

EGM Title

Pastoral Lands and Range Lands

Overview

In collaboration with the UN-Habitat/ Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS) is undertaking a desk review study on “land, natural resources, and climate change in the Arab region”. The study is part of the broader BMZ-funded “Arab Region Programme on Good Land Governance in Support to Inclusive Development, Peace and Stability”—a key programme of the Arab Land Initiative.

As part of this study, LCPS is organizing and carrying out an online Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “pastoral and range lands” in the context of the Arab region. Its main purpose is to fill knowledge gaps in existing studies as well as to allow experience exchange among experts, professionals and organizations working on the topic. In doing so, it will provide an opportunity to connect experts and partners to each other by way of promoting future collaboration and coordination.

Study purpose

Pastures in the Arab region (33% of the total area) are affected by climatic variability related events (e.g. drought, floods, blizzards), land degradation and desertification. In addition, statutory tenure systems adjustments, borders creation, and land use change have affected pastoralists’ livelihoods through restricting their access to natural resources and land and contributed to the degradation of rangelands through land use change and/or overgrazing. Research on understanding the shifts in pastoral land use and lifestyles is however still preliminary in the Arab region.

Indeed, the social and economic impacts of climate change can be paramount: potential conflict over access to land and natural resources, forced migration and disruption of existing livelihoods and social bonds. These impacts are perhaps more pronounced in the Arab region where inadequate land policies are widening social gaps and inequalities and depriving many people from their right to land. Understanding the modalities of access to land vis-à-vis existing land tenure systems as well as understanding the context specific power structures embedded in land are therefore essential to devising feasible and potentially successful recommendations for climate adaptability in relation to land tenure.

LCPS’s research project on “land, natural resources, and climate change in the Arab region” aims to contribute to filling existing knowledge gaps. It takes a people-centered perspective on climate change and embraces views that see climate change and natural resources scarcity “as multipliers of risks and threats that exacerbate existing societal problems such as poverty, injustice, social insecurity, violence, terrorism, or civil war”.¹ That is because land is an essential element for livelihood for large parts of the populations in the region.

¹ Froese, Rebecca & Schilling, Janpeter. 2019. The Nexus of Climate Change, Land Use, and Conflicts. In Current Climate Change Reports (2019) 5:24–35 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40641-019-00122-1>.

The EGM will bring together experts with different professional backgrounds (academic, civil society, government, etc.) to share knowledge and experience on the linkages between land tenure and the degradation of rangelands in different countries of the Arab region. Social dynamics related to land, access to natural resources, environmental degradation and climate change are affecting vulnerable groups, involving pastoral communities. It will particularly focus on existing land governance related challenges, practices, and approaches as well as on policy recommendations to guide Arab governments and concerned organizations on urgent actions that they need to undertake to prevent land pressure and landlessness in context of environmental degradation.

Key topics and questions

With the above in mind, the EGM discussions aim to create a better understanding of the challenges related to rangelands and pastoral lands in the Arab region. Biophysical, social, political, historical, and economic issues will be considered. More specifically, the discussions will focus on three key topics. Each topic will be discussed in a dedicated panel.

1. Land degradation and land degradation neutrality

How do climate change and land degradation interact with land use, especially on rangelands?

Although land degradation is a long-standing problem, climate change-related effects are further spurring the phenomenon. Land degradation, land clearing and reduced rainfall can lead to changes to natural ecosystems and land-use systems. Increased human demands and reduced land quality lead to greater land pressure, which may encourage migration and land conflict. All these aspects represent multiple challenges for land tenure security, especially in areas, where different land tenure regimes and land uses coexist. This is particularly the case in areas with pastoral land use. Drier lands will become unsuitable for pastoralism, while areas with more rainfall will face the pressure of competing land uses.

2. Pastoral systems and rangeland tenure management

Rangelands include: desert; grassland; shrub land; woodland and savannah; and tundra. Pastoral groups in the Arab region include Bedouin, Kurds, Berbers, Tuareg and Sahrawi. They face numerous challenges related to access to herding lands and water points. In some areas, various land governance systems (public/private/customary) overlap increasingly creating conflicts. It's worth mentioning that in some cases customary practices of rangeland management are more sustainable than statutory mechanisms. In other areas, the increasing pressure on land due to socio-economic and climatic challenges are leading to overexploitation of resources. How can tools and governance mechanisms to address challenges related to pastoral and rangelands contribute to improve the tenure security and access to resources for pastoralists vulnerable to climate change effects? On the other hand, how can local mechanisms of governance and customary practices contribute to effective implementation of policy instruments related to rangelands?

