



LDPI 2012 Small Grants Recipients Africa only

Foreign investments in agriculture in Zambia: Evaluating potential and the new social products of large-scale farmland acquisitions, by Jessica Chu

Zambia has been the site of rising foreign investment in large-scale land acquisitions; it has been suggested (World Bank, 2010) that with its abundance of land and water, Zambia contains great potential to act as Africa's new 'bread basket'. In particular, the acquisition of large-scale farmland has been promoted as an investment opportunity with safe returns, as well as a way to promote local food security and economic development, suggesting the rise of a new model of agricultural development. This project seeks to evaluate the potential in large-scale farmland acquisitions in contributing to agricultural development, with particular regard to the positive and negative impacts to food security, social relations, and agricultural livelihoods. This research contributes to a larger PhD project that explores the political and cultural economies of large-scale farmland acquisitions in Zambia. It seeks to examine, what frictions are produced in the social relations between global discourses and local knowledge?

Jessica Chu is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at SOAS, University of London. She holds an MA in the Anthropology of Food (SOAS) and a BA(Hons) History and BSc Life Sciences (Queen's University, Canada). Her research interests include issues concerning food security, agricultural development, and land rights and she is currently conducting research on large-scale land acquisitions in Zambia. Email: jessica_chu@soas.ac.uk

What's in a right? A case of land governance at the intersection of neo-liberalisation and decentralisation in the gold mining sector of Burkina Faso, by Muriel Cote

In Burkina Faso the industrial gold mining sector has rapidly become a motor of the national economy, with gold passing from 3rd to first export product in the last three years. This is a result of recent global financial market crises that have resulted in an increase in the value of gold, but also a consequence of a couple of decades of neoliberal state reforms that have facilitated foreign investments, including the acquisition of mining rights. Artisanal miners on the other hand, operate on the basis of locally embedded customary land ownership and use rights, which current decentralisation reforms aim to formally recognise. What this means is that local decentralised institutions face the difficult mission to accompany foreign investors in their activities, while at the same time trying to secure their constituents' livelihoods that large land deals currently put in jeopardy. The paper argues that an analysis of the

contradictions that emerge at the intersection of neoliberal and decentralisation state reforms pertaining land governance in the gold mining sector, help to identify the institutional and power relations that contribute to the recognition of certain rights and to the neglect of others. This paper draws on current doctoral research in the northern region of Burkina Faso where a recent research permit for a transnational mining company and long-standing artisanal mining activities overlap in a village. Mapping out stakeholders' claims, how these are justified and the institutions mobilised (or not) to back up their claims sheds light on the constraints to the realisation of state sovereignty, local rights and authority that are fuelling current dynamics of 'land grabbing'.

Muriel Cote is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh, looking at the mobilisation of decentralised institutions through ethnographic case studies of changing land governance, and the impacts on the emergence of local democracy in rural Burkina Faso. She is also currently affiliated to a research programme (Reponsive Forest Governance Initiative) that assesses the democracy effects of decentralised forest governance across different African countries. She has recently published papers in *Ecologie et Politique* and in *Progress in Human Geography*.

Ana Sofia Ganho, Mozambique

[Information forthcoming]

Jordanian food security and agricultural investments overseas, particularly in Sudan, by Justa Mayra Hopma

This study investigates the nature of Jordanian agricultural investments overseas. Jordan is the world's 4th poorest country in water resources and its attempts at securing future food supplies are inherently related to its water situation. Driven by water scarcity, it has investigated possible joint ventures in various areas in Sudan. In some respects, Jordan's policy decision to look abroad, however, is ironic because its own "indigenous" Bedouin population used to specialise in, for example, pastoralist livestock production. Bedouin economies and modes of life, however, have been systematically undermined and Bedouin are now encouraged to become cash croppers producing tomatoes, cucumbers, and watermelons (~90% water content) for cheap export to Gulf countries. The export of "virtual water" is contrary to Jordanian interests and can be regarded as "irrational" policy. This study investigates the rationale behind Jordanian agricultural policy and the problems surrounding its implementation.

