

Concept Note

Webinars on

“Land Rights Recognition for Ecosystems Restoration, Improved Livelihoods and Food Security”

Background

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. Within UNEP, the Ecosystems Division advocates and supports the agency to develop integrated ecosystem management approaches, to meet both ecological and human needs by supporting countries in conserving, restoring and sustainably managing their terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, the biodiversity they contain and the products and services they provide for human well-being and prosperity.¹ Within the Division, the Biodiversity and Land Branch, who is co-organizing this webinar has four (4) units, which leads activities on: wildlife management, economics of environment, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Terrestrial Ecosystems. The Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit provides strategic direction around the organization on issues related to the over-exploitation and degradation of natural resources by promoting integrated landscape approaches for sustainable and inclusive environmental management to increase environmental resilience and resource sustainability, strengthen ecosystems and improve the livelihoods of people who depend on the natural environment. The Chief of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit is Dr. Musonda Mumba.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) promotes socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. Facilitated by UN-Habitat, under the Land, Housing and Shelter Section of the Urban Practices Branch, Global Solutions Division, the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), who is co-organizing the webinar, contributes to improved land management and security of tenure by developing pro-poor, gender-responsive and normative approaches on sustainable development for both urban and rural contexts. With the vision of “*a world in which everyone enjoys secure land rights*”, GLTN is developing and implementing tools and approaches that contribute to land reform, good land and natural resource governance, inclusive land administration, sustainable land and natural resource management, and functional land sector coordination. Since its establishment in 2006, the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is at the forefront in improving tenure security in countries across Africa and other parts of the world by building multi-stakeholder partnerships with local CSOs, governments, academic institutions and professional organizations. GLTN, with is a growing alliance of more than 80 multi-sector global and regional partners dedicated to these efforts. The Chief of the Land Housing and Shelter Section is Mr. Robert Lewis Lettington. (for more information please see: <https://gltn.net/>).

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/cities/biodiversity-and-ecosystems>

Context and Rationale

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, declared on 1 March 2019 by the UN General Assembly, which UNEP and FAO are the lead organizations, aims to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight climate change, and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. This has attracted the interest of UNEP to build a partnership with the Land, Housing and Shelter Section/GLTN of UN-Habitat. Since improved land management, land governance and land tenure security are vital areas to strengthen and restore ecosystems and the way natural resources are managed to generate tangible benefits for food and water security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and preventing conflict and forced migration triggered by environmental degradation and food insecurity. This collaboration would allow the two UN agencies to share knowledge, experience and set out future projects to promote conservation, recovery and sustainable management of ecosystems by strengthening land and natural resource management. This in the framework to address SDGs 1, 2, 5, 11, 13, 15 and 17.



With the foregoing, the two UN Agencies are organizing two webinars as an opportunity to share knowledge, experience and strengthen partnerships for joint initiatives. The webinar will bring together experts from the two agencies and partner organizations to discuss how sustainable management of natural resources and tenure security play an important role in ecosystems restoration to ensure resilient livelihoods, and how the GLTN tool box and other tools can support this work.

Objectives:



The main objective of these webinars is to bring together both agencies (UNEP and UN-Habitat) and partners working on Land, Natural Resources Management and Environmental Protection for joint learning, information sharing and to explore potential areas for further collaboration. The specific objectives of the webinars are as follows:


- To share knowledge and information on the relationship between land and natural resource tenure and ecosystem restoration;
- To learn and disseminate tools and experience on current work, programmes and priorities related to the subject;
- To jointly identify and analyze the related issues, challenges and potential solutions; and
- To explore areas of collaboration, joint programmes and next steps.

