

Global governance perspectives for sustainable land use: ‘blind spots’ and ‘windows of opportunity’

Stephanie Wunder & Franziska Wolff

Ecologic Institute

Öko-Institut

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Introduction



- Strengthening of sustainable land use through international policies needed
 - What level of integration is there on international level?
 - Where are the windows of opportunity?
 - Where are ‚blind spots‘ (i.e., areas in need of regulation)?
- Findings from the research project „GLOBALANDS – Global Land Use and Sustainability“
(see www.globalands.org)



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Currently: there is no integrated approach on international level

- 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 though substantial (rather negative) side effects on sustainability of land use (e.g. trade, investment)
- International policies that aim to promote sustainable land use tend to be weak
- (Effective) Int'l policies addressing key drivers of land use (population, diets...) are missing

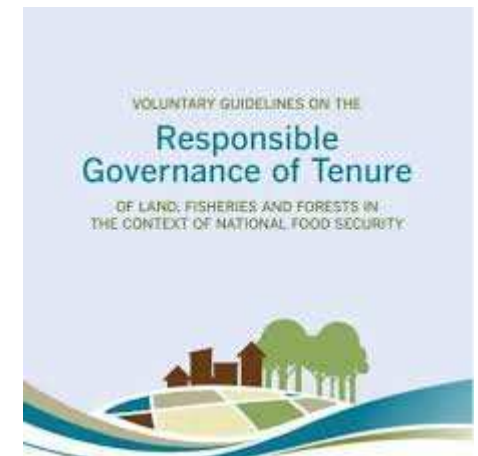
Windows of opportunity?

- **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?

- **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)



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?

- **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 2015



Windows of opportunity?



- **UNCCD**: Commitment to a land degradation neutral world (UNCCD Secretariat policy brief 5/2012)
- New legal instrument under UNCCD to implement this objective (protocol or annex)?
- Wording Rio +20 outcome can be seen as a success
- But
 - COP11: no political momentum
 - UNCCD application restricted to certain regions (arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas)



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; not politically 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?

- **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: Value of 'safeguards' will depend on implementation
 - Potential of climate politics to protect **peatlands**



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)



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“Blind Spots” – Issues not (effectively) addressed by International Policies

- **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?

State of play & prospects

- 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 between resources, goals and values – at various scales
- People affected are not adequately included in the decision making process → how to strengthen transparency and stakeholder involvement ?

Thank you for your attention!

stephanie.wunder@ecologic.eu
F.Wolff@oeko.de