

Migration, Youth, and Land in West Africa:

Making the connections work for inclusive development

Call for ongoing initiatives

LANDac, the Netherlands land academy for sustainable and equitable development, has initiated a pilot project to get a better understanding of the multiple linkages between land investments, migration and youth in West Africa. LANDac has a long history on studying and positively strengthening the local impact of land based investments (see www.landgovernance.org). There is however little empirical knowledge on how land based investments are intertwined with migration and on the ways in which mobilities generate land claims in a West African context.

- What is the effect of land-related investments on migration?
- How do migration and migrants co-shape land investments, land market dynamics, and land governance in West Africa?
- How do the observed migration-land dynamics contribute to processes of inclusion/exclusion and notably the opportunities and constraints experienced by youth, productive economic development/stagnation, and sustainable/ unsustainable land use?
- What are the policy implications of these multi-directional dynamics?

In the framework of the 2018 international conference, focusing on the land-mobilities nexus, LANDac partners will have a closer look at the various ways in which migration and land dynamics are intertwined, evaluate in how far they contribute to/obstruct (local) inclusive and sustainable development, and reflect on possible ways for making the connection between migration and land more fruitful and productive for as many people as possible, and this in the long run – with a specific concern for the opportunities and constraints facing different categories of West-African youth. The pilot program particularly aims to raise more attention for migration dynamics in land governance debates and to explore opportunities for collaboration with organizations and researchers working on the ground.

If you are interested in teaming-up to this pilot project, please send us a **short description** (maximum 1 page) of the project you are working on, the place and organization you work for and the way your work can contribute to the above described agenda and objectives to g.steel@uu.nl **before 31 April 2018**. On the basis of your submissions the initiative will discuss possibilities to teaming-up:

- at the annual LANDac conference on 28 and 29 June 2018 where we will have a panel discussion on Migration, Youth, and Land in West Africa <http://www.landgovernance.org/annual-international-conference/>
- for the organization of learning platforms on land, migration and youth in West Africa.
- the publication of a LANDac policy brief and other written outputs

Please take in mind that this is a first attempt to get a better idea of ongoing initiatives. At the moment, there are no specific funds available, but we are looking for possibilities to further work on this timely topic in debates on land governance.

For further information about the pilot project you can contact LANDac research coordinator, Dr. Griet Steel (g.steel@uu.nl).