



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

Outcome Document

Workshop

June 20th & 21st, 2024

Berlin, Germany

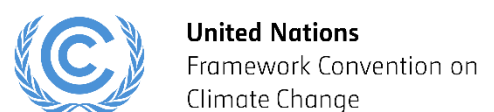
TMG Research and Robert Bosch Stiftung

Co-hosted by:

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)





Background and Objectives of the Workshop

This year's Women's Land Rights Initiative (WLRI), co-hosted by TMG Research, Robert Bosch Stiftung, UNCCD, UNCBD and UNFCCC, brought together 50 stakeholders to interrogate the role of women's land rights (WLR) within the Rio Conventions. The event was organized as part of the celebrations of the Desertification and Drought Day. The starting point was clear: land is the unifying thread across the Rio Conventions, with each dependent on land-based measures to achieve their targets. This spells direct consequences for grassroots women's right to that land, and in tandem, their lives and livelihoods. Moreover, women's actions are what ultimately contribute to realizing the objectives of the Conventions on the ground: restoring land, mitigating and adapting to climate change, combating desertification, and preserving biodiversity. As a result, utilizing the Rio Conventions as a mechanism for protecting and recognising women's land rights must be a priority. And breaking down silos to achieve this took centre stage at the WLRI this year. Advancing women's land rights across all three Conventions is an imperative – and opportunities exist.

The overarching question of the workshop was: How can we advance the recognition of women's land rights by leveraging synergies across the Rio Conventions — UNCCD, UNCBD and UNFCCC — and by strengthening grassroots perspectives in Convention spaces? The aim of this document is to summarise the main outcomes of our 2-day workshop in relation to the above key question and taking into account the two objectives mentioned below.



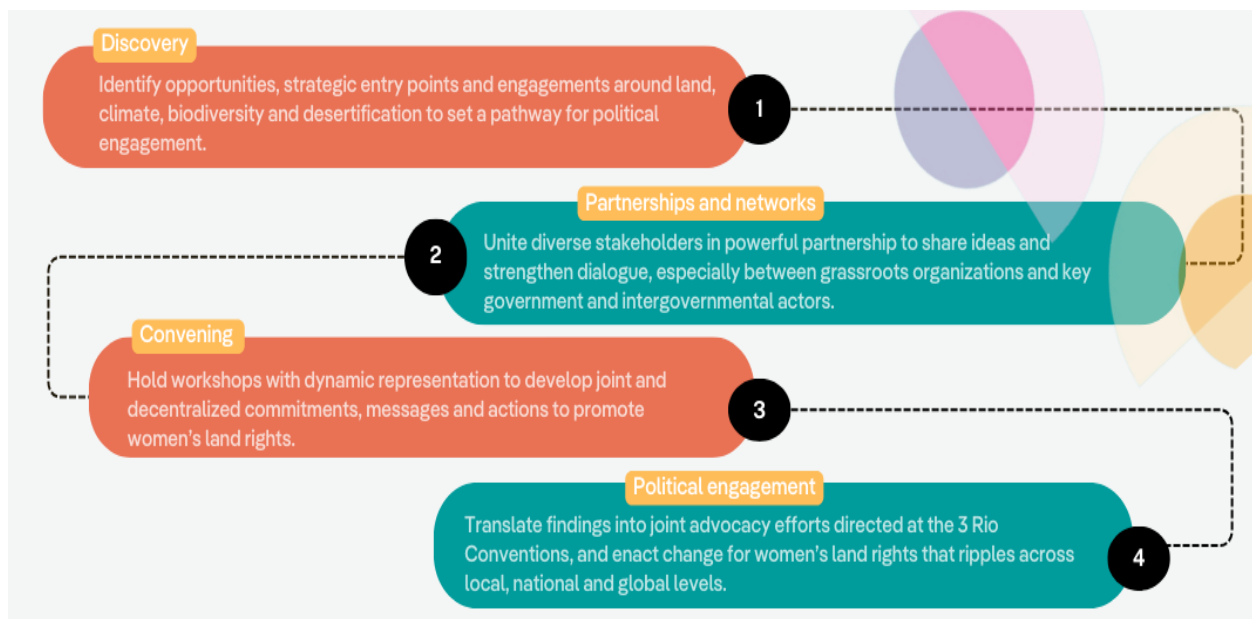
Rational objectives

- Jointly identify first entry-points that can drive an operationalisation of the debate around synergies for women's land rights. By the end of the workshop, we have collected ideas for entry points to advance synergies and developed strategies/activities to pursue these entry points that can be implemented in a decentralised manner [collect and collectivise]. Participants individually have clarity for themselves on commitments and intentions they might have to contribute to the ideas collected [individual clarity].
- Jointly identify pathways to strengthen the agency of grassroots organisations in driving debates on synergies for land rights across the Rio Conventions

Experiential objectives

- Agency: Participants feel a sense of agency throughout and beyond the workshop to shape agenda, conversations and outlook of the initiative during workshop, feel empowered to use insights, discussion results, and new connections formed in their activities beyond the workshop.
- Ownership: Participants feel excited by the potential of the initiative and see reason and motivation to contribute to the convened space beyond June.

