



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

Participant Handbook

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)

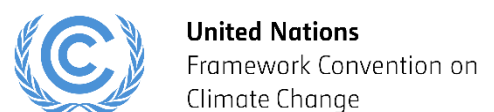


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Objective of the document

Welcome to the handbook prepared for the Leveraging Momentum for Women's Land Rights: Enhancing an Initiative for Synergies across Conventions. This handbook aims to serve as a guide into our exchanges and a resource to unpack some of the complex issues surrounding women's land rights in the context of the Rio Conventions.

Concept: Leveraging Momentum for Women's Land Rights Initiative

Background

Global challenges such as the climate crisis and loss of biodiversity are increasing pressure on the finite resource of land. Women are at the forefront of this struggle. While women often provide food for their families and manage household resources, they own less than 20% of land worldwide. Global policy measures and commitments to restore degraded land, enhance carbon dioxide removal and accelerate biodiversity conservation require significant areas of land already used and managed by rural communities and indigenous peoples. Since 2019, the UNCCD has played a crucial role by making explicit decisions in favour of land rights. Negotiations at the UNCCD COP have ensured that land rights are prioritised. However, **responsible land governance is a shared concern within all three Rio Conventions.**

In July 2023, TMG Research, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) convened a first workshop in Berlin, bringing together more than 60 stakeholders from 30 countries to discuss the critical issue of women's land rights in the context of the three Rio Conventions. Against the backdrop of the central role of land in mitigating climate change, halting biodiversity loss and achieving land degradation neutrality, participants engaged in focused discussions and panels, emphasising the need for financial, technical and legal empowerment of women and grassroots organisations, improved coordination between National Focal Points (NFPs) and coordinated advocacy. The workshop concluded with commitments for collaboration, including joint monitoring and reporting efforts, proposed engagement platforms and capacity building needs for civil society organisations, all of which **underscore the need to focus on the voice of women at the grassroots.** In 2023, the organisers, as well as the participants, have continued leveraging these findings to promote dialogue, collaboration and social innovation in the arena of women's land rights.

We recognise that solutions for women's land rights under the Rio Conventions hold transformative potential to address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and land degradation and want to strengthen the dialogue across the Conventions and the respective stakeholders. Not only do all conventions offer their own respective entry points for strengthening women's land rights, but the potential impact of synergy creation across the Conventions is strong. Once identified and operationalised, **entry points for synergy creation could yield transformative results for advancing land-based commitments and realising the land rights agenda.** With all three Conventions hosting their respective Conference of the Parties (COPs) at the end of 2024, there is a distinct opportunity to leverage synergies and create coherence on the role and recognition of land rights in driving land-based commitments. To build on the momentum, we therefore invite stakeholders to participate in a strategic initiative comprised of several phases including preparatory meetings, a dialogue platform, as well as follow-up sessions after each COP to advance the women's land rights agenda under the Rio Conventions.



Purpose

The strategic initiative seeks to leverage the momentum generated by the alignment of all three Conferences of the Parties (COPs) held within a year. Another opportunity is the 30th anniversary of the UNNCD/Drought Day 2024, which will be hosted by Germany.

With this initiative we aim to use these windows of opportunity to

- jointly identify first entry-points that can drive an operationalisation of the debate around synergies for women's land rights
- strengthen the agency of grassroots organisations in driving debates on synergies for land rights across the Rio Conventions
- promote decentralised actions and joint messages from civil society organisations (CSOs) on the vital role of women's land rights and to strengthen the visibility of the issue of land within the Conventions.

People

Key advocacy actors amongst civil society and especially grassroots actors, representatives of the Convention secretariats, gender and CSO caucuses, foundations supporting CSOs, National Focal Points (NFPs).

Process

We propose a strategic initiative where the dialogue platform (workshop) is embedded within a broader structure of activities to enable the opportunity for more collaboration before and after the workshop itself:

**March
+ April**

Identification of participants, content preparation, agenda setting, and engagement with relevant stakeholders

In this initial phase, careful consideration will be given to identifying key stakeholders from different sectors and regions to ensure balanced representation. Early engagement with key stakeholders facilitates ownership, aligns expectations and ensures complementarity of the initiative with the field's activities. It also serves to collectivise information on entry points, timelines and activities to be used as input in the workshop.

