

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: LANDac Annual International Conference 2017**

### **Leave No One Behind: Setting the Land Agenda to 2030**

*29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017*

*Muntgebouw, Utrecht, the Netherlands*



*Photo credit: Roberto Rocco, TU Delft*

**Deadline:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

**Guidelines:** Abstracts of a maximum of 300 words must be submitted in English, via email to [landacconference2017@gmail.com](mailto:landacconference2017@gmail.com). To submit a panel proposal, please send a panel outline (following the abstract guidelines) plus the names of at least 4 panellists and the working titles of their contributions. An impartial selection committee will review submissions. Successful applicants will be notified by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

LANDac welcomes innovative and original ideas. So, if you have other suggestions for materials to present or exhibit at the conference – such as short films, interactive websites, photos, posters – please contact the organisers at the above address.

***Submissions which do not follow these guidelines will not be considered.***

#### **Conference summary**

LANDac's Annual International Conference 2017 will *look back* over the decade since the land grab "hype" began, analysing the processes of transformations that have taken place in those locations where investments have been made and revisiting our understanding of the implications of these investment flows for food security, rural livelihoods and local development. We will also *look forward* in assessing new challenges in the field, such as land governance in the context of climate change and increasing urbanisation, and land in relation to the SDGs, using existing knowledge to set the land agenda to 2030 and ensure no one is left behind.

This conference follows on from the LANDac Annual International Conference 2016, which connected rural land debates to the urban agenda. The 2017 conference takes the all-encompassing SDGs as a starting point to explore how land governance can contribute to meeting these targets, and ultimately help to *end poverty in all its forms everywhere* (Goal 1). Providing people with secure and equal access to land is fundamental in realising this objective, and is particularly relevant in the Goals that will be further explored in this conference.

#### **Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

A major driver of the global land rush thus far has been the food security concerns of urban areas and food insecure nations. Conversely, many of the countries subject to large-scale land investments also face domestic food shortages and extreme hunger. This is no longer a predominantly rural concern, but rather a national dilemma. Increasing urban expansion is giving rise to new forms of urban agriculture – but concurrently, cities are expanding into traditionally agricultural land. What are the consequences of this expansion for local food security? How can agriculture meet the growing demand for food in cities in sustainable and innovative ways?

### **Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

Infrastructure development is crucial for combating poverty, climate change and social injustice. A lack of adequate services has a strong impact on a country's economy, living standards and the overall wellbeing of the population. However, infrastructure – particularly mega-infrastructure such as dams, energy plots, canals – requires vast swathes of land which may have served other important purposes previously. How can we ensure that infrastructure development is inclusive even in the planning and feasibility stages? And what constitutes adequate compensation for those who are displaced by mega-projects when there is no alternative?

### **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

An ever-increasing urban population requires a renewed commitment to sustainable urbanisation in the form of Habitat III's New Urban Agenda. Rapid population growth, land scarcity and financial speculation have resulted in an unprecedented surge of investments related to land in and around urban centres, yet this aspect of the global land rush has thus far received scant attention. Who are the new investors, how do they influence land values in cities in the global South and what are their consequences for urban land governance? As well as fostering inclusive growth within existing urban areas, it is important to support positive economic, social, and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas. What new opportunities – and vulnerabilities – do emerging urban areas produce?

### **Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

The link between climate change adaptation and sustainable development is self-evident. Yet adaptation and mitigation measures are rarely the technical, apolitical processes as which they are framed; rather, they can create (or exacerbate) competing claims and influence access to land and other natural resources. Mitigation strategies such as biofuels and REDD frequently result in the appropriation of resources for export and carbon capture. How can we make communities more resilient to climate change without infringing local land rights?

### **Goal 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

Land and the ecosystems and biodiversity to which it is home are valuable tools for poverty alleviation but they cannot play a role if they are degraded or unsustainably used. Protection areas, where access to a certain location is restricted based on its natural or ecological value, have arisen as a result of this. However, such methods of nature conservation can also be seen as "green grabbing", where existing users are alienated from land or resources on environmental grounds. How can land be governed in both a socially and environmentally sustainable way? Do we really need to "sell nature in order to save it"?

In short, topics highlighted during the conference will include:

- Food security
- Infrastructure development
- Displacement, migration and mobility
- Compensation and resettlement
- Cities and urban expansion
- Inclusive development
- Conflict and competing claims
- Natural resources and environmental protection
- Gender and generation
- Land administration and technologies
- Climate change and resilience

Abstracts on related topics are also welcomed.

To submit your abstract, or for any questions related to the conference, email [landaconference2017@gmail.com](mailto:landaconference2017@gmail.com).

The conference will be followed by the **Annual Summer School "Land Governance for Development"** from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Utrecht University. For more information on the curriculum and how to enrol, visit <https://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl/courses/social-sciences/land-governance-for-development>.

*LANDac is a partnership between Dutch organisations initiated in 2010 in response to shared concern for increasing land inequality and new land-related conflicts in the wake of the global land rush. The network comprises researchers, policymakers, development practitioners and private sector representatives in the field of land governance; together, we strengthen linkages between actors, conduct research on new pressures, competing claims and best practice, and disseminate knowledge to promote responsible, equitable and sustainable development in the Global South. For more information, visit [www.landgovernance.org](http://www.landgovernance.org).*

