

Elements of just transition readiness: lessons and strategies for transition-effective land governance

World Bank Land Conference 2025

Date: Monday, May 05
Time: 2pm - 3:30pm ET
Location: MC 2-800

DESCRIPTION

There is an urgent need for a just and rapid shift away from fossil fuels to low-carbon economies. This transition will be highly land-intensive, posing competing demands on land use that may undermine the effectiveness and fairness of just transitions in many countries. Billions have already been mobilized to scale investment in critical minerals extraction, renewable energy deployment, biofuel and biomass production, and carbon projects, all of which entail a significant land footprint. True just transition readiness therefore necessarily requires transition effective land governance. This entails responsible and effective land governance that reconciles competing land use demands and addresses the potential environmental, land, and human rights implications of the transition. This session will unpack the key elements of responsible and effective land governance that are needed to ensure that land administration systems are both compatible with and conducive to truly just transitions. The discussion will explore key elements of land governance in the context of the just transition, including: tenure security and recognition, spatial planning, responsible use of approaches to streamline or foreshorten investment approval, inter-ministerial and intra-governmental coordination, and national climate policy instruments. During this interactive roundtable discussion, speakers and participants will discuss practical examples and insights from diverse country contexts where strategies are being deployed to advance responsible and transition-effective land governance.

SPEAKERS

- Hansika Agrawal, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), United States
- Isaac Mwaipopo, Executive Director, Center for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD), Zambia
- Gaynor Paradza, Senior Researcher, Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI), South Africa
- Sonkita Conteh, Managing Director, Namati, Sierra Leone
- Moderator: Lara Wallis, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), United States

AGENDA

Welcome remarks

Part 1: Tenure security and recognition as a central element of just transition readiness, and the use of contextually relevant approaches for securing tenure

- How the just transition has impacted land rights in Indonesia, Zambia, Sierra Leone, and South Africa, and why securing tenure so important in each of these contexts
- What approaches to securing tenure look like in each of these contexts. Approaches for securing tenure can depend on a range of factors, including political, social, cultural, and historical. Unpacking how these factors shaped the ways in which local actors in these countries have been pushing to secure tenure in the just transition.

Part 2: The role of inclusive, participatory spatial planning and intra-governmental coordination in addressing challenges stemming from tools to foreshorten or streamline investment approval

- Indonesia, and Sulawesi in particular with its nickel reserves, has been at the heart of the global energy transition. Understanding how the government's reform of laws and policies to facilitate investments in the sector has impacted land management, including any changes brought about by the Omnibus Law.
- The role that local governments play in trying to manage land for the just transition. Understanding whether local government actors in South Africa are empowered to address and manage land governance as part of transition planning, and if not, some ways in which this gap could be filled.
- The importance of Sierra Leone's recently passed National Lands Commission Act in strengthening locally led land administration and intragovernmental coordination. Unpacking how this Act ensures that Sierra Leone's land governance systems are conducive to a *truly* just transition.
- With reference to the experience in Zambia, underscoring the importance of intergovernmental coordination for integrating land questions within just transition planning, both at the national level as well as the subnational level. Unpacking approaches that can be used to strengthen intergovernmental coordination in this context.
- Role of participatory and inclusive spatial planning play in trying to pre-empt and effectively manage these challenges. Strategies and approaches that CCSI's partners in Sulawesi under the ALIGN project are using to support spatial justice and responsible

land management in the rush for nickel.

- Discussing how spatial planning has been relevant to and critical for South Africa's just transition. Identifying gaps that currently exist within South Africa's spatial planning regime, and how these gaps can be addressed.

Part 3: Harmonization of climate and land legal frameworks in ensuring country readiness for a just transition

- Zambia recently passed its Green Growth Strategy and Green Economy and Climate Change Act. Exploring whether and how these two frameworks speak to questions of land governance.
- Ways in which the recently passed Customary Land Rights and National Lands Commission Acts have defined or otherwise influenced Sierra Leone's transition planning, and if it hasn't, what needs to change.
- South Africa and Indonesia are both JETP countries. Understanding the extent to which Indonesian and South African policymakers involved in the design and implementation of JETP-linked policies and programs have meaningfully considered and grappled with land questions. Identifying the gaps and opportunities for harmonizing transition planning with land frameworks.

We welcome further engagement on this topic. Please direct any questions to Hansika Agrawal, at ha2665@columbia.edu.