

Research Project
**“GLOBALANDS: Resource-Efficient Land Use –
Towards A Global Sustainable Land Use Standard “**

Current international governance of land use: key findings from GLOBALANDS

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1st International Expert Workshop,
Berlin, 27th May 2013

Overview

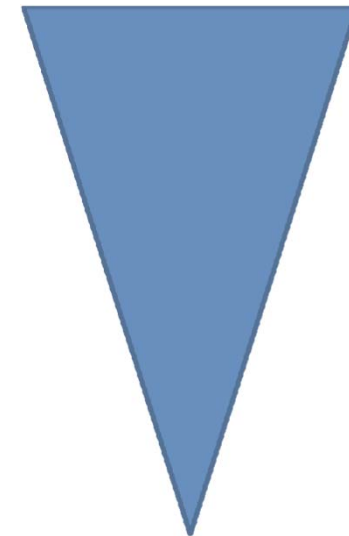
1. Outline and methodology
2. Presentation of draft conclusions and potential “windows of opportunities” to improve sustainable land use through policy
3. Questions/discussion arising from draft conclusions

Objectives

Structured overview about the most relevant policies and governance structures influencing global land use

Decreasing level of detail with regard to regional/ national policies

1. Comprehensive overview on global level
2. Most relevant policies on multilateral level (particularly EU)
3. Case studies on national and regional policies



Methodology/ selection criteria



- Analysis of governmental and non-governmental (and hybrid) approaches
- Selection of policies with a high quantitative land use relevance
- Analysis in two clusters for each policy
 - **“Objectives and mechanisms”**
(author, scope, aim, land use sector and region affected by the policy, type of policy, mechanisms of action and degree of binding obligations)
 - **“Relevance for sustainable land use”**
(quantitative and qualitative land use relevance, if known: impact and compliance, further development of the policy/ potential window of opportunity?)



Overview



Land use policies per sector	Cross Cutting Policies (specific env. media/ goods)	Integrated Policies (diff. env. media)	Cross cutting policies (non-sectoral)	Cross Cutting issues with a lack of (effective) policies
Agriculture (6 policies analysed)	Biodiversity (7)	Sustainability (4)	Energy (10)	Food/Global Diet/Food Waste
Forestry (28)	Water (2)	Spatial planning (3)	Trade (6)	Population increase
Built up land (13) •Energy infrastr. •Settlement •Transport •Mining	Climate (7)		Investment (5)	Public goods/ internalizing externalities
	Soil (3)		Development (7)	Gender
			Land tenure (1)	Liability

Introductory insights from the governance screening

- Land use is influenced by high number of (int'l) policies:
 - most of which address land-use only partially (e.g. climate, development)
 - Many do not directly address land use but have indirect but substantial (rather negative) side effects on sustainability of land use (e.g. trade, investment)
- Explicit international land-use policies (cross-/sectoral):
 - very different levels of institutionalisation & enforcement (e.g. biodiv regime vs. non-regime in forestry and agriculture)
 - some policy fields are highly fragmented (e.g. forests)
 - some policies are still emergent (soil; land tenure)
- Shifts in forms of international governance:
 - emerging use of economic governance (e.g. PES): A/R-CDM, REDD+, FSC
 - emergence of private governance where governments failed (FSC, RSB, RSPO, GRI)
 - increasing stakeholder participation and global public policy networks (CFS, GSP, GWP)
- What is missing?
 - (Effective) Int'l policies addressing key drivers of land use (population, diets...)
 - (Effective) Int'l policies addressing land rights → Voluntary Guidelines?

Windows of opportunity?

- **CBD:** Aichi targets re protected area network and integrating biodiv in sectoral policies, Working Programmes, ecosystem approach, environmental assessment of programmes, participatory planning etc.



- Moderately successful: Missed 2010 target; politically ‘semi-high’ profile; lack of financial resources; weaknesses in national implementation; focus on protected areas
- **Green Development Initiative**, to support sustainable land management on areas certified against the GDI standard (Pilot Phase until 2014)

Windows of opportunity?

- **Bioenergy policy/** Development and application of **sustainability standards**
- Application of sustainability standards becomes increasingly **relevant for other uses** (of the same) biomass (heating, food etc.)



Windows of opportunity?

