



# LAND-at-scale Exchange 2024

## *Partnerships for Sustainable Change*

### Summary report

June 9-13, 2024  
Kampala, Uganda



This report has been written by the RVO LAND-at-scale team.

LAND-at-scale (2024) Exchange 2024 - Partnerships for Sustainable Change.

LAND-at-scale is a land governance support program that aims to directly strengthen essential land governance components for men, women, and youth that have the potential to contribute to structural, just, sustainable and inclusive change at scale in lower- and middle-income countries, regions or landscapes.

[www.landportal.org/community/projects/land-scale](https://www.landportal.org/community/projects/land-scale)

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# Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>2. Exchange program</b> .....	4
<b>3. Day 1 – Opening LAS Exchange</b> .....	6
3.1 Opening.....	6
3.2 Welcome new partners .....	6
3.3 Presentation Uganda team.....	7
<b>4. Day 2 – Field visit LAND-at-scale Uganda</b> .....	9
4.1 Butaleja district.....	9
4.2 Realities on the ground: local perceptions and social norms.....	10
4.3 Fit-for-purpose Land Administration in Practice.....	12
4.3 Participatory land use planning for climate resilience .....	14
<b>5. Day 3 – Start of Uganda Learning Week</b> .....	16
<b>6. Conclusions and follow up actions</b> .....	17



Figure 1: LAS partners with a LAS Uganda project beneficiary.

# 1. Introduction

After two years of organizing the LAND-at-scale Exchange in Utrecht, the third LAND-at-scale exchange took place from June 9<sup>th</sup> to June 13<sup>th</sup> in Uganda, hosted by LAS partner UN-Habitat/ Global Land Tool Network. Nearly 60 LAS country and knowledge partners came together in Kampala to exchange lessons learned and explore common challenges. As of 2024, twelve country projects are being implemented under the LAS program, namely Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Egypt, Iraq, Mali, Mozambique, the Palestinian Territories, Somalia, Rwanda and Uganda. All countries were represented and all implementing partners were present at the Exchange.

Learning is an integral part of the LAND-at-scale program. Exchanging among project partners is not only meant to learn and gather inspiration, but also serves as a way of fostering solidarity among project implementers in the challenges they face to secure land rights for men, women and youth in their respective contexts. For this reason, the LAS program organizes annual in-person exchanges, followed up by quarterly virtual exchanges among the project implementers. Last year, the discussions were centered around 'scaling'. This year, the LAS partners jointly reflected on 'Partnerships for Sustainable Change'.

This Exchange was organized in Uganda and allowed project implementers to visit a LAS project site. After the field visit, the LAS partners joined the broader Uganda Learning Week on Successful CSO-Government Partnerships, which RVO co-organized together with the International Land Coalition and the Government of Uganda. During this Learning Week, the exchanges were broadened with a wider group of representatives from CSOs, research institutions but notably also government representatives. A conclusion from the very first LAS exchange in 2022 was that talking *with* government instead of *about* government is a crucial element of achieving structural change in land governance.



Figure 2: LAS partners visiting the wetlands.

The objectives of this third LAS exchange were to:

- Foster a sense of community among the LAS partners.
- Update all partners on the progress of LAS interventions and results, including the presentation of four new projects added to the LAS portfolio.
- Share between project partners on results so far and exchange on (common) challenges and/or lessons learned.
- Facilitate interactive and in-depth learning among project partners on key themes for adaptive programming and strengthening interventions.
- Visit LAS project site to learn more about land governance interventions in Uganda and become inspired.

This LAS exchange report summarizes key take-aways and actions from the discussions during the LAS Exchange as part of the Uganda Learning Week to promote successful governments and CSOs Partnerships in the land governance sector.