3. Green grabbing on rangelands

The strong financialization of land and limited capacities of States to face green grabbing projects are also affecting pastoral livelihoods. Local environmental associations or community groups in several Arab countries have managed to halt the impact of such projects on tenure security. How are these large-scale projects compounding the impacts of climate change? What legal and institutional means could strengthen tenure security for subsistence households and mitigate green grabbing of large areas of pasture?

Aim of the presentations

The main objective for LCPS is to frame an expert discussion on land governance and climate change, addressing the above-mentioned key topics. Participants have knowledge and experience in these areas and will present and discuss them, by including materials as well as the following aspects:

- Discuss the **key challenges** facing the region or countries in the region in relation to rangelands and pastoral lands in the Arab region.
- Examine and discuss existing promising tools and **approaches** related to climate change and rangeland management (e.g. community-based management, integrated land use planning, sustainable land management, LDN targets, SDGs, VGGT application).
- Present and debate selected **case studies**
- Synthesize **lessons** and articulate specific **recommendations**

Outputs

LCPS will produce a short report on EGM discussions that will be shared with all EGM participants for review. This short report and the outcomes of the EGM will also contribute to the research report on “land, natural resources, and climate change in the Arab region” that LCPS is preparing.

The meeting report will contribute to improved understanding of the key land challenges related to land degradation and range lands with a repertoire of case studies on related challenges, existing approaches, tools, and recommendations.

Logistics

The meeting will be held on 20 January 2021, from 10:00 am till 1:30 pm Beirut time. It will be hosted online. To register, click [here](#).

Experts are encouraged to share their presentations with the organizers beforehand to ensure a smooth screen sharing of the content. We expect presentations to be 10 minutes long. Each panel is followed by a short Q&A session. A plenary discussion is envisaged at the end for final reflections and recommendations. Discussions will be in English. Instant translation to Arabic is available.

Agenda

Expert Group Meeting on land governance and pastoral and range lands			
20 January 2021 - Online event			
Introduction			
Time	Activity/Description	Facilitator	
10.00 – 10.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of LCPS' area of work • Presentation of the overall Programme 	Rania Abi Habib (Program Manager – LCPS) Ombretta Temptra (Human Settlements Officer – UN-Habitat/GLTN)	
10.15 - 10.35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the topic Presentation of the area of work on land, climate change and rangelands in the Arab region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short discussion 	Mona Khechen (Independent Development Planner and Senior Fellow – LCPS)	
10.35 – 10.45	Two minute introduction of each presenter/presenting institution	All	
Main Session			
Time	Activity/Topic	Presenters	Moderator
10.45 – 11.15	Land degradation and land degradation neutrality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linkages between climate change, land degradation and land use • Building livelihoods in dry lands • Q&A 	Said Fagouri (Coordinator of the Arab Network of Pastoral Communities ‘Pasto-Arabic’ – ILC) Fernando Garcia Dory (lead of the Rangelands Global Initiative - ILC) Laila Annouri (Regional Program Manager Drylands, Livelihoods and Gender Regional Office of West Asia – IUCN)	Clarissa Augustinus (Unit Leader – UN-Habitat/GLTN)
11.15 – 12.00	Pastoral systems and rangeland tenure management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land governance between customary and statutory • Nomadic pastoral tribes and migration • Land and Bedouin rights in Palestine • Q&A 	Salah Abukashawwa (Centre for Land and Environmental Governance, ISTIDAMA, Sudan) Dawn Chatty (Emeritus Professor in Anthropology and Forced Migration and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, University of	Clarissa Augustinus (Unit Leader – UN-Habitat/GLTN)

EGM 2 Concept Note

		Oxford) Ahmad el-Atrash (Senior Urban Programme Officer - UN-Habitat)	
<i>15 minutes break</i>			
12.15 – 12.45	Land tenure and rangelands (Jordan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community cooperative facing top down projects, case studies • Pastoral land tenure change • Q&A 	Khalid Khawaldeh (co-founding member of the Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative, Jordan) Myriam Ababsa (Social Geographer, Ifpo Amman/ Géographie-Cités, Paris)	Mariam Al Jaajaa (General Manager – The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature)
12.45 pm – 1:30 pm	Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final round of comments and reflections • Closing remarks and takeaways 	All + specific invitees	Petra Samaha (PhD Candidate in Urban Sociology - Sciences Po)