- **Sustainable Development Goals** and integration into the UN's post-2015 Development Agenda
 - Strengthening of sustainable land use?
 - Agreed language in **Rio+20** outcome document:
 - The need for urgent action to reverse land degradation
 - In view of this, we will strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development.



Windows of opportunity?

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- **Resource efficiency policies:** Land is of increasing importance on global and particularly the EU Agenda
 - **Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe:** Milestone 2020 “by 2020, EU policies are on track with an aim to achieve no net land take by 2050”.
 - **EU Land communication** foreseen in 2014



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Changed Text Slightly

lucy.smith; 24.05.2013

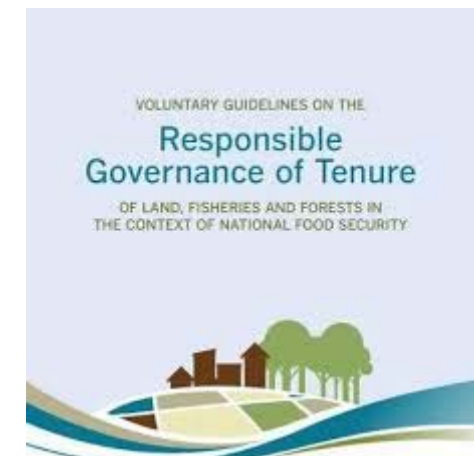
Windows of opportunity?

- **Forest/ climate politics:** potential synergies with sustainable land use, i.e. through:
 - **REDD+:** financial incentives for maintaining tropical forests
 - problematic: UNFCCC forest definition; incentives for monoculture tree plantations? Depending on implementation: impacts on forest-dwelling communities
 - Potential of climate politics to protect **peatlands**



Windows of opportunity?

- **Voluntary Guidelines** on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, adopted in 2012
 - Assessment of effects/ impacts not yet possible
 - Promising: broad integration of stakeholders (cf. role of Committee on World Food Security/ CFS)



Other policies with a predominantly negative impact as of current



- **Free trade policies** without env. guidelines increase pressures on land and resources esp. through scale effects and policy effects (to a lesser extent: transportation, product/ technology, structural effects)
 - WTO process stuck
 - Greening of regional and bilateral agreement as “windows of o.”?
- **Investment policies:** significant growth of FDI, including in resource-intensive and often weakly regulated sectors such as mining, energy, forest and agriculture - with significant implications for resource exploitation and land ownership



- No comparable int’l framework as in trade policy, focus on bilateral agreements
- Specific role of International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)



operation
mit



gefördert
durch



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und Reaktorsicherheit



Cross Cutting issues with a lack of (effective) policies but potentially high leverage

- **Dietary patterns**, in particular consumption of animal products which requires great volumes of land and other resources
 - **Food waste**: 1/3 of all foodstuffs produced are not consumed
 - **Population growth** is not only a challenge for sustainable land use but also for food security, poverty alleviation, education etc.
- Difficult to address through international land use policies, but high synergies with policies trying to improve health, food security and education – potential entry points?

Concluding insights from governance screening: state of play & prospects

- **(Non-) Policies:**
 - Land is globally under high pressure from different sectors, without view to competing land use demands & at cost of non-productive land uses
 - Int'l policies to *promote* sustainable land use tend to be weak and not coordinated
 - Land use policy has to grapple with fact that land use is a complex issue involving conflicts/competition on between resources, goals and values – at various scales
- **Problem-definition & goal-setting:**
 - Increasing awareness that there is a problem, but:
 - No agreed-on definition yet of what the problem *is*
 - No *vision* of where to go yet

Concluding insights from governance screening:

Some questions

- **Discourse:** How can we come to common understanding of the problem?
- **Policy level:** Is an international approach the right answer to sust. land use? How can it account for regional/ national/ local divergences?
- **Policy mandate:** What org./ institution could provide the ‘anchor point’ for an int’l policy on sustainable land use?
- **Policy coordination:** How can an integrated approach be organised to deal with the inconsistencies between land-use relevant policies?
- **Policy levers & performance:** Where is biggest pol. leverage? Which synergies can be used? Effective & efficient policies? How to monitor?
 - E.g. responsible governance of land tenure: leverage through investment (vs. sectoral) policies?
- **Policy mix & private sector:** What role for private sector, consumers? What is right balance betw. regulation, markets, voluntary measures?



Thank you for your attention!