



**IS Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable
Development (LANDac)**

Annual report 2011 and Workplan 2012

27-2-2012

1	Introduction.....	3
1.1	IS academies in general.....	3
1.2	Introducing LANDac	3
1.3	Evolving policy debate and intervention on land governance.....	4
2	Progress of LANDac activities.....	5
2.1	Knowledge generation and dissemination	5
2.1.1	<i>PhD research</i>	5
2.1.2	<i>Short term research projects</i>	6
2.1.3	<i>Policy research/ contributions by LANDac</i>	7
2.1.4	<i>Dissemination</i>	7
2.2	Knowledge sharing and dialogue	9
2.3	Advisory services and help desk	11
2.4	Learning and training events	11
2.5	Platform function of LANDac	12
2.6	Coordination and advisory board	12
3	Use of LANDac activities by consortium members	13
4	Bottlenecks and lessons learned	14
5	Work plan 2012.....	14

1 Introduction

The IS Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development (LANDac) has completed a second year of work. This annual reports starts with an introduction of the "IS academy" concept and of LANDac respectively, followed by a brief overview of developments in 2011 with respect to land governance.

Next, activities, progress with respect to outputs, and outcomes are presented. This report ends with the work plan for 2012.

1.1 IS academies in general

LANDac is one of the so-called "IS academies" initiated since 2005 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BuZa). An IS academy is a public-private partnership (PPP) for 5 years between BuZa and a consortium composed of academia, civil society and private sector organisations. The consortium is selected via a tender procedure. Both BuZa and the consortium members invest resources (money and in kind, such as via labour) on a 50%-50% basis.

The aim is to improve the quality of policy making by building better links with research: e.g. dialogue between policy and research communities; making available research results to policy makers; PhD research formulated with input from policy makers, initiating research on emerging policy issues. IS academies also seek to rejuvenate the circle of researchers engaged in international cooperation and contribute to broadening and strengthening the political and societal support for development cooperation.

1.2 Introducing LANDac

LANDac is the shorthand for the "IS Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development". The aim of LANDac is to optimize the link between land governance, sustainable development and poverty alleviation via knowledge: that is to generate, analyse, synthesize and disseminate knowledge, in close collaboration with southern-based partners. The focus is on how responsible land governance can contribute to equitable and sustainable development in line with the Millennium Development Goals, and what is required for arriving at more responsible land governance. How are institutions for land governance dealing with new pressures and competing claims, while maximizing opportunities for inclusive and equitable development.

LANDac was launched on the 1st of April 2010 and is a partnership between International Development Studies (Utrecht University (chair), Agriterra, Africa Study Centre (ASC) (Leiden), Disasters Studies (CDS - Wageningen University), HIVOS, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT- Amsterdam), Triodos Facet and the Department for Sustainable Development (DDE) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All partners have their headquarters in the Netherlands and are active in the "global south". LANDac as a whole is working with a range of universities and research institutes, producer organizations, other civil society organizations, companies and financial institutions, and embassies.

The activities of LANDac are:

- a. Developing LANDac as a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience around land governance in the Netherlands, while promoting coordination and synergy
- b. Knowledge generation, mainly via PhD research and short research projects;
- c. Knowledge dissemination such as via case studies, synthesis papers, media projects;
- d. Knowledge sharing and dialogue via seminars, lectures and lunch meetings, or media
- e. Advisory services and "help desk function"
- f. Learning and training for students and professionals (e.g. summer school)

1.3 Evolving policy debate and intervention on land governance

In 2011 land rights and land governance more in general gained in visibility. LANDac is asked increasingly for background information background, to comment or for interviews (see 2.5). Particularly so-called “land grabbing” and its implications for land tenure security of the local populations hit the headlines of mainstream newspapers and TV news. These news items were partly the product of investigative journalism and partly the result of campaigning, such as by Oxfam International. These reports also alerted parliament and questions are being asked to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the position of smallholders in “international development cooperation” policies and programs, and how to make sure that investments funds receiving subsidies from NL- MoFa do not engage in “land grabbing”. Private sector companies active in international agribusiness, as well as pension funds investing in this sector, are requested to demonstrate that they are not engaged in “land grabbing”.

