



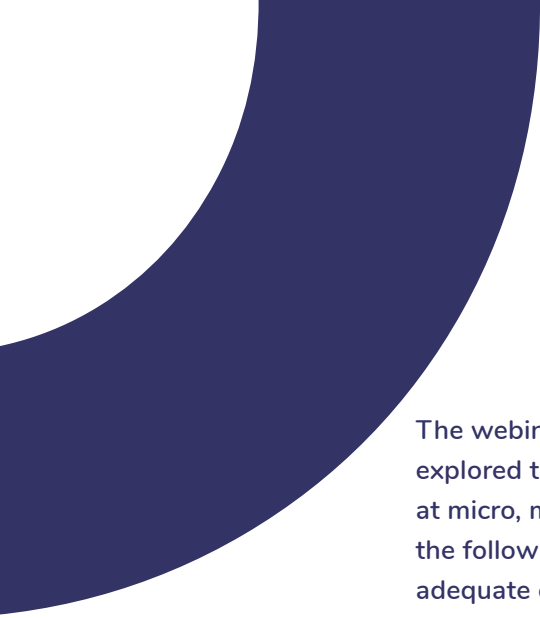
# Multifaceted Challenges of Land and Climate Change

---

A Webinar Report



[www.landportal.org](http://www.landportal.org)



The webinar Multifaceted Challenges of Land and Climate Change explored the interconnection of land rights and climate responses at micro, meso and macro level. The webinar aimed to explore the following question: What kind of land governance will foster adequate climate response actions? Oxfam and partners in many countries are confronted with this two-sided problem while dealing with both land and climate justice interventions. Oxfam is currently investing in deepening the analysis of land & climate nexus at both country and global level.

The webinar was co-hosted by LANDac, the Land Portal Foundation and Oxfam Novib as part of the **LANDac Online Encounter 2020**.

**Moderator:** Barbara Coldispoti, Global Land Program Lead, Oxfam Novib

**Panelists:**

- Sara J. Scherr, PhD, President and CEO, EcoAgriculture Partners
- Amy Senter, Chief Sustainability Officer, Kellogg Company
- Dr. Jagdish Krishnaswamy, Senior Fellow, Suri Sehgal Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation
- Clemence Abbes, Oxfam Peru

**A complete recording of the webinar is available on YouTube:**  
<https://youtu.be/HgP4Cugnp8g>



## Key Takeaways

---

- **Climate change adaptation and mitigation can only be achieved if the land and property rights of stakeholders are assured and if communities form an integral part of landscape approaches and commodity supply chains.**
- **Land represents both a problem and a solution to climate change; deforestation and land grabs from communities will further exacerbate climate change, while company commitments to sustainable supply chains combined with secure management of land by indigenous and local communities will reduce GHG emissions.**
- **Bringing communities voices to the table with government and the private sector ensures that policies and programs will have meaningful and sustainable impact.**

## Webinar Summary

---

### **1) THE INTRINSIC LINKAGE BETWEEN LAND AND CLIMATE REFERS TO THINGS THAT ARE BOTH DIFFERENT AND YET COMPLEMENTARY. HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THIS LINKAGE, AND WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF THIS TOPIC FOR YOUR WORK?**

- The 'building blocks' of action for terrestrial climate change mitigation and adaptation lie with individual farmers, land users, infrastructure builders, food and fiber buyers, et al. But we will only reach desired impacts at scale, with justice for all groups, through coordinated and complementary actions among all land and resource managers. One of the most powerful strategies emerging is to link place-based land and climate action at landscape scale, which can build on unique landscape conditions to design and negotiate, actions by many land managers to achieve aggregate mitigation and adaptation goals that contribute to economic development, social well-being and environment. (Sara Scherr)
- As a food company our biggest ways that we can tackle climate change is by addressing green energy in our direct operations and addressing climate mitigation and resilience in our agricultural supply chain. A driver of these agriculture emissions is linked to land use change, particularly in ingredients like palm, soy and cocoa. (Amy Senter)
- Governments and companies often see the forest as a green desert that can be transformed to suits the needs of agroindustrial production for palm oil, soy or cattle rather think from a territorial and land governance perspective that can help vulnerable communities, protect the forest, and fight against poverty, inequalities and climate change. The model based on an intensive and extractive use of the land has a direct impact on climate change. (Clemence Abbas)

