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Cover page photo source: *World Bank*. Available at:  
2. **Introduction**

This report gives a brief overview of the activities and outputs of the Netherlands Land Academy (LANDac) during the period from 1st July 2016 to 31st March 2017. This report is the first report of the second phase of the LANDac project – LANDac II. This report covers the transition period from LANDac I to LANDac II and is relatively brief as many activities fell within the scope of and were thus assigned to the closing LANDac I project (see also LANDac I report).

**Overview of LANDac II**

LANDac II continues the partnerships and selected activities that were successful under the first phase. Activities focus on consolidating the platform for the network of land-related stakeholders, bringing together new knowledge around land governance, brokering the role between research, policy and practice, providing capacity-building activities and facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue.

In terms of the platform, the LANDac partnership in its second phase aims to become the focal point for a number of projects in the Netherlands related to land governance. These include: the LAND partnership between the Dutch Kadaster and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AND Dutch involvement in the Global Land Tool Network (of which LANDac is an active partner. LANDac II also facilitates the Ministry of Foreign Affair’s Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (LANDdialogue).

While the platform creates an important hub for discussions related to land governance and contributes to a strong interaction between researchers, policy makers and practitioners, the second phase also aims to develop innovative ideas related to land governance and inclusive and sustainable development and continue to strengthen our position as a knowledge network together with the various partners, including the private sector, policy makers and academics. In doing so, we will work in close collaboration with the Committee on World Food Security (e.g., through activities related to the CFS Voluntary Guidelines) and the African Union (e.g., through its Guiding Principles), the World Bank (e.g., during the Annual Land and Poverty Conference), IFAD, UN-Habitat (including the GLTN network), and universities located outside of the Netherlands as well as other important international players in this field.

LANDac II was launched on 26 October 2016 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague and will run until 2021. Triodos Facet and HIVOS stepped out the partnership (due to changing priorities within their organizations), but LANDac II has been strengthened by new members, including ITC Twente University, VNG International, Oxfam Novib, the Land Portal and CDI Wageningen University. In close collaboration with these partners, and various organizations in the Netherlands and abroad, in 2016 LANDac continued to play a leading role in setting the agenda for land governance for urban development, large-scale land investments for food, nature conservation and biofuels, and infrastructure development, and other emerging topics in the field of land governance for equitable and sustainable development.

**Partners**

The LANDac II partnership is composed of the following organizations:

- Utrecht University, International Development Studies (leading partner) and Urban Planning
- African Studies Centre, Leiden University
Looking back at LAN DAC I

LAN DAC initially started in 2010 as a response to the global land rush hype. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with the International Development Studies (IDS) group of Utrecht University as the leading partner, and the Sociology of Development and Change (SDC) group of Wageningen University, the African Studies Centre (ASC) of Leiden University, Agriterra, Hivos, Triodos Facet and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) joined forces in generating and disseminating knowledge about the link between land governance and equitable and sustainable development.

During its first phase, the LAN DAC partnership resulted in nine PhD projects, two postdoc positions, 20 short-action research projects, and over 50 publications (of which four are books). In addition to initiating various research programmes, organizing conferences and publishing numerous academic and policy-related material, LAN DAC contributed to the formulation of policy as contributors to the European Development Report and through joint collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This latter effort resulted in land governance being placed firmly on the Dutch policy agenda. LAN DAC has also played a key role in representing Dutch institutions and organizations at the international level, for example at the Annual World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in Washington D.C. LAN DAC has also taken a leading position in translating research into capacity-building activities since 2010 through its annual Land Governance for Development Summer School at Utrecht University, a number of country-specific workshops in Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda, and by engaging numerous Bachelor and Master students in its activities.

LAN DAC has played an active role in facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue, both by initiating the LAND forum in which policy makers, practitioners, private sector stakeholders and researchers from Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and the Netherlands collaborate to enhance the development outcomes of land-based investments, and through our close involvement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (LAN Ddialogue). As a result of being open to a variety of stakeholders and collaborating with partners in low- and middle-income countries, LAN DAC has developed into a network organization and a central platform that brings together scholars from different disciplines as well as practitioners, policy makers, business people and investors.

More information on the highlights of LAN DAC I is available at:

4. Coordination

Coordination team
In November 2016, the former LANDac coordinator Gemma Betsema was succeeded by a new coordination team, consisting of a Research Coordinator, Griet Steel and general Coordinator Lucy Oates. Gemma continues to work in close collaboration with LANDac, in the context of the Learning Platforms on Land Governance and Food Security. The transition period from the previous coordinator to the new coordination team took place throughout 2016, when both Griet and Lucy were already engaged in LANDac-related activities and events, including the LANDac Annual Land Conference, the Land Governance for Development Summer School, and various research activities.