May

Preparatory sessions to familiarize participants with the structures and mechanisms of the Conventions

Preparatory sessions will be organised in May to give participants a comprehensive understanding of the structures, mechanisms and decision-making processes across the different Rio Conventions, as well as respective agenda points pertinent to (women's) land rights. This will help to ensure that all participants are well informed and equipped to actively participate in the discussions and activities of the workshop. In addition, these sessions will provide an opportunity to build rapport among participants and foster a collaborative spirit.

June

Workshop session focusing on identifying key themes, messages, and entry points for stakeholders

The workshop session in June will serve as the main platform to engage participants in developing and sharpening joint and decentralised actions, positions and messages that promote synergetic thinking on women's land rights across the Rio Conventions. This in-person gathering, held in Berlin,



will serve as a dedicated space for holding meaningful discussions, sharing insights, exchanging ideas, building on common understanding and awareness amongst stakeholders of relevant opportunities and stakes/political entry points in all three COPs.

Post-COPs

Follow-up sessions to evaluate outcomes, review lessons learned, and plan future actions

After the COPs, follow-up sessions will be held to evaluate the results, experiences and impact of the joint messages and activities. Participants will reflect on their experiences, share lessons learnt and identify areas for improvement. These sessions will also serve as a platform for planning future actions, including possible collaborations, advocacy and capacity building initiatives. By capturing and documenting the outcomes of the workshop, the follow-up sessions will ensure continuity and facilitate ongoing engagement and collaboration between participants.

Overall, the initiative aims to capitalise on the momentum of the COPs and the Drought Day to drive coordinated advocacy efforts, promote cooperation between stakeholders and improve the visibility of land-related issues within the Conventions. By bringing together different actors and utilising their collective expertise, the initiative aims to drive effective action for women's land rights to advance climate resilience.

Workshop Objectives

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.

Website: <https://www.tmg-thinktank.com/event-series/womens-land-rights-initiative-driving-change-across-rio-conventions>



Agenda

*Subject to small changes

Day 1: Thursday, June 20 th	
Outcome: Common understanding of the meaning of 'synergies' and 'entry points' built. Potential entry points for synergies are brainstormed, mapped and prioritised for further discussion.	
08:30-09:00	Arrival, Registration & Coffee
09:00-09:45	<p>Welcome, introductions & setting the space</p> <p>By our facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederike Klümper, Programme Lead, TMG Research • Laura Rahmeier, Robert Bosch Stiftung <p>By our co-hosts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernhard Straub, CEO, Robert Bosch Stiftung • Andrea Meza, Deputive Executive Secretary, UNCCD • Wiebke Bender, Gender Programme Officer, UNFCCC • Olivier Rukundo, Head of Unit, UNCBD • Jes Weigelt, Head of Programmes, TMG Research
09:45-10:45	<p>Panel discussion: Strengthening grassroots' agency across the Conventions to advance women's land rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mino Ramarosan, Huairou Commission • Violet Shivutse, Shibuye Community Health Workers • Kader Baba, TMG Research <p>Q&A</p>
10:45-11:15	Group photo & Coffee break
11:15-12:45	<p>Panel discussion: Understanding synergies and entry points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Meza, UNCCD • Waltraud Ederer, GIZ Economics of Land Degradation Initiative • Cristina Timponi Cambiaghi, International Land Coalition • tbd <p>Q&A</p>
12:45-13:00	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland and UNCCD Land Ambassador</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<p>In groups: Mapping entry points for synergies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input presentation by TMG Research and Robert Bosch Stiftung • Familiarisation and brainstorming in small group discussions
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:45	<p>Plenary: Sharing back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevator pitches: Reporting back



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising entry points for Day 2 group discussions
17:45-18:00	Reflections & Synthesis of Day 1
After 18:00	Informal networking