Justa Mayra Hopma. While completing an undergraduate degree in International Politics & Geography at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth I participated in an archaeological project in the Wadi Arabah, Jordan where I returned the next year to conduct fieldwork for my MPhil dissertation at the University of Oxford. At present I live in Amman where I combine my PhD research with an internship at the Dutch Embassy. jmh23@aber.ac.uk

Consolidating land, consolidating power: What future for smallholder farming in Rwanda's 'Green Revolution'?, by Chris Huggins

Rwandan farmers are experiencing simultaneous reforms in the land and agricultural sector. The objectives of these reforms encompass increased production, and also consolidation of land use and marketing options and a profound shift in farming practices towards export-oriented models. The government wants only half the population (from

the current 85%) to be engaged in agriculture by 2020, raising questions about the resulting 'surplus population'. Foreign agricultural investment is one part of this vision of 'modernisation', while land accumulation by Rwandan urban elites also drives rural change. Concentration of land holdings by foreign corporations or Rwandan elites should be understood as part of a broader reconfiguration of access to credit and inputs, technologies of coercion and socio-economic control. To this end, fieldwork was conducted in 2011 in two Districts, with a focus on the role of cooperatives in the institutional framework of the agricultural reform and household-level impacts and counter-strategies. Scholarly influences include James Scott, Michel Foucault and Mark Duffield.

Chris Huggins specializes in the political economy of land and agricultural reform, particularly the East and Central Africa, where he lived from 1998-2007. He is co-author (with Scott Leckie) of *Conflict and Housing, Land, and Property Rights: A Handbook on Issues, Frameworks, and Solutions* (Oxford University Press, 2011). He is currently a PhD Candidate in Geography (specialization in political Economy) at Carleton University, Ottawa. Email: cdhuggins@gmail.com

Enclosure of park lands: the case of Waza National Park, northern Cameroon, by Alice Kelly

This paper will trace the mechanisms by which a "property vacuum" was formed in Waza National Park, northern Cameroon. It will first examine the enclosure of park lands in the context of 'land-grabs' by colonial and post-colonial powers. It will reveal the brutal enforcement of these enclosures by park guards and managers for an extended period. It will then show how, with economic crisis, changing political will and regional politics, the national government's interest in this protected area began to diminish. Filling this gap, the role of international organizations, along with their own sets of land deals, will be investigated. I will conclude by focusing on what happens when strict park management regimes end, leaving behind an open access situation which threatens local people's security. This analysis will reveal how the current property vacuum has transformed a space for nature conservation into the territory of outlaws—bandits who use this area as a base of operations for kidnappings and theft. Further, it will show that local residents perceive the subsequent excess of "outsiders" as a threat to their food and livelihood security.

Alice Kelly, PhD candidate, University of California, Berkeley. Originally from Virginia, I went to Connecticut College and earned degrees in English Literature and Environmental Studies. After college I joined the United States Peace Corps and was assigned a project in the Extreme North Province of Cameroon where I helped 7 local communities set up Mozogo-Gokoro National Park for ecotourism. I am currently studying Waza National Park in northern Cameroon—looking at the social and ecological effects of changing management strategies in this region.

Political dynamics in carbon credit projects and land use change: the case of Western Kenya Smallholder Agricultural Carbon Project (WKSCAP), Jean Lee

The proposed study seeks to understand the equity concerns surrounding smallholder farmers and women in climate mitigation projects. The study will use a political ecology approach that emphasizes the role of power in mediating access to resources and how power dynamics within a community and a household affect equity in access, equity in

decision-making, and equity in outcomes of carbon mitigation projects. This field-based case study will focus on the Western Kenya Smallholder Agricultural Carbon Project (WKSCAP), a soil carbon project in western Kenya that works with farmers and encourages them to adopt sustainable agricultural land management practices in maize-based systems. The project offers opportunities for receiving carbon credits by encouraging farming practices that sequester aboveground and belowground carbon. The study will focus on the following questions: Who gets to participate in the project, and how does the degree of participation determine the benefits the project offers? How does differential access to climate mitigation projects result in differential benefits along socio-economic classes and gender roles in a community? How do the power differentials shift among community members and within the household? How might a marginalized farmer's access to land change when projects advertise carbon payments for adopting sustainable land practices? Data on participation and benefits will be collected through household surveys, semi-structured interviews, and focus groups.

Jean Lee is currently a PhD student at University of Vermont. Her research focuses on the barriers farmers encounter in participating in and benefiting from agricultural mitigation projects, with a particular focus on women and how they are differentially affected by projects. She will be conducting research in the Kitale, Kenya and working with farmers to understand how farmers' perceptions of barriers and benefits and how projects can effectively and efficiently deliver their pro-poor objectives while also achieving agricultural mitigation. She completed a Masters of Environmental Management at Duke University and a Bachelors of Arts in Environmental Biology from Columbia University.

