

UNCCD-FAO Webinars on Land Tenure for All Stakeholders Latin America

16 May 2023 15:00-18:00 CEST Latin America and Caribbean countries English/Spanish
zoom registration link: https://unccd-int.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NnerYZraReKu95NselnNhQ

AGENDA

- 15:00-15:05 **Welcome and Introduction**
Miriam Medel Garcia, Chief of External Relations, Policy and Advocacy, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Secretariat (UNCCD)
- 15:05-15:15 **High Level Video Messages**
Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary and Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- 15:15-15:20 **Icebreaker**
- 15:20-15:30 **Mandate and Background of the joint 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.
- 15:30-15:45 **Technical Guide**
Amparo Cerrato Gewaver, Land Tenure Office, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAORLC)
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.
- 15:45-15:50 **Video: Towards land tenure security and inclusive land governance in Senegal**

- 15:50-16:00 **How to Raise Awareness on Land Rights to Benefit People and the Planet**
Rachel McMonagle, Climate Change Program Director, Landesa
- 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 Brazil and Colombia.*
- 16:00-16:20 **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 Manolo Morales, Director of Ecolex in Ecuador
- 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.*
- 16:20-16 :30 **Q&A and open discussion on the presentations**
- 16:30-16:40 **Land tenure, security and restoration in the Caribbean – Experiences from establishing a Caribbean Agriculture Land Bank**
Vermaran Extavour, International Expert - Value Chain and Project Coordination, FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean
- An overview will be provided of the specific challenges in land administration, land tenure governance and land degradation in the Caribbean. Recent and ongoing efforts to address these interlinked challenges in the subregion will be presented, focusing on agricultural land banks and sustainable soil management initiatives, as well as how these initiatives can be integrated into broader land administration priorities and development agendas. This presentation will provide an overview of the subregional experience; reference will be made to ongoing efforts being supported in Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.*

- 16:40-16:50 **Strengthening of land tenure governance of protected areas in Honduras and its articulation with regional technical cooperation agendas (RedParques)**
Alejandra Reyes, Head of the Protected Areas Department, National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife of Honduras
- RedParques is a technical cooperation network made up of the National Systems of Protected Areas of 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, that seeks to improve the management of these areas by strengthening the capacities of its member institutions. One of the areas identified as a common and priority challenge is the improvement of governance of land and natural resource tenure in protected areas, territories where multiple forms of tenure coexist. It is in this sense that Honduras, as a member of Redparques, is supporting initiatives for the generation and exchange of knowledge and experiences in this area at the regional level, to contribute to the strengthening of its processes of "Special Regularisation of Land Tenure in Public Protected Areas", which it has been developing since the entry into force of the country's new forestry law.*
- 16:50-17:00 **Local communities' territorial rights and management of natural resources: a pre-condition for restoring and conserving Semiarid Ecosystems**
Gabriel Seghezzo; Executive Secretariat of the Latin American Semiarids Platform
- In the north of Argentina, in one of the most marginalized areas of the country, 150 indigenous communities from 5 ethnic groups and 460 peasant families managed, after 30 years of struggle, to gain access to 640,000 hectares of land that formally belonged to the state. This was possible after an international legal process before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights with a ruling in March 2021, and another simultaneous and synergic process of political territorial agreements between the communities using dialogue, participatory mapping and political lobbying strategies. The management of natural resources and the adaptation of ways of life are central axes to restore and conserve a Semiarid ecosystem, that will allow the new local communities generations to have a more prosperous future life project.*
- 17:00-17:20 **Discussion with the panelists**
- 17:20-17:30 **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.*
- 17:30-17:50 **Discussion on the national consultation process**

17:50-18:00

Closing Remarks

Miriam Medel Garcia, Chief of External Relations, Policy and Advocacy, UNCCD Secretariat