



XXVII FIG CONGRESS

11-15 SEPTEMBER 2022
Warsaw, Poland

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Tenure-Restoration Nexus for Local Action in Africa: Identifying Customary Enablers and Disablers of Tenure in Land Restoration

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General background

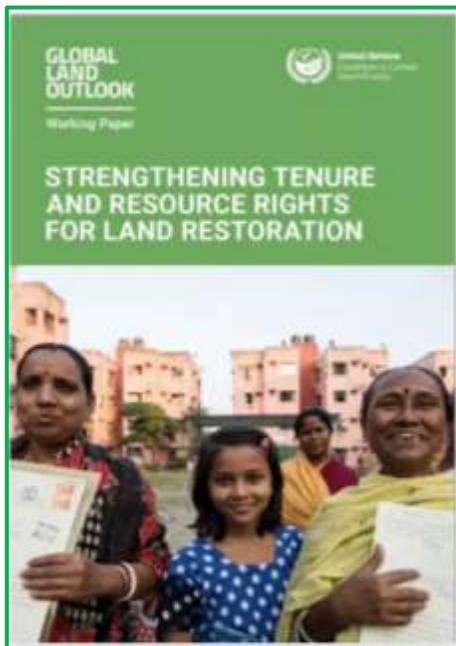
Globally

- Land degradation impacts the health and well-being of 3.2 billion people directly or indirectly (UNCCD, 2020).
- It lies at the core of countries' commitments to achieving “land degradation neutrality.”
- Land restoration focuses on avoiding, reducing, and reversing the trends in land degradation. Successful restoration depends on a range of enabling factors, including financial and human resources.
- Secure land and resource tenure are critical enabling factors in restoration.

In Africa

- Land degradation (both by human and natural causes) is prevalent in Africa and creates land tenure security.
- The proportion of Africa's land that is degraded is huge (millions of hectares).
- Desertification affects around 45% of Africa's land area, with 55 % of this area at high or very high risk of further degradation (ELD Initiative & UNEP, 2015).

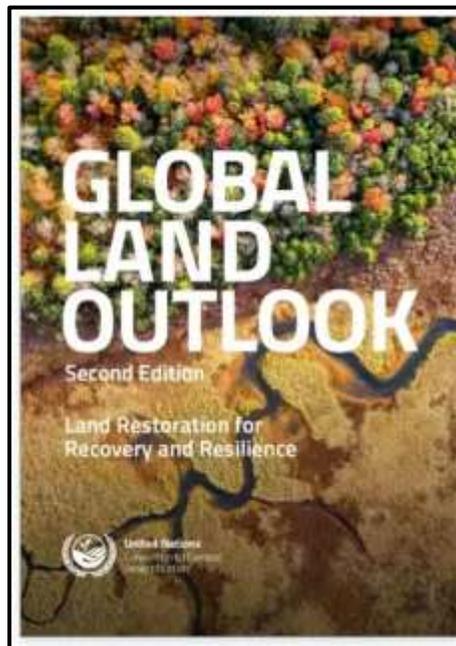
What has been done: Policy-science interface contributions



Publication date: 24 March 2022
Resource type: Global Land Outlook

This working paper describes the interconnections (the “nexus”) between land tenure and land restoration, and how secure tenure is needed to avoid, reduce or reverse land degradation. It draws on case studies in 12 countries, as well as the wider literature, to show the importance of tenure rights in restoration work. At the core of the suggested approach to restoration are concerns about how to better link tenure, land and ecosystem restoration, and land-governance approaches.

Chigbu, U.E., Mabakeng, M.R. and Chilombo, A. (2021). Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights for Land Restoration. UNCCD Global Land Outlook Working Paper. UNCCD: Bonn.
<https://www.unccd.int/resources/global-land-outlook/strengthening-tenure-and-resource-rights-land-restoration>



Publication date: 27 April 2022
Resource type: Global Land Outlook

The second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO2), Land Restoration for Recovery and Resilience, sets out the rationale, enabling factors, and diverse pathways by which countries and communities can reduce and reverse land degradation by designing and implementing their bespoke land restoration agenda. Land restoration for recovery and resilience is about creating livelihood and development opportunities for people simply by changing the way we use and manage our land resources.