## 2. Exchange program

Time	Topic	Location
<b>Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup></b>		
All day	<b>Arrival participants</b>	Speke Resort
<b>Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup></b>		
07.00 – 09.00	Breakfast & check-out	Speke Resort
09.00 – 12.00	<b>1. Opening LAS exchange</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening &amp; warm-up exercise</li> <li>• Welcome new partners</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Market place exchange</li> </ul>	Speke Resort
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	Speke Resort
13.00 – 17.00	Departure	Traveling from Kampala – Mbale
17.00 – 18.30	Check-in & Refreshments	Mbale Resort
18.30 – 20.00	<b>2. LAS Exchange session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation Uganda team</li> <li>• Introduction field visit</li> <li>• Breakouts developing learning questions</li> </ul>	Mbale Resort
20.00 – 21.00	Dinner	Mbale Resort
<b>Monday June 10<sup>th</sup></b>		
07.00 – 08.00	Breakfast	Mbale Resort
08.15 – 09.00	<b>Group 1 + Group 2:</b> traveling to Butaleja	Butaleja
08.30 – 11.00	<b>Group 3:</b> Visit National Land Information System (NLIS) at Mbale Ministry Zonal Office	Mbale M-Zonal
09.00 – 11.30	<b>Group 1:</b> Visit a Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO) beneficiary	Kachonga
09.00 – 11.30	<b>Group 2:</b> Visit Sub- County Area Land committee and mediation committee	Naweyo

11.00 11.45	-	<b>Group 3:</b> traveling to Butaleja	
11.45 – 13.00		<b>Group 3:</b> Meeting with District officials and visit to the Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO) Registry (STDM)	Butaleja
11.30 13.00	-	<b>Group 1 (French):</b> Sub- County Area Land committee and mediation committee and recorder	Kachonga
11.30 13.00	-	<b>Group 2:</b> Visit a Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO) beneficiary	Mazimasa
13.00 15.00	-	<b>Lunch</b>	Restaurant Butaleja
15.00 17.00	-	<b>Group 1:</b> Meeting with wetland management committee and visit to one of the wetlands.	Nasinyi
15.00 17.00	-	<b>Group 2:</b> Meeting with wetland management committee and visit to one of the wetlands.	Muhula
15.00 17.00	-	<b>Group 3:</b> Visit a Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO) beneficiary	Naweyo
17.00 – 17.45		<b>Travel back to Mbale Resort</b>	
18.15 21.00	-	<b>3. Reporting back</b> from field visits (reflection learning questions)  Dinner	Mbale Resort
<b>Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup></b>			
07.00 08.00	-	Breakfast and check-out	Mbale Resort
08.00 13.30	-	Travel back to Kampala	Travel
13.30 15.30	-	Lunch & check-in Speke Resort	Speke Resort Munyoyo
15.30 16.30	-	<b>Plenary 1: Feedback from community / field visits</b>	Speke Resort Munyoyo
17.00 18.00	-	<b>Ideas Fair</b>	Speke Resort Munyoyo
19.00 20.30	-	<b>Welcome dinner &amp; Social event</b>	Speke Resort Munyoyo

### 3. Day 1 – Opening LAS Exchange

#### 3.1 Opening

The first day of the exchange was opened by welcoming the LAS community to Uganda. Simon-Peter Mwesigye from UN-Habitat/GLTN shared key facts about Uganda. Did you know that most farmers in Uganda are subsistence farmers? Or that Uganda is home to the largest percentage of gorillas and over 1,000 bird species?



Figure 3: LAS partner Simon-Peter Mwesigye (UN-Habitat/GLTN) welcomes partners to Uganda.

The welcome to Uganda was followed by a presentation by Astrid Broekaart, program coordinator for LAS. She presented the developments and highlights from the program over the past year as well as looking ahead. Notable highlights were the addition of two new countries to the portfolio, Egypt and Iraq, and the expansion of LAS interventions in Burundi (LADEC) and Mozambique (Terra Firma). With 12 countries now in the LAS portfolio, the collective focus will now be on showing the results and impacts of the interventions. A foreseen second phase of the program, following the positive 2023 mid-term review, is under discussion.

Finally, Astrid highlighted how the LAS team at RVO has been working on an update of the Theory of Change for the program. The first updated draft is ready for consultations; a general invitation was extended to the LAS community to provide their inputs in this process!

**Action point #1:** All LAS partners are welcome to provide their inputs on the updated program-level Theory of Change for LAND-at-scale.