Day 2: Friday, June 21 st	
Outcome: From identified entry points to strategies, identifying activities and commitments	
08:30-09:00	Arrival & Coffee
09:00-10:00	<p>Panel discussion: "Ask the Secretariats"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Bernard, UNCCD • Olivier Rukundo, UNCBD • Wiebke Bender, UNFCCC <p>Q&A</p>
10:00-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-12:45	<p>Break-out groups: From entry points to strategies and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we understand the entry point? What do we know? • What can be achieved through this entry point? • What actions can we take to advance the entry points?
12:45-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<p>Plenary: Reporting back and building buy-in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallery walk: Socialising insights • Discussion
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	<p>Plenary session: Future of the Women's Land Rights Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting feedback on the role and value of the initiative and workshop • Discussing the potential future outlook of our collaboration moving forward
17:30-18:00	Closing



Entry Points

Through research, conversations, and exchanges during the preparatory webinars, we have drafted a visualization of potential entry points within the Rio Conventions for advancing women's land rights to serve as a guide for discussions during the workshop. It can be accessed through the link [here](#).

Additional Information & Resources on Women's Land Rights

Rio Conventions Gender Action Plans & COP Decisions related to Women's Land Rights

"Rio Conventions Gender Action Plans & COP Decisions" refers to the strategic frameworks and decisions formulated within the context of the Rio Conventions, namely the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Parties to all three Rio conventions – the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – have committed to take an operational and forward-looking approach to becoming more gender responsive in the design and implementation of measures to achieve their respective goals and targets.

The Gender Action Plans (GAPs) associated with the Rio Conventions outline specific measures to address gender inequalities and ensure women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes related to climate change, biodiversity conservation, and land degradation measures. These plans recognise the importance of empowering women, acknowledging their unique knowledge and perspectives, and promoting their active participation in governing the implementation of measures to reach the targets.



The Conference of the Parties (COP) refers to the meetings held under each of the Rio Conventions where member countries meet to discuss progress, negotiate agreements and make decisions on various issues related to environmental protection. These decisions often emphasise the need for gender-sensitive approaches, recognition of rights, capacity building and enhanced cooperation to effectively address the intersecting challenges of environmental sustainability and gender inequality. Other important resources on women's land rights and the Rio Conventions

Theory of Change of Women's Land Rights and the Rio Conventions- drafted by Landesa

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.

This workshop will feature a draft 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.

For this year's workshop, 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.

The Economics of Land Degradation Initiative

The [Economics of Land Degradation Initiative](#) (ELD) is a global initiative that makes the values of land and its ecosystem services count in decisions – hence uncovering the true costs and benefits of land degradation and sustainable land management. We do this with the aim to inform, promote, and scale



land solutions for transformative change; these solutions include sustainable land management and restoration practices, policy instruments and institutional design, and financing solutions and strategies. In working at the science-policy-practice interface, ELD brings scientific knowledge and evidence into political and business discourses and decision making.

Established in 2011 between the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the European Commission and hosted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the ELD Initiative recently entered its second decade of activities. More than ever, this needs to bring "Transformative action for land".

Together with partners, ELD Initiative launched a [study project on the economics of harmonizing land-based Rio-targets](#) in Rwanda and Central Asia. Land is the common denominator between the three Rio Conventions but implementation of the conventions currently lacks coordination and coherence. As a consequence, the conventions compete for land to achieve their targets systems, synergies remain low and transactions costs are high.

Collaboration among the Rio Conventions is vital to achieve land degradation neutrality, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Within these conventions, land restoration emerges as a pivotal activity requiring coordinated efforts to enhance synergies and minimize conflicts. Synergies occur when actions align with multiple convention goals, while tradeoffs result when actions for one goal inadvertently harm another. Promoting synergies in land restoration through improved coordination significantly enhances its effectiveness and efficiency.