Topics: Sustainable land management & restoration

UNCCD. (2022). Global Land Outlook (Second edition): Land Restoration for Recovery and Resilience. UNCCD: Bonn. **See Figure 6 on page 16 -** <https://www.unccd.int/resources/global-land-outlook/global-land-outlook-2nd-edition>

What has been done: Peer-reviewed scientific publication



Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability

Supports open access

11.9
CiteScore

7.964
Impact Factor

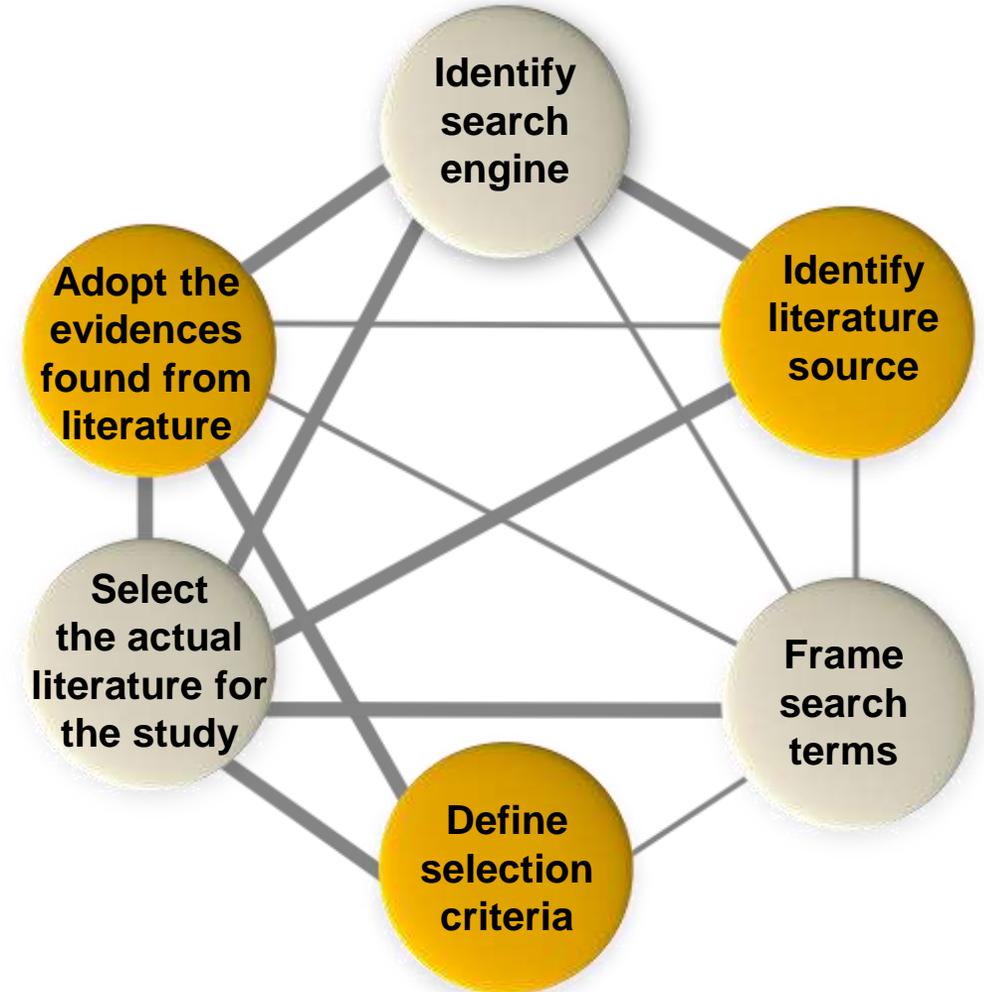
Chigbu, Uchendu E., Andrew Chilombo, Cheonjae Lee, Menare R. Mabakeng, Laina Alexander, Ntwala V. Simataa, Mario Siukuta, and Penehafo Ricardo. "Tenure-restoration nexus: a pertinent area of concern for land degradation neutrality." *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 57 (2022): 101200. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2022.101200>

