

## The story behind Global Soil Week and the importance of regional exchange workshops

- >> Responsible land governance is fundamental for restoring landscapes that benefit both people and ecosystems.
- >> Secure land tenure is essential for reversing land degradation, conserving biodiversity, and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities, including women, pastoralists, and indigenous people, in the face of increasing climate risks.
- >> There is a strong demand to safeguard land rights for individuals and communities.

Over the past two years, TMG Research positioned itself as a credible interface between UNCCD, national governments and civil society organisations (CSOs). By engaging UNCCD national focal points, civil society organisations and other key decision-makers in tenure mapping, a joint reflection process to explore the impact of conservation and land restoration policies and programmes on land governance was initiated. **The research findings form the basis for drafting solution pathways for the recognition and integration of communities' legitimate tenure rights into land restoration programmes**

The **Just Transitions Project**, supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, enhances the work of the Global Soil Week Project by strengthening the capacity of additional civil society organisations and building a network of qualified partners for land tenure mapping in Benin, Togo, Niger, Malawi, Madagascar, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya. The project further **supports regional and international dialogues to strengthen the importance of women's land rights in the climate debate and in land restoration policies**, to reflect on pathways to create and strengthen synergies between the Rio Conventions.

This regional exchange workshop, as part of the Just Transitions project, is one of these regional dialogues. It builds on two previous events in 2023, the Strategic Workshop on Women's Land Rights and the Rio Conventions, and a National Focal Point seminar organised as part of the Africa Climate Summit.

With the adoption of UNCCD Decision 26/COP 14 on Land Tenure, the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have **committed to protecting the legitimate tenure rights** of dependent communities on land and natural resources as a mean to ensure just transition. In practise, however, **local communities continue to face increasing threats to their livelihoods, identities, and incomes as pressures on land and resources increase**. This is partly as a result of governments' efforts to comply with other multilateral agreements from which they expect an influx of funding.

As part of the BMZ-funded Global Soil Week (GSW) project, **TMG Research initiated a project to document and monitor the implementation of UNCCD Decision 26/ COP 14 on land tenure in Malawi, Kenya, Benin, and Madagascar**.

### REGIONAL EXCHANGE WORKSHOP

## Mainstreaming Legitimate Tenure Rights in Land Restoration

6-8 November 2023



Photo courtesy of Kenya Land Alliance

CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

GOLDEN TULIP | NAIROBI, KENYA



**DATE:** 6-8 November 2023

**LOCATION:** Golden Tulip, Nairobi, Kenya

## The Regional Exchange Workshop

The Regional Exchange Workshop aims to address challenges, identify opportunities, and develop a joint position in mainstreaming tenure rights into land restoration policies and initiatives for LDN.

By bringing together policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and civil society organizations, with a special focus on women, youth, and indigenous communities, **the Workshop serves as a platform for knowledge sharing and collaborative action.**

It seeks to address the following three objectives:

### 1. Solutions pathways for securing tenure in Land Restoration Programs

Explore approaches to ensure tenure security and communities' legitimate rights to land and resources are accounted for in land governance and restoration policies. This discussion will be based on existing experiences.

### 2. Roadmap for Action

To further work at the interface from policy to action and vice versa, a roadmap for action that leverages the momentum generated during the Workshop will be developed to advocate for a UNCCD Decision on land tenure.

### 3. Joint Call for Tenure Rights for land restoration

Prepare a joint call with UNCCD focal points and CSOs in support of recognizing and protecting communities' legitimate tenure rights in land restoration and forest conservation policies as a follow-up of the UNCCD Land Tenure Decisions.

The Workshop's ambitions build on the results of over ten case studies and the rich and diverse experiences of participants across more than 8 countries. It serves as a platform for **knowledge exchange, collaboration, and advocacy** to ensure responsible land governance and the recognition of legitimate tenure rights in land restoration and LDN initiatives. Together, we aim to **promote sustainability, justice, and resilience** in land governance for the benefit of all communities and ecosystems.

