LANDac, IKV Pax Christi, Van Vollenhoven Institute and African Studies Centre

invite you to the seminar

Land Governance and Local Livelihoods in the Great Lakes Region

Date: Tuesday 3 April 2012, 13.30- 17.00, with drinks afterwards
Venue: Leiden - 'Oude' Sterrewacht, Sterrenwachtlaan 11 (ingang Kaiserstraat 63) zaal B104,
Registration: Please register at mailto:asc@ascleiden.nl

This conference aims to discuss the contemporary challenges with regard to land governance and local livelihoods in the DRC, Burundi and Rwanda. Fragile but progressive post-conflict reconstruction is producing a new growth-oriented logic in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Simultaneously, smallholder farming is increasingly called into question as a viable strategy for enhancing agricultural productivity. Meanwhile the opportunities provided by economic development are not equally distributed. One consequence is an increasingly prevalent scramble for natural resources by investors. As a result, competition within the land arena is becoming increasingly fierce and conflicts over land are becoming more numerous and more intense. The loss of control over land is impacting heavily upon local rural livelihoods as there are few alternative options outside the agricultural sector.

Programme

13.30 Registration
13.40 Opening by the chair: Frits van der Wal (DDE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
13.45 Land politics and rural practices in Burundi and the DRC
   • A legacy from the past hindering the future: land conflicts in Ituri (DRC) by Joost van Puijenbroek (IKV Pax Christi)
   • A new land law in Burundi: innovations and challenges ahead by Dominik Kohlhagen (University of Antwerp)
   Discussion
14.45 Break
15.15 Views from below on the pro-poor growth challenge in Rwanda
   • Looking behind the screen: National development versus local survival in rural Rwanda by An Ansoms (Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve)
   • Sharing scarcity: access to land in South-east Rwanda by Margot Leegwater (African Studies Centre)
   Discussion
16.15- 16.45 Final discussion with panel (names to be confirmed).

   The book can be purchased during the conference for € 60 (normal price ± € 85).
17.00 Drinks