## 2) HOW AND WHY LAND IS A BIG PART OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

- Climate change and its interaction with land poses severe challenges for the well-being of human societies and ecosystems. How we use land for different uses matters for our response to climate change for both mitigation and adaptation. Many land-based solutions can reduce the risk of warming, help with options to live with climate change and provide other benefits for humans, ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Effective policies can reduce trade-offs between ecosystem services and have adaptation and mitigation co-benefits, including regulation of land use, providing secure tenure for local communities to land, forest and aquatic systems for fostering sustainable land management practices and restoration of degraded land and making commitments towards land degradation neutrality. Voluntary actions (change in diet, standards and certification, collective action), persuasive policies such as payments for ecosystem services, early warning systems and risk sharing mechanisms can complement these actions. (Dr. Jagdish Krishnaswamy)

## 3) CLIMATE CHANGE POSES NEW CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE RETHINKING LAND USE MANAGEMENT AND PROPERTY RIGHTS. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AND WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES?

- Climate change has forced us to consider land use in a far more integrated way - how mitigation and adaptation interact; how land uses for agriculture, how forestry and fisheries interact; and how production and nature conservation interact. It is insufficient to analyze any one of these on its own and come up with sustainable solutions. We are being forced to think in terms of land use systems, and the institutional innovations that would be required for land use planning, investment and governance to be continuously responsive to changes in climate, as well as market, health, et al. (Sara Scherr)

## 4) WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES, WE THINK ABOUT GLOBAL CHALLENGES, AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROUND?

- Climate change is altering rain patterns, causing floods or droughts and affecting seasons, and this has consequences on the agricultural practices of the communities as well as on their livelihoods. For communities who are living near a large scale plantation, they see how deforestation has changed the climate conditions of their own territory, at a micro scale and how it's also challenging or threatening their traditional knowledge as they are no longer able to find the same species of trees, plants or animals they use for food, medicine or art craft.
- We also see the indispensable work that rural and indigenous communities do to protect their land and their forest. Studies show how limited deforestation is in indigenous territories. Indigenous communities are really effective to protect their forest, and by doing so, they are limiting deforestation and GHG emissions. (Clemence Abbas)

**5) KELLOGG HAS MADE A BOLD COMMITMENT ON CLIMATE AND DEFORESTATION. HOW DO THESE COMMITMENTS RELATE TO ISSUES OF MANAGING LAND AND FORESTS IN THE COMPANY'S SUPPLY CHAIN?**

- Kellogg is a signatory to the **Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)** we are building resilient and responsible supply chains with our suppliers. We do this through our commitments on deforestation and our goal to support 1,000,000 farmers and workers through our programs. Specifically in palm oil, we have a two pronged approach: increasing our physically certified palm oil to 100% from 81% and employing an “Impact Incubator” to support smallholders and forest communities, in recognition of the fact that current certification and supply chain models have not been effectively inclusive of these groups. Kellogg partners with trusted NGO partners and actively seeks input from local civil society and community stakeholders to develop this program.
- Eliminating deforestation requires cross-sector and cross-company partnerships to tackle root causes like poverty, land rights, and supporting best practices in agricultural cultivation and production. We look for collaborative opportunities to tackle the same issues that our peers and stakeholders are working on to ensure complementary efforts that contribute to the overall big picture of reducing and eliminating deforestation. (Amy Senter)

**6) WHAT ROLE IS THERE FOR STRONG COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS AND BETTER LAND GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT IN SUPPORTING CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION?**

- Good governance at all levels and scales from local to international is integral to our success in achieving effective and wide-spread climate change adaptation and mitigation. Evidence suggests that we need both land-sparing and land-sharing approaches, but community and tenurial rights can be part of the solution for fostering and sustaining both approaches. Adoption of best practices for sustainable land and water management in agriculture, forest and aquatic systems management requires experiments that ensure rights, tenure, participation, incentives, risk-sharing and rapid transfer of knowledge and technology from other sites and regions. (Dr. Jagdish Krishnaswamy)

**7) HOW DOES THE LANDSCAPE APPROACH DIFFER FROM THE WAY LAND IS TYPICALLY MANAGED AND HOW CAN PROPERTY RIGHTS BE INTEGRATED WITHIN THIS APPROACH?**

- Currently, land management and governance is structured in separate silos for different uses - cropland, grazing land, wildlife protection, watershed protection, urban settlements, infrastructure. An integrated landscape approach engages stakeholders, through long-term dialogue and action platforms, in analysis, negotiation, decision-making, investment and policy in a systematic and transparent way. Integrated Land Management (ILM) methods and tools enable stakeholders to address their interactions, inter-dependencies, and potential trade-offs and synergies, and impacts on long-term priority outcomes for the economy, social well-being and environment, including climate.