Alienated from our land: capital, modern technology and dispossession in Western Kenya, by Adelaide Lusambili

I use the elite and alienation theories to document how modern farming technology has invisibly transformed land tenure in the predominantly sugarcane and maize farming zones of Western Kenya. Modern farming technology in terms of the machines to plough cash crop plantations, harvest and transport the crops can be very costly for rural farmers in Kenya. The elites, - especially those who have money have formed associations that allow them to lease the most productive land from rural farmers as well as buy the modern farming technology. Because they have money, they lease huge tracts of sugarcane and maize plantations for a period of 5-10 years,- a period when many farmers are rendered landless or left to be squatters on their own farms. This informal practice has become cyclic diminishing the traditional land tenure ownership and rendering many families powerless. The research uses phenomenological framework.

Adelaide Lusambili has a PhD and MA from American University in Washington DC. She holds a honorary research fellowship at Sheffield Hallam University/UK. She has worked in Africa, USA and UK specializing in mixed methods research.

Subaltern voices and corporate/state land grab in the Save Valley, Zimbabwe, by Eric Kushinga Makombe

The history of the Save Valley in south-eastern Manicaland provides an intriguing account of peasant encounters with state apparatus dating back to the 1920s. However, the process currently underway, where an obscure 20year-deal between the quasi-state

parastatal ARDA and Rating Investment (Ltd) for 40,000 hectares of land; represents what is perhaps the highest level of the state's coercive apparatus at work as close to 250,000 communal farmers stand to lose or have already lost their lands and livelihoods. A context of disassembled private property rights and absent political and legal tenure rights has rendered the inhabitants of Save Valley vulnerable to another wave of elite land-grabs. This paper seeks to capture and historicise the subjective subaltern voices in the light of the current corporate and state-centric land-grab being experienced in south-eastern Manicaland. The study will attain this objective by drawing upon oral interviews, life histories, participatory rural appraisal methods and newspaper reports.

Eric Kushinga Makombe is a doctoral student at the University of the Witwatersrand (RSA). His research focuses on the social history of rural-urban interaction in Colonial Zimbabwe and seeks to explore human experiences and agency attendant in the system. Eric received his bachelors' and masters' degrees from the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) before becoming a Lecturer in the Economic History Department (UZ).

Fair dealing or compromise under duress? Conceding land for carbon forestry in exchange for tenure security in Kenya's Mau Forest, by Scott Matter

This project addresses the politics and ethics of appropriating contested land via ostensibly free and fair transactions, whether such land swaps are (or should be considered) "land grabs" – representing a form of accumulation by attenuated dispossession – and what implications such processes have for the future of forest conservation in the interests of climate change mitigation, for local development and security, and for local autonomy and national sovereignty. I use as a case study a REDD+ pilot project established in a degraded forest area where access and control have been disputed over the past twenty years, including through violent conflict involving the state and members of different ethnic communities. Central questions include: Who will benefit from this land deal, how, and when? Have long-term, ancestral claims to the "forest" been extinguished or deferred? How are the terms of this deal understood by various stakeholders? How are different understandings reconciled, if at all? And, to what extent does negotiating transfer of control over contested land constitute free, prior, and informed consent?

Scott Matter is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at Rutgers, The State University of New Brunswick, and received my PhD in socio-cultural anthropology from McGill University in 2011. I have been conducting research on land tenure transformation, rural resource governance, and the cultural politics of belonging in Kenya since 2003. Email: scott.matter@rutgers.edu .

Policy, participation and micro-struggles for sovereignty amidst large elephants in Mozambique, by Jessica Milgroom

Creation and enforcement of policies, international standards, or national laws are often cited as the best way to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people who are economically or physically displaced by development projects. In practice, however, these policies rarely achieve their objective. Private or commercial land grabs pose an even greater challenge for local residents attempting to protect their livelihoods and heritage. Based on a case from southern Mozambique of one land grab, three overlapping projects and two major policies, Jessica's LDPI grant will be used to interrogate the questions, what is the potential for policy, or international standards to

protect and promote the interests of marginalized people? How do sanctioned acts of resistance through formal participatory processes versus illegal acts of resistance influence policy enactment?

Jessica Milgroom, Wageningen University. Email: jessica.milgroom@gmail.com
Jessica has recently completed an interdisciplinary PhD based on an in-depth case study of the unfolding process of resettlement of residents of the newly established Limpopo National Park in Mozambique. Her research interests include population resettlement, policy enactment, situated, interdisciplinary studies of people's use of natural resources, and applied agronomy.

Tsegaye Moreda is a PhD student at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. He holds degree in Geography and Environmental Studies (2004) and Masters in Development Studies with specialization in Rural Livelihoods and Development (2008) from Addis Ababa University. He has been teaching at the University of Gondar before beginning his PhD study. His current research focuses on examining the dynamics of changes in land use induced by the current 'land grab' and explores the social and political reactions of local communities to the changes through a particular case study in Ethiopia. His research mainly draws from the theoretical engagements of political economy. His areas of research interest are focused on agrarian and rural issues particularly land, land tenure, livelihoods, migration and resettlement, environmental change, and land grabbing. Contact address: shegro@iss.nl

[information to be added]

Linking land grabbing and land use change: a multi-scalar characterization of marginal lands for biofuels in Ethiopia, by Rachel Nalepa, Ethiopia.