Another development in 2011 is that Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reviewed its strategy. The number of “partner countries” is reduced to 15¹. Four “spearheads” are prioritized: food security, water, rule of law and sexual health and reproductive rights. Governance, the environment and gender are transversal themes. There is also considerably more emphasis on private sector development and closer collaboration with the Ministry of Economic affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (*EL&I Economische zaken, landbouw en innovatie*). Mid-2011, Dutch embassies in the partner countries started preparing for a new cycle of Multiannual strategic plans (MASP) for the period 2012-2015.

Land governance was identified as a possible “binding constraint” in particular for food security, but also for water and security. A systematic review on food security undertaken by IOB found evidence that intervention to strengthen land security have a positive impact on food security². At the request of DDE, a guidance note was prepared by KIT and LANDac on the role of land governance in relation to the four spearheads, which was accompanied by a factsheet for all 15 partner countries. At the request of DDE-MoFa, KIT and LANDac coordinated an inventory of ongoing work on land governance between 2007 and 2011 undertaken by departments and embassies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This publication is also shared with the European Union working group on land.

According to the MASP of at least 5 partner countries Land governance issues will be addressed explicitly in (Benin, Burundi, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Uganda). Most other embassies include land governance in their analysis. Interventions around land governance are planned as part of “food security” or “rule of law” aiming to better secure rights of smallholders and reduce land related conflict. The issue of large-scale land acquisitions is addressed mostly at the central level in the Netherlands by BuZa in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I). Moreover, the embassy in Ethiopia is working on sustainability standards for large-scale farming; the Embassy in Mozambique has a programme on public- private partnerships with IFAD.

Finally, more organizations and academia are developing programs around land governance. Events organised by LANDac are also well attended. At the academic level, for example, several research projects and PhD research became operational in 2011 at Universities in the Netherlands. Most of these proposals were approved in 2010 and focus on large-scale land acquisitions.

¹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Palestinian territories, Rwanda, South-Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen

² <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/3/46/49558328.pdf>

2 Progress of LANDac activities

Core activities of LANDac are knowledge generation and dissemination; knowledge sharing and dialogue, advisory services and help desk, and learning and training events.

Highlights of LANDac in 2011 are the addition of one more PhD position and the start of PhD projects in Ethiopia and Mozambique, the completion of the first round of short research projects, the large number of events that have been organised and the development of policy papers for the coming European Rural Development paper.

2.1 Knowledge generation and dissemination

2.1.1 PhD research

LANDac PhDs

PhD research is a central activity of LANDac and uses a large part of the available resources (funds and staff time). There are now 5 LANDac PhDs, four of which are collaborative projects between the Utrecht University, Africa Study Centre and the University of Wageningen (WUR).

LANDac contributes also to the finalization of a PhD research on the implications of residential tourism for equitable and sustainable development (including land governance) in Costa Rica by *Femke van Noorloos*. This research will be completed in 2012.

Lucia Goldfarb started in July 2010 and the working title of her PhD research program is "Land governance and conflict. The case of soya expansion in the South-American Chaco region". It will also establish linkages with investments by South American companies in Africa.

The research project of *George Schoneveld* is entitled "Large-sale land acquisitions in comparative perspective, with a focus on Africa". When based at the international research institute CIFOR, he has done his fieldwork. He will start his PhD in 2012 (until 2014).

Given that part of George Schoneveld's field work was carried out under the auspices of CIFOR, additional resources became available for an additional sandwich PhD for a researcher based in Africa. It was possible to select two PhD candidates as LANDac funding was matched by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Mozambique and the African Study Centre, respectively.

- Alda Salomão will research the Implications of Land Deals in Africa for Equitable and Sustainable Development in Mozambique.
- Maru Shete Bekele will work on the Impacts of Large Scale Land Acquisition on Equitable and Sustainable Development in Ethiopia.

LANDac PhDs have regular contact with the members of the partnership and are engaged in other activities of LANDac. Lucia Goldfarb, for example, assisted with the inventory of land governance related work undertaken by NL- MoFa.