#### 3.2 Welcome new partners

Following the general program updates, the new project partners of the LAS program were given the opportunity to present their projects. The following projects presented the contexts that they work in as well as their project objectives and strategies to address land governance challenges:

- ❖ **LAND-at-scale Burundi – Justice pour Toutes et Tous dans la Gestion des Conflits Foncier** ». This project started in September 2023 and will run up until August 2026. The project is complementary to the already running LAS project in Burundi. The project responds to the fact that 70% of the conflicts addressed in court are conflicts over land. These conflicts are often adjudicated over based on customary norms, and often discriminatory of women. Through the project, judges, lawyers, *conseils notables* and other legal advisors in the Makamba and Rutana provinces will be trained on Supreme court jurisprudence and other (inter)national instruments that prohibit discrimination against girls and women. Secondly, the population of those two provinces will be informed

#### Quick project facts

- Duration: 2023 - 2026
- Budget: EUR 1.5 million
- Implementers: LADEC

and made aware of non-discriminatory practices towards women and other vulnerable groups when it comes to land rights.

❖ **LAND-at-scale Egypt – Participatory land use consolidation for climate resilience and inclusive business models.**

The LAS project in Egypt will be a component in a broader GIZ-project on Agricultural Innovation, which focuses on enhancing the competitiveness and climate resilience of the agricultural sector, particularly in upper Egypt. With 4% of land in Egypt being cultivated concentrated along the Nile-river, land fragmentation poses a substantial challenge, further exacerbated by a high population growth and a complex inheritance law. The project introduces three models of land use consolidation, where farmer cooperatives and private sector actors take different roles.

**Quick project facts**

- Duration: 2024 -2026
- Budget: EUR 1,5 million
- Implementers: GIZ Egypt

❖ **LAND-at-scale Iraq – Policy Dialogue on Legislative Reform to Improve Land Governance and Secure Tenure Rights.**

Over the last 40 years, Iraq has experienced several waves of mass displacements that caused an intricate land and property situation. The objective of the LAS project in Iraq is to facilitate policy dialogue on the land legal framework and enhance the security of tenure of internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees by addressing, supporting and protecting their Housing, Land and Property (HLP-)rights. In addition to the UN-Habitat led program, a smaller project implemented by the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HIIL) works in synergy with UN-Habitat on the strengthening of innovative local justice solutions.

**Quick project facts**

- Duration: 2023-2025
- Budget: USD 2.2 million
- Implementers: UN-Habitat and HIIL.

❖ **LAND-at-scale Mozambique – Scaling Community Land Rights Certification in Municipal Areas of Mozambique.**

Mozambique has a progressive Land Law, but this is not properly implemented. Communities experience a lack of formalized land tenure, have limited knowledge regarding their rights to land, and there is a lack of capacity among local government officials. The main objective of this LAS project is to increase and ensure more transparent tenure rights of communal resources for rural communities in selected municipal areas through documenting and mapping land tenure rights of communities in municipal jurisdictions and establish a robust online maintenance platform to securely host and effectively manage all data generated in the mapping process.

**Quick project facts**

- Duration: 2024-2026
- Budget: EUR 740 000
- Implementers: Terra Firma

**Action point #2:** A LAND-at-scale Knowledge Cafe will be organized this year around land use consolidation.

### 3.3 Presentation Uganda team

After lunch, participants travelled to Mbale for the visit to the LAS project the following day. At night, the Uganda LAS team provided an in-depth overview of the project in Uganda and the different elements the participants would see during the field visit.



It was emphasized how central land and land rights are in the Ugandan context. Uganda has a big rural population (75%) and 73% of the population is below 30 years old. Four types of tenure systems exist, namely freehold, leasehold, *mailo*<sup>1</sup> and customary tenure system. The customary tenure system is most common, but also one of the most insecure in the sense that it is largely unregistered. The pressure on land cannot be dealt with through the only traditional systems that govern customary land. Resulting in many land disputes and systematic inequalities within customary systems (particularly regarding women and youth). Another layer of complication is the highly decentralized nature in which customary tenure systems are governed, and the lack of capacity of the lower land governance institutions to deliver these services. Uganda was one of the first countries in Africa to officially recognize customary rights to land in a progressive law where customary rights to land can be registered through a Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO). However, there is still a lack of awareness within communities on this possibility and the advantages of it, as well as weak implementation of the law.

