CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSO) PANEL

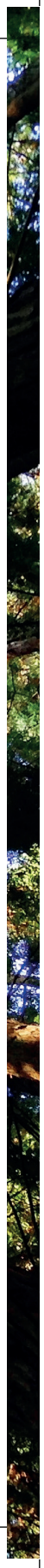
LAND RIGHTS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIFE ON LAND

THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)



Gaim Bétancourt (IAT).


Angela Benito



Foreword

Land is the foundation of our life; stopping the critical loss of land and turning this trend around is critical for the future prosperity and security of humankind. The Sustainable Development Goal 15 "Life on land" commits world leaders to work together to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) for safeguarding life on land. One of the objectives that comprises LDN is to reinforce responsible governance of land tenure. Land rights is indeed a key factor for achieving LDN and delivering food, water and livelihoods security for future generations, particularly the poor people, on the path to real sustainability. However, how much do key stakeholders understand the vital connection between land rights and land degradation? This publication by the UNCCD CSO Panel aims to analyze and highlight the linkages between land rights and land degradation with the objective of offering policy recommendations to enhance land rights for both the prevention of land degradation and the recovery of degraded lands. Securing land rights is a challenge that demands multi-actor collaboration. Local communities and organizations that work very close to the land are a primary resource for the innovation, experimentation and adaptation that are needed to find new pathways and solutions around the world. The establishment of partnerships across government, civil society, investors and donors to overcome constraints related to land rights and to get advantage of the related opportunities will be important to achieve the LDN goals. We invite Parties, CSOs, local communities and other interested stakeholders who share this vision to work together as partners and mobilize our abilities and efforts to secure land rights for sustainable life. We hope that you will find this CSO Panel publication useful and inspiring.

UNCCD CSO Panel

- Hindou Oumarou, representative of Africa – Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)
- Marioldy Sanchez, representative of Latin America and the Caribbean – AIDER
- Sophiko Akhobadze, representative of Eastern European Group - Regional Environmental Center (REC) for the Caucasus (RECC)
- Baris Karapinar, representative of Western Europe and Others Group - Nature Conservation Centre (Turkey)
- Bhawani Shanker Kusum, representative of Asia – Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)





UNCCD, CSO Panel and Land Degradation Neutrality

Secure rights to land and other natural resources is a primary factor in achieving the land degradation neutrality (LDN) goals; and the associated improvements in food, water, and livelihood security. As UNCCD, the CSO Panel, and partners in government, civil society and the donor and investment communities move forward with LDN targets, the role of land rights in both degradation and recovery processes are brought to the fore. This document is a CSO Panel publication that examines the linkages between land rights and land degradation, and provides a land rights perspective to the UNCCD LDN framework. It also provides policy and practice options and recommendations for using land rights as a set of tools in both the prevention of land degradation, and in the recovery of degraded lands. The document draws on the UNCCD CSO Panel's expertise, along with the current scientific, policy and practitioner literature on land rights and degradation.

1. How does land tenure security help achieve land degradation neutrality?

Policy Message: It is essential to integrate land tenure security into national strategies in order to achieve LDN

Land rights are often viewed by international development and national governments as a tool set that can help address a number of challenges, including agricultural productivity, wealth generation, civic participation, and rule of law, as well as land degradation. If we unpack the land rights tool set, the tools can be divided into two broad categories for integration into the LDN framework, 1) tools that are able to support the prevention, avoidance and reduction of land degradation; and 2) tools that are able to support the recovery of degraded lands. A selection of land rights tools can be applied in support of the two primary components of the LDN framework, 1) to assist in the prevention of land degradation, and 2) recovery of degraded lands.



Land rights, LDN success stories

Agdals in the High Atlas, Morocco
Agdals are community managed pastoral areas in the Moroccan High Atlas mountains, for local communities' livestock. Communities restrict seasonal access in order to ensure the pastures can rest in the season most conducive to growth. Compared with overexploited and deforested neighbouring areas, Agdals have increased biodiversity, forest and vegetation cover (FAO, 2017).