Associated PhD projects and other research (at IDS)

In addition, several other ongoing PhD research programs of the Utrecht University are "dovetailed" with the LANDac research program. These are:

- Dam construction and displacement in Vietnam by *Ty Pham Huu (HUAF University of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam)* and Phuc Nguyen Quang who works on the The impacts of land conversion on farmers' livelihoods in central Vietnam.
- Sliding from greasy land? Migration flows and forest transformation caused by oil palm expansion in Riau (Sumatra) & Berau (East Kalimantan)" by Utrecht University and Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta, in collaboration with Bogor Agricultural University and Mulawarman University Samarinda (PhD research by Ari Susanti and Suseno Budidarsono).
- Caroline Archambault received a WOTRO- VENI research grant for four year to undertake research about gender aspects of land titling (Kenya)
- In the context of SANPAD a research programme on land rights in relation to residential tourism and affirmative action programmes in Southern Africa started with Stellenbosch University (South Africa).

At Disaster Studies in Wageningen related PhD projects concern:

- Governance and access to urban land in Bukavu, DRC, Fons van Overbeek
- Decentralising land governance in post-conflict Burundi (vacancy; in collaboration with ASC)
- Governance, conflict and livelihood in mining regions in South-Kivu, DRC (two African PhDs)

For many years, the African Studies Centre (ASC) has been involved in several research projects on land issues in Africa, including land governance. Research among Maasai pastoralists, which was started in the mid-1980s, highlights the effects of individualization of group land held under statutory law on resource use, equity and gender. Research is also done into community-based ecotourism in southern Kenya.

- Lately the ASC embarked on a research in the Tana Delta, and three other basins in Kenya as part of a wider programme on dwindling water and land grab (Cocoon). Provisional results act as input for the Netherlands Environmental Impact Assessment team, of which ASC (through Marcel Rutten) is a member that advises the Kenyan Government on the best guidelines to draft a landuse plan for the delta.
- ASC is also part of a research programme on large scale land acquisition in Ethiopia, Uganda and Madagascar.
- In addition, research on the effects of land reform in Zimbabwe on social support networks, and the role of land in informal social security in Uganda are examples of some smaller research projects on land issues at the ASC.

LANDac partners (WUR and KIT) participate in the integrated research programme *Grounding land governance - Land conflicts, local governance and decentralization in post-conflict Uganda, Burundi and Southern Sudan.*

2.1.2 Short term research projects

A second activity of LANDac is the co-funding of short term research projects. In 2010, the call was partly limited to proposals by LANDac and its partners in the global south (6), and partly proposals made by external parties (6). In 2011, all proposals were external. The round of 2012 will be internal again.

The selection of proposals was done by a LANDac committee (Agriterra, BuZa, HIVOS, KIT, Triodos-Facet, University of Utrecht) using criteria such as the relevance of the topic, quality of the proposals, "value for money" and dissemination proposal. In 2011 3 external proposals were selected – see table 1.

One internal proposal by Triodos-Facet was later on withdrawn. Following reformulation towards experience and perceptions of Dutch agribusiness companies investing in Africa, this project will now be implemented in 2012 in collaboration with IDS and with the participation of Master students from Utrecht University.

2.1.3 Policy research/ contributions by LANDac

LANDac partners have contributed to policy research and preparing of guidance papers.

- Harcourt, W. (ed.) in collaboration with A. Zoomers (2011). Special issue 'Global land grabs'. *Development*, volume 54 'Sustainability'. Number 1, March 2011. Palgrave MacMillan on behalf of Society for International Development (SID). (www.sidint.net/development/). 1-134 .
- LANDac in close collaboration with KIT assisted BuZa with the preparation of an inventory of ongoing land governance related work between 2007 and 2011; a guidance note and country fact sheets in support of the preparation of multi-annual strategic plans. (see www.landgovernance.org)
- LANDac also contributed to the section Managing Scarcity: Investment in Land for the upcoming European Report on Development 2011/2012 which is being prepared by ECDPM , ODI and DIE. LANDac prepared a background paper 'How can large-scale transnational land acquisitions contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth?' (by Thea Hilhorst and Annelies Zoomers); and a paper called 'Investors in Land: Perspectives on Investors engaged in Transnational Land Acquisitions in Developing Countries' (by Teun van Vlerken (Utrecht University), Frits van der Wal (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands) and Guus van Westen (LANDac, University of Utrecht)). In addition other staff members of the University of Utrecht prepared papers on Oil palm in Indonesia: (Paul Burgers, Ari Susanti) and on the impact of investment treaties on land rights (Irma Mosquera).
- Annelies Zoomers was the guest editor for the pull out supplement of "the focus", which was on food security and land grabbing In In: The Newsletter of the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) – The Newsletter encouraging knowledge and enhancing the study of Asia, no. 58/ autumn/ winter 2011, pp.19-30. (<http://www.iias.nl/the-newsletter/newsletter-58-autumn-2011>).
- Thea Hilhorst wrote an article on the role of local government in securing local rights for the special issue on "securing the right to land" of the ILEIA magazine Farm Matters <http://www.agriculturesnetwork.org/magazines/global/land-rights>

2.1.4 Dissemination

The short term research projects have proven to be important for dissemination and networking. A number of these research projects have been presented at workshop at the national and international level. Others were the start of more in-depth research or have led to intervention oriented trajectories.