Resource Speakers

Name/Position of Resource Speaker	Title of Presentation	Short Bio
Webinar 1:		
<p>Markus Ihalainen (CIFOR)</p> 	<p>Introduction of land tenure issues and the importance of tenure security for the restoration agenda.</p>	<p>Markus is a Senior Research Officer and Gender Co-coordinator at the Center for International Forestry Research, currently based in Dakar. His current research focuses primarily on the gender dynamics of forest product value chains, forest resource management and migration. With respect to restoration, he has been involved in developing a conceptual framework for addressing gender equality in forest landscape restoration. He is currently working with Cecile Ndjebet and Cameroon Ecology on mangrove restoration in Cameroon, and he has led study on gender equality and FLR in Kenya, aimed at supporting the development of the Kenyan national FLR strategy. Markus is currently also coordinating the GLF gender and restoration constituency, encompassing a diverse network of organizations all working in different ways at the interface of gender and FLR.</p>
<p>Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet (REFACOF)</p> 	<p>Importance of land rights and tenure for women and the restoration agenda.</p>	<p>Over the past 17 years, Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet’s work with African Women’s Network For Community Management Of Forests (REFACOF), as founding member and coordinator, consists of promoting women’s’ rights in Africa and advocating to shape policies and practices for gender equity in relation to land and forest tenure. The African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests, established in 2010, is a network created by 45 women from 8 countries in West and Central Africa. From a regional scale, the REFACOF is dedicated to the collective action of African women to address social challenges, political, legal and economic issues related to forest management in Africa. In this process, particular attention is given to limitations on the participation of women. http://refacof.org/refacof/ Cécile has been engaged with the UNFCCC processes since 2011 at COP17. It was during this time REFACOF became a member of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA). Cecile is also the focal point for the Women’s Major Group in support to UNFCCC and advocates for the participation of indigenous women and communities in decision-making on climate change policies.</p>

Name/Position of Resource Speaker	Title of Presentation	Short Bio
Webinar 1:		
<p>Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (AFPAT)</p> 	<p>Land rights, indigenous and local communities.</p>	<p>Environmental activist and member of Chad’s pastoralist Mbororo community, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim began advocating for Indigenous rights and environmental protection at age 16, founding the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) to introduce new income revenue activities for women and collaborative tools such as 3D participatory mapping to build sustainable ecosystems management and reduction of nature-based resource conflicts. Her vision is to grow support for both traditional knowledge and science to improve resilience to climate change especially for rural communities. She is a member of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee and served as co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change during the historic UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris. She is dedicated to the protection of all Indigenous peoples, from the Congo to the Arctic, and the value of their knowledge in the fight against climate change. She advances environmental protection for Indigenous peoples by participating in international policy dialogues held around the three Rio Conventions; Climate Change (UNFCCC), Biodiversity (CBD), and Desertification (UNCCD) pressuring governments to recognize land rights of Indigenous peoples and advance their solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation.</p>
<p>Frances Birungi, Director of Programs (UCOBAC)</p> 	<p>Community-Led Wetland Management and Restoration: Case of Butaleja district in Eastern Uganda.</p>	<p>Frances Birungi-Odong is a Director of Programs for Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children’s welfare (UCOBAC). An NGO in Uganda whose mission is to promote human rights and improve welfare of women and children using community based initiatives. Frances holds a degree in social sciences (Sociology) and a master’s degree in Human rights. She has worked in UCOBAC for over 15 years, developing and implementing programs to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, including; Land and property rights, Sexual and Reproductive health rights, children’s rights, and women in governance. Frances works with grassroots communities to mobilize local resources, strengthen their community development practices and transform public policies at local, national, regional and global levels through research, grassroots organizing, project planning and implementation, public policy analysis and advocacy.</p>

Name/Position of Resource Speaker	Title of Presentation	Short Bio
Webinar 2:		
<p>Iliana Monterroso (CIFOR)</p> 	<p>Inclusive landscape decision making tools</p>	<p>Iliana Monterroso is Scientist with the Center for International Forestry Research, CIFOR. She is currently co-coordinating Gender and Social Inclusion Research as part of the Equity, Gender, Justice & Tenure Team. Her research focuses on gender, social inclusion, tenure and collective rights and community forestry predominantly in Latin America with experience in Uganda, Indonesia and Nepal. Currently she is working on developing participatory methods to monitor how gender is being addressed in multi-stakeholder forums and other governance decision making spaces.</p>
<p>Robert Lewis-Lettington (UN-HABITAT)</p> 	<p>Global Land Tool Network – Objectives, Achievements and Future Prospects</p>	<p>Robert Lewis-Lettington is Chief of the Land, Housing and Shelter Section at UN-Habitat. Robert has more than twenty years professional experience, primarily working in programme management, multilateral processes and in providing technical assistance in policy formulation and legislative processes to a variety of partners. With field experience in more than seventy countries, Robert’s specialist areas include land management, human rights and rule of law, urban development, legislative drafting, intellectual property rights and information management, digital governance, environment and natural resources and international trade. Robert is Secretary to the Drafting Committee of the UN Habitat Assembly and its subsidiary bodies and was Vice Chair of the International Telecommunication Union’s Focus Group on ‘Data Processing and Management to support the Internet of Things and Smart Cities & Communities.’ Robert is also a Salzburg Global Fellow in Law and Technology, a member of the International Law Association (and its study group on the Role of Cities in International Law) and a member of the Human Rights Lawyers Association (UK). Robert holds a Juris Doctor degree in law from the College of William and Mary (USA), an MA (Hons) degree specialising in Architectural History from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) and an MLitt (Dist.) degree in History specialising in land and population displacement from the University of the Highlands and Islands (Scotland).</p>

