



Wednesday, December 5
11:30am-13:00pm
Wisla Room

SIDE EVENT

Socio-cultural options to complement technical know-how to secure gender-equal land tenure rights

This session emphasizes vital considerations and shares impactful examples of gender-equal solutions to climate change including secure tenure rights to land and forests as essential elements. It aims to promote community-driven sustainable management of land and forests that is inclusive and participatory of indigenous and rural women aiming to reduce the gender gap in the use and control of land and resources.

Objectives:

- Promote women's roles in decision-making and governance in regards to secure tenure rights to land and forests by demonstrating successful examples of community governance structure and institutions institutionalizing women's equal role.
- Strengthen support for community-based conservation, forest restoration, sustainable livelihoods, recognizing the traditional knowledge of indigenous and rural women and their communities.
- Link to and highlight successful practices that create opportunities to reduce the disconnect between policies and practices in the sustainable management of land and forests
- Strengthen knowledge and understanding about community's resiliency to climate change

Guiding questions:

1. Why is climate change persistent in spite of sinking vast amounts of resources to hold International Conferences such as CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and into actions to combat it?
2. What approaches remain to employ to address the climate change puzzle?
3. Why would such approaches deliver results when the previous ones have failed?
4. How can governments and relevant stakeholders integrate gender-responsive land rights approaches in their NAPs/NDCs and planning?
5. Why does climate change disproportionately affect different groups, including women? How does this relate to adaptation? Why are women integral to climate adaptation and resilience?
6. What can help incentive short and long term policies?

The side event aims to promote a discussion giving concrete examples of lessons learned and successful practices in relation to sustainable management and use of land and forests that promote gender-responsive governance and institutions.

Speakers:

Verona Collantes, Intergovernmental Specialist, UN Women
Joan Carling, Chair, Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development, Philippines
Beth Roberts, Program Manager, Landesa, USA
Gertrude Kenyangi, Director, Support Women in Agriculture and Environment, Uganda
Ana Carolina de Lima, Researcher, Climate Resilient Cities- Latin America, Brazil
Kai Zimmer, CEO, Zenaga Foundation, Germany

Moderator: Katia Araujo, Director of Advocacy, Women's Land Rights, Landesa



Biographs

Joan Carling is an indigenous activist from the Cordillera, Philippines. She has been working on indigenous issues at the grassroots to international levels for more than 20 years. Her field of expertise includes human rights, sustainable development, environment, and climate change, as well as on the principles and application of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). She served as the Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)-- a coalition of 50 indigenous organizations across Asia, from 2008 to 2016. Ms Carling was an expert- member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFii) for 2014-16. She is currently the co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group (IPMG) for Sustainable Development and works directly with indigenous organizations and networks across the globe for the promotion of indigenous peoples' rights, and their contributions and aspirations for sustainable development. (Ms. Joan Carling, indigenous activist, co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group (IPMG) for Sustainable Development, and member of CCSP's Advisory Board for receiving the UN's Champions of the Earth Award for lifetime achievement. The UN's highest environmental distinction, this award serves as recognition of Ms. Carling's long career fighting for environmental and indigenous rights in the Philippines and beyond—a career that has often pitted her against governments, companies, and criminal gangs exploiting lands for natural resources. Earlier this year, Ms. Carling, along with other indigenous activists and human rights defenders, was named to a government terrorist list in the Philippines. We support Ms. Carling as she continues to fight to advance the protection of the environment and human rights, and to amplify the voices of indigenous peoples.)