Several case studies were important inputs for preparing overview papers such as for the European Rural Development report and for the newsletter of the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS). These research projects also help to better understand ongoing developments and to strengthen contacts with other networks and organizations working on land governance.

Table 1: Short-term research projects and dissemination

Research projects	Dissemination/ follow-up
<i>2010- Involving LANDac members</i>	
1. Cambodia: Inventory of large-scale land acquisitions for commercial farming in forested areas of northeast Cambodia, and the impact on <i>livelihoods</i> of local communities (Royal University of Phnom Pen, IDS UU)	Used for publication on Asia Workshop in Cambodia, Taken up by GIZ for German aid programme; follow-up planned for 2012
2. East-Congo: emerging regulations on <i>land governance</i> in mining areas in a post-conflict setting (Disaster studies WUR) – <i>final version planned for March 2012</i>	Used as input for preparing successful WOTRO IP-research proposal on mining and governance in South-Kivu
3. Senegal: Analysis of the public debate over land rights: how are issues presented, what are the debates and what are the positions taken by stakeholders in these debates (IDS UU with Senegalese NGOs) –workshop reports and research report available	Workshop held in Senegal by the local partner IPAR and discussion with embassy
4. West-Africa: Inventory of medium and large-scale land acquisitions in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and RDC; what are local responses of farmers' organizations and local governments; what are the effects on local development (SNV, KIT, Agriterra)	Presented at IDS - Brighton seminar and annual Land & poverty conference at the World Bank. The report also attracted much media attention (The economist, NRC news paper, vice versa..). Follow up workshop with farmer organization planned for January 2012 with support by Agriterra
5. Zimbabwe: Changes in land rights and land security following the <i>Fast Track Land Reform</i> programme: influence on livelihoods and land use (RUZIVO & ASC Leiden)	Workshops held in Zimbabwe and at ASC
6. Update of the 2007 inventory on Dutch support for improving <i>land governance</i> in developing countries and analysis of lessons learned (by research assistants under guidance of KIT and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and KIT)	Published and input in NL MoFa strategy discussion and European Working group on land.
<i>2010- External</i>	
7. Burkina Faso: How local governments anticipate on the new land legislation (GRAF, Universities) with KIT support	KIT will support publication; workshops in 2012
8. Ethiopia: Analysis of (changing) government policy with respect to large scale land acquisitions; what is the impact for rural livelihoods (Forum for Social Studies)	Working paper published by FFS-Ethiopia; presented at the embassy in Addis Abeba; Presentation at African union meeting
9. India: The changing (legal) position of tribal minorities in recent development around land markets in Andhra Pradesh (CESS, Hyderabad)	Working paper
10. Madagascar: How are decentralized <i>land</i>	Working paper

<i>governance</i> structures dealing with large-scale investment in farming and mining; how can the position of women be improved following the implementation of the new land policy in selected municipalities? (Fiantso)	
11. Rwanda: Impact of new land policy and legislation (registration and certification of land) on <i>livelihoods</i> of rural men and women (RISD)	Workshop in Rwanda; working paper
12. Uganda: Inventory of the effects of large scale land acquisitions in the Lake Albert area where oil drilling is starting; what are the effects on livelihoods and land security, what are experiences with revenues sharing (Uganda Land Alliance)	Workshop in Uganda, reports in Uganda news papers; advocacy
<i>2011 -external</i>	
13. Radboud University - Large-scale land acquisition in the former Soviet Union- A study of rural social movements and land conflicts	Workshop in Russia, Presentation for Agriterra
14. SNV West Africa <i>Enjeux et mécanismes de concertation et sécurisation foncière : Les zones agro-pastorales et transfrontalières du Burkina, Mali et Niger</i>	Ongoing
15. Large-scale agricultural land recovery for economic development: compensation policy and practice - <i>Case studies of hydropower and urban development projects in Thua Thien Hue province, Vietnam</i>	Ongoing

2.2 Knowledge sharing and dialogue

In 2011 LANDac continued to (co-)organise events.