## Contacts

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## 18:00-20:30: SUNDAY EVENING: PRE EVENT MEETING

### DAY 1 (MONDAY 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2023)

Building on a common understanding on integrating land tenure in land restoration / LDN context

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome speech and protocols.	<b>Jes Weigelt</b> , Head of Programmes, TMG
09:15 – 09:35	Getting to know each other.	TMG Team
09:35 – 10:00	<b>KEY NOTES SPEECHES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert-Bosch Foundation</li> <li>Benin Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries -MAEP</li> <li>Kenya Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry - MoECCF</li> </ul>	<b>Christiane Kaesgen</b> , RBSG <b>Mme Adanguidi</b> , MAEP <b>Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno</b> Principal Secretary, MoECCF
10:00 – 10:10	Clarification of the workshop objectives and agenda	Moderator
10:10 – 11:00	<b>SETTING THE SCENES</b> UNCCD's Land Tenure Decision: Charting Paths and Perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Presentation 1 (TMG-R)</b> The UNCCD Decision - Tenure rights and LDN-TSP — Rationale and the need for national and regional strategies.</li> <li><b>Presentation 2 (FAO)</b> Linking the VGGT and the Technical guide. Pathways for national policies and CSOs work.</li> <li><b>Presentation 3 (RBSG)</b> Womens land rights in land restoration and climate agenda. A reflection from women land rights and the Rio Conventions Seminar.</li> </ul>	<b>Jes Weigelt</b> , TMG <b>Aurelie Bres</b> , FAO <b>Christiane Kaesgen</b> , RBSG
11:00 – 11:15	<b>Q&amp;A SESSION</b>	
11:15 – 11:35	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
11:35 – 12:00	<b>Two years of monitoring the implementation of UNCCD's Land Tenure Decision in four countries:</b> TMG Research will present two years of research conducted in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Benin, Kenya, Madagascar, and Malawi.  The identified challenges and risks have been translated into a set of proposed solutions aimed at improving the implementation of the UNCCD Land Tenure Decision.	TMG Research

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
12:00 – 12:15	<b>Q&amp;A SESSION</b>	
12:15 – 12:45	<p><b>Perspectives from our peer-country organisations</b></p> <p>The session aims to link the knowledge gained in the above session with practical applications in the work of peer country organisations. It also aims to determine whether there is any collaboration or interest in networking between these organisations and with UNCCD NFPs and CSOs to strengthen their joint efforts in land rights.</p>	<p>AREN</p> <p>Landnet, TLC Zambia, Convergence-Benin</p>
12:45 – 13:45	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
13:00 – 14:00	<p><b>Power walk: Visualizing power dynamics in land governance</b></p> <p>The power walk exercise will help participants to reflect on power imbalances in land governance, and factors that increase vulnerability of people.</p>	
14:15 – 16:15	<p><b>Exchange space</b> (4 groups: 2 french-speaking / 2 english-speaking)</p> <p>The session aims to create a space for meaningful dialogue and collaboration, enabling CSOs and UNCCD NFPs to share experiences, address common challenges, and collectively work towards innovative solutions to improve land tenure rights protection and related policies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Getting to know each other</li> <li>Discuss the challenges raised, analyse the parallels and relevance with the problems in other countries</li> <li>Building on the insights from TMG's Research findings, reflect on the proposed solutions pathways for embedding legitimate tenure rights into policy instruments and conservation measures</li> </ol>	<p><b>Key output document 1:</b> List of key policy and implementation challenges that hinder the recognition and protection of legitimate tenure right in LDN or land restoration programmes</p> <p><b>Key output document 2:</b> Solutions, and pathways to integrate land rights into conservation and land restoration programmes</p>
16:15 – 16:45	Gallery walk of the group discussion	
16:45 – 17:00	Recap day 1 and outlook of day 2	<b>Jes Weigelt, TMG</b>

**DAY 2 TUESDAY 07<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

Pathways for mainstreaming legitimate tenure rights in land restoration programs

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
09:00 – 09:15	Agenda and objective of the day	
09:30 – 10:30	<p><b>"Mainstreaming land tenure in LDN and restoration policies: What enabling environment for CSOs is needed and how to better coordinate?"</b></p> <p>The session aims to foster discussion, share experiences, and generate ideas to empower CSOs in their role of mainstreaming legitimate tenure rights into LDN processes. It seeks to identify the role of creating spaces for co-learning and cooperation.</p> <p><b>SESSION 1: Towards coordinated actions and synergies between CSOs</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The role of community-based organisation in transformation processes</b> Land tenure, climate, and transformations in pastoral systems. Insights from APIC – Benin and AREN - Niger</li> <li><b>Strengthening CSOs and CSO Alliance</b> First experiences from FIAN and TMG Research of forming a national coalition of CSOs in Benin to advance the UNCCD land tenure decision</li> <li><b>Building Bridges between Stakeholders</b> Creating Spaces for Dialogue and Learning: building on TMG's work, how did we ensure continuous co-learning spaces from the local to the global level? What is the expected outcome of it?</li> </ol>	<p><b>Maimouna Abdou,</b> AREN</p> <p><b>Alidou Takpara,</b> APIC ONG</p>
10:15 – 10:45	Reflection from participants	
10:45 – 11:15	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
11:15 – 12:15	<p><b>"Empowering communities through innovations"</b></p> <p>The objective is to delve into the development of an enhanced implementation framework that places communities at the center. Two examples of how to achieve that will be provided.</p> <p><b>SESSION 2: Reflecting on other enabling conditions to reinforce tenure security and land rights.</b></p> <p><b>Food for thought presentations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People-centric community forest management and landscape restoration: <i>what does it take?</i></li> </ol>	<b>CIFOR – ICRAF</b>

