

UK Land Policy Forum – Fifth Meeting: Legal empowerment and agribusiness investments – Concept Note

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017

Time: 2-5pm UK time

Place: IIED Conference room, London

Summary

The 5th UK Land Forum meeting will discuss approaches and tools, and practical experience in legal empowerment. It will also provide updates on recent activities of Forum members, including DFID.

Background

The purpose of the Forum is to **provide a focus for debate, information and lesson sharing amongst UK stakeholders to inform DFID and wider UK policy and programming for strengthening of land governance and land rights protection.**

Theme for fifth Forum meeting:

Growing efforts are being made to promote legal empowerment in the context of transnational agribusiness investments. Several LEGEND partners are key players in this space. Examples of relevant initiatives include Namati's community land rights programme, CCSI's small grants scheme for contract scrutiny, Landesa's private sector engagement, and IIED's own longstanding Legal Tools for Citizen Empowerment work.

This growing body of practice provides an opportunity for reflecting:

- i) on how to design and implement legal empowerment interventions in situations where, because of the transnational relations at stake, grassroots-level delivery of legal services may need to be complemented by action at national and international levels (e.g. to support public scrutiny of contracts); and
- ii) on best to combine legal empowerment with complementary interventions, e.g. to provide technical expertise in areas such as inclusive business or economic valuation, or to address more overtly political dimensions.

Exploring these issues can provide useful pointers on most effective ways to blend legal empowerment into land governance programming. Key questions to discuss in this Forum:

1. How does legal empowerment work and what it try to resolve? What are the specificities that need to be considered in designing and implementing legal empowerment interventions in relation to agribusiness investments?
2. What does practical experience of using legal empowerment tools show us? What does experience say is the role of legal empowerment in preventing and resolving disputes, or promoting more inclusive investments? What complementary support is needed for legal empowerment to be most effective?
3. What synergies can be created between legal empowerment and other interventions? How can land governance programming incorporate legal empowerment approaches?

Aim

This meeting of the UK Policy Forum aims to extend participants' understanding of legal empowerment as applied to agribusiness investments, and its role in land governance interventions.

In addition, the meeting aims to:

1. Share what is new and interesting on the agendas of Forum participants; and
2. Identify themes for discussion for the next standing Forum meetings.

Agenda

Time	Theme	Presenter/Chair
13.00	LUNCH	
14.00	Welcome and overview of the day	Anna Locke, ODI, & Lorenzo Cotula, IIED
14.05	Round the table update from Forum participants	All
14.10	Aims and proposed outputs of session	Anna Locke, ODI, & Lorenzo Cotula, IIED
14:15	Relevance of the theme for DFID	Chris Penrose-Buckley, DFID
14:25	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><i>Short intro from the moderator, Q&A with panellists, open discussion</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Julian Quan, LEGEND CLST Team Leader</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Lorenzo Cotula, IIED</p> <p>Rachael Knight, Namati</p> <p>Kaitlin Cordes, CCSI</p> <p>Forest Peoples Programme – speaker TBC</p>
15.30	Questions and Comments	
15:50	COFFEE BREAK	
16:05	Group breakout sessions	<p>Facilitators for each group</p> <p>Rapporteur from each group to report back to plenary</p>
17:05	Feedback to plenary	Rapporteur from each group
17:25	Wrap up, next steps and future meetings	Lorenzo Cotula and Anna Locke
17:30	CLOSE	Chris Penrose-Buckley