Other resources

General comment No. 26 (2022) on land and economic, social and cultural rights

Right to land as it connects to food, housing, water, health, cultural life, and self-determination. Women, indigenous peoples & local communities, land tenure, corruption, human rights defenders

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G23/000/35/PDF/G2300035.pdf?OpenElement>

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Indigenous peoples,

Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources,

https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas

Stressing that peasant women and other rural women play a significant role in the economic survival of their families and in contributing to the rural and national economy, including through their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, but are often denied tenure and ownership of land, equal access to land, productive resources, financial services, information, employment or social protection, and are often victims of violence and discrimination in a variety of forms and manifestations



<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1650694?ln=en>

UNFCCC How to COP: A Handbook for Hosting United Nations Climate Change Conferences

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/How-to-COP_2023.pdf

UNFCCC Review of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its GAP

<https://unfccc.int/gender/final-review>

VGGT - Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing the environment. They were officially endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security on 11 May 2012. Since then, implementation has been encouraged by G20, Rio+20, United Nations General Assembly and Francophone Assembly of Parliamentarians.

<https://www.fao.org/3/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>

<https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-05/cb9656en.pdf>



Overview of relevant frameworks, Rio Convention decisions and Gender Action Plans¹

Title	Focus Area	Entry Points	Highlights	Link
Sustainable Development Goals				
Sustainable Development Goal 1 – No Poverty	Land access	Direct mention of land rights and gender	<p>Target 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.</p> <p>Indicator 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation; and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure</p>	
Sustainable Development Goal 2 – Zero Hunger	Food security, sustainable agriculture, indigenous peoples & women	Direct mention of vulnerable groups	<p>SDG 2 Serves as an overarching anchor point for many actions related to the conventions. Strengthening the implementation of SDG 2 means strengthening the position of Women and Land Rights.</p> <p>Target 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.</p>	https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2#targets_and_indicators

¹ Please note, this is not a complete list of Decisions, only a brief overview of some Decisions and the respective links.



<p>Sustainable Development Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p>Gender equality, access to land, Representation in decision making</p>	<p>Direct mention of women land rights, ownership, and financial services</p>	<p>SDG 5 Serves as an overarching anchor point to strengthen the participation of women. Referring to SDG 5 Targets in official texts and indicators can help strengthen the argumentation for Women Land Rights.</p> <p>Target 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.</p> <p>Indicator 5.a.1 Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</p> <p>Indicator 5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/ or control</p> <p>5.a.1</p>	<p>https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5#targets_and_indicators</p>
<p>UNCBD</p>				
<p>Kunming Montreal Target 3</p>	<p>Equitable governance, indigenous peoples & local communities</p>	<p>Direct mention of land rights</p>	<p>Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.</p>	<p>https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/e6d3/cd1d/daf663719a03902a9b116c34/cop-15-l-25-en.pdf</p>
<p>Kunming Montreal Target 22</p>	<p>Representation in decision making, land rights, women, gender-responsive</p>	<p>Direct mention of land rights,</p>	<p>Target 22 Binary Indicator³</p> <p>Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.</p> <p>Target 22b Component Indicator:</p>	<p>https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/e6d3/cd1d/daf663719a03902a9b116c34/cop-15-l-25-en.pdf</p> <p>Monitoring Framework:</p>



		gender, IPLC ² , youth	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure.	https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf
Kunming Montreal Target 23	Gender equality, land access, decision making, land rights, land access, women's leadership	Direct mention of land rights, gender	<p>Target 23 Binary Indicator³</p> <p>Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity</p> <p>Target 23b Component Indicator</p> <p>Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments</p> <p>Indicator on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation; and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure</p>	<p>https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/e6d3/cd1d/daaf663719a03902a9b116c34/cop-15-l-25-en.pdf</p> <p>Monitoring Framework:</p> <p>https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf</p>
COP 15, Decision 11: Gender Plan of Action	Women's rights, land ownership, participation and leadership, capacity building	Direct mention of land rights, gender, role of grassroots/women's organisations	<p>Objective 1.1 Increase all women and girls' rights to ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and to water, to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>1.1.1 Compile baseline data and research on the relationship between conservation, interventions, sustainable use and all women and girls' rights to ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and prepare guidance for national-level action. Timeframe: 2024</p> <p>1.1.2 Take measures to update national legislation so that all women and girls have equitable access to ownership and control over biological resources, as well as land and waters. Timeframe: Until 2030</p>	https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/f64f/e1b9/e8da56802bc2c458a56fcefa/cop-15-l-24-en.pdf

² Indigenous Peoples and local communities

³ Binary indicators are mandatory responses, included in national reporting templates. Component indicators are optional indicators covering targets and goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework and may apply to global, regional, national, and sub-national levels.