Verona Collantes is an Intergovernmental Specialist at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the focal point for the three Rio Conventions – climate change, desertification and biodiversity. She works with governments, UN entities and other non-government partners to ensure that intergovernmental processes and their outcomes incorporate a gender perspective. She led and oversaw for UN Women the Rio+20 Conference, the negotiations of the Paris Agreement and the Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC, and the conferences on least developed countries, small island developing states, migration and desertification. Ms. Collantes has a Master in International Law and Economics degree at the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland and has completed post-graduate courses in International Relations at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands, and in Economic Development at the Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Ms. Gertrude Kenyangi Kabusimbi graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) from Makerere University in 1985 and a few years down the road obtained an MA (Integrated Rural Development Planning) and MA Gender Studies. For a short period after her studies she held a white collar job with a bank as a credit officer before discovering that her calling was not in air-conditioned, pristine and sanitized work environments but with the people right at the grassroots getting her hands dirty. She therefore resigned her bank job and founded **Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)**, where she still serves as Executive Director. She is also the Gender Focal Person for African Union of Conservationists. Her work in conservation, human rights and development has earned her several accolades like the Wangari Maathai Prize 2015 for tree planting and the ONE Prize 2015 for eradication of extreme poverty.

Ana Carolina B. de Lima is an environmental anthropologist doing research on issues of climate change and food security in Latin America, particularly in the Brazilian Amazon. Ana started her career working with small farmers in southern Brazil and moved on to evaluate social policies and environmental and social



certification schemes. She developed a great interest for applied research and has dedicated her academic career to social science methods, based on a belief that robust evidence-based research is a powerful tool to support sustainable development and improve people's well-being. During her Ph.D. research, Ana spent more than a year living in the Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve, investigating the effects of a federal family cash transfer program for the diets and health of traditional populations in the rural Brazilian Amazon. Currently, Ana is a postdoctoral researcher at the Federal University of Pará, where she leads a research project about climate vulnerability, urban planning, and food security in small and medium-sized towns of the Amazon Delta.

Beth Roberts is the Program Manager for the Center for Women's Land Rights at Landesa. She is a law, policy, and gender specialist who works with people living in poverty in rural areas to strengthen their rights to land and productive assets, and to promote gender equality and social inclusion. She provides legal and policy recommendations to government decision-makers, traditional authorities, civil society partners, and international human rights bodies, and has focused geographically on Ghana and Myanmar during her time at Landesa. Beth holds three advanced degrees from the University of Washington: a Master of Public Administration (MPA) with a focus on international development and nonprofit management, a Juris Doctor (JD), and an LL.M in Sustainable International Development Law.

Kai Zimmermann is the founder and CEO of Zenaga Foundation. He comes from a village with a strong community. This has shaped him early and convinced of the benefits of joint activities in Associations and cooperatives. Since the year 2000 he has been working in various groups for climate protection. He puts a focus on a positive sustainable development. After the construction of his first PV system, he initiated the founding of a Citizen energy cooperative and lead the cooperative at the executive board. In 2011 he built a house that produces more clean energy than its inhabitants need. In 2014 he initiated the Climate Foundation for Citizens, and since 2016 he has been his family's climate neutral. In 2017 he founded the Zenaga Foundation. The vision of Zenaga is: **"We create clean energy, an intact environment and an improved quality of life, so that all people can live there, where they were born!"**

Katia Araujo is the Director of Advocacy, Women's Land Rights at Landesa. Ms. Araujo holds a MA in International Affairs with concentration on Governance and Human Rights, from The New School, NYC. With over fourteen years of experience in strategic planning, designing and evaluating programs; conducting gender analysis and facilitating workshops; leading participatory action research; and advocacy campaigning; she has managed projects promoting women's land rights and community resilience in impoverished rural and urban settings in over 32 countries. She has led policy analysis and strategic advocacy at United Nations with specific focus on the reviews of MDG3 delivery, Habitat II, the Hyogo Framework of Action and its transition to the agreed Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. Ms. Araujo co-chaired and led the Women's Constituency Group during the Habitat III process. She monitored these processes, including the Post 2015 Development Agenda, to ensure the inclusion of grassroots women's priorities by increasing understanding and strategies to secure women's land rights as a global issue. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the SLoCaT Foundation (Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport) and Crossing Point Arts (Bringing the Arts to Survivors of Human Trafficking). She was a Ford Foundation's Public Voice Fellow 2014-2015 at [The Op-Ed Project](#). As Director of Advocacy for WLRs at Landesa, she builds and manages internal and external partnerships, identifies and pursues strategic policy and advocacy opportunities to further WLRs in the development agenda.



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