- 24th of March: LANDac and SID - THE GLOBAL LAND RUSH -What's real and what are the myths? Rushing for solutions (at University of Utrecht). Seminar with 120 participants and Launch of a Special Issue of *Development* (see report on www.landgovernance.org)
- 3rd of May MoFa and LANDac -Olivier de Schutter Food security for all with prof. Olivier de Schutter and prof. Eric Smaling (taking place at BuZa)
- 16th of May- Meeting on experience with access to land with Dutch investors in Ethiopia (small and medium) organised by Triodos Facet, Utrecht University, KIT and BuZa (at BuZa)
- 8th of June: Meeting on state of affairs of different data source on large-scale land acquisitions by Oxfam, LEI, Utrecht University (at Oxfam Novib).

- 5th of July: Meeting on results database investments in land by Dutch companies prepared by LEI and Profundo, with Oxfam Novib, BuZa, Utrecht University, KIT, Triodos-Facet (at LEI)
- 6-7 September: 10th dialogue RRI (rights resources initiative) on forests, governance and climate change: interface with agriculture, adaptation and food security. Co-organised by RRI, Oxfam-Novib and LANDac (The Hague)
- 20th of October: LANDac and MoFa “Van landjepik naar duurzaam landgebruik”
Presenters: Oxfam Novib: Monique van Zijl; Agentschap NL: Peter van Poortvliet; FMO (ned. Financierings Mij voor OS landen): Marina Pannekeet; IDH (Initiatief Duurzame Handel): Dave Boselie (meeting taking place at BuZa)
- 8th of November - LANDac / WUR/ in collaboration with Educatief Centrum Hotel de Wereld “**Vergroot ‘land grabbing’ de voedselonzekerheid in Afrika?**” (in Wageningen).
Presenters: Gerrit-Jan van Uffelen (WUR) on the link between food security and large scale land acquisitions in Ethiopia and Inge Barmantlo (Cordaid) on pastoralism, land fragmentation and land grabbing in the Horn of Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia). Frits van der Wal acted as a discussant.

LANDac partners were also requested to contribute to workshops and meetings of other organizations.

- 17th February; 19th of May- Lecture and panel discussion at University of Luxemburg on land acquisition or land grabbing? Issues of sovereignty, governance and markets (Guus van Westen, University of Utrecht in collaboration with GRAIN), and organized by laboratoire de Sciences Politiques, Cercle de cooperation Luxembourg, Action Solidarité Tiers Monde, Caritas Luxembourg.
- 8 March Annelies Zoomers (with Paul Schnabel) (1 hour lecture about the global land grab).
- March 2010: Contribution to Studium Generale ‘Duurzaamheid als wereldbeeld’/ around 200 students). Utrecht University
- 6-8 April IDS Brighton – Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI) Global land grabbing (presentations by Annelies Zoomers, Thea Hilhorst, Marcel Rutten)
- 19-20 April Washington “land and poverty” presentation by Thea Hilhorst
- 23rd of May: BuZa / DDE knowledge community on growth and equity. Presentation by Annelies Zoomers.
- 10 May Utrecht – Symposium on Food security organized by VUGS (Association of Utrecht Geography Students), with workshops contributed by Triodos Facet, Disaster Studies Wageningen, IDS Utrecht,
- 9th of June: Land governance in Burundi – workshop organised by IOB Antwerpen. Presentation by Gemma van der Haar and Thea Hilhorst.
- 21st of June- LANDac workshop during a retreat for embassy staff working on food security and water (Annelies Zoomers, Thea Hilhorst -The Hague)
- 23rd of June mini seminar –round table on Global Landgrab & Local Experiences: NGO Challenges by The university of Amsterdam – presentation by thea hilhorst
- 30-6/ 1-7 CERES Summer school –workshop organised by LANDac (Guus van Westen)
- UNESCO-IHE Delft presentation on large-scale land acquisition (150 master students) by Annelies Zoomers
- 4 October 2011. Presentation by Camilla Toulmin teamleader study on large scale land acquisition for the High level panel of experts- world food security commission) Meeting organised by BuZa and EL&I with final comment by LANDac (at EL&I)