Please also visit our website that includes all preparatory documents, links to other resources and photos of the workshop: <https://www.tmg-thinktank.com/event-series/womens-land-rights-initiative-driving-change-across-rio-conventions>



Roadmap of the WLRI 2024



Workshop Summary

The recent workshop aimed to catalyse the promotion of women's land rights by fostering collaborative efforts and strategic entry points. Through dynamic discussions and interactive sessions, participants collectively explored ways to operationalise the debate on synergies for women's land rights. This joint exploration aimed to identify actionable strategies and activities that can be implemented at the local level to ensure a decentralised yet unified approach. The workshop also emphasised individual clarity and empowered participants to define their personal commitments and intentions towards the shared objectives.

A short external version of the summary of the WLR workshop was published on the TMG blog: [Unlocking Synergies for Women's Land Rights: Bridging Rio Conventions with Grassroots Organizations](#)

Strengthening the agency of grassroots organisations in driving debates on synergies for land rights across the Rio Conventions

Social participation in political decision-making is a decisive factor in promoting democratic governance. Rooting global discourse on women's land rights at the grassroots level is no longer debatable. Grassroots organisations have highly critical perspectives that should be given a platform to influence global decision-making processes.

The panel discussion delved into the critical need for deep-rooted involvement of grassroots organisations in the promotion of women's land rights. The panellists discussed examples such as [Women Land Link Africa \(WLLA\)](#) with its mission to empower women's voices at all levels — from the local to the global. WLLA has created a solid framework for capacity building, knowledge sharing and evidence-based advocacy and has 100 members in 45 countries. The organisation has been instrumental in advocating for women's land rights by linking grassroots efforts with global platforms and facilitating the exchange of ideas through annual meetings and partnerships. Another example was the grassroots organisation [Shibuye Community Health Workers](#), which was founded in the late 1990s in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Community health care, access to food and community development are closely linked to securing women's land rights. One of Shibuye Community Health Workers examples are the [community land lease guidelines](#), to ensure women's access to land. Both examples show that we need to create spaces to articulate positions from the bottom up, but also to translate global discourses and negotiations to the local level so that local communities can benefit from and contribute to international policies. The various Conventions already offer civil society varying degrees of space to raise its voice. In this context, TMG presented the first results of a comparative analysis conducted jointly with FIAN International, analysing the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security and the UNCCD Civil Society Panel. The main recommendations related to the UNCCD CSO Panel were:

- Develop balanced rules to ensure continuity and rotation with the civil society spaces themselves. Continuity is key to ensure the institutional memory, rotation is key to ensure broad participation. The CSO Panel would benefit from a redesign to strengthen continuity.
- Establish an autonomous mechanism for social participation that is self-organized by civil society. This autonomous mechanism should have an independent secretariat to facilitate the



necessary processes of self-organisation and participation in negotiations and deliberations, be it as active participants or observers.

- Defend and take care of the UN as a multilateral and democratic space. One specific recommendation is to open UNCCD COP contact groups to civil society observers.

The discussion then centred on the following key aspects: Rootedness vs. inclusiveness, challenges in identifying solutions and shared expectations of roles.

Involving is not enough: grassroots actions need to be rooted

The panellists discussed the concept of "rooting", which goes beyond mere participation and involvement. Rooting involves institutionalising the role and contributions of grassroots women in decision-making processes and ensuring that their voices are not only heard but also acted upon. It was pointed out that while efforts to involve grassroots organisations continue, they often remain on the surface and lack the depth needed to make a real impact. The panellists agreed that rootedness requires a fundamental shift in the way the contribution of grassroots organisations is integrated into the broader policy framework.

What does rooting mean?

Rooting means including the role and perspectives of grassroots women in decision-making and policy implementation. As the example of WLLA showed, it is about creating platforms where grassroots women can consistently engage with policy makers and influence decisions from the ground up. This approach also includes capacity building to equip women with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively advocate for their rights. Rooting in also means ensuring that grassroots organisations receive the financial and logistical support they need to sustain their activities and influence. Rooting can also be supported by the conventions, where a strong pillar of social participation can be built through autonomous mechanisms of civil society organisations supported by independent secretariats and adequate resources.

