



LANDac

The Netherlands Land Academy

LANDac ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
4-5 July 2019

LAND GOVERNANCE IN TRANSITION

How to support transformations that work for people and nature?

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**Theme 1:
Inclusive Land Governance:
Gender and Migration**

PANEL

Mobility and Land Governance in Africa: Making the Connections Work for Inclusive Development

Gerard Baltissen (KIT Royal Tropical Institute), Mayke Kaag (Africa Studies Center), Anouk Lodder (VNG International) & Griet Steel (Utrecht University)

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This panel aims to shed light on the various relationships between migration and land, and to analyze in how far they may contribute to/obstruct (local) inclusive and sustainable development in Africa. Migration patterns cannot be understood without considering the geography of land investments, creating new opportunities for some, while causing displacement and forced evictions for others. In many parts of Africa, lack of land and appropriate inheritance systems have stimulated particularly youth to migrate in order to make a livelihood elsewhere, both in and outside agriculture. At the same time, migrants are often main investors in their home countries, they send huge amounts of remittances back home to invest in land and real estate, be it in cities or in rural areas. The economic value of this type of investments and its meaning in terms of productivity have been widely discussed, less attention has been paid however to the way it influences processes of socio-economic inclusion and exclusion. In this panel, we are particularly interested in exploring the transformational and longer term implications of the migration-land nexus in various African contexts. We therefore especially invite papers that deal with the following:

- Longer term processes of inclusion and exclusion in various contexts, specifically concerning access to land and to migration networks;
- The effects of mounting land pressure and urbanization on the nature of land conflicts, land tenure arrangements, and tenure security, and the role of migrants in these processes. The case studies seem to indicate a rural –urban continuum (see also Kaag et al 2011) in which customary arrangements offer security but also a less flexible power framework (gerontocracy), while urbanization leads to more opportunities for new economic elites including migrants, but also to increasing inequality between old and new elites and poorer segments of the population.
- Intra household dynamics, in particular how the specifics of the migration-land nexus over time shape opportunities for women in various settings;
- Local and translocal/transnational livelihood strategies and the role of land in this; for instance: Is land currently a productive asset in translocal/transnational livelihood strategies?

This session is a closed session

LEARNING WORKSHOP

Building Land Governance Towards Effective and Inclusive Transformation - from discourse to practice in Women's Land Rights

ILC Women's Platform: GROOTS Kenya; Espaço Feminista; Azul; Plurales; Luna Creciente and others to be defined

Names of regional representatives:

- *Africa: Fridah Githuku (Groots Kenya)*
- *LAC: Patricia Chaves (Espaço Feminista)*
- *EMENA: Amina Ahmared (Azul)*
- *Asia: Shilpa Vasavada (WGWLLO)*

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Description: Much has been said/discussed about the need to build an inclusive land governance that responds to different aspects, such as gender injustice and food and land tenure insecurity. However, what we see in practice is the persistence of a development model that increases pressures on land, creating conflicts and generating massive migration, due to profitable long-term investment and the consequences over the land and the territories, water and food production that affects the most vulnerable groups and stakeholders. Likewise, women's groups, academics and researchers have produced a vast literature that indicates the urgency to address the tremendous gender inequality in the access, use, control and ownership over land and the territories.

There is a wide recognition of the need to change land governance in order to bring a more just and equitable system, which implies understanding the factors, the power relations and struggles that women face on an everyday basis. To achieve sustainable development, there is an urgency to recognize and ensure women's right to land and natural resources as well as create an environment where the role of women as natural resource managers and protectors of biodiversity is recognized. This creates the necessary conditions that enable people to live with respect and harmony with each other and nature.

The Learning Workshop on Women's Land Rights will allow the audience to benefit from the expertise and practices of different women groups from around the globe who have acquired long-term experience in working with these issues. Women's representatives of these groups will bring their views and experiences, but above all the extensive knowledge they have built over decades of work, as well as the concepts and tools that they have developed based on their experiences. Each tool has been built, tested, adopted and adapted to each regional context. This workshop therefore offers a learning journey that goes from discourse to practice.