#### **CCO – Certificate of Customary Ownership**

The customary tenure system is one of four tenure systems officially recognized in Uganda. It is the most dominant type of land tenure, accounting for over 80% of the land. Most communities do not have official documentation over their land held under customary tenure. The title associated with customary tenure is the Certificate of Customary Ownership, more often referred to by its acronym, CCO. The LAND-at-scale project focuses on the registration of CCOs.

It is within this context, that GLTN and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) started a pilot project in 2016 to address some of these challenges. The lessons learned have been integrated in the current LAS project that started in 2021. The three main outcome areas of the project are:

#### **Main outcome areas of LAND-at-scale Uganda:**

- 1) Improved tenure security for men, women and youth
- 2) Inclusive, climate-smart and sustainable land use planning
- 3) Improved capacity and awareness of stakeholders on customary land registration and land use planning.

The project applies **systematic CCO registration**, instead of registration based on farmer preference. Although the systemic approach goes faster, it is still time-demanding particularly when it comes to awareness raising and building trust with communities for them to be willing to participate. Land governance is decentralized in Uganda, so the local leaders are key drivers in the land registration process. GLTN provides technical backstopping to the local government but does it in such a way that in the future, they can continue the work without external support. GLTN also partners with the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development at national level, to ensure alignment and working towards Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines for land registration. Key issues that come up are land boundary challenges and conflict, eviction and women suffering especially from disinheritance due to customs that do not allow women to inherit land. Thus, the project aims to employ a gender transformative approach, making use of [a tool developed by GLTN to integrate gender in land projects](#).

Finally, the project also focuses on **inclusive, climate-smart and sustainable land use planning** through tenure-responsive land use planning and wetland management planning. The population living in Butaleja relies on the wetlands for their food and income. One activity the project deploys

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<sup>1</sup> Mailo tenure is a system of owning land in which there is an owner of the land, called a landlord, and there are recognized occupants on the land, called tenants. It is common in Uganda's Central Region and in the Buganda Kingdom.

is the wetland management planning for wise use of wetlands to prevent encroachment on the river and thereby over depletion of water, and leave room for biodiversity. In other project areas, land use planning is done by working with communities to design a physical plan, which is then validated by government.

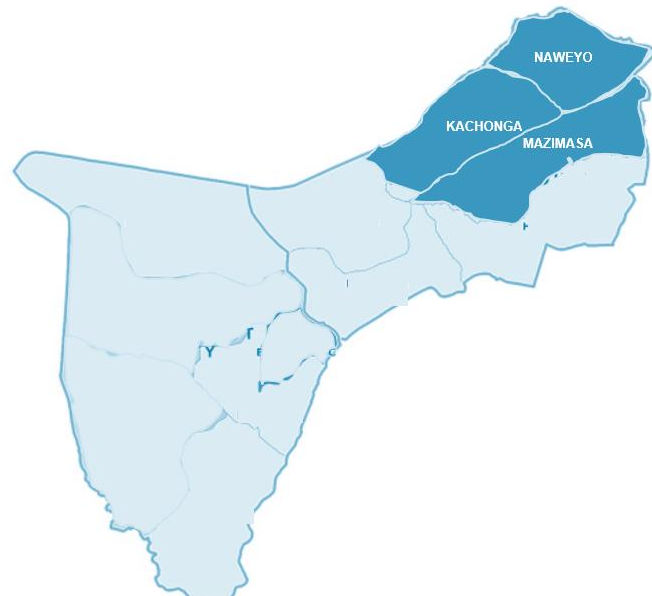
## 4. Day 2 – Field visit LAND-at-scale Uganda

### 4.1 Butaleja district

On Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>, LAS partners visited the LAS Uganda project in the field. The project has been implemented thus far in two zones of Southwestern Uganda (Kabale District) and Kyoga Plains (Butaleja District). The field visit was in the Butaleja District; there, the project is active in Mazimasa, Naweyo and Kachonga Sub-Counties.