Overcoming engagement barriers: Solutions still need to be found

Answering the question of 'how' is undoubtedly about addressing difficult issues such as how to create spaces for grassroots involvement (and for whom) so as not to intimidate and recognise alternative ways of intervening, what support structures are needed and how participation processes need to be changed, for example to give actors sufficient time to prepare. Despite the progress made, panellists acknowledged that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for fully involving women at the grassroots level in decision-making processes. Ongoing challenges were highlighted, such as limited access to resources and the often bureaucratic nature of international platforms, which can be intimidating and marginalising for grassroots participants. The panel stressed the need for continued dialogue and experimentation with different models of engagement to find sustainable solutions, as there is no solution yet.

Not all roles have to be equal

The panellists also discussed the idea that not all roles need to be equal. However, this also implies that the unique contributions and perspectives of all actors involved must be identified, recognised and accordingly acknowledged. The panellists emphasised that grassroots women should not only be seen as beneficiaries of policies but as co-creators and leaders of the movement for land rights. But what exactly the role of grassroots women is still needs to be defined further and opportunities need to be further identified. Strengthening agency also means creating spaces in which their voices are not only heard, but also prioritised and taken into account. Equal participation means that the framework needs to be adapted to the needs of grassroots women, for example by simplifying language and processes to ensure their full participation.



Entry-points that can drive an operationalisation of the debate around synergies for women's land rights

Synergy effects are more than the sum of their parts. Opportunities to strengthen women's land rights through international frameworks exist within each of the Conventions individually to varying degrees. Additions to a drafted map of entry points included the indigenous peoples caucuses of UNCBD (International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity: [IIFB](#)) and UNFCCC (International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change: [IIPFCC](#)), and a reference to land tenure activists in the current [draft negotiation text](#) on gender and climate (gender action plan) for COP29 of UNFCCC.

With the same land concerned, harnessing these entry points to build a unifying foundation across the Rio Conventions' framework can help us ensure actions reinforce each other, rather than compete with or come at the expense of land rights. By exploring how we can link the entry points, the windows of opportunity, for (women's) land rights within the Rio Conventions, we can amplify the impact for women's land rights and make our efforts more effective and sustainable. Here are three examples how we can do that:

- **Collaboration and cooperation:** By sharing ideas, resources and strategies between actors active in different Convention contexts, we can foster innovation and increase the effectiveness of WLR initiatives and advocacy.
- **Learning from each other:** One convention's work on WLR can offer valuable insights and strategies that others can adopt, enhancing WLR initiatives overall.
- **Cost and resource effectiveness:** Sharing resources saves time and money, allowing us to focus on making a more significant impact without unnecessary duplication of efforts.

One opportunity for synergies lies in **coordinating planning and implementation on an issue such as women's land rights across national positions and plans**. The Economics of Land Degradation Initiative for instance presented their work on overlaying land-based commitments across NDCs, LDN and NBSAPs at national level in Rwanda. [In their study](#), they found that joint implementation of commitments can yield significant gains in terms of cost-efficiency and -effectiveness, both in transaction as well as in implementation costs. Based on their findings, they recommend for governments – their prime interlocutors for the study – to coordinate their planning and implementation efforts of commitments made under national plans, and to harmonise institutional set up for this purpose. Participants discussed both how ELD's exercise could regard women's land rights, as well as how women's land rights provisions within national plans could be harmonised across plans in their planning and implementation (e.g. by addressing them through one strategy based on all plans). Madagascar, for example, already leverages this synergy potential, having reformed their approach to the Rio Conventions by enhancing cooperation across ministries and civil society organisations. The country's positions towards the three COPs are now built on inclusive national consultations involving youth, gender groups and grassroots organisations and integrate joint policy and legislative issues. Ideally, these kinds of coordinated approaches lead to countries integrating cross-cutting issues into their national plans under the different Conventions. In fact, Madagascar's National Adaptation Plan under UNFCCC is one of the few that references women's land rights, placing it within a strategic priority on securing land tenure to enhance adaptation measures.

A second example discussed were **indicators on women's land rights** that exist or are envisioned within each Convention at differing degrees. Solid and comprehensive indicators to be reported on are critical to ensure cohesive and effective implementation of policies, to allow countries to measure their progress, and to strengthen advocacy efforts. While the SDG indicators on land and land rights marked



