

2-3 July 2020

CALL FOR SESSIONS

Deadline for session proposals: 15th January 2020

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

2-3 July 2020

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 session proposals for the LANDac Annual International Conference 2020. Submission for **session proposals** is open until **15 January 2020**. Abstracts for papers will be invited after the session proposals have been reviewed, in February 2020.

The programme will include a diversity of key note speakers from research and practice. Keep an eye on the LANDac website for updates.

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 foot print** 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?

We are inviting session proposals that link to these challenges. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- The nexus between food security, climate change and land governance
- Climate change and the potential displacement of food crops
- "Re-imagining" landscapes and systems of production and consumption in the age of climate change
- The (governance of) land claims related to climate adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction
- Revisiting the land titling and registration discussion in the light of climate-related pressures
- Innovations in land governance instruments in the light of climate change
- Climate pressures in urban settings: infrastructural projects and the right to the city
- Gendered and generational effects of climate change and climate change adaptation
- The private sector and the investment landscape around climate change
- Mobility related to climate and environmental change: land governance challenges and responses
- Land governance implications of 'climate refugees'
- Climate justice and good land governance
- Options and challenges for civil society advocacy around climate change
- Climate securitisation, authoritarian states and shrinking civil space

LANDac – the Netherlands Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development – brings together researchers, policy makers, development practitioners and business professionals in the field of land governance and development. With a focus on new pressures and competing claims on land and natural resources, the LANDac network conducts research, disseminates information, and organises courses and training, while strengthening linkages between actors who may not usually meet. Our guiding question is how to optimize the link between land governance, sustainable development, and poverty alleviation.

LANDac is a partnership led by, and based at, the International Development Studies (IDS) Group of Utrecht University. Other partners include: the African Studies Centre Leiden, Agriterro, the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the University of Twente, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Land Portal, Oxfam Novib, Royal Haskoning DHV, VNG International and Wageningen University.

www.landgovernance.org

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We now call for the submission of **session proposals**. Session proposals should include:

- Title
- Organisers: names, affiliations and contact details
- Session format (panel, roundtable, workshop, debate, art, film, innovative session, etc.)
- Description of session of **max. 300 words**
- Clear reference to the conference theme
- Potential speakers/presenters
- Whether the session is open for abstract submissions

Session proposals should be received by **15th January 2020** and must be submitted, **in English**, via email to: landac2020@gmail.com. The organising committee will review submissions and successful applicants will be notified by the 1st of February, 2020. Abstracts for papers will be invited from the 1st of February until the 15th of March, 2020. Notification on acceptance of paper abstracts will be done by the 1st of 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 will open in February and 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.



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).