Specific background: the policy dimension with focus on customary Africa

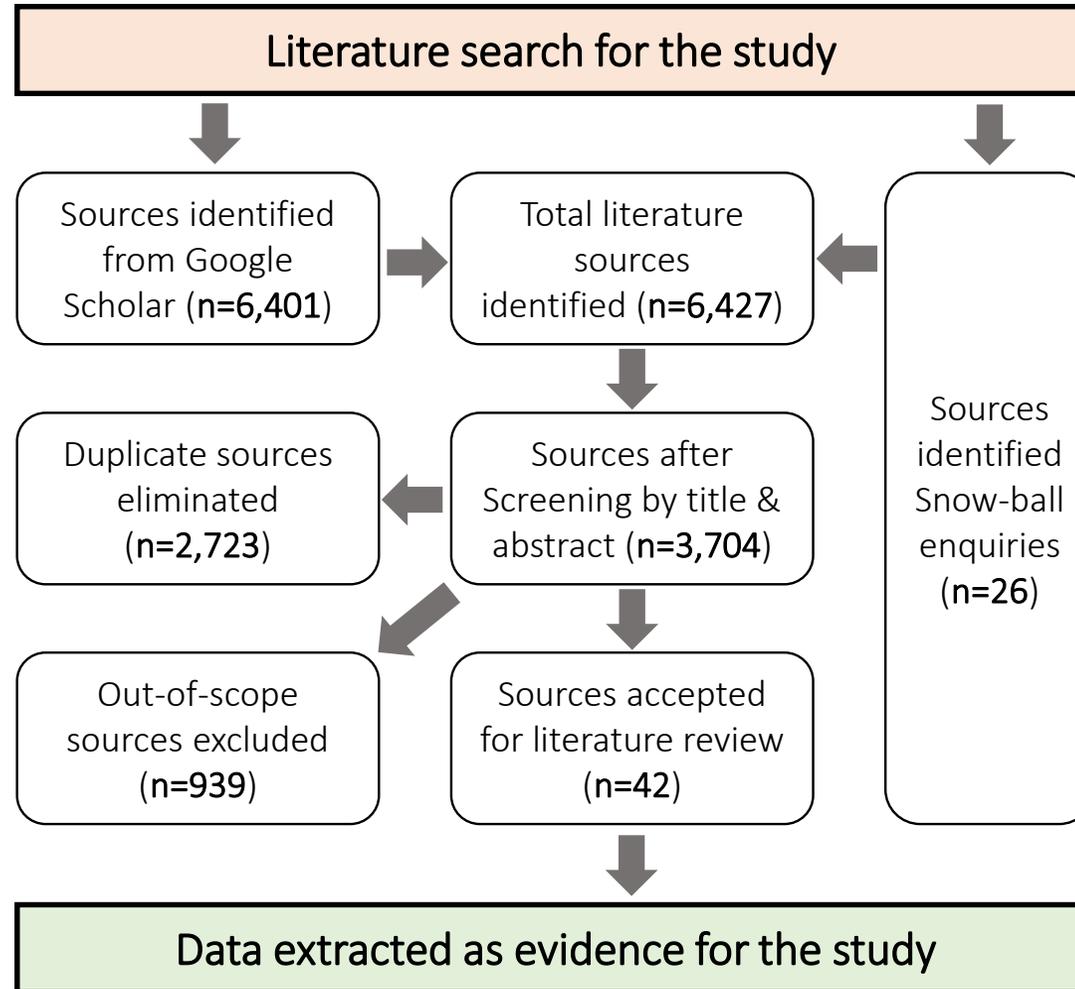
- This paper answers the following questions:
 - What do we know about tenure's enabling and disabling influence on land restoration?
 - What are the customary enablers, and disablers of tenure in land restoration in Africa?
- The findings highlight enabling and disabling tenure-restoration nexus scenarios within Africa in general, and with a focus on Cameroon, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Kenya, Guinea, Tanzania, Ethiopia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, Malawi and Ghana.
- The more significant outcome of the study is a generic approach used by countries in creating local actions that support land restoration based on the restorative experiences from across Africa.