Map Uganda



Map Butaleja district

The LAS partner working in the Butaleja district is the **Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children's Welfare (UCOBAC)**, with technical backstopping from the UN-Habitat/ GLTN and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. UCOBAC is a local organization in Uganda working on human rights, with a particular focus on women, youth and children. The Butaleja district is covered 40% by wetlands, therefore the majority of the population depends on wetlands for their livelihoods, including food security and income.

The field visit to the Butaleja district was centered around three themes playing a central role in the project, as well as being cross-cutting in many other land governance interventions. The LAS partners were split into three groups to visit these elements of the LAND-at-scale project in the field. To facilitate learning and promote deeper discussions into common challenges and themes, the groups were invited to formulate learning questions before the field visit.

## 4.2 Realities on the ground: local perceptions and social norms.

Each subgroup visited **beneficiaries of the project**. Families, widows and other community members who have applied for received one or more CCOs in the context of the project. The interactions with them were meant to showcase how project activities are contributing to greater social stability by resolving existing land disputes, leading to higher incomes and food security through leveraging more investments on land, and protecting rights of vulnerable groups.

**Learning questions** around this theme focused on the meaning of tenure security for the beneficiaries (land ownership, or rights to land use?) and whether the CCOs provide improvements in people's lives beyond this. Questions were also asked about the approach to securing women's land rights for women, and the possibilities or restrictions CCOs have on the use of the land.



*Figure 4: Widow in Butaleja with her CCO titles on her farm.*

The groups visited different beneficiaries- a polygamous family and a widow with her children and grandchildren. Both families heard about the project and the work that GLTN through UCOBAC was doing, and registered their lands and received their CCOs. They went to the bank and got a loan with the CCO as collateral. The interest rates the banks charged are quite high, but both families were convinced they would be able to invest in their land and pay back the loan from the earnings. Two women have used the loan to invest in their own processing businesses and already repaid the loan.

## Key take-aways from 'Realities on the Ground: local perceptions and social norms'

- ❖ The beneficiaries visited clearly benefited from obtaining one or more CCOs. It did not only serve **as protection of their rights** (such as in the case of the widow, who was at risk of being displaced by her family-in-law after her husband was deceased), but the beneficiaries notably **also used their rights to improve their lives**, such as obtaining loans and using this to invest and plan long-term of their farmland.
- ❖ The **interest rates charged by banks on loans are quite high**, but the beneficiaries were convinced they would be able to pay back the loan based on increased earnings after investments in the land. Communities will also cover for each other if one member cannot pay back the loan. In addition, the CCO is also used by the bank to assess the creditworthiness of a farmer; mapping the land provides the farmer with a better credit status.
- ❖ **A CCO does not give unlimited use rights**: it has conditions and limitations attached to it. For instance, there is a condition that allows the owner to sustainably manage and utilize the land for agricultural purposes but this use must conform to the approved land use plan and zoning scheme of the overall area (if the sub-county or the district has physical development plans).
- ❖ **Awareness raising plays an important role**: potential beneficiaries realize their rights and know how they can benefit from participating in the project. **When a CCO is issued, the value of land increases**. Still, many community members take a wait-and-see approach before they decide to participate. Once they see the benefits with their neighbors, they decide to participate later. **Initial participants of the project serve as champions**, telling their neighbors, and other community members to also register their plots.
- ❖ Beneficiaries see clear benefits in participating in the project. There is a **reduction in the level of land conflicts** in the communities because the mapping process was participatory and community based.
- ❖ **Joint titling is common and encouraged**: not only the name of the head of the household, but also the names of the wife/wives and children or even grandchildren are put on the CCO. Often, a household holds more than one CCO and the names are divided across the different plots.
- ❖ The project has a **strong gender transformative approach**, using a tool 'Securing Your Families Future', which was developed to challenge the negative and underlying barriers that sustain inequitable land rights. Women inheriting and owning land used to be a taboo, but it is not any longer thanks to the project. It became evident **that gender effects are 'layered'**: in the polygamous household that was visited, for example, the wives and children's names were not included on all the CCOs, but the male head of household also kept one plot (0.1 hectares) only with his name.
- ❖ With regards to timelines on gender effects, it was noted that the work done by the LAS project partners has **ignited conversations around the division of roles** in the households; and that the conversations will continue. A key observation was that a **three-year timeline is still very short**, particularly to discuss such a sensitive topic. It makes it challenging to transform social norms within such a timeline. Therefore, the project can be considered gender aware, with specific efforts towards gender transformation.