Alongside supporting coordination activities, Research Coordinator Griet Steel conducted fieldwork in Khartoum on the urban land nexus. In her research, she addresses the interplay between technology, land and migration and the broader challenges of urban land governance in terms of speculation, foreign investments and real estate development. Fieldwork was conducted from 27th February to 31st March 2017, where Griet focussed specifically on peri-urban developments on the outskirts of Khartoum that are confronted by major land use changes, as well as diverse and heterogeneous forms of urban development projects, ranging from upgrading slums to the construction of highly exclusive gated communities.

Besides general coordination activities, the secretariat hired short-term support for the organisation of a Women’s Lands Rights event in Apeldoorn. Jack Barber was employed to organise the event, take care of reporting and follow-up activities.

**BOX 1. Land and Sustainable Development Workshop in Sudan**

On 22nd March 2017, Griet Steel organised a workshop on land governance in Khartoum in cooperation with the Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Information and the Ministry of Physical Planning of Khartoum State. The focus was on land governance, land transformations and sustainable urban development in Sudan. 85 people participated, primarily employees from Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Information and the Ministry of Physical Planning of Khartoum State. The ministers and general director of both ministries as well as the Netherlands Ambassador, delegates from The Swedish Embassy and the French research institution CEDEJ all attended.

In the first part of the workshop a presentation was given by Griet Steel about LANDac and different approaches to natural resource management and land governance followed by a presentation by Mohammed Osman Hussein focusing on the particular case of land management in Sudan. After these presentations round-table discussions were organized addressing questions on socio-economic causes and consequences of high land prices in Khartoum; pitfalls and possibilities to develop Khartoum according to the compact city model; the strengths and weaknesses for inclusive urban development in Khartoum; ways to increase resilience against environmental hazards and climate change’ patterns of spatial segregation and land use changes in Khartoum; and the advantages and disadvantages of changing agricultural land to residential land.

**Partner meetings**

Three partner meetings were held in this period – on the 23rd August 2016, 26th October 2016 and 9th February 2017. In addition, in the context of transition into a new coordination team, Lucy and Griet also visited all partner organisations individually to get to know the partners and their organisations, as well as to identify similarities and shared interests in core thematic and geographic areas, and to harvest ideas about (proposed) LANDac activities. During these meetings, for example, it was discovered that many partners have the interest to work more in francophone countries. Partners also
expressed an interest to work even more closely with in-country partners in the global South. New topics of interest and expertise include, among other things, land administration at ITC Twente and local governance at VNG International.

During these meetings (and also particularly in the LANDac II partner kick-off meeting on 26th October 2016, which was followed by the public and official launch of LANDac II), new and emerging themes that are in need of attention were identified, such as issues of urban land governance, the development of mega-infrastructure, and land-related mobility. It was also agreed that, whilst exploring such emerging areas, it is equally important not to lose sight of existing research themes which remain important, such as food security, gender and land rights, land governance in the context of climate change, and land administration. The identified thematic and geographic areas, and priority activities, have been aligned with the first LANDac II Annual Plan for 2017 (see annexes) and will continue to be taken into account in the years to come.

**BOX 2. LANDac II Launch Event**

On 26th October 2016, more than 100 participants attended the launch of the second phase of LANDac at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. The day’s programme included a lunch lecture entitled Current Protests in Ethiopia: The Role of Land by Ethiopia-based Dutch entrepreneur Jan van de Haar, followed by a round-table discussion – Land Governance and the SDGs: Setting the Agenda – in which Maru Shete (PhD Candidate), Barbara Codispoti (Oxfam Novib), Margriet Hartman (Royal Haskoning DHV), Kees de Zeeuw (Dutch Kadaster) and Danielle Hirsch (Both ENDS) participated.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be quite central in shaping the future land agenda. The specific question was what LANDac can contribute to the SDGs? The SDGs are inclusive but are not formulated in such a way when working towards achieving individual SDGs. For example, if an organisation or institution focuses on SDG 11 (make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), then they must also focus on other SDGs too, for example, SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). Within the field of land rights, it is important to consider other factors, such as water, sanitation and hygiene, and combine the governance of water with the governance of land. For instance, if you aim to solve issues at the city level, this requires also looking at urban-rural linkages and taking into account the various challenges that are intrinsically linked to land, such as housing and water rights.

