



Call for Scientific Committee Members 2023 CONFERENCE ON LAND POLICY IN AFRICA (CLPA-2023)

11th May 2023



1 BACKGROUND

The African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) was launched in 2017 as a successor to the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) that was launched in 2006. The ALPC has been facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the African Union (AU) Agenda on Land through the implementation of the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges and the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa. The ALPC continues to strive to achieve its strategic objective of developing and popularizing the use of learning and knowledge management tools to facilitate evidence-based land policymaking and implementation. The Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) contributes to attaining this objective by providing the appropriate platform for dialogue, lessons learning and experience sharing.

The overall goal of the CLPA is to deepen capacity for land policy development, implementation and monitoring with a specific focus on emerging issues and AU commitments in the land sector through: i) improved access to knowledge and information in support of evidence-based land policymaking; ii) showcasing promising practices in the field of land policy and governance; and, iii) facilitating networking amongst land actors in Africa. In this regard, the Conference brings together participants drawn from academia and research, government, traditional authorities, CSOs, private sector, parliamentarians, and development partners with the aim of disseminating knowledge to promote dialogue, networking, advocacy, and partnerships in support of the implementation of the AU Land Agenda in particular evidence-based land policy development, review, implementation, and monitoring.

The CLPA presents research findings on land policy and governance and drawing the attention of African Researchers, Governments, Parliamentarians, Civil Society, Traditional Authorities, Private Sector and Development Partners on emerging land issues and challenges that need specific attention in order to achieve the objectives of the Development Agenda 2063. The CLPA is intended to have catalytic effect on the evidence base for land policy by creating space for presenting research and other evidence of Africans. The Conference will also enhance capacity on the issues and status of land policy development and implementation in Africa by focusing the attention, sharing evidence and promoting learning among governments, parliamentarians, farmers, researchers, civil society, traditional authorities, private sector, youth and development and technical partners. The conference is always designed to capture a broad range of emerging issues and knowledge and generate interest in current land policy themes from a wide range of African policy actors.

The Conference adopts a scientific approach through establishing a Scientific Committee (SC), involving research and academia from across the continent and abroad. It is designed to also capture a broad range of land-related local knowledge and know-how, and generate interest from Civil Society Organization (CSOs), women's organizations, farmers' organizations, traditional leaders, and the private sector.

2 THE 2023 CONFERENCE ON LAND POLICY IN AFRICA

The inaugural Conference on Land Policy in Africa took place in 2014 under the theme “*The Next Decade of Land Policy in Africa: Ensuring Agricultural Development and Inclusive Growth*,” attracting 342 participants (30% women). This was followed by the second Conference held in November 2017, held under the theme “*The Africa We Want: Achieving socioeconomic transformation through inclusive and equitable access to land by the youth*”, gathering 445 participants from 49 countries and featuring ninety- five (95) scientific paper presentations, in addition to masterclasses, policy dialogues, and side events. The third edition of the conference was held in November 2019 under the theme “*Winning the Fight Against Corruption in the land sector: sustainable pathways for Africa’s Transformation*” and witnessing the participation of around 550 participants with over 100 papers presented. The fourth edition of the CLPA that was held in 2021 took a hybrid format under the theme ‘*Land governance for safeguarding art, culture and heritage towards the Africa We Want*’. It should be noted that the Conference theme is usually developed in alignment with the AU Theme for that year.

The fifth CLPA will be held in the context of the ‘Year of AfCFTA: Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation’, which is the AU Theme of the year. In line with the 2023 AU theme of the year, the proposed theme for the 2023 Conference on Land Policy in Africa is:

- i. Promoting Sustainable Land Governance in Africa for Accelerating Implementation of the AfCFTA.

2.1.1 Proposed Conference Sub Themes

- i. Enhancing Border Governance to facilitate Intra-African Trade;
- ii. Migration, Land, Trade and Livelihoods;
- iii. Biodiversity, Climate Change and Disasters in Africa: Implications on Land governance, trade and development;
- iv. Digitalising land administration systems in Africa for improved trade;
- v. Achieving Sustainable Land Based Investments to facilitate increased production, processing, and trade in Africa;
- vi. Geo-spatial systems, the Built Environment and Trade;
- vii. Formalization of land rights: good practices in documenting women’s land rights in Africa;
- viii. Enhancing land governance to ensure sustainable African food systems and agricultural trade;
- ix. Implementation of the AfCFTA: Breaking Trade and Land Related Barriers of African Women and Youth to Ensure their Inclusion; and,
- x. Securing land rights and governing pastoralists’ lands to ensure inclusion of pastoralists in the AfCFTA.

