

UNCCD-FAO Webinars on Land Tenure for All Stakeholders Eastern Europe/Asia/Pacific

17 May 2023 08:00-11:00 CEST Asia/Central-East Europe English/Russian/Chinese
zoom registration link: https://unccd-int.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4HvXHXFTSG6WeYNuDedpSg

AGENDA

- 08:00-08:05 **Welcome and Introduction**
Carolina Starr, Agricultural Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU)
- 08:05-08:15 **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
- 08:15-08:20 **Icebreaker**
- 08:20-08:30 **Mandate and Background**
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.
- 08:30-08:45 **Technical Guide**
Brad Paterson, International Land Tenure Specialist, FAOREU
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.
- 08:45-08:50 **Video: Towards land tenure security and inclusive land governance in Senegal**

08:50-09:00 **How to Raise Awareness on Land Rights to Benefit People and the Planet**

Beth Roberts, Director, Center for Women's Land Rights

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 awareness of land tenure and 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 India and Pakistan.

09:00-09:20 **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; and Elvira Maratova, Pasture Community Development Professional and Monitoring and evaluation specialist, ILC Asia

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 Land Degradation Neutrality. 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.

09:20-09:30 **Q&A and open discussion on the presentations**

09:30-09:40 **Grounded and practical application of VGGT principles to improve dryland ecosystem governance and management in Mongolia**

Narangerel Yansanjav, Executive director of People Centered Conservation (PCC)

The underlying barriers to dryland ecosystem management in Mongolia are associated with poor dryland governance, inadequate recognition and safeguarding of legitimate tenure rights of pastoral herders, unregulated and overuse of natural resources, and inadequate capacity at the local level regarding land tenure management. Under the above challenges, the VGGT were introduced in Mongolia since 2013 to strengthen and improve the national legal framework through a policy dialogue on tenure rights, where pastoral herders' legitimate tenure rights were highly taken into consideration for the first time by the policymakers.

- 09:40-09:50 **Land tenure and grazing management in Georgia – matching legislation to reality**
 Dr Sarah Robinson, Research Associate, SDGnexus Network, Center for International Development and Environmental Research (ZEU) & Institute for Agricultural Policy and Market Research
- Pastures in Georgia are used by many different types of livestock producer, having objectives ranging from subsistence and savings, through income diversification to large specialist operations. Yet current legislative arrangements for pasture access are suitable only for large commercial producers, leaving the majority of livestock owners using pasture through traditional but nonformal arrangements. This leaves them with neither land titles nor institutions through which to interact with government regarding land management. The National Pastureland Management Policy Document sets out a vision and principles for sustainable pasture management, defining use rights and institutional arrangements for pasture use and planning. It links these to assessments based on the LDN national voluntary targets, promoting integration of LDN principles into national policy.*
- 09:50-10:20 **Discussion with the panelists**
- 10:20-10:30 **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.*
- 10:30-10:50 **Discussion on the national consultation process**
- 10:50-11:00 **Closing Remarks**
 Carolina Starr, Agricultural Officer, FAOREU