Moreover, we will present and discuss what is necessary in terms of creating an environment and a culture in which very diverse groups, living in completely diverse contexts and with different perspectives, can learn from each other and build a global women's network that is committed to transformation and innovation. By building on their relationships, this group of women's organizations can demonstrate their sustainability based on commitment and activism and bring a transformation in land governance that is people centred and respectful of nature, as basic and fundamental principles of gender justice and sustainability.

Reference to the conference theme: Land governance in the context of climate change and increasing, often conflicting pressures on land and natural resources, based on people centered land governance and sustainability.

Potential speakers

1. Fridah Githuku from Groots Kenya will speak on the importance of mainstreaming women's land rights as a pre-condition of support transformations that work for people and nature
2. Patricia Chaves from Espaço Feminista can facilitate the conversation between 4 women representing each region and bringing a different perspective on the main themes: i) inclusive land governance that works for women and nature; ii) bringing the indigenous women voices on effective practices developed to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change impacts; How women from the Middle-east are developing strategies to support the migrants from the conflicts and climate change refugees; iv) developing women's capacity to monitor the public policies implementation through the global agendas.
3. ILC representative will do the summary in learning and should also co-moderate.

This session does not invite abstract submissions, yet welcomes active participation.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Policy advocacy for women's land rights: strategies and experiences

Organizers: Karin van Boxtel (Both ENDS); Gemma Betsema (RVO, Land-at-scale), Ninja Lacey (MoFA, LANDdialogue); Cristina Timponi Cambiaghi (International Land Coalition); Rukia Cornelius (Oxfam); Imke Greven (Oxfam Novib); Sophie Kwizera (ActionAid); Fridah Githuku (GROOTS Kenya).

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Women from all over the world have shown their power in advocating for their rights to use and control land and in overcoming the barriers they face. Numerous initiatives¹ have shown how grassroots women's groups play a key role in strengthening women's land rights and in contribute to sustainable land use, enhanced food and nutrition security, responsible investments, economic prosperity, empowerment of women in the broader society as well as preventing and reducing conflict. Yet, we all see that women's land rights are under pressure when investments are coming in, or when large-scale land administration programs are rolled out: women tend to be left out of the discussions and consultations; their rights to land are often not recorded or are ignored; and formal compensation payments as well as new employment opportunities do not reach women. Therefore, women's land rights are not only crucial in development cooperation policies, but also in climate, trade and investment policies.

Women's land rights have been high on the agenda of grassroots women's groups, civil society organizations and research institutions for many years now. At the same time, it sometimes seems as if our research and knowledge around women's land rights lack a clear translation into policies and women's land rights are mainly dealt with by academics and NGO's. In this session we will bring in experiences from a 'Women's land rights influencing trajectory' implemented by Dutch organizations within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This trajectory organized brainstorm sessions with specific departments in the Ministry to identify ways to integrating women's land rights into existing policies and programs. Rukia Cornelius is the Oxfam regional gender lead for Southern Africa and has a wealth of experience designing trainings on Women's Participation and Transformative Leadership; in this session she will share her thoughts and experiences on research and policies. Fridah Githuku is the Executive Director of GROOTS Kenya, a grassroots movement led by women to create visibility and decision-making power. Fridah will elaborate on GROOTS' experiences translating research into policies in Kenya. We invite other organizations to also share their examples and methodologies which have led to the translation of women's land rights into concrete activities and policies, both in donor country governments as well as in the context of countries in the global south.

By exchanging examples and lessons learned around advocacy for women's land rights in an interactive workshop, this session aims to contribute to questions on how successful practices on women's land rights and grassroots women's groups can be translated into policies. It also aims to

¹ Women2Kilimanjaro 2016 - women farmers from 22 African countries climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro to claim their rights to access and control land and natural resources; Environmental justice groups and women's rights groups conducted gender analyses and impact assessments on impacts on land within the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA); The Women's Land Rights in Africa (WLRA) research programme confirmed the value of interventions which start at the grassroots.

enable participants to reflect on their own work and how to facilitate the mainstreaming of women's land rights.

Attendees are invited to become part of the movement that advocates for women's land rights in practice!

This session does not invite abstract submissions, yet welcomes active participation.