



Leveraging Momentum for Women's Land Rights: Enhancing an Initiative for Synergies across Conventions

Concept Note

Workshop

June 20th & 21st, 2024

Berlin, Germany

Organisers:

TMG Research and Robert Bosch Stiftung

Co-Hosts:

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)





Background

Global challenges such as the climate crisis and loss of biodiversity are increasing pressure on the finite resource of land. Women are at the forefront of this struggle. While women often provide food for their families and manage household resources, they own less than 20% of land worldwide. Global policy measures and commitments to restore degraded land, enhance carbon dioxide removal and accelerate biodiversity conservation require significant areas of land already used and managed by rural communities and indigenous peoples. Since 2019, the UNCCD has played a crucial role by making explicit decisions in favour of land rights. Negotiations at the UNCCD COP have ensured that land rights are prioritised. However, **responsible land governance is a shared concern within all three Rio Conventions.**

In July 2023, TMG Research, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) convened a first workshop in Berlin, bringing together more than 60 stakeholders from 30 countries to discuss the critical issue of women's land rights in the context of the three Rio Conventions. Against the backdrop of the central role of land in mitigating climate change, halting biodiversity loss and achieving land degradation neutrality, participants engaged in focused discussions and panels, emphasising the need for financial, technical and legal empowerment of women and grassroots organisations, improved coordination between National Focal Points (NFPs) and coordinated advocacy. The workshop concluded with commitments for collaboration, including joint monitoring and reporting efforts, proposed engagement platforms and capacity building needs for civil society organisations, all of which **underscore the need to focus on the voice of women at the grassroots.** In 2023, the organisers, as well as the participants, have continued leveraging these findings to promote dialogue, collaboration and social innovation in the arena of women's land rights.

We recognise that solutions for women's land rights under the Rio Conventions hold transformative potential to address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and land degradation and want to strengthen the dialogue across the Conventions and the respective stakeholders. Not only do all conventions offer their own respective entry points for strengthening women's land rights, but the potential impact of synergy creation across the Conventions is strong. Once identified and operationalised, **entry points for synergy creation could yield transformative results for advancing land-based commitments and realising the land rights agenda.** With all three Conventions hosting their respective Conference of the Parties (COPs) at the end of 2024, there is a distinct opportunity to leverage synergies and create coherence on the role and recognition of land rights in driving land-based commitments. To build on the momentum, we therefore invite stakeholders to participate in a strategic initiative comprised of several phases including preparatory meetings, a dialogue platform, as well as follow-up sessions after each COP to advance the women's land rights agenda under the Rio Conventions.

Purpose

The strategic initiative seeks to leverage the momentum generated by the alignment of all three Conferences of the Parties (COPs) held within a year. Another opportunity is the 30th anniversary of the UNCCD/Drought Day 2024, which will be hosted by Germany.



With this initiative we aim to use these windows of opportunity to

- jointly identify first entry-points that can drive an operationalisation of the debate around synergies for women's land rights
- strengthen the agency of grassroots organisations in driving debates on synergies for land rights across the Rio Conventions
- promote decentralised actions and joint messages from civil society organisations (CSOs) on the vital role of women's land rights and to strengthen the visibility of the issue of land within the Conventions.

People

Key advocacy actors amongst civil society and especially grassroots actors, representatives of the Convention secretariats, gender and CSO caucuses, foundations supporting CSOs, National Focal Points (NFPs).

Process

We propose a strategic initiative where the dialogue platform (workshop) is embedded within a broader structure of activities to enable the opportunity for more collaboration before and after the workshop itself:

**March
+ April**

Identification of participants, content preparation, agenda setting, and engagement with relevant stakeholders

In this initial phase, careful consideration will be given to identifying key stakeholders from different sectors and regions to ensure balanced representation. Early engagement with key stakeholders facilitates ownership, aligns expectations and ensures complementarity of the initiative with the field's activities. It also serves to collectivise information on entry points, timelines and activities to be used as input in the workshop.

May

Preparatory sessions to familiarize participants with the structures and mechanisms of the Conventions

Preparatory sessions will be organised in May to give participants a comprehensive understanding of the structures, mechanisms and decision-making processes across the different Rio Conventions, as well as respective agenda points pertinent to (women's) land rights. This will help to ensure that all participants are well informed and equipped to actively participate in the discussions and activities of the workshop. In addition, these sessions will provide an opportunity to build rapport among participants and foster a collaborative spirit.

June

Workshop session focusing on identifying key themes, messages, and entry points for stakeholders

The workshop session in June will serve as the main platform to engage participants in developing and sharpening joint and decentralised actions, positions and messages that promote synergetic thinking on women's land rights across the Rio Conventions. This in-person gathering, held in Berlin, will serve as a dedicated space for holding meaningful discussions, sharing insights, exchanging ideas, building on common understanding and awareness amongst stakeholders of relevant opportunities and stakes/political entry points in all three COPs.



Post-COPs

Follow-up sessions to evaluate outcomes, review lessons learned, and plan future actions

After the COPs, follow-up sessions will be held to evaluate the results, experiences and impact of the joint messages and activities. Participants will reflect on their experiences, share lessons learnt and identify areas for improvement. These sessions will also serve as a platform for planning future actions, including possible collaborations, advocacy and capacity building initiatives. By capturing and documenting the outcomes of the workshop, the follow-up sessions will ensure continuity and facilitate ongoing engagement and collaboration between participants.

Conclusion

The initiative aims to capitalise on the momentum of the COPs and the Drought Day to drive coordinated advocacy efforts, promote cooperation between stakeholders and improve the visibility of land-related issues within the Conventions. By bringing together different actors and utilising their collective expertise, the initiative aims to drive effective action for women's land rights to advance climate resilience.