progress in recognising the central nature of land, they are soft and remain non-mandatory, leading to very weak monitoring on country-level. Since SDG reporting frameworks only accept official data, a wealth of data is missed out on. In completing the monitoring framework of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the SDG indicators on land rights were taken as a base for GBF indicators on land rights. Equally, UNCCD COP15 asked to avoid duplication when exploring possible indicators on land tenure for inclusion in UNCCD reporting processes, and COP16 is likely to propose indicators based on the SDG indicators. Indicators on WLR neither exist nor are currently planned within UNFCCC, though participants pondered the role of the gender plan of action or the global goal on adaptation as a space for inclusion. A streamlining of indicators across Conventions unleashes important synergy effects, as linking monitoring efforts at national level can reduce efforts and costs and ultimately enhance the chances of successful monitoring and reporting. However, the realisation of a synergy effect also requires further conditions to be met, including capacities at national level to understand and complete monitoring frameworks, available financing for monitoring exercises, the acceptance of a greater variety of data sources, and ideally indicators that are mandatory and not voluntary as with the SDGs and as currently foreseen with the GBF. Beyond a recognition of indicators as a potential entry point for synergies, the approach to leverage them as such in a realistic manner was found to be critical in discussions. Requesting joint reporting on women's land rights across Conventions was seen to create unnecessary roadblocks (opposition by parties, requiring high-level decisions on reporting structures across Conventions etc). Rather, advocating for the recognition of supporting guidelines or voluntary templates that support countries in reporting on WLR across Conventions on national level could yield similar results at higher likelihood of realisation.

Further entry points to enhance synergies discussed by participants could include:

- **Utilising human rights as a frame across conventions to strengthen rights to land:** Addressing the need to protect land defenders, including those that do not self-identify as defenders but whose role as defenders is a consequence of land violations perpetrated; strengthening grievance mechanisms.
- **Addressing the issue of financing for WLR, especially for grassroots organisations, jointly across Conventions,** with special focus on GEF as the common financing mechanism, the new GBF fund, and possibly the loss and damage as well as adaptation funds. More in the next section below.
- **Facilitating engagement of national focal points with grassroots organisations across Conventions.** Special mention was given to the role of gender focal points. More in the next section below.



What we found important when thinking of how to leverage synergies across the conventions to enhance WLR in the future:

- **We need a power analysis when exploring synergies:** Who are the actors involved who currently hold the power to change practices and processes? Who is missing and who do we want to give this power to? Who should be the driving force advocating for change?
- **Evaluating our approaches to entry points based on what is realistic** will help us advance WLR without creating more barriers that are not worth our efforts. For example, it may be more realistic to capitalise on the opportunities that lie in WLR reporting across Conventions by advocating for guidelines or templates for countries to facilitate streamlined reporting on WLR indicators, rather than advocating for common WLR reporting itself, which is likely to face more resistance from Parties and for which entire processes will need to be changed.
- **We must not forget to dream big:** WLR needs to be addressed from different angles at the same time, although some are less realistic at large scale, they can make a difference at smaller / local scale. We also need to consider the creative ambiguity of the Secretariats to advance WLR.
- **Beyond involving grassroots organisations, we need to take care to root our actions on connecting the three conventions** to advance land rights in grassroots perspectives. What this can look like more precisely for differential roles of actors needs to be explored further.



Theory of Change on Women's Land Rights and the Rio Conventions

At the previous women's land rights and Rio Conventions workshop in 2023, participants identified that it would be helpful to have a theory of change to depict the links between strengthening women's land rights and the goals of the Rio Conventions. While there are emerging evidentiary links between women's land rights and Rio Convention outcomes, as well as strong and growing agreement that women's land rights is an essential foundation for achieving Rio Convention goals, pathways identifying the "how to" of building this foundation of secure women's land rights and linking to actions to implement each Convention are less clear.

As such, **Landesa drafted of a theory of change** intended to begin clarifying the relationships between the two arenas and potential pathways for strengthening implementation of both by leveraging stronger women's land rights. The goal is to contribute to shared understanding of these relationships and pathways and to create a basis for deeper articulation and collective action. The draft theory of change is oriented toward key stakeholders and the actions they are already taking (or should be enabled to take) to strengthen women's land rights, and emphasizes the agency and leadership of grassroots women at all levels of land governance, within Rio Convention spaces, and in the design and implementation of national plans related to the Rio Conventions.

The draft theory of change draws heavily from 1) the outcome document from last year's workshop; 2) the participant handbook's overview of relevant decisions and Gender Action Plans across the Rio Conventions; 3) an evidence scan produced by Landesa (2024) to identify available evidence linking women's land rights implementation and climate change mitigation and adaptation; and 4) aligns with a draft report being produced by UN Women to articulate links between women's land rights and the Rio Conventions.

Participants are encouraged to provide feedback to the draft theory of change, which Landesa will then revise to reflect the expertise of the stakeholders gathered and to serve existing needs both in the women's land rights and Rio Convention arenas, and to facilitate stronger integration of efforts in both arenas.