**Action point #3:** Utilize the Country Research Ideas and other (knowledge management) opportunities to better understand beneficiaries motivation for and subsequent (in)actions after getting a land title in the different LAS countries. What does land tenure security mean for communities and beneficiaries of the interventions?

**Action point #4:** Conduct a deeper exploration of how gender transformative approaches can be realistically designed in an intervention of only three to four years. How can one be ambitious in challenging social norms yet be realistic and humble enough to do this in a short timeframe?

### 4.3 Fit-for-purpose Land Administration in Practice

Fit-for-purpose land administration is at the core of the LAS Uganda project as they apply systematic CCO registration. The LAS groups were able to see the **land administration in practice** in several ways- one group visited the Mbale Ministry Zonal Office to observe the National Land Information System, and the District Land Office- officially mandated to maintain the CCO registry in their jurisdiction. The groups visited the Subarea Land Committees and mediation committees, where LAS partners were taken through the customary land registration process and the roles of the different actors.



Figure 5: Visiting an Area Land Committee at Subcounty level

The groups wanted to know more about the key steps in customary land registration in Uganda, and the challenges faced in this process. How is the data collected and stored, and how do the government officials deal with subsequent transactions after the initial (systematic) registration? In addition, questions were posed regarding to the procedure from the community-perspective: what steps do they need to take to register and incidental plot or transaction, and is this considered time-consuming or cumbersome? Moreover, there were questions on how mediation mechanisms work, also in relation to customary and formal mechanisms interplay. Finally, there

were also questions related to the functioning of the land market after CCO registration. Does acquiring a CCO affect the number of land transactions or the value of the land?

### **Key take-aways from 'Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration in Practice'**

- ❖ There is clearly a **strong relationship of trust between the government in Butaleja and the LAS partners**, in this region: GLTN and UCOBAC. It was evident that this is key for success of the project intervention.
- ❖ With regards to conflict mediation and the role of the mediation committee, it was considered **crucial that women should participate in the mediation committee** and engage actively.
- ❖ The **mediation committees are instituted ad hoc by the project** and are comprised of members that are **trusted by the community**. They are corruption free. The time to resolve disputes is highly variable depending on the type of dispute and the parties involved- the average time is one month, but sometimes a dispute is resolved in one day.
- ❖ The CCO registration process involves many stakeholders and structures, but the steps have been worked out clearly. **CCOs are also considered to be affordable** for the public. Still, it can take several months before an incidental application is approved and a CCO is issued. This is why it is important to go for the **systematic registration process** in the project, which **speeds up the process significantly and reduces the costs**.
- ❖ **Issuing a CCO increases the value of the land** and influences the land market significantly. Without a CCO, a landowner will only be able to sell the land to a fellow member of the same community, as they will trust the landowner based on social cohesion. With a CCO, the land markets expand to people outside the community as well- as CCOs are acknowledged and recognized nationwide.
- ❖ Depending on the customs in a particular community, the CCO will be registered to the whole clan, an (extended) family or a household. **The land cannot be sold without the consent of all the people whose names are included on the title**. This means that in an area where clan-titling is the norm, **land markets** are less active than where titles are in the name of the household. Overall, land transactions have decreased with the issuance of CCOs, because all title holders have to consent with a transaction, which was not usually done before CCOs were issued.
- ❖ In the land registration process, it is important to **record and save documents safely**. The digitization is a crucial component but is not always properly done in this district.
- ❖ The **National Land Information System (NLIS) is a registry of freehold titles**, which are issued by decentralized offices of the (national) Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD). It does not (yet) include CCOs. Therefore, when an application for a freehold title comes in, MLHUD is not able to ascertain whether a CCO was issued on the same piece of land and might issue overlapping titles. **It is therefore important that the already digitized CCOs are included in the NLIS**.
- ❖ The discussion was raised with **what objective LAS interventions issue title documentation?** The reasoning ranging from providing access to credit for making agricultural investments; for succession and division of land among families and communities; reduction of conflict and the feeling of safety/security, also in light of increasing demand for land with growing populations; to improve positions and reduce discrimination for marginalized and/or minority groups, such as women or refugees.