Greening of the Sahel, Niger
This initiative secured local rights to the use and benefits from trees, which were previously state-property. This provided incentives to the farmers to take greater care of the soil and trees on their farms. Coupled with the promotion of low-cost conservation methods, this project led to the revitalization of five million hectares of land (Stickler, 2012).

Ethiopia's land certification program
Improved tenure security achieved by a land certification programme has increased landowners' propensity to invest in soil and water conservation measures by 20-30%. In turn, these investments have boosted agricultural outputs, increasing landowners' incomes (Byamugisha, 2013).

Zarqa Basin restoration project, Jordanian Bedouin rangelands
The revival of the millennial local Hima resource tenure system to restore and secure land rights on 100,000 hectares of the Zarqa Basin's degraded lands yielded multiple inter-linked environmental and economic benefits, including net benefits worth US$ 203-408 million in ecosystem services to the Jordanian population over the next 25 years (FAO, 2017).

Reforestation for charcoal, Northern Madagascar
In order to curb deforestation and meet growing demand for charcoal in Madagascar, the German Development Corporation funded a project to increase sustainable charcoal production. Central to the success of the reforestation of degraded state land was the allocation of plots to individual households and the formal registration of private tenure rights conditional on predetermined performance benchmarks (Ackerman et al 2014).


UN Photo/Harandane Dicko


Petr Kosina / CIMMYT

2. How does land tenure security contribute to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods?

Policy Message: Land is the main source of food, shelter and income, hence policies that would provide land tenure security improve the livelihoods of the poor by offering social, economic and environmental benefits. Policy makers should identify how providing secure access to land could be part of a coherent poverty reduction strategy.

Tenure security contributes to eradicating poverty through a widely agreed upon 'chain of effect.' This chain begins with the fact that a landholder who has secure tenure is more willing and able to invest in their land. Such investments include: planting economic trees; use of hedgerows; the construction of terraces, drainage ditches and other erosion control and soil protection features; and soil conserving and soil enhancing techniques such as rotational land uses designed to let agricultural, grazing, forest and other landscapes lie unused for a period of time in order to recover. The security resides in the confidence that the productive landscape under one's control will not be seized by others (including by the state). The confidence that the landholder will be able to enjoy the benefits of their investments over the long-term. Such investments then lead to greater productivity in agricultural and natural production systems over the long-term (for both intensive and extensively used land). This greater productivity then leads to greater food and livelihood security, and then wealth.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia provides an example of successful outcomes in the tenure security - poverty relationship. The Ethiopian government implemented a unique form of registration and recognition of land parcels that involved local land administration committees, very low cost, and significant participation in the registration process by local farmers.

By using local land administration committees, the legitimacy of the program is strengthened. And female head of households are able to register land in their own names, thus helping widows and divorcees. Husbands and wives are able to register land jointly, and a federal regulation requires the consent of both husband and wife in order to sell or rent land.

The resulting increases in tenure security has led to decreases in disputes, increased investments in tree planting and soil conservation and has increased the productivity of agriculture, thus contributing significantly to poverty alleviation. (Roth and McCarthy 2014).

3. How does land tenure security help farmers / indigenous peoples adapt to climate change?





Policy Message: Policies that would provide land tenure security improve the livelihoods of the poor, and help avoid land degradation, and hence improve climate resilience and the adaptation capacity of both natural and human systems.

The intersection of climate change and land degradation in the context of land rights is an issue of particular concern. Climate change and land degradation are closely associated in many parts of the world, as are land tenure insecurity and land degradation. This reveals a problem of compounding effects. Such that the effects of climate change acting together with tenure insecurity over large areas, pushes landscapes more strongly in the same direction toward greater degradation. The result is more pronounced land degradation than if either of these factors were acting alone. In a similar way however, providing the necessary legal and institutional means by which tenure security can be strengthened, can mitigate the land degradation effects of climate change to a certain degree. In this sense enhancing tenure security is very much a climate change adaptation measure with a critically important role in supporting forms of sustainable land management that are more resilient to land degradation.