Group Work Outcomes

Participants brainstormed possible windows of opportunity for mobilising financing for grassroots organisations within the framework of the conventions' **existing funding mechanisms**. They envisioned strategies to strengthen the vertical and horizontal **coordination of national focal points** and focused an important part of the discussion on how to better integrate the perspectives of grassroots organisations into national policy dialogues in order to influence international negotiations. They dreamt big about how to align targets for women's land rights in **national plans** to harmonise implementation strategies and enhance monitoring and reporting mechanisms to effectively track progress. They also developed concrete ideas for coordination between **women's caucuses** to put women's land rights issues at the centre of their current agendas, amplify grassroots voices and propel their power in advocacy, learning and inclusion to a next level.

The following priorities were selected by the participants and discussed, considering guiding questions:



Resourcing WLR across the Conventions

- What are the levers to make effective grassroots financing for women's land rights happen across the existing funding mechanisms of the three conventions?
- And how can we have a joint coordinated effort to make that happen?

Coordination across National Focal Points

- How can coordination be enabled between the national focal points in a way that advances women's land rights?
- How can we establish a working relationship between grassroots movements and focal points?

Coordinating efforts on national plans

- What can a coordinated effort to integrate women's land rights in the implementation and review of national plans look like?

Coordination between (women's) caucuses on WLR

- How can coordination between the women's caucuses of the three conventions advance women's land rights?
- How can grassroots movements become central parts of the caucuses?



Group topic: Resourcing WLR across the Conventions

What? Our understanding of the entry point	So what? The significance of the entry point	Now what? Our actions going forward
<p>1) Changing GEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF is changing now, including a new CEO who is open for grassroots issues and new ways of doing funding • Here is a window of opportunity. • GEF has recently set up a small-grants fund program, but accessing funds remains complex and challenging for local actors • There is an awareness of those administering the small grants funds that it is not working for grassroots organisations 	<p>Desirable outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term: Direct funding: GEF mandates to give 20% of total budget as small grants funds directly to local non-governmental organization. This offers a new avenue of funding for grassroots women's organisations working on land rights • Short to mid-term: Small-grants funding line of GEF is radically restructured which offers easily accessible funds to grassroots women's organisations working on land rights. • Short term: More transparency around funding criteria and priorities 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a donor coalition (Philanthropies & others) that advocates for changes within GEF • Design and offer a capacity building program for GEF agencies that are currently administering small-grants funds as well as those who decide over the set up and design of the grant. The capacity building program will be led by grassroots women organisations who specify their needs in order to be able to make use of the small grants fund • Find allies within the conventions: address gender focal points of the conventions on the suggestion of building capacity within GEF to administer useful funding for grassroots women organisations • Address the GEF council, GEF gender officer, GEF national focal points as potential allies. • Position land rights as an intersecting topic for all three conventions to make it interesting for GEF to do funding calls in this area and built-up pressure on GEF from all three conventions. • Offer best practice examples from national funding agencies (not philanthropy, but from those who work with tax payer money), USAID can offer practical insights and examples • Get UN women involved as a potential implementing agency for GEF or an ally in lobbying for GEF changes, possibly through UN women action coalition



<p>2) Using GEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even under the current GEF mechanism there already are a few opportunities to access funds for WLR. We acknowledge that getting these funds is complicated and poses a big burden on the organisations, but there are a few things, that make it easier. 	<p>How to access GEF funding under the current architecture for WLR?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In using the federal funding mechanisms work with co-funding: so start a project with different money, then address the national implementation agency of GEF, show them, what is already going on and try to get them to support your application to the GEF funding or get them to directly engage with the government • There is a funding line at the moment on the Great Green Wall which explicitly includes CSOs • Once you get a first contract with an implementing agency, follow up funding is relatively easy to access • Put capacity building for meeting GEF indicators in every funding application 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping for co-financing GEF funds • Mapping GEF's 18 implementing agencies
<p>3) Capitalize on and influence Forest Tenure Funders Group / Pledge</p>	<p>How can Forest Tenure Funders Group help achieve WLR?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forest tenure pledge could offer opportunities to access funding for participation in three COPs and further lobby-work on changing the GEF structure (see point 1) • Get the Forest Tenure Funders Group involved in the advocacy work around changing climate finance particularly GEF to make it accessible for grassroots organisations working around WLR • Take Forest Tenure Funders Group Pledge as best practice example regarding their human rights and localization standards. 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a conversation with the organisations involved in the forest tenure funders group
<p>4) New models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing the architecture of GEF will not happen in short term. We therefore need alternative models of funding that are independent from the large funds linked to the three conventions. Philanthropic money can be one opportunity to develop new funding models for WLR 	<p>Develop alternative models for financing work on WLR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop participatory decentralized models to influence money distribution • Strengthen requirements to adapt to local level, including in the proposal processes • Offer flexible funding 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a roundtable of funders on Women's Land Rights • Get an overview over what kind of funding lines exist and are being developed that would fit WLR • Check out BothEnds mapping on possible funders on WLR