			1.1.3 Support women's organizations and networks to have equal opportunities to lead or participate in decision-making on policies relating to the three objectives of the Convention, including related to land, land tenure and property reforms through inter alia, consultation of women, in accordance with national law, and the provision of financial support. Timeframe: Until 2030	
COP 15, Decision 8: Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation	Women, indigenous peoples & local communities, capacity building, expertise sharing, human rights	Gender, IPLC	Also urges Parties and invites other Governments to put in place enabling environments including relevant policies, legislation and administrative measures, as appropriate, to promote and facilitate capacity-building and development at various levels, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth organizations Guiding Principles 8e. Indigenous peoples and local communities, gender and youth perspectives should be fully integrated into biodiversity capacity-building and development efforts, taking into account the Gender Plan of Action	https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-08-en.pdf
COP 15, Decision 28: Biodiversity and agriculture	Soil, tenure, women, indigenous people & local communities	Direct mention of land rights, gender, IPLC	Activity 1.9 Promote ways and means to overcome obstacles to the adoption of good practices in sustainable soil management associated with land tenure, the rights of users of land and water, in particular women, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, recognizing their important contributions through their knowledge and practices, gender equality, access to financial services, agricultural advisory services and educational programmes	https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-28-en.pdf
UNCCD				



COP 10, Decision 5	Civil society organizations, youth, IPLC, women, pastoralists	Grassroots engagement, gender, IPLC	1. Encourages those countries with no or few civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to promote the involvement of their civil society organizations in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process at the international level to ensure more balanced participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its subsidiary bodies; 2. Requests the secretariat to continue working with key stakeholders, including youth, faith-based organizations, local governments, farmers, pastoralists, women's organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities;	https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-08/5COP10_0.pdf
COP14, Decision 5	Civil society organizations	Grassroots engagement	1. Decides that the civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties shall submit to the secretariat on 30 March 2012 and every five years thereafter (i) a written confirmation of their interest in remaining accredited to the Conference of the Parties... 11. Requests the UNCCD secretariat to continue using all possible means, including state-of the art information and communication technology, to facilitate interaction among civil society organizations and to ensure the active involvement of civil society in UNCCD processes	https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-11/5-cop14.pdf
COP14, Decision 26	Land tenure	Direct mention of land rights, VGGT	Noting the importance of land tenure within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Also noting the relevance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the United Nations Committee on World Food Security, to the implementation of the Convention, Recognizing that tenure rights should take into account the rights of others and matters of public interest that promote general welfare, according to national legislation, Also recognizing that responsible land governance is a fundamental component of sustainable land management and is important to addressing desertification/land degradation and drought.	https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/document/2019-11/26-cop14.pdf
COP15, Decision 3	Land degradation neutrality, governance, land tenure, women	Direct mention of land rights, gender	2c. Creating an enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality, including through the responsible governance of land and tenure security, the engagement of all relevant stakeholders and the improved access of smallholder land users to advisory and financial services, in particular for women and vulnerable populations 5a. Support Parties to create an enabling environment for the achievement of voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets, including the modalities for more responsible governance of land and tenure security, efforts to increase sustainable and	https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/3_cop15.pdf