2.3 Advisory services and help desk

LANDac has also a "helpdesk" function which was used more often in 2011 compared to 2010

- Feedback on "green development Initiative and land tenure" for DME-BuZa (by LANDac and KIT)
- Literature search for IFDC (Land governance in DRC)
- Review "Grab and grow" research proposal for INREF
- Expert feedback on land components on investment proposals South Sudan and Malawi (Agentschap NL)

LANDac partners (Thea Hilhorst-KIT) have conducted missions at the request of Dutch embassies in Uganda (with Jaap Zevenbergen ITC -tender) and to provide advice on land governance programs to Benin and Burundi.

2.4 Learning and training events

In July 2011, the second Utrecht Summer school "Land Governance for Development" was organised as part of the overall Utrecht Summer school programme. Eight university students (MA, BA and PhD) from different nationalities signed up for this intensive 2-week course. Many experts and guest lecturers (mostly from the LANDac network) were involved in the course.

LANDac is also created a space where PhD students based in the Netherlands working on land governance related research topics can meet and exchange. Four meetings took place in 2011:

- 21 February 2011: PhD seminar with presentations by Margot Leegwater (ASC Leiden) and Natalia Mamonova (RU Nijmegen)
- 21st March 2011 presentation Dominik Kohlhagen –IOB Antwerp on land governance in Burundi (PhD network at KIT)
- 11 May 2011: PhD's joined the ITC Enschede workshop 'Customary Tenure and Innovative Land Administration'
- 30 June 2011: CERES Summerschool workshop on land governance / PhD seminar chaired by Guus van Westen with presentations by 4 PhD students
- 30 November 2011 – PhD seminar with presentations by Michelle Steggerda (RU Nijmegen) and Nguyen Phuc (IDS UU)

The following Master students at IDS, Utrecht University have taken up a land governance related subject for field work/ finalized their thesis in 2011:

- Ine Cottyn. The spatial and socio-cultural impacts of second home development. A case study on Franschhoek, South Africa.
- Sanne van Laar (2011) Economic Implications of second home development in South Africa (a case study on Franschhoek).
- Sofia van Eeghen. Water Conflicts in Costa Rica? Sardinal: a case study on the emergency of a water conflict in the context of high speed growth in residential tourism.
- Ilse Zeemeijer. New Corporate land acquisitions and the impact on local livelihoods in Uganda. Who gets what, when and how?
- Courtney Egan, The economic effects of Tourism and Residential tourism in South-eastern Nicaragua.
- Helen KingHo Or; Land reform in the South African Wine industry; Review of the Equity Sharing Scheme in Stellenbosch

At Disaster Studies, WUR, the master student Nienke Büsscher completed fieldwork on the topic of land governance (Communal strategies to deal with land acquisitions in areas of soy expansion, Argentina).

At WUR, the theme of land governance is embedded in the existing MSc level course Property rights, natural resources and conflict (Gemma van der Haar/ Dik Roth), and the new BSc level course Food crises: the big picture (with participation of Frits van der Wal).

2.5 Platform function of LANDac

Positioning LANDac as a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience around land governance in the Netherlands, promoting coordination and synergy

Website

The LANDac website (www.landgovernance.org) is operational and mainly used to upload land ac products and events. Events organised by other organizations in the Netherlands are also uploaded. The website has about a 1000 unique visitors a month. Particularly the country fact sheets are popular.

Mailing list

A contact list of persons based in the Netherlands working on/ interested in land governance was compiled and is regularly updated. It consists of about 180 names from academia, policy makers (mainly Ministry of foreign affairs and ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation), NGOs, media. This mailing list is now used for organizing events and informing about LANDac products.

