CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Deadline for abstract submission: 15 March 2020

Land Governance Challenges and Climate Change:
Handling Pressures, Upholding Rights

Muntgebouw Utrecht, the Netherlands

The LANDac Annual International Conference offers a podium for researchers, practitioners and private sector representatives interested in land governance for equitable and sustainable development. The 2020 Conference looks at the challenges that climate change poses for land governance systems, processes and actors, and at relevant lessons that can be drawn from experiences with land governance to date.

In debates about appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, plans and actions, the implications for land governance are rarely a central focus. This conference will do just that. We welcome contributions which examine how land governance ambitions and arrangements shape and conflict with climate change ambitions; how land related livelihoods and bio-diversity are considered in climate change debates; and how the land governance landscape is responding to climate change challenges. Similarly, we welcome contributions on impacts of land transfers and transformations under the guise of climate related disaster risk reduction; and on how climate change might become a rationale for lowering the ambitions of good land governance. A concern is that lessons learnt about due diligence and the need to protect rights become ‘unlearnt’ under the pressure of climate change and associated challenges of food security and disaster risk reduction.

We are now pleased to invite abstract submissions for the LANDac Annual International Conference 2020. Submission for abstracts is open until 15 March 2020.
LAND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Over the past ten years, LANDac conferences have offered a productive space for knowledge exchange, reflection and debate about issues of concern to the global land governance community. With the annual conferences, LANDac puts critical developments and emerging issues on the agenda, takes stock of trends in land governance transformation, and connects land governance to adjacent academic and policy fields. The 2020 Conference identifies the land governance challenges that derive from the climate change agenda and aims to enrich the climate change debate by drawing on lessons learnt from over a decade of analysing and addressing land (dis)possession, acquisition, use and investment.

A first and major concern relates to the land footprint that is to be expected from climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. Both alternative sources of energy, such as wind and solar energy, and infrastructural interventions for e.g. flood protection, translate into claims on land and will compete with existing rights or other potential uses of the land. We expect to see more instances of disaster-capitalism after floods, and land grabbing under the guise of climate change adaptation measures. Crucial questions here are the way these claims are dealt with and whether principles of ‘good governance’ are upheld in the face of the climate imperative.

A second concern relates to the shifts in land use patterns and people’s mobility (from and between rural and urban areas) in response to differential effects of climate change, as this translates, among others, into extreme weather events and unpredictability of rainfall. We may expect this to increase land scarcity in some places while potentially reducing it in others. How will this shape landscapes? What land governance institutions and instruments are in place to deal with the pressures this generates and support sustainable land use and food security? How to avoid that smallholders loose out?

Finally, we are concerned with how the land governance landscape will respond to these challenges. How is the governance of climate change adaptation foreseen and who will jump in to fill the governance gaps that undoubtedly will occur? What will be the relevance of due diligence instruments as the VGGTs and FPIC? What lessons can the land governance community offer after a decade of addressing land grabs and regulating investment and who is willing to listen to these?

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

Prof Tim Lang - Professor of Food Policy, Centre for Food Policy, Department of Sociology, City University of London

Silas Siakor – Founder of the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) in Liberia, Landscape Convener at IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative).

Dr Shuaib Lwasa – Associate Professor Department of Geography Geoinformatics and Climatic Sciences, Makerere University

More key note speakers to be confirmed: keep an eye on our website for updates!

CONFERECE THEMES 2020

I. Revisiting Land Rights Registration
II. Responsible Land-Based Investments and Private Sector Involvement
III. Urban Land Governance
IV. Extreme Weather Events: Impact and Adaptation
V. Land Use and Climate Change Mitigation: Responses from Below
VI. Building Partnerships for Research and Action
CONFERENCE THEMES 2020
For a complete overview of the sessions and their descriptions, click here. More information on the submission guidelines can be found below.