**Action point #5:** Conduct research into the different formal and informal dispute resolution mechanisms, and specifically explore how community trust, fair and equitable decisions on disputes within a reasonable timeframe- as well as scaling of these experiences- are balanced out in different LAS interventions.

**Action point #6:** Explore different ways of financing land administration systems and institutions to be able to maintain a land registry and subsequent transactions after initial (systematic) registration. What models are used in the different LAS projects but also other land interventions to ensure sustainability of services?

### 4.3 Participatory land use planning for climate resilience

Two of the three subgroups also visited the wetland communities of Butaleja. As described before, 40% of the Butaleja district is covered by wetlands. The project works to establish Wetland Management Committees, which are comprised of community members. The wetland users are organized into wetlands associations and are supported in the development and implementation of wetland management plans. The groups also visited part of the wetlands where restoration activities were undertaken, together with the community who showed their rice plots and the buffer zone close to the river.



Figure 6: Group 3 walking through the wetlands.

The **learning questions** posed for this theme were on the sustainability of the process, in addition to the sustainability for the environment of the approaches.

### **Key take-aways from 'Participatory land use planning for climate resilience'**

- ❖ As wetlands are state lands, it is not possible to obtain a CCO over the wetland. However, the communities arrange with the local government to obtain **wetland use permits**, which gives the local community protection to keep using the wetland. The communities would like to apply for a wetland user permit, but this is currently not possible because the government is not issuing new permits.
- ❖ For environmental sustainability, it is important that buffer zones of the wetlands are respected when farming in the wetland to avoid encroachment.
- ❖ The **process should be sustainable to handover to future generation** and take into account neighboring communities so that the wetland management plans are generally respected and be enforced.
- ❖ The community land use planning process has led to **a strong social cohesion among the people** involved. This became evident, amongst other things, because people that were cultivating crops in the buffer zones, who gave up their parcels because they understood the importance to the wider community to respect buffer zones. In addition, conflict (which, in the past, were sometimes deadly) has decreased enormously after the project intervention.
- ❖ It was evident that within the wetland management planning processes, **economic and environmental needs were balanced** and weighed.

**Action point #7:** Document the experiences of the various LAS interventions that work on this to show how participatory and tenure-responsive land use planning can become an effective tool to increase climate resilience.



## 5. Day 3 – Start of Uganda Learning Week

On Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, the LAS group returned to Kampala to join the wider Uganda Learning Week to promote successful governments and CSOs Partnerships in the land governance sector, with a larger group existing of members of the International Land Coalition, as well as government representatives from various countries.

The overall reflection on the field visit to the LAS Uganda project sites was that the visit showcased the project’s success in improving lives through the collaborative efforts in land titling and management and allowed the LAS community to observe first-hand the improvements in the community’s quality of life. The visit and subsequent discussions reaffirmed how land is very much about power dynamics, between stakeholders and within households. What does tenure security mean to a household? It is for conflict reduction and social cohesion, for food security, for gender empowerment, for climate resilience and for challenging existing power imbalances.

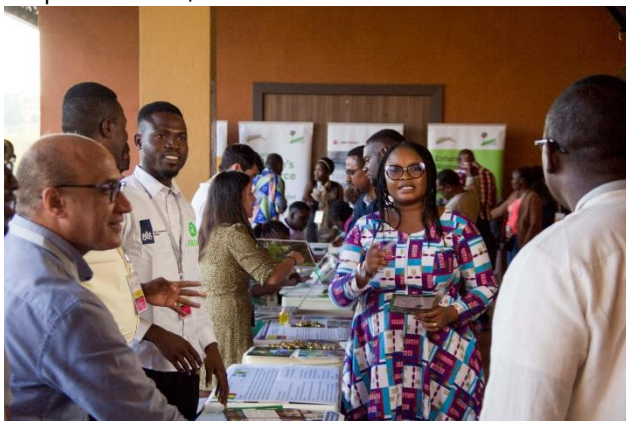


Figure 7: LAS partners at the Uganda Learning Week Ideas Fair

The community visit reflections were followed by an Ideas fair, where LAS partners could showcase and discuss their projects and the progress made since last year.