Media contacts

- VPRO radio – feedback & suggestions (Annelies Zoomers, Thea Hilhorst, Jur Schuurman, Gemma van der Haar, Lucía Goldfrab)
- Marcia Luyten – freelance journalist; feedback on land issues in Ethiopia and Mali
- Interview with NRC on “domestic investors” by Thea Hilhorst and Joost Nelen (SNV)
- Interview Thea (and others) in Onze Wereld magazine and in one world (IS) on “domestic investors” research
- Fries Dagblad newspaper – quotes Guus van Westen
- Academische boekengids (periodic publication of academic essays and book reviews) has asked Annelies to write about land grab.
- Article in “Boer en Business”: Annelies Zoomers, Jur Schuurman and Sandra Evers have been interviewed
- IIAS Newsletter (Asian Studies) on land: Annelies guest editor
- Regular contact with Vice Versa

2.6 Coordination and advisory board

Annelies Zoomers (UU) is the Chair of LANDac, Thea Hilhorst (KIT) is responsible for coordination; Femke van Noorloos (UU) is the desk officer. Jur Schuurman (Agriterria), Frits van der Wal (DDE-BuZa) and Guus van Westen are engaged in day-to-day coordination.

The executive committee in which all LANDac partners are represented meets regularly (at least every 3 months). Meetings are prepared in advance and detailed minutes are available. No special newsletters are prepared as internal communication via meetings, minutes and e-mail is sufficient for the consortium. LANDac activities are posted on the website.

A retreat took place in August 2011. Some partners stated that they preferred to participate less in overall coordination, while focusing more on activities. It was decided that a core group (University of Utrecht, KIT, MoFa and Agriterra) would continue to meet more frequently as a 'core group'—informing other members on when the meetings would take place and sharing minutes. The full partnership will meet at least twice a year.

The day-to-day work is coordinated by Thea Hilhorst from KIT and Femke van Noorloos, in collaboration with Annelies Zoomers and Guus van Westen (IDS).

An advisory boards has been set up and terms of reference are available. The persons invited are Jun Borrás (ISS), Paul Mathieu (FAO), Sonja Vermeulen (CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (-CCAFS)), Jaap Zevenbergen (ITC- Enschede) and the first meeting took place on the 31st of January 2011. The second meeting is scheduled for the 23rd of January in Utrecht.

3 Use of LANDac activities by consortium members

In this section, consortium members list the influence of LANDac activities on their organizations (outcome).

- Agriterra: we have learned mostly from the short-term research by KIT, Agriterra, SNV on land acquisitions and the importance of domestic elites, not just international land grab. This research also underlined the lack of transparency also in local level processes, and lack of clarity on who represents the interests of local people. Another advantage of LANDac is that we can more broadly share and discuss our vision on development and society, e.g. in the summer school.
- ASC: LANDac played a useful role in showing that it is not just foreign parties that are involved in large-scale land acquisitions in Africa: other actors also play a role. In Uganda it is mostly local elites. LANDac can bring this more to the fore, e.g. through PhD projects.
- BuZa-DDE: LANDac lunch events were well attended and appreciated, and generated more interest and awareness. The interest in land governance is broader than just DDE, and also includes departments of human rights, governance, CSR. LANDac has become the most well-known IS-Academy, because the focus is goes beyond describing the situation and also addresses possible interventions, involving Dutch companies and pension funds etc.
- Disaster studies-WUR: the short-term research project allowed us to write a better research proposal for IP WOTRO, which was successful. Insights of the research were the important role of the state at different levels, beyond legislation, such as the actual roles that different state institutions take on, and what this means for the protection of rights. This is a start. More insight is needed on specific issues: what goes wrong, where does it go wrong?
- HIVOS: More insights in local power plays and actors. What research is going on, but now the important question is: what should we do? How can we give input to civil society?
- KIT: In 2012 a special programme around land and natural resource governance was developed. The participation of KIT in LANDac was at the basis of this proposal. One insight from the work with LANDac is the important role of the host country government and of local customary leaders as gatekeepers of access to land. International and domestic land acquisitions are often connected. Much more can be done with already existing regulation instruments.
- TRIODOS-FACET: It turned out to be difficult to create partnerships with the small and medium private sector (agribusiness) to analyse land governance. Now we are looking at

larger companies and more to the investment side. Social investors' are becoming interested in these issues. Traditionally we have been involved in evaluating development programmes (impact assessment); now we are also becoming involved in investment evaluations: how can you measure the impact? Which dimensions, parameters play a role?

- Utrecht University: The institutional importance of LANDac for IDS is it gives direction to our work, the research output and it is important in education. LANDac research has helped in developing a more multi-faceted analysis of investors in land, the role of financial markets; the influence of commodity prices, land valuation systems and commodification of land and the need to analyse underlying processes and power relations.