Seeking foreign exchange, rural development, and domestic energy security, the Ethiopian government has asserted that approximately 23 million hectares of land are potentially available for the development of bioenergy crops nationally. Though it has been stressed that only 'marginal land' is to be used to avoid compromising food security, there are no specifics on these earmarked lands nor has the government disclosed the means by which they were identified. This project is a multi-scale investigation into the 'marginal lands' narrative in Ethiopia and explores the characteristics that set land slated for bioenergy crops apart and whether these lands are indeed unfit for food production, as it is often implied. This study also investigates how 'unused land' may be methodologically or rhetorically differentiated from 'marginal land' and proposes alternative perspectives on these landscapes that more completely capture existing human-environment relationships than the 'unused' land narrative put forth by the state.

Rachel Nalepa is a PhD student in the department of Geography and Environment at Boston University. Her dissertation research is focused on the modernization of contemporary Ethiopia through large-scale food and biofuel projects. In particular, she is interested in the politicization of geospatial technologies and the categorization of 'marginal' and 'unused' agricultural lands to legitimize land deal politics and land redistribution in both a local context and at a national level. Contact information: ran@bu.edu

Ben Neimark, Madagascar

[information to be added]

Land deals without land owners: minerals and wildlife in Mbarabg'andu community wildlife area, Tanzania, by Christine Noe

The central issue for the proposed paper is to investigate and explain the nature and impacts of the land deal between two investors who are involved in hunting and mining in Mbarang'andu Community Wildlife Management Area, Tanzania. Although Mbarang'andu is supposedly a community land, and that the two land uses are incompatible, a deal was signed in 2007 that involves thousands of dollars as compensation for the disturbance caused by the mining activities on the side of the hunting company. Villagers are neither part of the deal nor do they have control over any activities going on in the area. The paper will engage with key questions that arise from this background including; what future holds for the rural poor whose land is continuously converted into protected areas but later made available for investors who can reallocate rights among themselves and their successors? What constrains community participation in such land deals in Tanzania and elsewhere in Africa?

Christine Noe, Lecturer (Human Geograohy) , Department of Geography, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. P.O Box 35049, Dar es Salaam; tinanoe@yahoo.com, cnoe@udsm.ac.tz; +255-76670690

Three Investment Cases in the Office du Niger Region in Mali: Insights into the Process of land-related Investments with a Focus on the Involvement of the Local Population, by Kerstin Nolte, Mali

The project researches land-related investments in the Office du Niger (ON) region in Mali which accommodates the majority of land acquisitions in Mali. Whereas the Malian government claims that investors bring much needed development to the area, NGOs and civil society fear the exclusion of the local population. Whether these land acquisitions include the local population or benefit only few is indeed a crucial question addressed in this study. Drawing on semi-structured expert interviews with government officials, civil society, and investors and focus group discussions in three villages directly affected by investments, we focus on the actual investment process, especially the involvement of the local population. Thereby we shed light on actors and institutions involved in the process of leasing farmland in Mali's ON. We put a special focus on sensitization and information of the population, displacements and compensations as to scrutinize in which extent the much acclaimed development trickles down to the population.

Kerstin Nolte (kerstin.nolte@giga-hamburg.de), Research Fellow at GIGA German Institute of Global and Area studies and PhD student at University of Göttingen, Germany. My research focuses on large-scale land acquisitions in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially the process of acquiring land and the institutional setting of target countries. Field research is carried out in Zambia, Kenya, and Mali. I hold a Diploma in Geography and a Bachelor in Economics from University of Göttingen.

Small Farm Holders' Response to the Global Land Rush in Benin: Linkages of international solidarity between civil society organizations, by Paulette Nonfodju

The current project seeks to provide insights into how linkages of solidarity among civil society groups in Benin and France help to empower local small farm holders to resist the global investments in farmland in Benin. The mapping and the analysis of these linkages between the different movements will shed light on the role of both national and international civil society organizations in shaping the forms and strategies of resistance adopted in order to thwart the rush on agricultural land in Benin. Hence we will get to better understand one of the alternatives of resistance as global answer to the global farmland rush in the local context of rural Benin. To reach the above mentioned aim, the project will draw heavily on primary data from fieldwork in Benin and France which will serve as source to analyse the small farm holders' response to the global land rush in the above mentioned country.

