

## Side Event

### **“Pathways to realize collective tenure rights to natural resources”**

**at the “Conference on Land Policy in Africa”** hosted by the Land Policy Initiative / UNECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 11-14 November 2014

**When: 12 November 2014, 18:00-19:00**

**Where: African Union Conference Center in Addis**

*The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) cordially invites to the side event “Pathways to realize collective tenure rights to natural resources”.*

The commons are a fundamental safety net for many rural families. However, communities across the continent face involuntary loss of common resources due to increasing pressure on natural resources, land grabbing, urbanization, and user conflicts. This is often because of an unclear legal situation.

So, how can the rights of these communities be secured? Which strategies, approaches and practices can be used to make collective tenure rights to natural resources real? How can existing international instruments that address these issues be implemented and support the realization of collective rights? We invite you to exchange and discuss these questions together with the panelists and the audience while drawing on your own experiences in securing tenure rights in different fields.

The side event forms part of the on-going process of developing a *Technical Guide on Tenure Rights to Commons* (TG Commons) commissioned by FAO to support the uptake of the *Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* (VGGT). This Guide aims to provide strategies and promising practices to recognize, protect, allocate, transfer and administer tenure rights to commons such as land, fisheries and forests especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups including women and youth.

The TG Commons can be a crucial international reference document which may also be used to contribute to the implementation of the *Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa* (F&G). The F&G and VGGT are two complementary international voluntary instruments which provide a historical opportunity to recognize, protect and support tenure rights to commons for national food security, sustainable resource management and wellbeing. The implementation and uptake of these guidelines in national contexts requires capacity building and further advice.

Your input and recommendations as participants of the *Conference on Land Policy in Africa* will therefore be of inestimable value to the work on the Technical Guide on Commons.

**Agenda:**

- Welcome and Introduction
  - Moderator: Téodyl Nkuintchua, Center for Environment and Development, Cameroon
  
- Inputs from panelists on the potential of commons and strategies to realize communal and collective tenure rights to natural resources:
  - Mafaniso Hara, PLAAS, South Africa
  - Fernando Songane, Centro Terra Viva, Mozambique
  - Edson Nyingi, Care International, Tanzania
  
- Inputs from panelists on the implementation of the international instruments VGGT and F&G:
  - Andrew Hilton, FAO, Italy
  - Odame Larbi, LPI, Ethiopia
  
- Discussion with involvement of the audience
  
- Wrap-up and Closing