			gender-responsive approaches to land restoration, respecting social and environmental safeguards, the engagement of relevant stakeholders, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups, and better access to innovative financing sources	
COP15, Decision 22	Land tenure, land restoration, indigenous peoples & local communities, women, governance, VGGT, migration	Land related decision, IPLC, gender	Recognizing that the degradation of all ecosystems, such as peatlands, grasslands and savannas, which are fundamental for food and freshwater security, especially for Indigenous peoples and local communities, youth and women and any other vulnerable people whose livelihoods depend on these ecosystems, may contribute to forced migration and displacement	https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/22_cop15.pdf
COP 15, Decision 27	Land tenure policy framework and thematic issues follow up	Direct mention of land rights, gender	Acknowledging that decision 26/COP.14 on land tenure is a landmark decision for the Convention, Recognizing United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/206, which recalls the invitation to Parties to the Convention to legally recognize rights to equal use and ownership of land for women and the enhancement of women's equal access to land and land tenure security, taking into account national context.	https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/27_cop15.pdf
COP 15, Decision 28	Agricultural Land, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming	Direct mention of land rights, gender	<p>Policy coherence and mainstreaming</p> <p>Activity 1.9 Promote ways and means to overcome obstacles to the adoption of good practices in sustainable soil management associated with land tenure, the rights of users of land and water, in particular women, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, recognizing their important contributions through their knowledge and practices, gender equality, access to financial services, agricultural advisory services and educational programmes.</p> <p>Research, monitoring and assessment</p> <p>Activity 4.8 Mobilize targeted participatory research and development, promote gender-responsive approaches to ensure gender equality, women's empowerment, youth engagement and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in all stages of research and development.</p>	https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-28-en.pdf



UNCCD Gender Action Plan	Gender Action Plan	Gender	The purpose of the gender action plan is to make the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 20182030 Strategic Framework gender-responsive and transformative, and thus more effective, efficient and successful, by providing guidance to Parties and other actors on policies and measures to mainstream gender and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The objectives are: To enhance women's role as agents of change by addressing the gender inequalities they face; To build the capacities of women and girls to access the resources they need to improve their livelihoods, manage land sustainably and become resilient to drought; To build the technical capacities of UNCCD stakeholders at all levels to design and implement gender-responsive plans and programmes, including in LDN interventions; To develop a baseline on gender-related issues in land degradation and desertification, and monitor, report and regularly review progress in the implementation and achievement of objectives; To mobilize adequate resources to achieve these objectives.	https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2018-01/GAP%20ENG%20low%20res_0.pdf
Roadmap to accelerate implementation of the UNCCD Gender Action Plan	GAP Roadmap	Direct mention of women's land rights	Point 2.1. Design and implement awareness-raising campaigns (on women's land rights and/or other GAP priorities for action	
UNFCCC				
COP 23, Establishment of Gender Action Plan	Women, gender-responsive climate policy, participation, capacity building	Gender	Noting that gender-responsive climate policy continues to require further strengthening in all activities concerning adaptation, mitigation and related means of implementation (finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building) as well as decision-making on the implementation of climate policies.	https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbi/eng/l29.pdf



COP 25, Decision 3: Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender	Women's participation, gender responsive, leadership, enhanced Lima work programme, Gender Action Plan priorities	Gender	<p>Acknowledging the important role of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the UNFCCC process, demonstrated by the review by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation</p> <p>Encourages Parties and relevant organizations to participate and engage in the implementation of the gender-related activities within the gender action plan, as appropriate</p>	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_13a01E.pdf
COP 26, Decision 20: Gender and climate change	Women's participation, leadership, enhanced Lima work programme, Gender Action Plan priorities	Gender, IPLC	<p>Recognizing that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the UNFCCC process and in national- and local-level climate policy and action is vital for achieving long-term climate goals and inviting Parties to engage youth and indigenous peoples in climate action, including by considering their inclusion in Party delegations</p>	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auv_13%20gender_and_climate_change.pdf
COP 27, Decision 1: Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan	Women, indigenous peoples & local communities, gender responsive, Lima work programme	Gender, IPLC	<p>Recognizes the important role of indigenous peoples, local communities, cities and civil society, including youth and children, in addressing and responding to climate change and highlights the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action in this regard; Encourages Parties to increase the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action and to ensure gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, including by fully implementing the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, to raise climate ambition and achieve climate goals; Invites Parties to provide support to developing countries for undertaking gender related action and implementing the gender action plan;</p>	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2022_10a01_adv.pdf



<p>COP 27: Decision 24: Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan</p>	<p>Women, gender responsive, capacity building, indigenous & local communities</p>	<p>Gender, IPLC</p>	<p>Priority area A: capacity-building, knowledge management and communication Priority area B: gender balance, participation and women's leadership Priority area C: coherence Priority area D: gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation Priority area E: monitoring and reporting</p>	<p>https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2022_10a03_adv.pdf</p>
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Profiles of Organizers and Co-Hosts

Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH

The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. The Foundation operates on a non-profit, independent, and non-partisan basis across the areas of health, education, and global issues, and harnesses the power of civil society to initiate positive change. In the “Global Issues” support area, the foundation is committed to achieving peaceful coexistence worldwide. It focuses on climate change, migration, inequality, democracy, immigration society and peace and on the interlinkages between these issues.