It was also argued that it is important to ensure that rural issues and small town governance remain on the LANDac agenda, especially in relation to migration and mobility. There was an argument to strengthen the link between LANDac and the Dutch embassies and other on the spot actions of Dutch entrepreneurs so that LANDac can create a broad spin-off in different regions within the Global South. It was furthermore argued that LANDac should continue to focus on land investments, not only within an agricultural setting, but also for other purposes such as urbanisation, infrastructural development, leisure and nature conservation. This focus can incorporate other factors such as trust and relationships between various actors within the issue of land governance and land rights. Other issues that were put on the agenda during the launch event included: administration, governance and technology; food security and responsible business; and the role of impact assessments and action research. The report is available at [http://www.landgovernance.org/events/landac-ii-launch-event/](http://www.landgovernance.org/events/landac-ii-launch-event/).
The primary outlet for LANDac activities is the LANDac website (www.landgovernance.org), which is regularly updated by the Coordinator and continues to be a hub for news, events and sharing publications in the Netherlands and further afield. Besides the website, LANDac maintains an account on Twitter which we use to announce events, publications and other news items. The LANDac Twitter account links to the website and has increased from 32 followers in 2014 to 91 followers in 2015 to 352 followers at the time of writing. In early 2017, the LANDac website was updated to include:

- Media pages – including both media created and filmed by LANDac and links to secondary online video resources;
- Blog – “Voices from the Field” – which will consist of posts written by our partners and their affiliates as well as guest writers such as students who will share concrete examples of research and activities undertaken during fieldwork;
- Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue – a page to introduce the LANDdialogue and share news and minutes from the Organising Committee of this group.

With the start of LANDac II, the partners also decided to chance the original logo. It was decided that the basis of the old logo should be maintained, because an increasing number of people are familiar with it already. The two main changes were meant to make it look more firm (colour) and decrease its rural character (include buildings on the horizon). The final version was voted for during a partner meeting, involving all members.

5. LANDdialogue

As part of the second phase of LANDac (since 1st July 2016), the LANDac secretariat now also hosts the secretariat of the LANDdialogue, the Dutch Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue. In the Netherlands, various stakeholders including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, companies and financial institutions, civil society organisations and knowledge institutes have repeatedly expressed their willingness and ambition to contribute to the improvement of land governance in countries where Dutch players are active. This has resulted in an initiative to organise the Dutch Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, also known as the LANDdialogue.

Participants of the LANDdialogue, together with other interested stakeholders and partners, want to invest time and energy to effectively contribute from the Netherlands to the improvements of land governance in countries in which the Netherlands is active. It is their goal to promote the practical application and monitoring of improvement measures by the Dutch private sector, government, knowledge institutes and NGOs in line with the principles adopted in the VGGTs.

Some key outputs from the LANDdialogue have included a White Paper on Due Diligence Procedures with respect to Land Governance: Responsibilities for private sector and financial institutions in implementing VGGTs produced by the case team on the VGGTs, chaired by Guus van Westen and in collaboration with ABN Amro and Solidaridad.

In February 2017, the LANDdialogue organised the third High Level LANDdialogue, where representatives from Dutch government, NGOs, academia and private sector joined the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation to discuss key successes from the past year and priorities in Dutch policy related to land governance. Seven follow-up trajectories were identified:

- To involve the infrastructure sector more closely in the LANDdialogue
- To involve private companies in the LANDdialogue
- To strengthen links between international parties and the LANDdialogue
To study issues of land governance in existing/ongoing cases (at early stages in projects)
To integrate gender into all parts of the LANDdialogue
To provide tailor-made trainings and expert meetings
To strengthen land governance within ICSR agreements

More information and updates from the monthly meetings of the Organising Committee can be found at http://www.landgovernance.org/landialogue/.

6. Conclusion

- Collecting women’s voices and experiences for advocacy
- Scaling-up promising movements and initiatives
- Raising awareness and building capacity

Research coordinator Griet Steel is the PI of this project and Michelle Nuijen has been appointed the Coordinator of this programme and works in close collaboration with the project partners: ENDA Pronat in Senegal, GROOTS Kenya and ActionAid in Kenya, ADECRU and Fórum Mulher in Mozambique, and Oxfam in Malawi. This project builds on the Dutch government’s broader commitment to promote gender equality, food security, and effective and structural application of principles adopted in the VGGT and the Global Goals. The program also aims for linkages with the Eastern Africa Land Administration Network (EALAN), the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), the LANDac Learning Platforms (with CIFOR, Food & Business Knowledge Platform, and Shared Value Foundation) as well as local Dutch embassies. More information is available at http://www.landgovernance.org/womens-land-rights/.

