



Seminar

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

**COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION IN MULTISTAKEHOLDER LANDSCAPES**

Kanunnikenzaal, Academiegebouw, Utrecht, the Netherlands

7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**SUMMARY**

Climate change is among the most prominent developmental issues today. It is widely agreed that the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will depend to a large extent on the success in which the negative impacts of climatic change and variation are dealt with. As a result, large amounts of capital are being made available to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of climate-vulnerable people, particularly in the global South, through projects designed to, for example, improve agricultural practices, enable the diversification of livelihoods and income streams, or preserve existing forests.

Whilst these projects may appear successful from an interventionist perspective, however, such interventions will be experienced differently by different groups: adaptation is rarely the technical, apolitical process which it is framed as being. Instead, interventions aimed at addressing the negative impacts of climate change can affect the distribution of access to and control over scarce natural resources. They can create new winners and losers, exacerbating and/or increasing the risks of conflict both between and within communities. Though it is by now clear that climate change itself contributes to conflict, little attention has thus far been given to the linkages between climate adaptation interventions and new dynamics of conflict – and/or cooperation.

At the same time, there is very little critical reflection on what we can really learn from local communities and their indigenous or local knowledge systems. Bottom-up, participatory, community-based approaches – where local actors participate in the selection of and decision-making about adaptation strategies to be pursued in their area – are commonly presented as a requirement for successful interventions. Yet despite the emphasis on community participation in adaptation, the ‘communities’ themselves are increasingly implied as abstracted, isolated, homogenous and static units, through which resilience is automatically strengthened. In reality, we know very well that communities are also sites of internal conflict and changing patterns of cooperation. They exist in complex, multi-stakeholder landscapes where competing claims to natural resources are intertwined in fragile and sometimes violent relations between different livelihoods, ethnicities, gender, generation and political affiliations, with, in many instances, very different definitions of sustainability.

This seminar questions prevailing definitions of “participation”, inclusion” and “the community”. Who participates in adaptation interventions, who is excluded, and how participatory are adaptation interventions which claim to be pro-poor? What roles do local communities play in global climate change adaptation? Are bottom-up approaches really community-centred, or even effective? How sure are we that measures being implemented to combat climate change are not causing harm? And to what extent can conflict within or between communities be exacerbated by adaptation interventions?

This seminar will contribute to discussions about the role of communities in adaptation, as well as the position of other stakeholders (such as private or state actors) who often compete with involved communities over access to scarce natural resources, in view of the question: how to make adaptation interventions more participatory, inclusive and conflict-sensitive?

This interactive seminar is a follow up from last year’s conference "[Climate Change Interventions as a Source of Conflict, Cooperation and New Mobilities](#)" and is the closing session of research project "[Towards more inclusive, cooperative and participative climate change interventions in Kenya, Ghana and Burkina Faso](#)", which aimed to better understand the links between community participation in development, local power relations; conflict and cooperation between and within communities, climate change interventions, and people's adaptive capacity.