Name/Position of Resource Speaker	Title of Presentation	Short Bio
Webinar 2:		
<p>Danilo Antonio, Programme Management Officer (UNHABITAT)</p> 	<p>GLTN Land Tools and Approaches: Examples and Applications</p>	<p>Danilo Antonio works as a Programme Management Officer at the Land, Housing and Shelter Section of UN-Habitat. He is the lead and coordinator of the key country operations and tools development of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Programme. For more than 10 years, he has worked with UN-Habitat on various global, regional and country interventions including on supervising specific projects, land tools development (e.g. STDM, participatory enumerations, land use planning, etc.), network coordination, capacity development, knowledge and awareness building. He is a land surveyor by training and completed a Master's Programme on Land Tenure and Land Management at the Technical University of Munich, Germany with "High Distinction". Prior to joining UN-Habitat, he held senior positions with the Government of the Philippines in large-scale land governance programmes.</p>

Moderation:

The Webinars will be moderated by:

 <p>Siham Drissi Programme Management Officer (UNEP)</p>	<p>Siham is Programme Management Officer in the Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit in the Ecosystems Division at UNEP headquarters. She has been working in the field of international cooperation and sustainable development, with particular focus on agriculture, food security and environmental issues for the past 15 years. After some years in the private sector at international level, she worked for two years and a half in the Interuniversity Research Center on Sustainable Development (CIRPS, in Italy) managing EU and regional funded projects. In 2007, she started working in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Headquarters in Rome, then in several field offices Central Asia, Africa and Near East (until December 2015), mainly dealing with functions related to programme development and coordination at national and regional levels as well as resource mobilization and partnerships development. All these years her main focus areas of work have been on food security issues and their environmental interlinkages, right to food, food sovereignty, land tenure and rights, gender in sustainable development, women's access to natural resources, South-South and triangular Cooperation, and international aid effectiveness.</p>
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Proposed Agenda/Programme

WEBINAR 1: <i>Land Rights, Natural Resources Management and Environmental Protection: Linkages, Challenges and Opportunities.</i> 26 May 2020, 14:00 – 15:30 (EAT)		
Time	Subject	Description
14:00 - 14:10	Dr. Musonda Mumba (UNEP) Rober Lewis-Lettington (UN-Habitat)	Opening remarks
14:10 – 14:15	Siham Drissi (UNEP)	Introduction: Objectives of the webinars and presentation of the panelists
14:15 - 14:25	Introduction of land tenure issues and the importance of tenure security for the restoration agenda. Markus Ihalainen (CIFOR)	Through presenting select case studies and comparative analyses from different parts of the world, this presentation will demonstrate the evidence base for placing women’s land rights at the core of the global restoration agenda. The presentation will begin by providing a brief overview of key issues and figures with respect to women’s land rights across different regions and tenure regimes. It will then illustrate some of the key risks associated with past gender-blind approaches, as well as demonstrate some of the ways in which strengthening women’s tenure security can support more effective, equitable and sustainable landscape restoration. Finally, it will propose recommendations for better integrating women’s land rights in restoration policy and programming.
14:25 - 14:35	The fundamental role of rural women in the restoration agenda. Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet (REFACOF)	The case of Lonji women for the mangroves in Douala-Edea.
14:35 - 14:45	Land rights, indigenous peoples and local communities. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (AFPAT)	Land rights and tenure, conflict, access to land and food security, climate change and traditional knowledge to restore land.