- Evaluating and re-negotiating property rights is a critical feature of ILM. In many cases this relates to land and resource ownership, but property issues go well beyond ownership to include rights over land access, rights over ecosystem services flowing from land and resources owned or controlled by others in the landscape, rights to avoid future harm, rights contingent on sustainable management of resources, and exchange of rights among stakeholders. Current systems of land governance do not provide a long-term platform for addressing these needs. (Sara Scherr)

#### **8) KELLOGG HAS MADE A BOLD COMMITMENT ON CLIMATE AND DEFORESTATION. HOW DO THESE COMMITMENTS RELATE TO ISSUES OF MANAGING LAND AND FORESTS IN THE COMPANY'S SUPPLY CHAIN?**

- Staying close to our peers, to our suppliers, and to the industry are some of the most important steps that any company can take in pre-competitive work. It is essential to align on activities and goals rather than doing one off projects just for the sake of saying that you have done something. This type of strategy does not work and it has clearly not brought about the results in combating deforestation and climate change that are needed to make measurable impacts. Leverage your networks, bring stakeholders along the journey, and always remember to seek ways to amplify the voices of those on the ground who are most directly affected. Being completely transparent about what works and what doesn't will help us all learn and do better & make sure we're maximizing our impact. (Amy Senter)

#### **9) WHAT ARE SOME SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES OXFAM PERU HAS USED AND WHY DID THESE WORK?**

- One of the most effective strategies in our current work as Oxfam in Peru, in alliance with our partners, is to support communities through their land titling process so they can protect their territory from land grabbing, land trafficking, illegal logging, etc. Once an indigenous community has a collective land title, it's territory is protected by the Constitution, and by the ILO 169 convention, so it can't be sold and it has to be protected by the government and public agencies.
- it's really important to raise awareness on cases related to land rights violations and deforestation. To do so, we gather evidence that shows how private actors are involved in illegal deforestation and how the Peruvian State is failing to fulfill its commitments to protect its own citizens and territories, and also its commitments toward international conventions like the Paris agreement and Peru's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) where Peru has committed to reduce its emissions by 30% in 2030.
- Oxfam also supports lawsuits against companies who are responsible for illegal deforestation and who have violated national laws by doing so. It's important to denounce environmental crimes when they occur, and to set judicial precedents in the fight against deforestation, otherwise we let private investors think that they are not obligated to respect national legislation in order to make profit. It sets a precedent for other companies, too. (Clemence Abbas)



---

## Notable Quotes from the Panelists

---



**“CLIMATE CHANGE HAS A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES. LAND-BASED SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE COMPETITION FOR LAND AND PERPETUATE INEQUALITY.”**

**- BARBARA COLDISPOTI, GLOBAL LAND PROGRAM LEAD, OXFAM NOVIB**



**“WE WILL BE LIVING WITH THE EVOLVING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON LAND USE, LAND PRODUCTIVITY, LAND DEGRADATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONDITIONS FOR THE NEXT CENTURY. WE CAN NO LONGER CONSIDER RULES FOR ASSIGNING PROPERTY RIGHTS IN LAND AND RESOURCES AS FIXED.”**

**- SARA J. SCHERR, PHD, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECOAGRICULTURE PARTNERS**



**“IT REQUIRES CROSS-SECTOR AND CROSS-COMPANY PARTNERSHIPS TO TACKLE ROOT CAUSES LIKE POVERTY, LAND RIGHTS, AND SUPPORTING BEST PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION. ”**

**- AMY SENTER, CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, KELLOGG COMPANY**



**“PRODUCTIVE LAND THAT PROVIDES US WITH FOOD, FIBRE, MATERIALS AND WATER AND SUPPORTS ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY IS A FINITE AND PRECIOUS RESOURCE. IT'S INCREASINGLY IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE STRESS.”**

**- DR. JAGDISH KRISHNASWAMY, SENIOR FELLOW, SURI SEHGAL CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION**



**“LAND IS BOTH A PROBLEM AND A SOLUTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS IF WE DON'T IMPROVE HOW WE USE AND PERCEIVE LAND. ”**

**- CLEMENCE ABBES, OXFAM PERU**



**LAND PORTAL FOUNDATION**  
[www.landportal.org](http://www.landportal.org) | [hello@landportal.org](mailto:hello@landportal.org)