



Concept Note

EQUITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND REFORM

A Learning Week to Promote Successful Governments and CSOs Partnerships in the Land Governance Sector

Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala - Uganda

9 – 15 June 2024

Facilitated by:



INTRODUCTION: Why partnerships and platforms in the land sector?

Research and practice have demonstrated the potential of multi-stakeholder (including Government-Civil Society Organizations) partnerships and platforms to advance sustainable land tenure and governance by fostering collaboration and co-learning, as well as pooling the expertise and resources of different stakeholders (Sarmiento Barletti et al. 2020). However, there is also evidence of challenges to the potential of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including those derived from power inequalities, differences of interest, lack of trust, undefined roles and responsibilities, and difficulties in accessing resources or the capacities necessary to participate effectively, which are framed by structural and process-related issues. These issues are especially important in the land sector given the multiple actors involved in decision making.

Evidence-based and tailored lessons are necessary to overcome these limitations, enable collective action and foster collaboration and positive engagement with government officials in support of people-centered land governance. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms can play a crucial role in supporting and securing land rights and ensuring more equitable and effective land governance (González et al. 2021). Involving CSOs, which often represent or are allied to communities or their representative organizations, enables these partnerships to represent and/or include the priorities and rights of community actors in their processes and outcomes (Rodríguez and Sarmiento Barletti 2021).

Evidence-based and tailored lessons are also needed to foster constructive engagement between CSOs and government officials, which will build trust and strengthen partnerships (Tamara et al. 2021), while also understanding the significant role played by critical allies (Sarmiento Barletti et al. 2022) as well as the different ways of relating to the government that community organizations deploy in and around multi-stakeholder partnerships (Palacios Llaque and Sarmiento Barletti 2021). By overcoming obstacles through constructive engagement and collaboration, these platforms can better support land tenure initiatives and contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future.

Partnerships are at the heart of the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. They are also mentioned in various international and regional land governance frameworks and guidelines, including the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G) adopted in 2009, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) adopted in 2012. A Global Land Agenda (GLA) is promoted by the International Land Coalition (ILC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other members of the [Global Donor working group on Land \(GDWGL\)](#). The objective of the GLA is to anchor land firmly on international agendas, by participating in regional and international fora on land, and connecting land with topics like trade, climate and peace. The GLA also monitors land governance and tracks data, and tries to ensure qualitative and quantitative financial mechanisms for the topic.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE LEARNING WEEK

Overall goal

Overall, the learning week will bring together a group of actors from different organizations with experience and/or interest in developing equitable and effective GOV-CSO partnerships for people-centred land governance. This co-learning experience will be built on a combination of the discussion and validation of scientific research (evidence from a global review and a toolkit to support partnerships in the land sector) and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned from partnership participants to support their processes and outcomes.

Specific objectives

1. To engage participants in a week-long co-learning and capacity-sharing exercise to exchange knowledge, experience regarding best practices, challenges, lessons learned and practical strategies in land governance interventions and the type of partnerships at play.
2. To foster a network of key actors related to GOV-CSO partnerships, encouraging continued knowledge exchange, and potential collaborations.
3. To promote the Global Land Agenda, broaden the narrative of land governance and identify champions/ambassadors of GOV-CSOs partnerships and people-centred land governance.
4. To present, discuss, and validate the results of the research findings on GOV-CSO partnerships (global review, case studies, etc.), pilot and validate the toolkit with its potential users.
- 5.

Expected outcomes

1. Best practices, challenges and lessons learned regarding multi-stakeholder partnerships for people-centred land governance are shared and promoted.
2. A network of key land actors related to GOV-CSO partnerships is developed.
3. The Global Land Agenda is promoted, the land governance narrative is broadened and GOV-CSOs partnerships champions/ambassadors are identified.
4. The research findings on GOV-CSO partnerships are disseminated and validated; and the toolkit is tested and validated.
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SPECIFIC TOPICS

Potential topics for the deep dives include:

- Unpacking successful collaborations between different key actors in the land sector, particularly government-CSO collaborations and the impact of these partnerships to support people-centred land governance.
- Upscaling local-level and national-level partnerships and practices.
- Enabling and monitoring progress - Experiences with the use and development of tools (including monitoring tools) to promote effective and equitable partnerships.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The exchange will bring together around 120 participants from approx. 20 countries representing:

- Government representatives working within national institutions in charge of land governance/administration and involved in partnerships with other stakeholders.
- Facilitators and members of National Land Coalitions / Multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Land-at-scale project partners.

Representatives from regional and sub-regional institutions, intergovernmental organizations, academia, technical and financial partners, international NGOs, and some civil society organizations may also be invited to participate.

METHODOLOGY

The Learning Week is designed as a collaborative, co-learning space aiming to explore, discuss and implement strategies for effective multi-stakeholder partnerships in land governance. The methodology ensures a balanced approach, combining theoretical and conceptual insights, and experiences of the practical implementation and facilitation of partnerships to foster knowledge exchange and create a community of practice to support effective multi-stakeholder partnerships in land governance.