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with existing funders groups working on land • Engage with existing philanthropic coalitions and networks (Philea, GAFF, etc) to find allies
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Group topic: Coordination across National Focal Points

What? Our understanding of the entry point	So what? The significance of the entry point	Now what? Our actions going forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision for: NFP of the 3 Rio Conventions + Gender Focal Point (only UNFCCC) + GEF Focal Point (power of money) • Challenges: • Depending on the country, NFP work in different ministries (environment, agriculture...), some are responsible for more than one convention • Integration in governmental power structures on the national level often unclear, can be weak • Engagement often depends on the personality and motivation, NFP not always embedded in a strong administrative structure. • NFP's work is not transparent for grassroots level • Questions: • What are NFP's priorities? How to raise their interest in and intrinsic motivation to engage in WLR? • How can grassroots organizations have access to NFP? How can they gain knowledge at all about NFP work/impact at grassroots level? • How to integrate/connect with the administration behind the NFP? • What might on the other hand be requirements of the NFPs to be able to work on WLR? What does the NFP need to know/need to be aware of to engage for WLR? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal network could be created with NFPs, grassroots women's organizations, CSO and joint agenda setting • NFPs could organize local consultations and bring them to the global level • NFP can be one entry point to advocate for synergies between the conventions; • And the joint statements of the COP presidencies on climate, nature and people can be an entry point to promote synergy issues and grassroots perspectives to NFPs • https://www.cbd.int/article/cop-presidents-statement-climatecop28-2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking/acting in processes • Action from both sides: NFPs to grassroots women/organ. (informing on their role; creating awareness on land tenure decision in collaboration with CSOs) + Grassroots to NFPs (requiring e.g. the integration of grassroots perspectives and active involvement of grassroots actors in consultation processes...) • Joint statement of COP Presidencies (UNCCD COP15, CBD COP15, UNFCCC COP27) • Analysing this statement from a WLR perspective • Getting feedback from 10-15 grassroots organizations • Entry point for CS/grassroots organize.: Translating the meaning and potential for action to NFPs • Informing ministries/NFPs about VGGT Trainings (participation upon state request) • UNCCD multistakeholder dialogues on LDN targets / big potential of influence through FAO + Co-Conveners • Sorting out questions of power and role of NFPs in the <i>first</i> convening • Ensure to include NFPs from other conventions and grassroots women's organizations • Include WLR and convention synergies in the dialogues • Link the dialogues to existing fora/multistakeholder platforms and grassroots women's organizations.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are NFP able to influence agenda setting and negotiations in different policy spaces? • To what extent do NFPs collaborate with their colleagues on the national/international level? What do they know about other negotiations, e.g. on gender issues? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to Co-Conveners in other participating countries to ensure that WLR are on the agenda and women's grassroots organizations are involved • Identify the process/resources interest for the next round of dialogues (1st: Kenya, Senegal, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan; second round is planned) <p>Advocate for WLR on negotiator groups level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional working groups for Negotiators • African Group of Negotiators (UNCCD) • Youth negotiators trained by YNA (WLR and grassroots perspectives as part of the training)
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Group topic: Coordinating efforts on national plans

What? Our understanding of the entry point	So what? The significance of the entry point	Now what? Our actions going forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of existing action plans, implementation status and planned moments of revision, which determines key opportunities for coordinated efforts to integrate women's land rights in the NAPs: • UNFCCC-Development process of new NDCs: The NDCs are developed every five years and are currently under review for the next five-year cycle. This is a good opportunity to advocate and integrate actions and provisions for the recognition and protection of women's land rights. • UNCCD-FAO Joint Initiative on Land Tenure: In the implementation process of this joint initiative, 05 countries are being supported in the organisation of national multi-stakeholder consultations aimed at integrating tenure security into LDN and land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A coordinated effort to integrate women's land rights in NAPs will institutionalize the planning, implementation, review, reporting and follow-up of activities to advance women's rights under the 3 Rio Conventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Articulating a joint vision</i>: There is no coordinated effort without a shared vision. Hence, the first step toward coordinated efforts for integrating women's land rights in the implementation and review of national plans is to articulate a joint vision and develop a roadmap to bring stakeholders together. • <i>An event at the national level to create momentum</i>: Such an event should bring together CSOs working for women's land rights and the three National Focal Points of the three Rio Conventions. To balance the power relationships and improve interactions and dynamics among actors, the event should be organised by the Focal Points and the CSOs in a rotating manner. Interestingly, this national-level event was also suggested by the group that worked on National Focal Points (How can national focal points be turned into allies to effectively implement women's land rights?),



restoration initiatives. This represents a unique opportunity to integrate women's land rights in LDN projects and programmes and policy decision-making.

