

Land Governance for Climate Resilience

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SUMMARY

Climate change is now generally accepted as one of the world's most pressing global challenges, and it has very strong links to land and land use and therefore to land governance. This paper is a scoping study into the nexus between land governance interventions and climate resilience, as found and expressed in the LAND-at-scale programme. Specifically, this study paid particular attention to land governance project interventions aimed at enhancing tenure security and improving land use planning and, if and how these pay off in terms of strengthening the climate resilience of the targeted communities and their living environments. Two questions in particular guided the study: How is the nexus between land governance and climate resilience conceived in the recent scientific literature, including links with social diversity and intersectionality? How can land governance, through improved tenure security and land use planning, contribute to effective climate change mitigation and adaptation and increased climate resilience, in different project settings? The methodology combines a literature review to produce a framework to guide the investigation of project implementation experiences and a series of activities designed to document the experiences and insights from four of the LAND-at-scale projects in Colombia, Mozambique, Uganda and Somalia. Among the main observations are: the importance of clear legal frameworks and institutions, but communities can play a role in absence of government support; connections between climate resilience and land governance are multiple and complex requiring careful consideration before taking decisions that may lead to maladaptation; having sufficient and good quality and timely data is a major issue particularly in Africa; large-scale climate-induced migration creates major challenges for communities and governments alike; scaling land governance interventions for climate resilience should address spatial and temporal issues; for some types of climate-related hazards watershed based approaches should be adopted when planning hazard mitigation measures.

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