Finally, the week progressed diving deeper into successful government-CSO collaborations in land governance, featuring LAS projects but also many examples from beyond the program. The Government of Uganda was well-represented, including by higher level officials (the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands,

Housing and Urban Development), but also many other government representatives, including from LAS countries Burkina Faso, Colombia and Burundi. LAS partners presented during sessions on Gender Transformative Approaches, Sustainable Financing Models for Land Registration and Administration, Collaborative, climate-smart land use planning, and Land Data and Accountability. A more detailed report for the Uganda Learning Week is available on the ILC website.

The outcome of the Learning Week will be a dedicated toolkit with recommendations and best practices on how governments and CSOs can work together most effectively in land governance.

**Action point #8:** The government-CSO collaborations toolkit developed by CIFOR/ICRAF and the International Land Coalition will be shared with LAS partners once it is published.



Figure 8: Oxfam Chad presents poster with progress LAS Chad.

## 6. Conclusions and follow up actions

The exchange with LAS partners continued in Kampala with the broader group at the Uganda Learning Week. A separate report of that Learning Week details the main insights and key take-aways from those discussions. The following action points and follow ups from the Exchange include those that arose from the prior 3-day LAS exchange, as well as the broader Uganda Learning Week:

- **Action point #1:** All LAS partners are welcome to provide their inputs on the updated program-level Theory of Change for LAND-at-scale.
- **Action point #2:** A LAND-at-scale Knowledge Cafe will be organized this year around land use consolidation.
- **Action point #3:** Utilize the Country Research Ideas and other (knowledge management) opportunities to better understand beneficiaries motivation for and subsequent (in)actions after getting a land title. What does land tenure security mean for communities and beneficiaries of LAS interventions?
- **Action point #4:** Conduct a deeper exploration of how gender transformative approaches can be realistically designed in an intervention of only three to four years. How can one be ambitious in challenging social norms yet be realistic and humble enough to do this in a short timeframe?
- **Action point #5:** Conduct research into the different formal and informal dispute resolution mechanisms, and specifically explore how community trust, fair and equitable decisions on disputes within a reasonable timeframe- as well as scaling of these experiences- are balanced out in different LAS interventions.
- **Action point #6:** Explore different ways of financing land administration systems and institutions to be able to maintain a land registry and subsequent transactions after initial (systematic) registration. What models are used in the different LAS projects but also other land interventions to ensure sustainability of services?
- **Action point #7:** Document the experiences of the various LAS interventions that work on this, how participatory and tenure-responsive land use planning can become an effective tool to increase climate resilience.
- **Action point #8:** The government-CSO collaborations toolkit developed by CIFOR/ICRAF and the International Land Coalition will be shared with LAS partners once it is published.

Overall, the LAS Exchange 2024 was a success; the possibility to visit a LAS project site was considered highly valuable by all partners. The project shows a broad range of issues that are common across the LAS portfolio and demonstrates inspiring approaches and results in these different areas. At the same time, it provided ample opportunity for reflections on scaling and sustainability, and how these issues are addressed in various ways in the different LAS countries and contexts.

Many thanks to all who participated for their valuable inputs and for sharing their insights. And a special thanks to our knowledge partner the International Land Coalition (ILC) and LEMU for co-organizing the Uganda Learning Week in Kampala. But the biggest thanks goes to our generous hosts of the Exchange this year, our LAS partners in Uganda: UCOBAC and the UN-Habitat/GLTN



*Figure 9: Group photo with Butaleja government and field trip at wetlands.*

***We look forward to continue exchanging with you all!***