The forthcoming edition of the Conference on Land Policy in Africa is proposed to take place from **21st to 24th November 2023 at the AUC HQ in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.** The 2023 conference will take a hybrid format.

3 THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

3.1 Purpose of The Scientific Committee

The purpose of the Scientific Committee (SC) is to deliberate on and to guide the substance and focus of discussions and planning in preparation for and during the proceedings of CLPA-2023. Specifically, the SC will function as an advisory body to the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Land and the ALPC, providing its contribution to the following tasks:

- a. Refining the sub-themes for the Conference;
- b. Preparing the 'Call for Abstracts' in preparation for the Conference;
- c. Establishing and publishing a selection and review criteria for abstracts in consultation with ALPC;
- d. Reviewing abstracts received and recommending to ALPC on abstracts to be shortlisted for consideration;
- e. Reviewing substantive documents produced for the Conference such as papers and programmes etc;
- f. Reviewing and providing guidance for refinement of papers by authors;
- g. Deliberating on and clarifying the expected outcomes from the Conference and each of its components;
- h. Developing the Conference programme and identifying accompanying activities (including side-events, exhibitions, masterclasses, etc); and,
- i. Identifying guests of honour, keynote speakers and other contributors to the Conference in consultation and agreement with ALPC.

3.2 Composition of the Scientific Committee

The SC will have a balanced membership with respect to the expertise of the theme and subthemes of the Conference, academic background, type of institution, gender and geographic representation. The Committee will draw primarily on experts from Africa including the diaspora. However, the inputs of international contributors with knowledge of the theme / sub-themes of the Conference may also be sought.

3.3 Qualification of Scientific Committee Members

Individuals to be considered for selection as members of the SC will be those who meet the following criteria:

- a) Scientific expertise:** Deep scientific knowledge on Conference theme/ subthemes demonstrated by published peer-reviewed, scientific publications of international status;
- b) Adaptability:** A demonstrated ability to connect scientific discussions to wider, less technical audiences who are able to contribute their evidence relating to the theme/subthemes of the Conference;
- c) Africa focus:** A deep knowledge and track record of engaging with the issues in question from an African perspective;
- d) Availability:** Confirmation of willingness and availability to participate in the SC activities as detailed by Conference Coordinating Committee through conference calls, email

correspondence, including attending periodic meetings of the committee, in addition to undergoing the above indicated tasks; and,

e) Experience: Prior experience of acting in a similar capacity is considered a plus.

All applicants should possess a Post-Graduate degree (Masters or Ph.D) in areas related to land governance, natural resources management, agricultural economics, trade and policy.

3.4 Functioning of the Scientific Committee

The SC will primarily conduct its business through electronic means. In any case, all meetings, whether in person or electronic, will be arranged by ALPC and facilitated by the ALPC consultant or focal person responsible for the Conference. The SC will elect a Chairperson to preside over meetings and a Vice-chairperson. In case of the unavailability of the Chairperson, the Vice-chairperson will preside over the committee. In the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson, the SC shall designate a committee member as acting Chairperson. The ALPC consultant or focal person will provide SC members and ALPC with a written report on the discussions and conclusions taken in each meeting. English is the working language in the meetings of the scientific committee. Abstracts and draft papers expected are received either in English, French or Arabic.

3.5 Terms of Membership

While institutional identities are relevant, members of the SC are each appointed to the SC in their individual capacity. Scientific Committee members will hold their position for the duration of the period during which the CLPA will be organized. Whenever appropriate, the ALPC will acknowledge the contribution of the SC members. Membership to the committee is voluntary.

4 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE 2023 CLPA

All those interested in becoming members of the Scientific Committee should submit their Curriculum Vitae together with a one-page cover letter stating the reason why they should be considered to be a member of the committee. The cover letter and CV should be combined into one document and sent to the following email addresses: edemej@africa-union.org; nsama.chikolwa@giz.de, m.marealle@afdb.org, eca-africalandconference@un.org and el-helepi@un.org.

The deadline to receive applications is 26th May 2023. Results of selection will be communicated by 15th June 2023.