Paulette Nonfodji has a Bsc in Cultural Anthropology, a master degree in Sociology and is currently a Msc candidate (summer 2012) in Contemporary Asian Studies from the University of Amsterdam. Her main field of research concerns the politics of bio-fuel in relation to food crops and farmland at multinational corporate, state and regional organizations levels. Contact details: paulecathynonfodji@gmail.com

Social Resistance to 'Land Grabbing' in Northern Ghana: A Class Dynamics and Gendered Analyses, Hanson Nyuntakyi-Frimpong

The purpose of this study is to contribute to an understanding of whether and how marginalized local communities are attempting to resist appropriation of their lands by transnational investors. The study will examine the character and dynamics of local resistance at multiple scales - from the household, community, to national levels. It will draw upon an agrarian political economy approach to answer the following key questions: What kinds of organizational forms, tactics and moral vocabularies define community resistance to 'land grabbing'? How does identity, both collective and individual, shape various forms of resistance to 'land grabbing'? In cases where communities vociferously resist 'land grabbing', what constraints do they face, especially given already overlapping conditions of social, economic, and political marginality? What resources can communities draw upon, not only to challenge the authority of unjust land appropriation, but also to transform the relations of power that undergird it? And finally, what are the gender dynamics in various forms of resistance to land appropriation? The empirical analysis will be derived from a case study of two villages in northern Ghana.

Hanson Nyantakyi-Frimpong is a PhD Candidate in Geography/International Development at The University of Western Ontario, Canada. His dissertation focuses on a political ecology of food security and smallholder farmer adaptation to climate change in north-western Ghana. He holds a Bachelors degree in International Development Planning (1st Class Honours) from KNUST-Ghana. His Masters degree in Community and Environmental Planning was conferred by The University of Montana-Missoula, USA. Email: hnyantak@uwo.ca.

The Land Deals in Ethiopia: The Changing Political Economy and Ecology Case Study: The Gambella Regional States, by Wondwosen Michago Seidi

[information to be added]

Land Grabbing along Livestock Migration Routes in Gadarif State, Sudan: Impacts on Pastoralism and the Environment, by Hussein Sulieman

Dispossessing pastoralists of their traditional system and put it under commercial farming system are disseminating a cruel dilemma of increasing resources conflict and environmental degradation in Sudan. This is one of the reasons that the country has earned a reputation as a home of bloody civil wars and the country is unlikely to see lasting peace unless such issues has been addressed. The aim of the research is to show recent grapping of grazing land along transhumance migration routes in Gadarif State (eastern Sudan) due to encroachment of large-scale mechanized farming. The project depends on review of land legislation policy of Gadarif State, field visits, interview with different groups of stakeholders. Satellite imagery and Geographical Information System will be used in order to analyze the land-use change along livestock routes and producing relevant map layers. Recommendations aiming at setting up the major constraints and forward appropriate development policy will be stated.

Hussein M. Sulieman obtained his BSc in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, MSc in Forestry and PhD in Natural Sciences. Currently he is affiliated to University of Gadarif, Sudan as Assistant Professor and Director of the Remote Sensing Unit. His work experience and professional are in the area of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System. His main research interest include Socio-spatial analysis of land-use/land-cover changes, climate change and variability and scientific interpretation of local knowledge. Email: hmsulieman@yahoo.com

Gaining neighbours or disruptive factors - what happened when large-scale land-based investment in the Ghanaian oil palm sector met the local population on the ground?, by Susanne Johanna Văth

If land transactions can be beneficial to host countries depend on the governance system, the so-called rules of the game and their enforcement, but also on the appreciation of the fact that land is more than solely a production factor. As investors often face a weak institutional environment, outcomes for the local populations frequently seem to be arbitrarily. To overcome these grievances clear regulations are necessary, but how to design and implement them? This study wants to contribute to a positive approach improving future investment when learning from the past in the Ghanaian oil palm sector. Based on focus group discussions, expert interviews and a household survey (conducted in 2010/ 2011), the effects on people who received compensation, on neighbouring communities in general, on permanent and casual workers as well as on contract farmers will be analysed against a theoretical framework of land governance inspired by new institutional economic thoughts.

Susanne Johanna Văth is a Research Fellow in the field of Development Economics at the Institute for Co-operation in Developing Countries at Philipps-University of Marburg/ Germany. Due to her interdisciplinary background (Economics, Political Science & Philosophy) she combines quantitative and qualitative approaches in her PhD-research to analyse large-scale investment in agricultural land with a focus on Ghana and Kenya. contact: vaeth@staff.uni-marburg.de