Turkey

The Nature Conservation Centre, a leading environmental NGO, has started a project, 'Agriculture of the Future' that aims to improve climate change adaptation in agriculture by promoting the use of the ecosystem services approach. The project promoted climate smart and conservation agriculture techniques, such as direct seeding, windbreak establishment, organic manure implementation and water efficient irrigation. It has been implemented in the province of Konya, a major dryland area. The project illustrates a successful model for improving the livelihoods of farmers thereby contributing to their adaptation capacity.

Kenya

The Agricultural Carbon project involving 60,000 farmers are engaged in sustainable land management practices which allowed them to increase soil organic matter, and improve water absorption, nutrient supply and biodiversity as well as help prevent erosion. Improved soils raised farm yields, improving food security and making agriculture more resilient to climate change (UNCCD 2015).

Mexico

A group of ranchers who are members of Pasticultores del Desierto have been working in drylands in Northern Mexico to protect and bring back grassland ecosystems for the benefit of inhabitants and wildlife. Through sustainable grazing management in the area, Pasticultores del Desierto is in the process of rehabilitating around 500,000 hectares. Ranch properties under planned grazing management have shown an increase of productivity four times greater than properties using continuous grazing. In the meantime organic matter in soil increased 2%, carbon content has been doubled, and additional thousands of litres of water have been captured, thereby contributing to the adaptation capacity of both natural and human systems.



4. How does land tenure security with sustainable land management help climate change mitigation efforts (also offering great opportunity for attracting funds and investment)

Policy Message: Carbon storage capacity of territorial ecosystems offers an enormous potential for climate change mitigation. Providing land tenure security to small farmers and indigenous peoples encourages them to keep land vegetated and productive, which leads to capturing more carbon, contributing to mitigation efforts

Land-related green house gas emissions – from agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) – account for almost one quarter of global total emissions, amounting to approximately 10 – 12 GtCO2eq / yr (IPCC, 2013). According to the IPCC, almost half of this amount is emitted from agricultural production (approximately 5.0 – 5.8 GtCO2eq) while the rest come from land use and land-use change activities (Smith et al, 2013). In agriculture, the vast majority of anthropogenic green house gas (GHG) emissions are from livestock and soil management.

On the other hand, the land is a major natural sink of carbon, offering substantial capacity and potential for carbon sequestration. Plant litter and other biomass accumulates as organic matter and humus in soils, albeit with varying intensity depending on the soil type (UNEP, 2015). The carbon sequestration capacity of wetlands and moist zone soils is estimated to be twice as much as those of mineral soil (Brown and Lugo, 1990; Davidson and Janssens, 2006). Hence carbon storage capacity of territorial ecosystems offers an enormous potential for mitigation. Limiting and reducing emissions in land sectors is critical in meeting global emission reduction targets in the context of the Paris Agreement (UFCCC, 2015).

Latin America

New efforts to reduce land degradation and deforestation are underway across Latin America. For example, the Initiative 20x20 is a new partnership between Latin America's governments, public agencies and private sector investors. It aims to restore 20 million hectares of degraded land by 2020 to reduce land degradation and associated GHG emissions

In Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, through a GEF funded project, farmers received financial incentives to implement a programme of sustainable forest grazing. With the project, the area of under improved pastures, fodder banks, and live fences increased significantly. This has led to a 60% reduction in degraded pastures, a 71% increase in carbon sequestered, significant increases in milk production and farm income, and increases in biodiversity (UNCCD)

Kenya

Farmers who practiced sustainable land management have received USD $65,000 in carbon revenue for environmental services under the Verified Carbon Standard for sequestering carbon in soil in 2014. The credits represent not only a reduction of around 25,000 tCO 2e but an added layer of support and income to small and medium-sized landholders (UNCDD, 2015).