- [CBD-Revision and update of the NBSAPs ahead of COP 16](#): The ongoing revision and update of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention and alignment requests with the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) is another key leverage point for mainstreaming women's land rights.

highlighting the need to bring CSOs and national focal points together and create space for collaboration between them.

- *Monitoring and accountability*: Good planning without a monitoring strategy and plans to use data and information to hold government and development partners accountable is meaningless. To ensure planned actions are aligned with the needs of communities, especially women, it is important to ensure women's representatives take leadership and lead the processes (community-based monitoring). To happen, the capacities of grassroots organisations and women caucuses need enhancement (training in data collection, advocacy, etc.). To ensure effective monitoring and data quality, it is important to include national research institutions in the planning process as well as the data collection, analysis and reporting processes.
- *Strategic alliance and relevant policy frameworks and mechanisms*: Some sensitive issues, such as human rights, are often dealt with effectively when external actors initiate new narratives and set into motion activities to influence habits and paradigms at the national level. To be successful, not only strong planning and coordination strategies are necessary between the multiple organisations working on women's land rights, but also independent complaint mechanisms and policy frameworks to help address systems' failures, shortcomings and dysfunctions, especially regarding human rights (UN commissions, OHCHR, etc.)
- *Platforms for continuous advocacy for women's land rights facilitate the uptake of women's concerns in*



		<p><i>national plans:</i> Success mainstreaming women's land rights in national plans should not be looked at only from national perspectives in a context where governmental officials travel all over the world for workshops, seminars, forums, etc. Pursuing the narratives around women's land rights and advocating for the integration of women's land rights in policy decision-making at regional and international platforms contribute to the sensitisation of policy decision-makers and the update of women's concerns in decision-making and national action plans. Some of the platforms suggested by the participants include for instance the Women and Data conference convened by the African Union Commission on 8th to 10th, July 2024 in Botswana.</p>
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Group topic: Coordination between (women's) caucuses on WLR

What? Our understanding of the entry point	So what? The significance of the entry point	Now what? Our actions going forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caucus: Intersectional coordination with representation (collective voice) • Opportunities: Advocacy, capacity strengthening, shaping grassroots demands, voice in negotiations • Challenges: Structure of working groups and focal points varies within conventions. Need to understand organizational structure within each convention • Caucuses have the ability to present positions. Ex. Youth Caucus has previously presented positions at COPs • Funding limitations: Caucuses must seek funding through fundraising, grants, etc. Lack of funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caucuses are a "Movement of movements". They can build momentum on specific issues through campaigns, advocacy, collective power (through sharing the same space), and propelling cohesive narratives. • Joint positions could be an effective way to harness collective power throughout the caucuses. • Regional groups could be an opportunity to strengthen WLR within the caucuses. • Caucuses are not formal, and strength lies in the power of informal exchange. For example, the Youth Caucus presented a joint position within all 3 conventions regarding Nature-based Solutions. Utilizing informality by communicating through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a joint position between conventions on women's land rights. Details on coordination would need to be established. Perhaps the youth caucus could support the women's caucus in making this happen. • Youth Negotiators is currently creating a joint position paper. Could incorporate women's land rights • Creation of capacity building and knowledge sharing spaces. This could include, for example, hosting a joint webinar open to all conventions. By opening these opportunities to all conventions, limited funding is more effectively used. Opportunity to share resources and connect networks. • Importance of leveraging networks and personal connections



<p>can present a challenge. Awareness of funding opportunities: Ex. UNCCD fund for NGOs from developing countries, CSO panel funding, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caucuses receive support from working groups • Regional weeks provide an opportunity for engagement • Limitations of access to spaces, as caucuses are less formalized • Caucuses have ability to conduct studies (funding dependent) • High turnover rates among the caucuses represents a challenge. 	<p>WhatsApp groups, coordination was able to happen quickly and easily across conventions. This was a major benefit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caucus funding varies greatly. Combined funding could be an opportunity. For example, capacity building workshops hosted/funded by one convention could be opened up to others, therefore reaching more people and utilizing funding effectively. • UNCCD Caucus also guides Gender Action Plans. Opportunities arise through this. • Caucuses have ability to directly approach party delegates. Ex. Opportunity for Youth Negotiators to bring women's land rights between conventions through direct approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize Gender Day to come together across the Conventions • Exchange of action (e.g., through the Women in Global South Alliance - WIGSA) • Important considerations among all actions: Need to incorporate messaging from grassroots orgs, as well as ensure inclusivity through representation, language simplicity, translation, etc. • Reflect and carry lessons from COP to COP • Need for advocacy within conventions: How to get WLR advocates into caucuses? How to create advocates within the caucuses?
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Reflection of the Workshop: Future of the WLR Initiative