WEBINAR 1: <i>Land Rights, Natural Resources Management and Environmental Protection: Linkages, Challenges and Opportunities.</i> 26 May 2020, 14:00 – 15:30 (EAT)		
Time	Subject	Description
14:45 – 15:00	Community-Led Wetland Management and Restoration: Case of Butaleja district in Eastern Uganda. Frances Birungi (UCOBAC)	The presentation will share a practice where local communities are playing a critical role in the management, protection and restoration of their environments and ecosystems through forging strategic partnerships with the existing natural resource management government institutions to organize into community wetland management committees and application of pro poor and gender responsive land tools and approaches in order to promote tenure security and sustainable land use. The presentation will illustrate how through this process, small scale farmers that utilize and rely on wetlands in Uganda have been able to protect and conserve the wetlands against degradation which has enabled them to continue utilizing the wetlands to sustain their livelihood and food security needs while at the same time ensuring that the wetlands are protected, restored and conserved.
15:00 – 15:30	Open Discussion	Moderator

WEBINAR 2: <i>Tools, Approaches and Methodologies Towards Strengthening Land Rights for Natural Resource Management and Environmental Protection</i> 02 June 2020, 15:00 – 16:30 (EAT)		
Time	Subject	Description
15:00 - 15:15	Introduction Siham Drissi (UNEP)	Key messages from Webinar 1 & Introduction of Webinar 2
15:15 - 15:30	Inclusive landscape decision making tools Iliana Monterroso, (CIFOR)	Building from the previous session, this presentation will explore different methodological approaches as well as existing challenges to design and implement tools that promote inclusive governance processes. We will briefly explore two methods: co-elaboration of participatory scenarios and multi-stakeholder processes and explore how these tools allow addressing various dimensions of social differentiation. The session will be organized in three parts, the first one will provide an overview of these methodological approaches and how these can be used to analyze tenure security and management conditions in the context of restoration initiatives. Following, we will draw on case studies that showcase the process of designing and implementing these tools in different geographies with focus on the process as well as the outputs. The session will close highlighting remaining gaps in method development - specially as it relates to promote gender transformation, as well as recommendations for development practice and research.
15:30 - 15:45	Global Land Tool Network – Objectives, Achievements and Future Prospects Robert Lewis-Lettington (UNHABITAT)	This presentation will present the overview of Network’s work including the challenges it is trying to address, the partnership behind the Network, its objectives, current initiatives and Strategy. The presentation will begin by providing a brief overview of the challenges in the land sector and what is the role of GLTN in this context. It will be followed by presenting how the GLTN network came about, who are the partners and its supporting frameworks and principles. The presentation will then illustrate what are the GLTN’s core initiatives and tools including key achievements at various levels. Finally, it will present the GLTN’s strategy for future engagement.

WEBINAR 2: <i>Tools, Approaches and Methodologies Towards Strengthening Land Rights for Natural Resource Management and Environmental Protection</i> 02 June 2020, 15:00 – 16:30 (EAT)		
Time	Subject	Description
15:00 - 15:15	Introduction Siham Drissi (UNEP)	Key messages from Webinar 1 & Introduction of Webinar 2
15:45 - 16:00	GLTN’s Land Tools and Approaches: Examples and Applications Danilo Antonio (UN-HABITAT)	Building from the previous webinar this presentation will present in detail key GLTN land tools and approaches. The presentation will first present the complex realities regarding tenure challenges and GLTN’s strategy in addressing such challenges through its tools and approaches. Secondly, the presentation will provide an overview of the orientation of the GLTN’s advocacy towards the continuum of land rights approach and Fit-For-Purpose land administration tools which are the foundations for the development of inclusive, gender responsive and fit-for-purpose land tools and approaches. This part of presentation will also present some examples of land tools and approaches with potential applications to the topic. Thirdly, the presentation will provide a summary on the key applications of the land tools in specific contexts and countries. Finally, the presentation will provide some conclusions and will raise some questions for discussion.
16:00 - 16:30	Q & A and Discussion Closing	Assess the way forward and next steps

On-line Participation

The Webinar will be held on the dates provided in the Programme by using *Teams Microsoft*. Invitations will be sent with a link.