Rwanda

200,000 hectares planted in trees by rural inhabitants covers more than the combined area of the country's remaining natural forest and all state and communal plantations. Smallholder plantations of oil palm, cacao, coffee, cola nut, plantain and banana cover approximately 67% of the farmland in southern Nigeria.

Pakistan

Almost 90% of the nation's fuelwood needs and 41% of the timber demand is met from trees planted on farmlands. Placing greater policy focus on the carbon storage taking place by tree planting on smallholder lands, could support greater tenure security and land recovery for the same farmers.

Turkey

Implementing a holistic land management method, a local CSO, Anadolu Meraları (a Savory Hub), has managed to increase soil organic matter from 1.75% to 2.37% for top soil (0-30 cm) in two years. This amounts to more than one hundred tons of carbon sequestered in only 20ha of project land.

5. How does land tenure security contribute to human security in relation to conflicts and refugees?

Policy Message: Land degradation is recognized as a significant driver of migration and as a triggering factor of conflicts. Policies providing landless people with small-scale agricultural opportunities by improved land policy, should be a important component of managing migrant and resettlement programs

There are a couple of primary linkages between the repercussions of armed conflict, land rights and land degradation. During armed conflict the rules of natural resource management that exist during peacetime are not followed and enforcement collapses as local communities shift to a form of 'crisis livelihood'. Thus instead of planning for how to interact with land resources over the long term, what becomes important is focusing on having enough to eat and being safe on any given day. This 'crisis livelihood' contributes significantly to land degradation because it favors quicker forms of land resource extraction, use and sale, instead of conservation investments in land. In this regard during conflict personal security is strongly linked to tenure security.


Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran

Sudan

Darfur provides an illustrative example. A multiyear drought and land degradation led to forms of adaptation involving change in relationships between groups over rights to land resources. Effective approaches involving highly flexible customary institutions were used to effectively manage the change in land resource rights relationships inherent in adaptation, and considerable opportunity existed for positive interaction between customary and statutory law. But there were also actions in the domain of national policy that debilitated the opportunities and instead led to profoundly negative repercussions in relationships about land in Darfur in the context of adaptation. This debilitation became a primary driver in the current war, highlighting both the importance of land resource rights relationships to adaptation, but also how these can be changed (positively and negatively) by specific practices and policies.



https://www.flickr.com/photos/icraf/4732508961/in/album-72157624269725549/



Olivier Girard (CIFOR)

6. How does land tenure security help women's empowerment in rural areas

Policy Message: More women are running agricultural households and managing natural resources. Policies promoting secure access to land for women increase the rate of productive return of lands.

Among the most insecure landholdings are lands occupied and used by women, especially women head of household in both customary/indigenous and statutory law. Whether involving insecurity for lands that women use, or expropriation from lands due to lack of land rights, or loss of land in matters of inheritance and divorce, the repercussions for food and livelihood security, and hence land degradation are significant. Laws and customs that deny effective land rights and tenure security to women discourages them from investing in sustainable land use practices for lands they do not have the rights to and can easily have expropriated. Economically, studies have shown an increased rate of productive return of lands when women have secure land rights. This is especially important given that globally, more and more women are running agricultural households and managing natural resources.

Rwanda
Following the implementation of the 2006 land registration programme, it was found that landowners with registered lands were more than twice as likely to invest in conservation practices compared to unregistered owners. Moreover, improving land governance can positively impact women's land rights. Female-headed households were even more likely to invest in conservation measures, thereby increasing their income and socio-economic resilience (Byamugisha, 2013).

Senegal
A USAID funded project allocated degraded land to women, providing them with training and resources in exchange of restored land. This program secured women's rights, increasing their incentives to restore degraded land, and promoted sustainable agricultural practices. Women successfully restored the lands' productive capacity by using the conservation agricultural practices and tools (USAID 2015).