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
11:15 – 12:15 <i>(continued)</i>	<p>2. Monitoring land restoration initiatives and providing a reporting and grievance platform.</p> <p>Establishing grievance mechanisms for land conflicts involving co-management structures and institutions is essential to help communities recognize and claim their legitimate land rights.</p> <p>The example of Haki Ardhi.</p>	Kenya Land Alliance
12:15 – 13:15	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
13:15 – 14:30	<p><b>GROUP WORK: Advancing legitimate tenure rights in local and national policies</b></p> <p>Four groups will be developed, in each group, one core question will be discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cooperation between CSOs and NFPs</b> <i>Based on your experience and the inputs of the above presentations (Session 1 and 2), how could national focal points and governments best support CSOs in mainstreaming legitimate tenure rights?</i></li> <li><b>Spaces for co-learning / peer-exchange facilitation to strengthen CSOs and CSO alliances (pathway 5 and 6)</b> <i>How can we design and implement effective mechanisms for continuous co-learning and collaboration between local and global levels to empower CSOs in mainstreaming legitimate tenure rights into LDN processes?</i></li> <li><b>Community-based forest management</b> <i>How can we learn from it and what would it imply for land restoration programs?</i></li> <li><b>Integrating meaningful grievance mechanisms and options to report</b> <i>What other enabling conditions needs to be in place or reinforced to monitor the implementation of LDN targets / conservation?</i></li> </ol>	Rapporteurs are in charge to collect the critical discussions points and finalize group inputs.
14:30 – 15:30	<b>Discussion and validation of group inputs in a world café setting (Rotating groups discussing, completing, and validate the inputs from other groups)</b>	Rapporteurs to compile the final document
15:30 – 15:40	Plenary session (optional)	
15:40 - 16:10	<p><b>SESSION 3: Coordination across sectors and the conventions</b></p> <p><b>Food for thought presentation</b></p> <p><b>Presentation 1:</b> Land rights as a natural bridge between the Rio Conventions. The overlap between LDN - TSP, NBSAP, NDCs.</p> <p><b>Presentation 2:</b> Drivers, constrains and incentives for intersectoral coordination of land policies at national level.</p>	<p><b>Jes Weigelt, TMG</b></p> <p><b>Cosmas Ochieng, WRI</b></p>

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
16:10-17:00	<p><b>Policy debate: Policy alignment and coordination</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How could NFP and CSOs join forces to overcome cross-sector coordination among the three conventions?</li> <li>What other institutions and key players are there that could support national processes if well-coordinated?</li> </ol>	<p>TMG Research (Kader)</p> <p>UNCCD NFP Madagascar</p> <p>UNCCD NFP Kenya / Malawi</p> <p>NFP Benin</p> <p>Juliet Grace Luwedde - Youth Caucus UNCCD 1 CSO (tbc)</p>
17:00 - 17:15	<b>Q&amp;A SESSION</b>	
17:15 - 17:30	Recap of the day	
17:30 - 15:45	Coffee break	
17:30 - 18:30	Homework to draft joint call based on challenges and solutions pathways that emerged from Day 2 presentations and panel discussions.	TMG rapporteurs

**DAY 3: 08<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

Alliances and synergies for action

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
09:00 - 09:05	Agenda and objective of the day	
09:05 - 10:15	Presentation and validation of the draft call / statement	TMG jointly with a CSO representative
10:15 - 11:00	<p><b>The roadmap for action</b></p> <p>What does our joint statement mean for your commitments and actions? Reflection based on major events to come and how we want to join forces and position ourselves – UNFCCC COP 28, UNCCD COP 16, etc.</p>	TMG rapporteurs
11:00 – 12:00	Coffee break	
12:00 - 13:00	Press background talk with invited journalists & key stakeholders	TMG Research, UNCCD NFP, CSO
13:00 - 13:30	Closing remarks & end of the Exchange Meeting Workshop	
13:30 - 14:30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
14:30 - 16:00	Last formalities and departure	