

LANDAC Conference  
**LAND GOVERNANCE AND (IM)MOBILITY**  
Exploring the nexus between land acquisition, displacement and migration  
28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Muntgebouw, Utrecht, the Netherlands  
([www.landgovernance.org/annual-international-conference/](http://www.landgovernance.org/annual-international-conference/))

## PANEL SESSION

### “Good enough tenure” in sustainable forest and land management

**Organizer: Tropenbos International**



**Contacts:**

- René Boot, Tropenbos International ([rené.boot@tropenbos.org](mailto:rené.boot@tropenbos.org))
- Herman Savenije, Tropenbos International ([herman.savenije@tropenbos.org](mailto:herman.savenije@tropenbos.org))
- Kees van Dijk, Tropenbos International ([kees.vandijk@tropenbos.org](mailto:kees.vandijk@tropenbos.org))
- Marieke van der Zon, Wageningen University & Research, Kyoto University, Tropenbos International ([marieke.zon@wur.nl](mailto:marieke.zon@wur.nl))

**Relevant conference themes:** Inclusive development and land in the Sustainable Development Goals, Climate change, Land governance and Social Justice

#### **Summary**

The lack of formally recognized land and resource property has always been a constraint for small-scale farmers and forest communities. Without a government issued land title, small-scale farmers, forest communities, and their potential funders are thought to lack the security needed for long-term investments. Smallholders without formal tenure tend to be excluded from external funding streams, because banks, other private investors, governmental agencies and even some donors often require land titles as collateral to mitigate the risk of default from failed investment.

Accordingly, policy makers, donors and NGOs have been emphasizing the importance of formal ownership as a precondition for creating stable rural livelihoods. This is also why many REDD+ initiatives, as well as other private and public programs, include efforts to formalize rights to land and resources. In most cases, these initiatives and involved funders enforce standardized land tenure schemes widely disregarding eventually existing informal local arrangements understood by scholars as ‘*good enough tenure*’ sufficient to provide enabling conditions for secure property rights and incentives for investment. Such informal tenure arrangements often build on historically evolved social capital. These arrangements are especially relevant where government presence is limited, particularly in rural and forest areas of tropical countries. Here, enforcement of tenure rights is achieved through customary institutions, such as village chiefs and village police as well as forms of social pressure, monitoring, and sanctioning.

To successfully substitute classic legal tenure schemes to land and resources, they need to be supported through practical measures that carefully consider the specific context, including arrangements on costs, risks and benefit sharing, and distribution of rights and obligations among parties. An example of such measure is the Fit-for-Purpose Approach, originally designed by the World Bank and the International Federation of Surveyors, which aims at designing land administration based on the needs of people and the environment and on the how on how land is occupied and used in practice.

This session discusses the practical implications of the increasing evidence from research and experiences in different parts of the world on the value and scope of ‘good enough tenure’ arrangements for international and national policy makers and investors.

## Programme

Chair/Discussant: *Kees van Dijk* - Tropenbos International

### Presentations

- 1. Successful community forest management without formal ownership rights: a fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis of twelve voluntary forest management initiatives in the Peruvian Amazon.**  
*Marieke van der Zon* - Wageningen University & Research, Kyoto University, Tropenbos International.
- 2. Mitigation patterns and property rights variation on forest frontiers in the Peruvian Amazon.**  
*Peter Cronkleton* - Centre for International Forest Research (CIFOR).
- 3. Clarifying and strengthening informal land ownership using the fit-for-purpose approach (Mato Grosso, Brazil).**  
*Bastian Reydon* - Estadual de Campinas - Unicamp, Land Governance Group (GGT).
- 4. Taken at the flood. A look on the resilience of local norms of land uses in the Eastern Amazon.**  
*Benno Pokorny* - University of Freiburg

### Guiding questions

- Under what conditions could 'good enough tenure' arrangements be recognized by REDD+ and other development programs so that the holders of such rights can participate in such programs and related financing?
- What limitations do 'good enough tenure' rights have for their use in development and REDD+ programs, and how can these be mitigated?
- What limitations does 'good enough tenure' rights have for their use as collateral for bank loans, and how can these be mitigated?
- To what extent is it realistic to expect that 'good enough tenure' schemes can play a role in effectively solving the economic, social and environmental problems in agricultural frontier areas?
- To what extent can the Fit-for-Purpose Approach contribute to the practical recognition of 'good enough tenure'?