The Foundation runs its own institutions, carries out innovative projects, enters into partnerships, and promotes third-party initiatives. It supports interdisciplinary exchange between research, politics, and society, it bolsters prestigious international think-tanks, empowers the creation and growth of non-partisan networks of policy makers, and strengthens evidence-based political decision-making.

Contact:

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Senior Project Manager, Climate Change: Christiane Käsgen

TMG Research gGmbH

TMG Research gGmbH is a not-for-profit, transdisciplinary research organization guided by our overall mission of fostering inclusive processes for driving transformative socioeconomic change within planetary boundaries. Within their land governance work, TMG Research works to promote the rights of legitimate tenure rights holders as a fundamental precondition for sustainable and inclusive development, especially within the context of the three Rio Conventions, such as [monitoring the implementation of the UNCCD Land Tenure Decision](#). As part of TMG's Global Soil Week work on this topic, they have produced a series of publications covering [Benin](#), [Kenya](#), [Madagascar](#), and [Malawi](#). Building upon this, TMG devised a structured and systematic set of [actions, strategies and steps](#) aimed at integrating legitimate tenure rights into LDN programmes. TMG's approach to addressing tenure issues involves analyzing structural barriers that hinder land users from enjoying their legitimate rights and developing context-specific solutions and innovations to overcome these barriers.

TMG Research also contributes to the development of [monitoring tools](#) to increase transparency and accountability in the land sector. They work at the local, national, and global levels, creating space for community-based organizations, supporting the implementation of progressive national policies, and engaging in global policy processes. Additionally, TMG Research explores [social innovations for sustainable land management practices](#) and works towards improving rights-based land governance through innovative tools.

Contact:

Head of Programmes: Dr. Jes Weigelt

Land Governance Programme Lead: Dr. Frederike Klümper



[UNCCD Secretariat](#)

The UNCCD Secretariat plays an instrumental role in addressing the causes and devastating impact of land degradation and drought. It supports countries that want to:

- achieve national/regional land degradation neutrality
- identify how land and soil are critical for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- implement land management practices
- design programmes and projects that transform communities
- provide science and research needed to take informed decisions.

It sets the global land agenda and represents a multitude of stakeholders around the world. The Secretariat acts as a bridge between science and policy. It builds momentum for a global commitment to halt land degradation and rehabilitate degraded land.

The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is the most comprehensive global commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). It aims to restore the productivity of vast expanses of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people, and reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations. The UNCCD permanent secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany.

Contacts

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NGO & Civil Society Liaison Officer: Marcos Montoiro

[UNCBD Secretariat](#)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources" that has been ratified by 196 nations. Its overall objective is to encourage actions, which will lead to a sustainable future.

The conservation of biodiversity is a common concern of humankind. The Convention on Biological Diversity covers biodiversity at all levels: ecosystems, species and genetic resources. It also covers biotechnology, including through the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In fact, it covers all possible domains that are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and its role in development, ranging from science, politics and education to agriculture, business, culture and much more.

Contacts

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CBD Women's Caucus Coordinator: Amelia Arreguín Prado

[UNFCCC Secretariat](#)

The UNFCCC is a multilateral treaty adopted in 1992 – shortly after the first assessment report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1990 – to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system."



Since entering into force in 1994, the UNFCCC has provided the basis for international climate negotiations, including landmark agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (2015). The first Conference of the Parties (COP) was held in Berlin, Germany, in 1995. 28th COP was held at the end of 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It included the first Global Stocktake, where States assessed the progress made towards the goals set in the Paris Agreement and charted a course of action. COP29 will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.

Contacts

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