4 Bottlenecks and lessons learned

LANDac was not been faced yet with major bottlenecks during the implementation of its work plan. All LANDac partners continue to engage in activities. In addition, as indicated at the start, the issue of land governance is gaining in attention.

The main challenge remains the capacity to respond to request and emerging issues. LANDac human and financial resources are relatively limited. Most work done by partners is funded by using own resources. Moreover, most partners experience a reduction in budget (UU, WUR, HIVOS, ASC and KIT).

The ambition of LANDac is to continue organizing innovative activities where academia, NGOs and policy makers meet, and promote innovative research. More and more actors are becoming active on the issue of land governance. LANDac ambition is to keep track of developments, communicate, and encourage coordination and synergy particularly between actors in the Netherlands. Improving communication (website) and PR is an important task, especially the promotion of activities for an international audience (summer school, training).

5 Work plan 2012

In 2012, the IS academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development (LANDac) enters its 3rd year of operation. The central theme identified in the programme proposal "Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development: Dealing with New Pressures and Competing Claims" is still highly relevant and elaborated further via PhD research, short research proposals, and policy papers. The focus is, firstly, on the extent and impact of large-scale land acquisitions for farming, forestry, nature conservation, tourism, carbon credits etc. and possible responses to protect rights and where feasible realise the win-win-win for companies, governments and local communities. The second issue is about securing rights of male and female smallholders (farmers, pastoralists, forest users etc.), which is of growing importance given the pressure by international and domestic investors in land, and also "land grabbing".

For short-term research in 2012, two themes are selected on which LANDac partners and their southern partners will collaborate. The topics are: 1) how to make private sector investments more responsible and 2) how to strengthen farmers' organizations' position in negotiations in land deals?

In this third year, the LANDac partnership also plans to work together more on content, not just coordination; to strengthen working relations with other important actors with respect

to land governance in the Netherlands; further develop the relation with the advisory board and develop exchange with similar networks in Germany (led by GIZ) and France (foncier et développement).

In 2012, LANDac will continue with organizing lunch meetings and guest lectures/ presentations, and facilitate the network of PhD students in the Netherlands working on land governance (the community of practice). LANDac plans to organize research seminars/expert meetings together with BuZa. Some will be focused on experience with instruments to promote responsible investments that can be used by funders (e.g. Agentschap NL) or companies. Another workshop planned is how roundtables for sustainable production/ standards & certification schemes can take on board food security and land governance. Meetings are also planned around social and environmental impact assessment; free and prior informed consent in relation to large-scale land acquisition. LANDac will continue organizing courses for master students and internships with partners of LANDac and the summer school. In addition, training programs for professionals and policy makers will be developed.

Outputs (at least)	Results 2012	Start by when
1. 1 IS academy research seminar	Sharing of research results with academic community and policy makers	Q2
2. 1 virtual community of practice operational	Knowledge management around priority theme IS academy	Q1
3a. PhD research project Femke van Noorloos	PhD research completed	Q1
3b. PhD research project Lucia Goldfarb	Fieldwork completed	Q1
3c. PhD research project George Schoneveld	Research proposal approved	Q1
3d. PhD research project Maru Shete	Research proposal approved	Q1
3e. PhD research project Alda Salomao	Research proposal approved	Q1
4. Completion of case studies 2011	Research reports available	
5. Start up case studies 2012	Short term research and knowledge development around priority themes	Q1
6. desk-studies/ literature searches completed at the request of partners	Knowledge management around priority themes/ gaps	Q1
7. synthesis study/ publications (write workshop) based on outputs 2010 and 2011	Research results available and disseminated	Pm
8. 2 cases of satisfactory brokerage of requests for policy advise from partners	Improve quality of policy making; facilitate knowledge sharing	Q1
9. Contribution to international initiatives)	Linking IS academy work to international policy initiatives	open
10. 1 summer school	Training of students and professionals on land governance	Q1
11. 1 tailor made training	Training of professional on land governance – costs for preparing training and publicity	Q3
12. 2 internships with partner organizations	Training of students	Q1
13. 3 lecture/ presentations	Knowledge sharing emerging themes	Q1
14. At least 3 partnership meetings	Coordination IS academy	Q1
15. Update Website, newsletters; media	Internal and external communication	Q1
16. 1 advisory board meeting	Monitoring progress; reality check	Q1