## PROGRAMME

0830 – 0900	<b>Registration and arrival (coffee)</b>		
0900 – 0915	<b>WELCOME AND OPENING</b>  Annelies Zoomers, Utrecht University and LANDac Sebastiaan Soeters, Utrecht University		
0915 – 1015	<b>KEY NOTE</b>  <b>SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE</b> Arun Agrawal, University of Michigan  <b>DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
1015 – 1030	<b>Coffee</b>		
1030 – 1145	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b>  <b>KEY CONTRIBUTIONS – WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES FOR/OF COMMUNITY-BASED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION?</b> Chair: Annelies Zoomers  Sebastiaan Soeters, Utrecht University Cora van Oosten, Wageningen University Anne te Molder, CARE International Rene Verburg, Utrecht University		
1145 – 1200	<b>Coffee</b>		
1200 – 1300	<b>KANUNNIKENZAAL</b>  <b>ACTION AID: A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO RESILIENCE</b> Chair: Harjeet Singh, ActionAid	<b>STERRENKAMER</b>  <b>IT'S NOT A GAME: COMMUNITIES DEALING WITH CLIMATE RISKS AT DIFFERENT SCALES (CARE'S EXPERIENCE)</b> Chair: Anne te Molder, CARE International	
1300 – 1345	<b>Lunch</b>		
1345 – 1515	<b>KANUNNIKENZAAL</b>  <b>TOWARDS INCLUSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE INTERVENTIONS</b> Chair: Sebastiaan Soeters, Utrecht University  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards inclusive climate change interventions in African Drylands Sebastiaan Soeters, Utrecht University</li> <li>• Biodiversity and farmer-pastoralist</li> </ul>	<b>STERRENKAMER</b>  <b>SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION: AN OVERVIEW OF METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES AND ADVANCEMENTS</b> Chair: Diana Reckien, University of Twente  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation to heat waves and heavy rainstorms in New York City: A survey determines perceived adaptation need</li> </ul>	<b>BELLE VAN ZUYLENZAAL</b>  <b>CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAND GOVERNANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Chair: Mucahid Mustafa Bayrak, Utrecht University  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Global Land Rush revisited – Current and future challenges in complex climate &amp; land governance</li> </ul>

**ZAAL 024, UTRECHTS  
CENTRUM VOOR DE KUNSTEN**

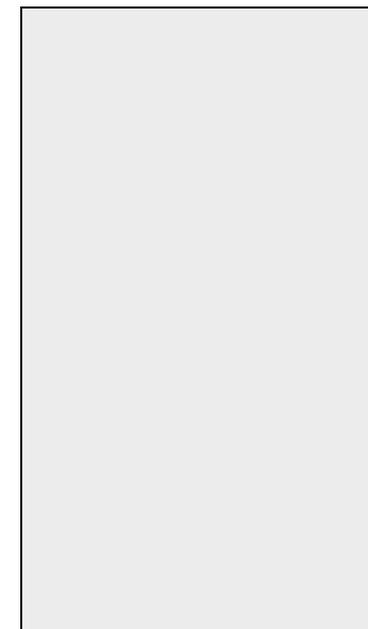
**SIDE EVENT: SERIOUS  
GAMING WORKSHOP\***

**GAMING DELTA ADAPTATION  
TO CLIMATE CHANGE: FUTURE  
SCENARIOS SERIOUS GAMING  
SESSION**

Chair: Joost Vervoort, Utrecht  
University

*\*Prior registration required*

	<p><b>conflict in Burkina Faso</b> Babou Bationo, INERA</p> <p>• <b>Dam rehabilitation (developing agriculture in pastoral landscapes) in Kenya</b> Patrick Twala &amp; Stanley Riamit Kimaren, ILEPA</p>	<p><b>and adaptation responsibility</b> Diana Reckien, University of Twente</p> <p>• <b>Integrating community-based knowledge and formal data-driven knowledge for decision-making in social-ecological systems</b> Sara Mehryar, and Diana Reckien, University of Twente</p> <p>• <b>Top down analysis for bottom up adaptation: filling knowledge gaps for data scarce environments of urban Sub-Saharan Africa</b> Eduardo Pérez-Molina, University of Twente</p> <p>• <b>A multi-level perspective on the role of social learning in climate change adaptation</b> Joanne Vinke-de Kruijf, University of Twente</p>	<p><b>discourse</b> Suzanne Verhoog, VU University Amsterdam</p> <p>• <b>Green River – local people in charge, from the very beginning</b> Frank Heckman, Embassy of the Earth</p> <p>• <b>Multidecadal pattern</b> Timmo Gaasbeek, ZOA</p> <p>• <b>Drought policies by formalization of land and water rights combinations to deal with the consequences of climate change in the rural areas in China</b> Meine Pieter van Dijk, Erasmus University Netherlands</p>
1515 – 1545	<b>Coffee</b>		
1545 – 1600	<p><b>BOOK LAUNCH:</b> <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: LAND USE UNDER CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS</b> Fennie van Straalen and Thomas Hartmann, Utrecht University</p>		
1600 – 1645	<p><b>KEY NOTE</b></p> <p><b>THE CHALLENGE OF LOCATING LAND-BASED CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION POLITICS WITHIN A SOCIAL JUSTIC PERSPECTIVE: TOWARDS A NOTION OF “AGRARIAN CLIMATE JUSTICE”</b> Jun Borras, International Institute of Social Sciences</p>		
1645 – 1800	<p><b>CLOSING PANEL</b></p> <p><b>THE CHALLENGES OF INTEGRATING CLIMATE RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND ACTION ACROSS DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE</b> Chairs: Sebastiaan Soeters, Utrecht University and Annelies Zoomers, Utrecht University and LANDac</p> <p>Joost Vervoort, Utrecht University Aarti Gupta, Wageningen University (tbc) Karsten Schulz, University of Trier Maarten van Aalst, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre</p>		
1800 – 1830	<b>Drinks</b>		
1830 – 2000	<b>Walking dinner</b>		