In January 2016, the Organising Committee of the Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue sent out a call for inspiring practical examples of Dutch supported interventions that show how important and catalytic strengthening of land rights for women can be. It was announced that the stories of CDI, Kadaster and Oxfam Novib were considered outstanding and the organisations teamed up with LANDac and the Gender Resource Facility to organise an impactful event geared towards scaling up women’s land rights.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together practitioners, scholars, policymakers and representatives of grassroots movements to develop strategies and outcomes that address one crucial question: how to successfully improve and scale women’s land tenure security and land rights? The objectives of the meeting were threefold:

- To identify the most promising experiences, ideas and strategies to scale up women’s land rights
- To develop roadmaps reflecting the participants’ vision and proposed actions on the best ways to scale women’s land rights, and including which actors to target or call upon
- To identity and validate what works where

To kick-start the meeting, a discussion paper entitled Global Scaling up of Women’s Land Rights was written by Renee Giovarelli and Elisa Scalise of Resource Equity; this paper served as a starting point for the discussions at the meeting and was designed to highlight what works and doesn’t work in existing gender-based land rights interventions. From this paper and their own knowledge and experience, experts went on to identify major critical success factors for scaling up women’s land rights, including: creating alliances and coalitions; include both women and men; link livelihoods and human rights; identify windows of opportunity; and ensure interventions are context-specific.

Key strategies for up-scaling were also identified and included mainstreaming gender in land governance education (for example, including a gender course in Land Administration degree courses), to address research gaps, and the necessity to empower women at the local level and to build upon women’s agency in existing cases. Much emphasis was placed in particular on the latter, and therefore, as a follow-up of the event, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded €500,000 to LANDac and African partners to build upon, and scale successful practices and experiences by grassroots organizations and movements that work toward strengthened land rights for women. The program, called ‘Securing land rights for women in Africa: Scaling up impact in Senegal, Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique,’ has three main objectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 3. Expert Meeting – Women’s Land Rights</th>
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7. Annex

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Allocated budget 2017 (EUR)</th>
<th>Time frame 2017</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>LANDac Secretariat Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Coordination and running the secretariat</td>
<td>Two full-time positions responsible for the daily management of the LANDac secretariat</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>Q1-Q4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Represent LANDac at relevant events in the Netherlands and abroad</td>
<td>Exhibition booth at World Bank conference; secretariat staff to attend other relevant events such as and others</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>Q1-Q4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Updating website</td>
<td>A modernised website which represents the transition from Phase I to II; other online activities, including social media outreach (Tweet regularly, particularly in relation to events and new publications)</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>Q1-Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Publications for knowledge dissemination</td>
<td>Policy briefs and research briefs relating to output from item 2.1 (at least 1 brief will be produced per quarter); meta-analysis of land-based interventions</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>Q1-Q4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Knowledge Generation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Academic and applied research</td>
<td>Pilot studies and data collection aligned to themes identified in collaboration with LANDac partners, as well as a new multi-stakeholder forum</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>Q1-Q4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Organise a PhD network</td>
<td>Establishment of a PhD network of researchers based in the Netherlands working on land-related issues</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Q1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Knowledge Management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>LANDac Annual Conference 2017</td>
<td>Two-day international conference</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Q1-Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Public lectures and presentations</td>
<td>Organise at least 5 public events (other than the conference) around relevant topics (related to output from item 2.1, amongst others)</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Q1-Q4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Disseminating output of (international) events</td>
<td>Report on and share output and findings from items 1.3, 2.1, 3.1 and 3.3</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Q2-Q3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>Capacity building</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>LANDac Annual Summer School</td>
<td>Training of students and professionals on land governance, following on from and closely related to item 3.1</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>Q2-Q3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Country-specific learning hubs</td>
<td>Organise and facilitate 3 country-specific learning hubs</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>Q1-Q4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Develop educational programme on</td>
<td>Availability of online materials and</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>Q1-Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land governance</td>
<td>Provision of e-course/ MOOC</td>
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<td>5. Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1 LANDforum</td>
<td>Facilitation of a multi-stakeholder initiative</td>
<td>18.000</td>
<td>Q4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 LANDdialogue support</td>
<td>Secretariat activities including meeting facilitation and budget management *Funds to be allocated by Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Organising Committee and agreed upon by LANDac partners</td>
<td>100.000</td>
<td>Q1-Q4</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total budget LANDac II 2017**

261,200 | Q1-Q4

**Total budget LANDdialogue support 2017**

100,000 | Q1-Q4