I. Revisiting Land Rights Registration
1. Enhancing climate adaptation action through improved tenure rights: From a collaborative perspective at country-level (open for abstract submission)
2. Challenges in ‘pro-poor’ land registration: What lessons for the ‘climate community’? (open for abstract submission)
3. Property right titling and adapting to climate change in Africa: Conceptual and case studies (open for abstract submission)
4. Community rights to forest lands: What are the key conditions for success? (open for abstract submission)
5. Land governance and its instruments in the light of climate change related pressures: What is useful and what is new? (open for abstract submission)
6. Monitoring, managing and protecting the integrity of land governance systems, land registration and land claims from climate change effects using blockchain technology (open for abstract submission)
7. Property rights, land tenure security and sustainable land use management in the context of climate change – building on a land learning journey in Uganda (closed for session submission)

II. Responsible Land-Based Investments and Private Sector Involvement
1. World café on large-scale land acquisitions and land-use change (open for abstract submission)
2. Rethinking Impact Assessments (open for abstract submission)
3. Transformation for climate change: How can strategic environmental assessment (sea) help sustain land governance solutions? (closed for session submission)
4. Climate, business and politics: Can the private sector serve the public interest? (closed for session submission)
5. Response partnerships: Lessons from public and private investment in ‘good’ land governance (closed for session submission)
6. Response actions to climate change mitigation and adaptation are land-based. Implications on land governance and protection of land rights (closed for session submission)

III. Urban Land Governance
1. Sustainable corridors? Urban land and mobility infrastructure development in an era of climate change (open for abstract submission)
2. Urban land governance and infrastructures for sustainable energy transitions (open for abstract submission)
3. Building a dialogue: How should agricultural experts and urban planners respond to urban agriculture in Africa’s expanding cities (description will follow, closed for abstract submissions)

IV. Extreme Weather Events: Impact and Adaptation
1. Climate Change, Disasters and Displacement (open for abstract submission)
2. Resettlement caused by extreme climate events: cases of cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique (closed for session submission)

V. Land Use and Climate Change Mitigation: Responses from Below
1. Climate change and actor-driven land reform responses (open for abstract submission)
2. Indigenous opportunities for environmental sustainability (open for abstract submission)
3. Mitigation of GHG-emissions through effective peatland management: Opportunities, challenges, solutions (open for abstract submission)
4. Perspectives on pastoralism: A film festival (closed for session submission)
VI. Building Partnerships for Research and Action

1. Trade-offs and power dynamics in land-climate change adaptation implementation efforts: How to deal with multi-level, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder processes. (open for abstract submission)
2. Academic networks in land administration and land governance (closed for session submission)
3. How to leverage land rights in the global climate change advocacy movement? (closed for session submission)
4. LANDB dialogue (description will follow)
5. RVO (Netherlands Enterprise Agency) LAND-at-scale (description will follow)
6. LANDac Professional Learning Programme (description will follow)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We now call for the submission of abstracts. LANDac invites you to review the collection of conference sessions and submit your abstract to your preferred session. Abstract submissions should use the Abstract Submission Form, and include:

- Title of the panel the abstract is submitted to
- Title of the abstract
- Name(s) and affiliation(s)
- Contact details of the presenter
- Abstract of max. 250 words

Important! Abstracts should be submitted by 15 March 2020, in English and using the Abstract Submission Form. Please submit your abstract directly to the contact person of your preferred session and with landac2020@gmail.com in CC. The session organisers and LANDac Organising Committee will review all submissions. Notification on acceptance of abstracts will be done by 1 April 2020.

LANDac welcomes innovative and original ideas; if you have suggestions for materials to present or exhibit at the conference – such as short films, interactive websites, photos, posters – please contact the organisers at landac2020@gmail.com.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the conference is now open and will close mid-June, 2020. Early bird registration fee (until the 1st of June) is €200 (€100 for BSc and MSc students upon proof of a valid student ID). After the 1st of June, the registration fee is €250 (€125 for BSc and MSc students upon proof of a valid student ID). Please note that the registration fee includes catering for two days. We regret that LANDac is unable to cover any participant expenses.

SUMMER SCHOOL: LAND GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

The conference takes place back-to-back with the LANDac/Utrecht University Summer School Land Governance for Development, which will take place 6-17 July 2020 in Utrecht. For more information, and to register, please visit the Utrecht Summer School website. Summer School participants may join the conference free of cost.

2020 Organising Committee: Joanny Bélair (University of Ottawa), Gemma van der Haar (Wageningen University and LANDac), Richard Sliuzas (ITC - University of Twente), Marja Spierenburg (Leiden University), Guus van Westen (Utrecht University and LANDac), Chantal Wieckardt (LANDac).