

Why ICARRD+20 matters now: Land governance as a foundation for sustainable and inclusive transformation

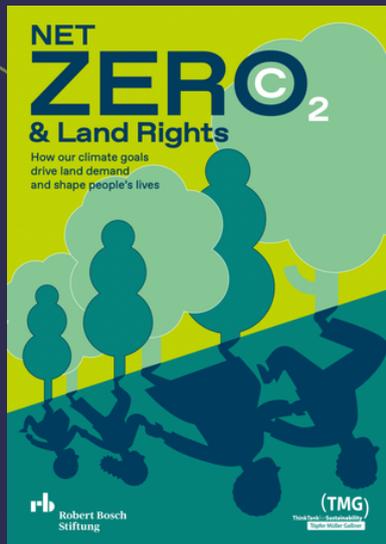


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ICARRD+20 takes place at a moment when land governance and tenure rights have become a strategic foundation for delivering multiple interconnected policy agendas. Priorities on food security, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, drought resilience, and infrastructure development and investment all increasingly rely on a finite land base. As these agendas increasingly intersect, land governance and access are becoming a central political arena in which competing public policies and social claims collide.

At the same time, land governance systems and tenure security remain weak and exclusionary in many countries. Women, smallholders, pastoralists and Indigenous Peoples continue to depend largely on customary and informal land tenure systems that are insufficiently recognized in public planning and investment decisions. This creates a growing governance gap. While ambitious development, climate, and environmental policies increasingly depend on land, the institutional and political systems need to manage cumulative land demand—and to make **land governance function both as a safeguard for legitimate tenure rights and as an enabler of inclusive and effective implementation.**

[Read more about our publication here](#)



[Read the report here](#)

ICARRD+20 offers a timely opportunity to reposition human rights-based land governance as critical infrastructure for sustainable and inclusive transformation. Within this evolving landscape, three thematic entry points are particularly relevant for us:

- women's land rights as a governance lever across global agendas,
- cumulative land demand and access to land as a structural challenge, and
- accountability for land governance and tenure rights implementation.

This approach reflects the strategic focus of TMG's Land Governance Programme. TMG advances equitable and rights-based land governance by conducting action-oriented research, engaging in coalition-building and strategic policymaking processes, and supporting locally developed innovations and social accountability tools. Two interlinked priorities guide our work: integrating land and tenure rights into climate and environmental action, and advancing inclusive, gender-responsive, and human rights-based land governance reforms, with a strong focus on women, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized groups across local, national, and global levels.

Get in touch

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