## ORGANISERS



**LANDac** – the Netherlands Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development – is a partnership between Dutch organizations and their Southern partners involved in development-related research, policy and practice. The partners share a concern for increasing land inequality and new land-related conflicts, and how land governance – rules and practices on access to land – can be used to promote equitable and sustainable development in the Global South.

LANDac aims to bring together researchers, policy makers and development practitioners in the field of land governance and development to conduct research, distribute information, and forge new partnerships. Study areas cover various aspects of land governance, including the impact of large-scale land deals in agriculture for food production and biofuels; processes of urbanization; the implications of tourism development on land use; and the role of land laws, reforms, regulations, and voluntary guidelines and principles in dealing with new pressures.

LANDac is hosted by the University of Utrecht and financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The other partners are: African Studies Centre Leiden, Agriterra, Faculty ITC University of Twente, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Land Portal, Oxfam Novib, Royal Haskoning DHV, VNG International, and Wageningen University and Research.



## Utrecht University

**Utrecht University** is an international research university of the highest quality. This has been demonstrated for many years by its high positions in international rankings such as the Shanghai Ranking which places Utrecht as 1st in the Netherlands, shared 22nd in Europe and 65th in the world. With almost 30,000 students, over 6,000 staff, and an annual budget of 790 million euros (2016), Utrecht University is one of the largest general research universities in Europe.

Utrecht University invests in educating the leaders of the future, offering high-quality, innovative education, with a high student pass rate. Utrecht University is a pioneer in innovative educational concepts, such as that of the University College. The Utrecht model of education stands for personal and interactive education, flexibility and freedom of choice for students, and permanent professional development for lecturers.

The University conducts fundamental and applied research in a wide range of disciplines. Multidisciplinary research in Utrecht focuses on four strategic themes: Dynamics of Youth, Institutions, Life Sciences and Sustainability.



**Towards more inclusive, cooperative and participative climate change interventions in Kenya, Ghana and Burkina Faso:** As a response to increasing climate variability, national governments, international organizations and NGOs are currently implementing new types of policies aimed at climate change adaptation and mitigation. Climate variability sometimes goes hand in hand with conflict situations (e.g. pastoralists versus farmers), but it can also be reason for solidarity and new types of collaboration. Little is known about the role of interventions in preventing these conflicts and/or offering new perspectives for collaboration, or making livelihood systems more resilient.

The aim of our project is enhance people's adaptive capacity to climate change, particularly focusing on small-scale farmers and pastoralists in the arid and semi-arid regions of Ghana, Burkina Faso and Kenya.

The project aims to arrive at a thorough contribution to understanding the links between community participation in development; local power relations; inter and intra community conflict / cooperation; climate change interventions, and people's adaptive capacity. We will conduct high-quality and participatory research and generate in-depth, long-term, comparative and interdisciplinary knowledge on climate change adaptation interventions from the local perspective.

This seminar is the closing knowledge sharing event for this research programme.