

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

Current international governance of land use: key findings from GLOBALANDS

Stephanie Wunder & Franziska Wolff
Ecologic Institut Öko-Institut

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Overview

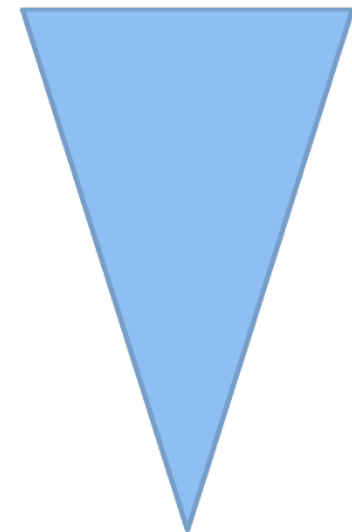
1. Outline and methodology
2. Presentation of draft conclusions and potential “windows of opportunities” to improve sustainable land use through policy
3. Questions/discussion arising from draft conclusions

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 |
| | | | Corruption (4) | |

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+, GDM
 - 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; 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?

- **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?

- **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



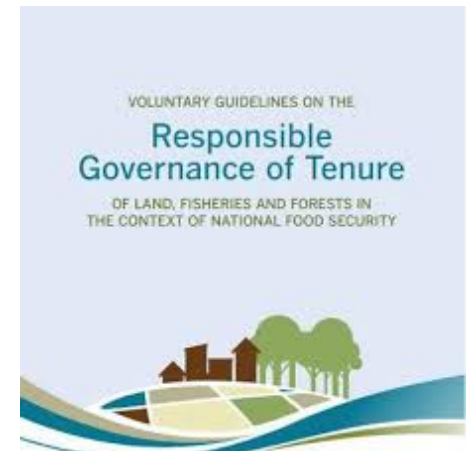
Windows of opportunity?

- **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!

Overview of national case studies

