

UNCCD-FAO Webinars on Land Tenure for All Stakeholders Africa/Arabic countries

15 May 2023 10:00-13:00 CEST Africa/Arab Region English/French/Arabic
zoom registration link: https://unccd-int.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QN8CadbJTbO7CPmdrkd3w

AGENDA

- 10:00-10:05 **Welcome and Introduction**
Francesca Romano, Land Tenure Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- 10:05-10:15 **High Level Video Messages**
Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of the FAO
- 10:15-10:20 **Icebreaker**
- 10:20-10:30 **Mandate and Background of the initiative**
Sasha Alexander, Policy Officer, UNCCD Secretariat
- Through its COP decisions, UNCCD recognizes the importance of the nexus land tenure and land degradation neutrality/land restoration and encourage country Parties to integrate the principles and practices contained in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure (VGGT) into the design and implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and other land restoration initiatives.*
- 10:30-10:45 **Technical Guide**
Aurélie Bres, Land and Water Officer, FAO
- The technical guide on the integration of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, produced jointly by the FAO and the UNCCD, outlines the practical applications of the VGGT in the context of the design and implementation of LDN initiatives. It offers a flexible multi-pathway approach to support policy and decision-makers and relevant stakeholders in shaping a tailor-made response to commonly encountered land tenure challenges via a range of national plans, legal frameworks, strategies, and action programmes addressing land degradation.*
- 10:45-10:50 **Video: Towards land tenure security and inclusive land governance in Senegal**

- 10:50-11:00 **How to Raise Awareness on Land Rights to Benefit People and the Planet**
 Everlyne Nairesiae, Africa Region Director, Landesa
- Tenure security is a crucial enabler for land degradation neutrality. Without rights to property, communities lack the security to invest in the ecosystems on which they depend, which can hinder uptake of sustainable management practices even when support for them is offered. This session will explore options on how to increase public knowledge of responsible land governance as a key aspect of combating desertification, land degradation, and drought among all stakeholders. The session will offer options on how to increase responsible land governance to catalyze action towards land degradation neutrality, using a gender equitable and socially inclusive approach to raising awareness, centering the equitable representation and leadership of vulnerable groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, youth, pastoralists, migrants, and persons with disabilities, in these efforts. The presentation will begin with an overview of the options paper and then further contextualize awareness-raising approaches with brief highlights of case studies or initiatives in Liberia and Tanzania.*
- 11:10-11:30 **The role of data and information in supporting the global Land Degradation Neutrality Agenda**
- Laura Meggiolaro, Managing Director, Land Portal Foundation, Eva Hershaw, Data and Land Monitoring Lead, International Land Coalition (ILC)
- Fragmented and incomplete land information systems, closed or unavailable data and knowledge, and poorly managed local data impede effective land governance. By identifying and addressing data and information gaps, governments, civil society organizations, Indigenous groups, and citizens can actively contribute to achieving LDN. This session will provide solutions, including the Land Portal Foundation's methodology for analyzing the State of Land Information and developing Open Up Guides, and the International Land Coalition's LANDex, a global land governance index that aims to democratize land monitoring and build a data ecosystem that captures diverse perspectives including citizen generated data. These efforts can improve data quality, availability, accessibility, and use for better citizen engagement, decision-making, accountability and innovation in land governance.*
- 11:30-11 :40 **Q&A and open discussion on the presentations**
- 11:40-11:50 **Responding to climate change challenges through improved land governance in the Arab region**
- Ombretta Tempra, Land Specialist, UN-Habitat/Global Land Tool Network; Mona Khechen, Independent urban development planner and researcher; and Petra Samaha, Architect, Urban Planner and researcher/ PhD candidate at Sciences Po – Paris, Lebanese Centre of Policy Studies
- Climate change is severely impacting the Arab region, which intensifies stress on land and natural resources rendering their management more difficult yet more important. Poor land governance is adding to these challenges. Overgrazing in rural areas, commercial*

agriculture involving monocultures, unplanned and unregulated urbanization, unchecked commercialization and privatization of land resources and land speculation are destroying biodiversity, contributing to land degradation, and straining land and water resources. The management of land rights and land use rights has never been more crucial. Addressing the nexus between land governance and climate change is therefore on the critical path for sustainability in the Arab region.

11:50-12:00 **The Conundrum of forest-dependent communities in land degradation neutrality and biodiversity conservation policies. Insights from Madagascar and Benin**

Check Abdel Kader Baba, Research Associate, TMG Research; and Harifidy Rakoto, Head Researcher, Land, Landscape and Development Lab (LLanDev)

Land is a strategic asset for livelihood needs, diversification of household revenues, adaptation to climate change, investment in land restoration, and dedication to forest conservation. While current efforts to secure land in Madagascar and Benin mainly focus on communal lands, the conundrum facing forest adjacent communities remains largely unknown. In both countries, tenure concerns of adjacent communities still escape national and global initiatives toward just transitions, and there are numerous - latent and open - conflicts between the communities and forest authorities, underpinned by multiple power dynamics, with as a negative consequence, the restricted access to land for women and poorer communities. In these contexts, monitoring dependent communities' legitimate rights and promoting policy mechanisms that recognize, safeguard, and secure sustainably those rights in conservation approaches is key to reduce conflicts, reinstate trust among stakeholders, and stimulate investment in sustainable land management and forest conservation agenda.

12:00-12:20 **Discussion with the panelists**

12:20-12:30 **Request for National Consultations**

Sasha Alexander, Policy Officer, UNCCD Secretariat

UNCCD and FAO will jointly support a national consultation process to support countries to continue integrating land tenure in the implementation of activities to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality. Selected countries across regions, will have the opportunity to receive support to further develop specific guidance, exchange lessons learned, and inform land tenure strategies and action plans. The upcoming request for proposals, criteria, and selection process tied to the national consultations process will be presented.

12:30-12:50 **Discussion on the national consultation process**

12:50-13:00 **Closing Remarks**

Francesca Romano, Land Tenure Officer, FAO