7. How do civil society organisations facilitate land tenure security for local communities?


Marion Koningstein (CIAT)

Policy Message: Policy makers should engage in civil society in facilitating secure access to land for local communities.

An immense resource exits within local indigenous and customary communities to experiment with and derive different forms of land recovery in a social entrepreneurship context. Such communities live on the land continually and interact with the various components and processes of land degradation, recovery, rights, productivity, uses, and the relationships between these in a very intimate way. Such a position gives them particular insight into what can be viable ways forward for land recovery. Highland Madagascar is an example of successful land recovery by local communities, who used a variety of innovative erosion control, land use change, and land rights techniques that they had experimented with, to achieve remarkable gains in land recovery and agricultural productivity increases. This resource needs to be better appreciated, recognized and empowered with secure rights, and combined with modern tools--such as mobile technologies for demarcation, communication, and registration--to be used in partnership with government, investors and civil society. Local communities should be allowed, even encouraged to experiment with a variety of social and biophysical approaches to recovering land in order to find approaches that work locally. In this regard new mobile digital technologies, as noted above, will likely play an increasing role in the near future as social entrepreneurship becomes more technology literate.


Georgina Smith / CIAT

Brazil
The Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST) is a movement for rural workers without land that is present in 24 of 26 states in Brazil. The organization pushes for land access for the large landless rural population in the country, in the context of the significant inequality in landholding size and distribution. Similar land inequality problems and landless peoples movements are present elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean. There are examples where such movements can have a very positive effect on land rights. Also in Brazil, the Cadastro de Terras e Regularização Fundiária, works to provide the means for tenure security for small holdings in rural parts of the country.

Senegal multi-stakeholder platform
A national multi-stakeholder platform on the VGGT was launched in 2014 in Senegal with financial support from France and Italy. Through this platform, the Voluntary Guidelines have fed into the National Tenure Reform Commission. By creating a space for participatory dialogue at multiple levels of governance, it has contributed to bringing together multiple stakeholders with differing interests. Implementation of the VGGT including pilot activities, have been making a difference on the ground. (FAO 2016)



8. How can land rights be understood in local situations, in order to attend to them in a way that supports land degradation neutrality?

Policy Message: Land rights assessments can be included in the LDN framework. There are conventional approaches to assessing land tenure that are rapid, straightforward and highly reflective of the status of rights, including tenure security.

Assessments are an important component of the LDN framework, and are useful for establishing baselines, monitoring, and learning about important components of the degradation problem that require particular attention. Assessments of the status of land rights and in particular the degree of tenure security, are needed to determine the baseline of rights and tenure security, and to determine which land rights tool is most appropriately and effectively applied. Monitoring the status of land rights is useful for signals that change is underway in tenure status, which is important for protecting tenure security from declining, and to spot opportunities to improve tenure security--given that the political will exists to monitor and improve land rights. Conventional land tenure assessments have evolved over the years to meet a variety of needs, and can be rapid, straightforward and highly reflective of forms of land rights and tenure security. Such assessments should be included in LDN efforts along with other types of assessments that are already part of the framework.