General sentiments

The workshop was a convergence of diverse voices, each bringing unique perspectives and insights into the discussion on women's land rights (WLR). The general sentiments from the participants highlighted both the achievements and the areas needing improvement:

- **Appreciation for the platform:** Participants expressed deep gratitude for the space to engage in meaningful discussions. The workshop was seen as a valuable opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and organizations committed to advancing WLR. The niche, yet central nature of WLR to the three Rio conventions and gender equality was emphasized, highlighting the significance of the procedural progress made during the workshop.
- **Need for deeper conversations:** There was a strong desire for more time to unpack sensitive issues and engage in critical conversations, such as the geopolitical issues and emerging conflicts, calling for more profound discussions on what WLR means in the context of self-determination and human rights.
- **Importance of inclusion and diversity:** Several participants underscored the importance of including grassroots communities as agents of change. The absence of voices from some regions was noted as something to be addressed in future convenings.
- **Roadmaps and accountability:** Many participants emphasized the need for actionable roadmaps and accountability mechanisms of agreed actions. There was a collective recognition that while discussions are valuable, they must translate into concrete actions and measurable outcomes.
- **Shared learning and collaboration:** The workshop was seen as a fertile ground for shared learning and collaboration. Participants highlighted the identification of low-hanging fruits and clear ideas for working together with grassroots organizations and focal points in preparation for negotiations. Participants emphasized the importance of knowing what each stakeholder is doing and identifying where they can connect and join forces to continue collaboration.

Ideas for the future of the WLRI

The initiative will aim to institutionalise discussions on women's land rights within the frameworks of the COPs. This includes not only participating in these events, but also actively shaping the agendas and outcomes to reflect the priorities of the WLRI. Efforts will be made to secure involvement opportunities and create spaces at the COPs for more focussed discussions on WLR. Strengthening the network of organisations and individuals involved in the WLRI is critical. This network will serve as a support system that provides knowledge sharing and opportunities for collaboration.

The consensus was clear - the WLR initiative must be continued, and its impact expanded. The momentum built during the 2023 and 2024 workshops will be leveraged to keep the initiative active and dynamic. There is a commitment to both short-term and long-term goals.

As current co-hosts, TMG Research, Robert Bosch Stiftung and the three Rio Convention Secretariats have committed to strategically take forward this initiative and co-design it with the actors involved.



TMG will remain a key organiser and convener, explicitly welcoming others to co-design the initiative in a process to be detailed. Welcoming and integrating grassroots organisations into the initiative will receive special focus, especially in terms of co-design. The Robert Bosch Stiftung will continue to co-host and financially support core activities of the initiative, welcoming other funders to join.

The value of convening was a recurring theme. Personal meetings facilitate deeper understanding and stronger connections among participants.

A face-to-face platform allows for the kind of rich, spontaneous conversations that online formats often cannot replicate. The conversations led to significant insights and ideas and thus calls for continuation of such a platform.

While the platform is invaluable, the initiative recognizes the need for diverse engagement formats to ensure focus on the process.

As participants rightly expressed, certain entry points need to be more focused and discussed in-depth, which speaks to the idea of further emphasising the process around the WLRI. This may include a focused research process, initiating learning moments or exploring regional gatherings/working groups.

First steps: How to stay in touch?

1. Online Platforms and working groups

An online platform, a [LinkedIn group](#), has been set up to facilitate ongoing communication between participants. This platform will serve as a hub for sharing updates, resources and opportunities. In addition, working groups focused on specific areas of interest are highly encouraged to maintain momentum and drive action between workshops. This process should be led by the participants and can be facilitated by TMG. Upon admin approval to enter the group, participants can freely utilize the space. Suggestions for other platforms are still welcome.

2. Regular updates and follow-up communication

All participants will be regularly informed about progress and upcoming events. In preparation for the three COPs in 2024, [participants are encouraged to fill out the organizational sheet](#). In this document, participants can share their plans for engagement in this year's COPs, as a way to connect and identify opportunities for collaboration and connection. In addition, virtual follow-up meetings will be organised by TMG surrounding the three COPs in 2024. Communication will then continue beyond 2024.

3. Creating a collaborative environment

Participants are encouraged to co-create and lead future ideas to foster a sense of ownership and shared responsibility. Open lines of communication and an inclusive approach will ensure that the initiative remains dynamic and responsive to the needs of different stakeholders.