Why Uganda?

In 2013 Uganda developed a National Land Policy, a progressive law that addressed issues including historical injustices, disposition and loss of ancestral lands, border disputes, ineffective dispute resolutions that have resulted in illegal evictions; disparities in ownership, access to and control over land by vulnerable groups; displacement, land grabbing and landlessness; high population growth and the increasing demand for land for investment, especially on communal lands which are neither demarcated nor titled. Other policies related to land that have been passed in Uganda include Uganda National Housing Policy of 2016, the National Land Use Policy of 2006 and the National Urban Policy of 2017. The GoU is presently reviewing the National Land Policy in a participatory and inclusive manner. Uganda is also a champion in piloting innovative forms and modalities of partnerships between state and non-state actors in the land sector. These include; inviting civil society organizations (land actors) to contribute to proposed amendment of the land act, requesting and involving civil society organizations to contribute to the assessment and review of the 2013 National Land Policy, Ministry of Lands in collaboration with NLC Uganda taking stock of the 10 years of VGGT, Ministry of Lands taking part in the Stand For Her Land Campaign being implemented under NLC Uganda and Ministry of lands collaborating with civil society organisations during the Land Awareness Week that is held annually in the country. In Uganda, there is a range of current civil society and multi-stakeholder platforms working on land and wider tenure issues. These include:

- The Northern Uganda land Platform
- GIZ's Civil Peace Service Multi-stakeholder dialogues in Karamoja region
- Women's land rights movements that hold events like the regular women's land rights conference.
- The National Gender Forum which supports work related to gender and land.

Several partners support governance of tenure in the country in form of projects and programs, including:

- **Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)** through the [LAND-at-Scale Programme](#) of the Netherlands Government: the project aims to improve the tenure security and land use of smallholder farmers by applying tools and approaches that have already been developed, customized and tested through the pilot project. These include the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), Gender and Youth Responsiveness Evaluations, Participatory enumeration, fit-for-purpose land administration, the continuum of land rights, and tenure responsive land use planning and mediation. The project will also develop two sustainable, climate smart and inclusive sub-county land use plans and at least three wetland management plans. It will build the awareness and capacity of land actors at different levels, including the members of area land committees and district land boards, physical planning committees, staff of the district land offices, implementing partners and other key stakeholders.
- **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** through the Responsible Land Policy in Uganda (RELAPU) and Responsible Governance of Investments in Land (RGIL): The programme works under the following fields of action: (i) Improve the institutional framework and procedures to secure tenure rights in Uganda, based on evidence, innovative approaches, and digitalized processes; (ii) Increase the engagement of the civil society in the formalisation and implementation of a responsible land policy; (iii) Raising awareness about responsible land policy along internationally agreed guidelines and the national land policy (NLP) among private agriculture investors, affected land users and financial institutions; and (iv) Creating a conducive environment for enhanced production of small-holder farmers by providing options for access to finance.
- **The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and CIFOR-ICRAF** : In 2020, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) invited a consortium of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry Centre (CIFOR-ICRAF), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to work with selected IFAD projects to promote

and strengthen women’s land rights through the integration of gender transformative approaches (GTAs) in rural development interventions by improving policies, tools and practices. The three-year initiative will conduct gender analyses, pilot context-appropriate GTAs to advance the recognition and protection of women’s land rights in different IFAD projects, and scale up the GTA agenda. In Uganda, the Initiative works with the National Oil Palm Project (NOPP) aims to sustainably increase rural livelihoods through opportunities generated from building a more efficient oil palm industry that complies with modern environmental and social standards.

- The **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)** supported the establishment of a functional digital-based system for recording customary land data with technical support from Makerere University. FAO also implemented the program “Improving land governance to increase the productivity of small –scale farmers on Mailo Land (Mityana, Kassanda and Mubende). The aim was to build the capacity of land administration structures; sensitize and mobilise communities (landlords and tenants); develop dispute resolutions mechanisms using ADR; apply fit-for-purpose mapping tools and conduct an inventory of tenancy rights.
- The **World Bank** through the Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project Additional Funding (CEDP-AF): the aim of the project is to improve the competitiveness of enterprises in Uganda through supporting reforms in priority productive and service sectors geared towards a better investment climate with particular focus on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). CEDP-AF seeks to further strengthen the land administration system in Uganda through a combination of systems’ improvements and physical infrastructure; systematic registration of communal and individually owned land; and enhancements in land valuations capacity; and strengthening of institutional and dispute resolution capacity and human capital

CO-CONVENERS

The International Land Coalition (ILC)
LandCollaborative
CIFOR-ICRAF
RVO/Land-at-scale
National Land Coalition Uganda (NLC Uganda)

HOST

The Learning week will be co-hosted by the **Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD)** of the Republic of Uganda. This ministry is the national level and executive arm of government primarily responsible for land policy and overseeing land administration.

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