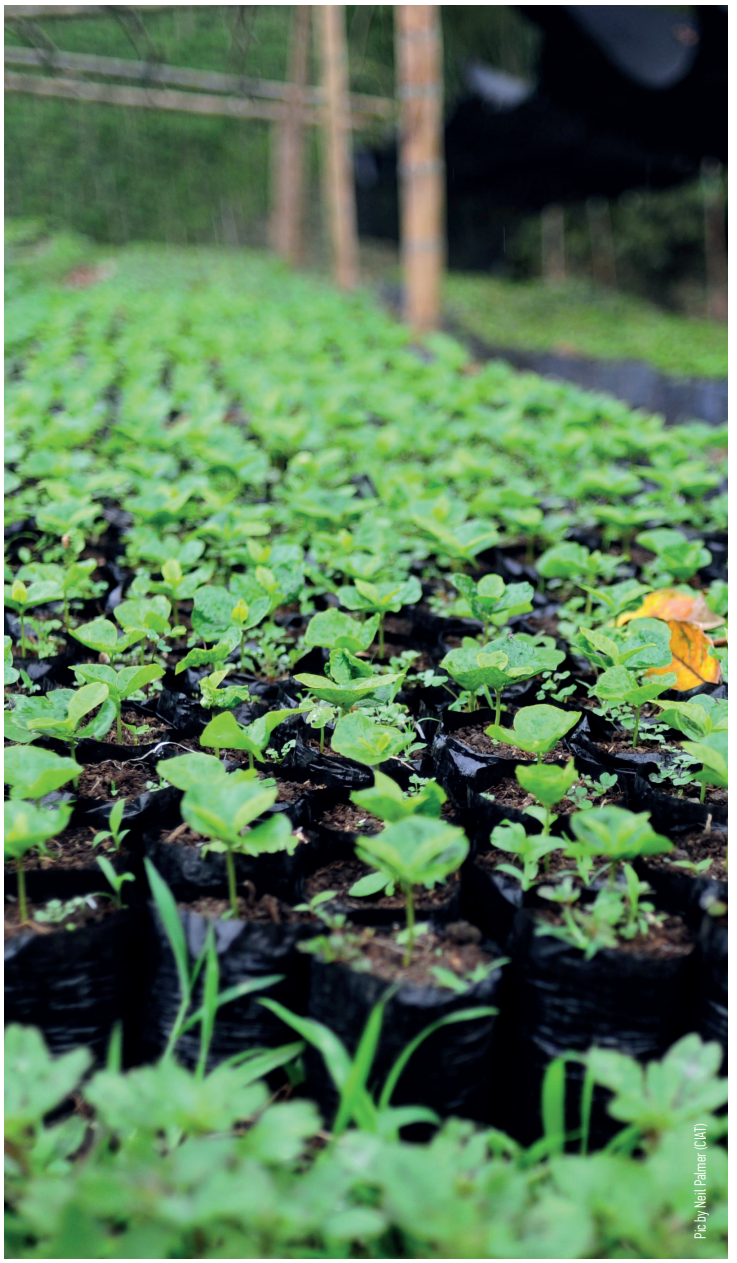


9. How can governments learn more about the importance of land rights in land degradation?

Policy Message: Opportunities that would allow CSOs to interact with government about the connection between land rights and land degradation; and the causes, consequences and remedies involved would improve government understanding.

The role of advocacy and lobbying governments with regard to the important components of the connection between land rights and land degradation, such as recognition of indigenous peoples land rights, tenure security, and dispute resolution, should receive greater attention. For customary and indigenous peoples tenure systems, the state should recognize that local courts and other dispute resolution mechanisms exist as a 'free good' to the national government, who does not have to pay for their operation, including training, salaries, materials, etc. They can also be more accountable to local populations than state courts. Thus state recognition of the legitimacy of customary and indigenous peoples local courts and the validity of their decisions, can strengthen their role among local populations, broaden their use, and encourage the emergence of additional local courts.

The economic opportunity involved in recovering degraded lands should be most appealing to national governments, as they are in the best position to derive and implement recovery policies and practices. And because land degradation is so sensitive to being caused by land rights problems; the opposite can also be true, that positive, supportive land rights policies and governance that improve tenure security for a population, including indigenous peoples and customary groups, can have very positive effects on both prevention and recovery from degradation.