Methodology: Literature review

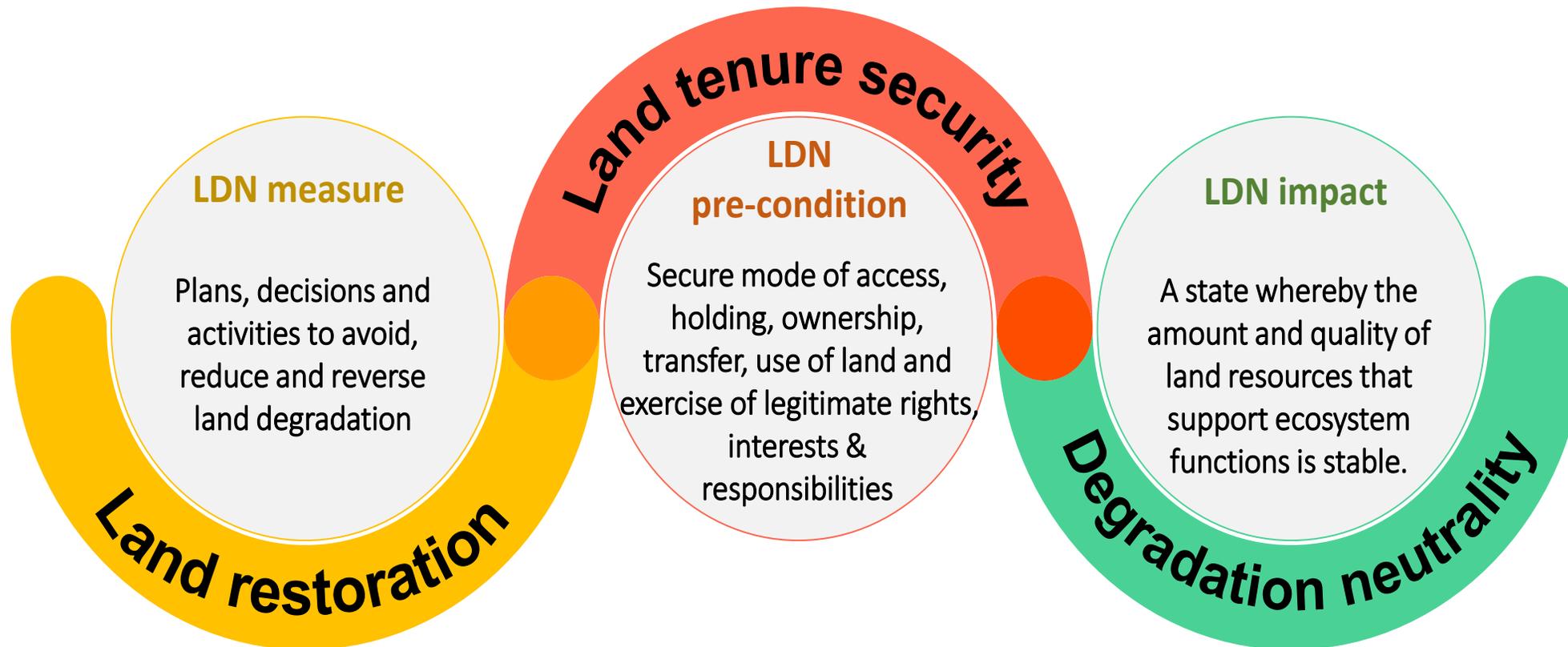
- Literature review approach based on narrative review (Dachaga and de Vries, 2021)
- The six-stage literature review and research process for this study
 - Search engine identification
 - Identifying literature sources
 - Framing the search terms,
 - Definition of selection criteria
 - Actual selection of literature sources
 - Adopting evidence from the selected literature sources.



