (Oane Visser)
- Land governance and food security (Gemma Betsema)
- Responsible business (Guus van Westen)
- The role of big data and media (Annelies Zoomers)
- The Jatropha hype (Aklilu Amsalu, Annelies Zoomers)
- Oil palm and land governance (Paul Burgers, Pita Verweij)
- Land rush simulation game (An Ansoms)
- Mining (Chris Huggins)
- Climate change (Sebastiaan Soeters)
- Gender and land (Caroline Archambault)

Other themes on which abstracts and other contributions are invited include: tourism, water grabbing, frontier expansion, infrastructure development, guidelines and principles, certification, Free Prior and Informed Consent, special economic zones, etc. etc.

#### **Further information**

There is no registration fee. We do ask a contribution of € 40 for lunches and the conference dinner on 9 July. LANDac has limited funds available to cover for travel and accommodation. In case you wish to apply for this possibility, please attach a short written explanation of why you need assistance in covering your costs and why it is essential that you attend the conference.

Authors who submit an abstract are not automatically registered for the LANDac Conference. Please register for the conference separately by sending an email to [landac.geo@uu.nl](mailto:landac.geo@uu.nl) mentioning 'LANDac conference 2015' in the subject line. All submitting authors/ presenters of other contributions should be available to present at the conference in person or by a co-author (8-10 July 2015, Utrecht, the Netherlands).

#### LANDac course 'Land Governance for Development'

Participants of the Conference can also register for the annual LANDac summer school 'Land Governance for Development' that will take place from 6 – 17 July in Utrecht. Participants of the LANDac summer school will attend this conference as part of their course. The two-week LANDac summer school provides a multidisciplinary analysis of the various dimensions of land governance in Africa, Asia, Latin America and beyond. Participants acquire up-to-date knowledge on new land pressures and learn how to place these in broader theoretical contexts and policy debates. Participants also learn about best practices in land governance from different perspectives and initiatives at local, national and international levels. Topics are discussed in interactive mini-courses, lectures, and solution-oriented workshops. The discount price for the 2-week course is ~~€ 895~~ € 695 (course + course materials + conference participation + housing) / ~~€ 560~~ € 360 (course + course materials + conference participation). More information about the course is available at:

<http://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl/courses/social-sciences/land-governance-for-development>

#### Organizing committee LANDac conference

*Gerard Baltissen (Royal Tropical Institute), Gemma Betsema (Utrecht University), Gemma van der Haar (Wageningen University), Chris Huggins (African Centre for Technology Studies), Mayke Kaag (African Studies Centre), Froukje Krijtenburg (VU University), Femke van Noorloos (Utrecht University), Gerben Nooteboom (University of Amsterdam), George Schoneveld (CIFOR), Guus van Westen (Utrecht University), Jur Schuurman (Agriterria), Marja Spierenburg (VU University/ CERES), Oane Visser (Institute for Social Studies), Jaap Zevenbergen (University of Twente), and Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University).*