Pic by Neil Palmer (CIAT)

The monetary aspect of land degradation and recovery

By one estimate if sustainable land management were implemented across the world, trillions of dollars US could be added to the global economy annually; including a gain of approximately 2 billion hectares of farmland (ELD 2015). A separate estimate of the global costs of land degradation puts the amount at $300 billion USD, with most of this occurring in Africa (Nkonya et al 2016). On average, five US dollars is gained for every one US dollar invested in restoration of degraded lands. And for investments in sustainable land management practices, the return was found to be larger than costs by at least two times in a 30-year planning cycle (Nkonya et al 2016). A different study also looked at the implementation of sustainable land use practices and estimated that 1.4 trillion USD could be gained with these practices worldwide (UNCCD 2014).

Seventy percent of the world's agricultural land is involved in pastoral feeding systems, and the demand for livestock products is increasing rapidly. This demand is particularly great in low and medium income countries where the majority of pastoral lands are (Nkonya et al 2016). One study estimated that approximately 7 billion USD could be gained by addressing land degradation of pastoral lands, which can be seen as a money-making opportunity, particularly for countries with large pastoral areas.





10. How does land tenure security provide a connection between state tenure systems and indigenous peoples and customary tenure systems?

Policy Message: Policies that focus on tenure security in different tenure systems, will be more valuable than attempting to replace customary and indigenous peoples land rights systems with formal, state tenure, given the history of problems this has caused.

Tenure security itself is more important than which tenure system people practice. This understanding can be supported in state tenure systems, indigenous peoples systems and customary systems, and hybrids between these. What will be important are ways to allow for interaction between these systems and not replacement of one by another. A great deal of progress has been made on how to do this and a variety of country examples exist that are successful. From the state's view, what will be important will be to provide official recognition, under national law, to diverse, local in-place patterns of access to and control over land resources.



11. What is the role of state law in land tenure security?

Policy Message: Well intentioned laws can have unintended consequences. A variety of laws that are commonly applied can contain components that inadvertently encourage land degradation. A review of these allows for often easily made changes that can be supportive of LDN.

A legal review of existing laws within a country pertaining to land acquisition, transfer, inheritance, demarcation and use, from a perspective of how they lead to land degradation, can be easily and quickly performed with recommendations made as to their adjustment. A variety of new legal approaches can be implemented that are able to assist in the prevention and recovery of degraded lands. Among these are the legal arrangements that allow, encourage, and at times mandate, multiple land uses of certain lands by different groups in a cooperative instead of a confrontational way. A number of these laws are already known and widely used; a selection of these are presented here.

1. Use it or lose it.
2. Inheritance.
3. Recognition.
4. Multiple land use.
5. Abuse of laws.
6. Complicated laws.
7. Regulating pastoralism.
8. Inappropriate categorization.



12. How does tree tenure contribute to tenure security?

Policy Message: Careful policies regarding tree planting by and for local communities can significantly enhance land tenure security. There are a variety of policy opportunities to achieve this.

Tree tenure can be a valuable land recovery and degradation prevention tool. Tree tenure can often exist at the intersection of land rights and land degradation in many situations. The ways that rights to trees are configured in different communities and countries are varied, but often tied to specific customary and indigenous peoples groups, and so different tools can be applied in areas under control of specific groups. Of particular note is the potential for involving local communities, CSOs and NGOs in tree planting.





13. How can the LDN effort coordinate with land rights organizations?

Policy Message: In a significant coordination opportunity for LDN, there are a variety of efforts at the international level, including the Voluntary Guidelines, that seek to pursue land rights issues.

Recognition by the Parties to the UNCCD that good governance of tenure is necessary to prevent, minimize or reverse land degradation and to ensure equitable outcomes from LDN, is an important first step in linking the VGGT, LDN and the 2030 agenda. States which are taking part in the voluntary LDN target setting programme could leverage related awareness raising and consultation activities to simultaneously bring attention to the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security" as a resource to establishing good governance of land tenure in the pursuit of LDN.
It can be worthwhile to connect with international efforts in order to attain greater synergy among shared objectives. These efforts include:

- The International Land Coalition (http://www.landcoalition.org/en/about-ilc) comprises over 206 organizations representing 64 countries whose goals are to promote secure and fair access to land for rural people by capacity building, knowledge building and advocacy.
- The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) (http://www.gltn.net/index.php/about-us/about-gltn), operating with UN Habitat, is an alliance of national and regional partners focused on land reform, better land management, and security of tenure in pro-poor and gender sensitive tool development.
- The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGs) (http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/) in association with FAO has several regional efforts and engages in assisting national governments to gain alignment with agreed upon guidelines for responsible and improved land rights.
- The Land Portal (https://landportal.info/about) focuses on the collection, sourcing and searching of what otherwise would be scattered and fragmented information and data on land governance and land use produced by diverse sources, including: governments, academia, international organizations, indigenous peoples groups, and NGOs. The Portal also documents land rights and works to encourage social information exchange and networking.
- The news organization Thomson Reuters Land Rights (http://www.thisisplace.org/about-us/) has a component that focuses on land rights, and reports on organizations working around the globe with regard to the protection of land rights for customary and indigenous peoples.
- UN HABITAT (https://unhabitat.org/about-us/) is an agency within the UN that promotes tenure security in settlements, among other priorities, including rural settlements. UN Habitat funds and operates multiple projects to 'upgrade' forms of landholding to more secure forms.
- Rights and Resources International (RRI) (http://rightsandresources.org/en/about-us/#.WMwByZHXehA) focuses on the unjust and insecure forms of land rights for indigenous peoples and local customary communities occupying drylands and forests in developing countries. RRI comprises a diverse coalition of development organizations who advance land and resource rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- FAO's Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD) (http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/background/en/) works with the political, legal and cultural factors that assist women's land rights. It also provides a platform to analyze and provide information about gender and land rights issues .
- The Land Matrix (http://www.landmatrix.org/en/about/) is an independent, worldwide land monitoring initiative operating as an 'open tool' to promote transparency and accountability in decisions regarding land and investment. The Land Matrix monitors large scale land acquisitions (LSLAs), and in doing so supports 'open development', which allows greater public involvement in crucial land decisions.
- The Tenure Facility (http://thetenurefacility.org/about-us/) provides grants to advance land tenure security and the rights of indigenous peoples and customary communities. The Facility seeks to be responsive to the growing global crisis that often sets governments, business, and communities against one another. A priority within the Facility is to focus on collective rights to land resources.
- Landesa (http://www.landesa.org/) works with a variety of land rights problems in the developing world, focusing on social entrepreneurship and land rights security.

14. What form of cooperation can best support land tenure security and LDN?


Yusuf Ahmad/IFAD


Association des Femmes Peules et Peuples Autochtones du Tchad (AFPAT)

Policy Message: Policies that encourage the formation of partnerships between government, CSOs, NGOs, local communities, civil society and international actors would be an inclusive approach to supporting land tenure security and LDN.

There is broad agreement among the CSO Panel of the need for an effective partnership approach to LDN, and this report underscores the importance of this approach from a land rights perspective. Because recognition of land rights and the security of tenure this provides requires multiple actors, land rights are particularly vulnerable to the effects of non-cooperation. And the existence of many severely degraded areas in the world attest to this. Such non-cooperation drives competition, confrontation, and confusion over who has what rights, which drives land degradation. At the same time however, tenure security can also be quite responsive to positive forms of cooperation among various actors with a stake in land rights. There are very good examples of successful partnerships that have resulted in improved land rights for indigenous peoples and local communities

Philippines
Partnerships for securing titles, create land management offices, and land management councils in (FEF, 2016)

Kenya
A National Engagement Strategy provides for a multi-stakeholder partnership platform to coordinate the resolution of land management problems (ILC 2017)

Guatemala
A partnership in has engaged in community mapping in order to legally empower Mayan groups with regard to land rights and land rehabilitation (ILC 2011



UN Photo / Kibae Park


Katja Kehlenbeck/ICRAF