Methodology: Flowchart of literature search process



Land tenure as a linkage concept between land restoration and LDN



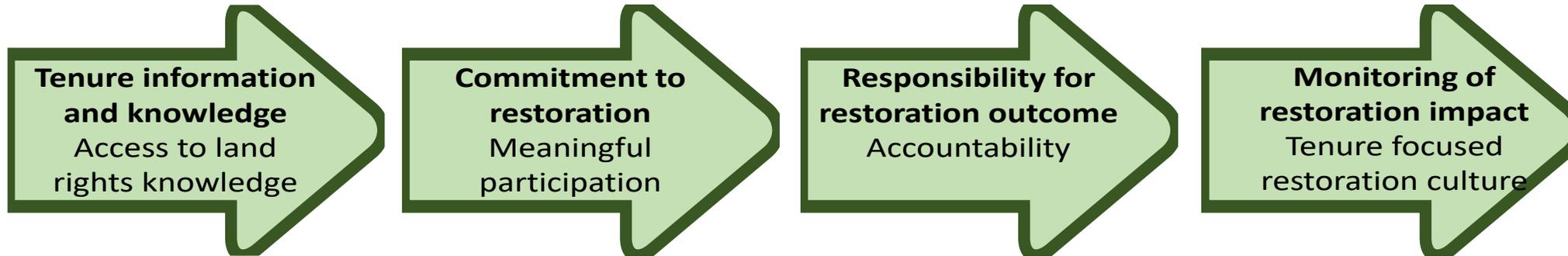
Customary enablers of tenure in land restoration in Africa

- The application of customarily based governance of artisanal and small-scale mining in Guinea is a key social and environmental practice leading to restorative outcomes (Huntington and Marple-Cantrell, 2021).
- Creation of water-use rules and regulations have been found to help with water restoration in Kenya and Nigeria (Kuruk, 2004; Chigbu et al., 2018). This allows for clearly defined regulations (including village bylaws) and traditional practice of periodical (e.g., only morning and evening) water use practices. This is common in southeastern Nigerian villages.
- A restoration plan (in the Central African Republic) led to identifying tenure rights and the implications of the plan on people's land rights and livelihood options to enable herders to make informed decisions to avoid overgrazing and forest/grassland fires and to reduce their impacts (IUCN et al., 2020).
- Enclosures has been reported to be used in the Somali Region Pastoral Areas of Ethiopia (Napier and Desta, 2011). In this custom, the pastoralists' traditional enclosures, considered protected grazing for calves, are strategies for forest regeneration.
- Local farmers in the Sahel have been known to conserve carbon in soils using zero tilling practices in cultivation, mulching and other soil management techniques (Osunade 1994).

Customary disablers of tenure in land restoration in Africa

- In DRC, the lack of permission for the Pygmy groups to own land and exercise their land rights stifled them from gaining access to land and protecting their indigenous land from arbitrary use and degradation (IUCN et al., 2020).
- All over Africa, weak conflict-resolution mechanisms enable large-scale land acquisitions, which cause tenure insecurity, and result in the lack of the responsibility to avoid degradation caused by large-scale land investors (Roux, 2001; Cotula et al., 2009; Robinson and Raven, 2020).
- All over Africa, the abandonment of customary conservation practices, such as the observation of “evil forest” and “fallow” agriculture has resulted in increasing deforestation and forest degradation (Orr et al., 2017). It has also reduced actions geared towards reducing degradation and reversing past degradation.
- In Cameroon, Nigeria, and Kenya, overlapping legal frameworks and legal pluralism create difficulties in following the customary system of tenure (IUCN et al., 2020). This usually leads to inappropriate use of land, which exacerbates existing land degradation scenarios (UN-Habitat et al., 2012).
- In Malawi, communities (at households’ level) with tenure insecurity caused by informal short-term tenancy contracts and customary gender-biased inheritance practices are less likely to invest in soil conservation measures (Lovo, 2006).

Tenure-restoration nexus measures necessary for making local impacts



- Adequate information concerning the best possible ways to access land and natural resources without creating insecurity of tenure in the use of land for restoration.
- Stronger commitments to restoration through purposeful participation and the engagement of stakeholders in the restorative activities.
- Collective responsibility for restoration outcomes and the willingness to be iterative in the restoration process to ensure flexibility in decision making as they relate to tenure (e.g., the arrangement or re-arrangement of tenure to achieve LDN).
- Monitoring impacts to ensure that a tenure focused restoration culture is maintained going forward.

Taking the discourse forward

INVITATION TO UPCOMING EVENTS

- FIG SPECIAL SESSION: Perspectives on urban-rural land governance for a spatially inclusive future - needs and actions for China(Re)structuring institutions and governance (15 September 8-10 am CET)
- CONFERENCE: Land governance and Societal Development Conference (Hybrid 8-11 November 2022)
- All events are facilitated by the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Hanns-Seidel Foundation, Shandong (China)
- Other partners: the GLTN and China Land Surveying and Planning Institute



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