



NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

# newsletter

LAND TENURE

## Corruption in the Land Sector FAO – Transparency International Working Paper

FAO'S LAND TENURE GROUP has teamed up with the Berlin-based Transparency International to examine levels of corruption in the land sector, particularly in geographic areas where land governance is weak.



Principal Officer Paul Munro-Faure of FAO's Climate Change, Energy and Tenure Division believes that strong governance on land issues is key to ensuring the access rights that can alleviate hunger and rural poverty, particularly in light of a rapidly growing population and competing pressures on natural resources. "If we can't improve the quality of governance, then we have a very serious long-term, and, in some cases, short-term problem on our hands. A particular feature of this is in relation to how poor governance translates into corruption, for example. The work that we've done with Transparency International is trying to measure levels of corruption in relation to natural resources and it's clearly one of the areas where there are greater opportunities for corruption than in many other areas. So it's in the top three of the main public sector areas – just after the police and the judiciary – where corruption exists."

As reported in the paper, a 2009 study conducted by Transparency International in sixty-nine countries shows that one out of ten people who contacted a land authority reported paying a bribe. The study illustrates that lower income groups are most adversely affected by this type of corruption and that four out of five people in low-income countries consider corruption in land

management to be a serious problem in their countries.

According to Rueben Lifuka, president of Transparency International Zambia and a Transparency International Board Member, there is a more positive atmosphere and an emphasis on strong governance currently in place "ensuring that land resources benefit everyone and not only the powerful. However, when these qualities are absent, corruption risks rise and they threaten to turn land into a tool of alienation of the ordinary people. As a result of corruption, people lose the cultural and economic benefits of their own land resources."

Reversing weak governance in the land sector is a long-term commitment, but the timing seems good for addressing these difficult issues in the international arena. FAO and its partners are currently reviewing the draft Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security through the Committee on Food Security.



To learn more:

[Corruption in the Land Sector. FAO – Transparency International Working Paper](#)  
[Voluntary Guidelines web site](#)  
[Land tenure web site](#)  
[Transparency International web site](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

### The Natural Resources and Environment Newsletter



WELCOME TO THIS ISSUE of the Natural Resources and Environment Newsletter.

In this last issue of the newsletter for 2011, we introduce a new study on corruption in the land sector. The study was carried out by FAO and the Berlin-based Transparency International and it illustrates that the land sector is one of the main public sector areas where corruption exists.

In climate change news, the world's attention is focused on Durban, South Africa where the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – including FAO - are meeting this month.

And finally, we take a look at a new publication that examines the need to better link climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programmes to genetic resources objectives.

To learn more:

Natural Resources Management and Environment Department  
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[www.fao.org/nr](http://www.fao.org/nr)

CLIMATE CHANGE

# COP 17 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

28 November – 9 December 2011, Durban, South Africa

THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE - an environmental treaty produced at the 1992 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro - was created in 1995. The parties to the convention have met annually since that date to assess progress in dealing with climate change.

This year's Conference of the Parties (COP) meets 28 November – 9 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

FAO will be active at upcoming events in Durban, where it will be hosting a Climate Smart Knowledge Day: Managing Ecosystems for Sustainable Livelihoods event on 29 November. The event will provide participants with the opportunity to hear from policy-makers about the implications of climate-smart agriculture, ensuring that linkages between climate change and food security issues are fully taken into account during the negotiation process.

Climate-smart approaches place greater emphasis on a better management of natural resources – including land, water, soil and biodiversity. Climate-smart agriculture is a pathway towards development and food security built on three pillars: increasing productivity and incomes, enhancing resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems and reducing and removing



greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere. Climate-smart agriculture promotes practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, improved livestock and water management and integrated pest management.

Three sessions at the Durban event will provide an overview on implementing climate-smart agriculture, presenting knowledge for forestry, agriculture and fisheries and managing ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and a green economy.

All FAO submissions to the upcoming COP 17 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are available online at the link below. FAO's Climate, Energy and Tenure Division will also be posting about the process from Durban. Log on daily to read coverage about the event or follow comments on food security and climate change via twitter @FAOCLIMATE.

To learn more:

- [COP17 web site](#)
- [FAO@ COP17](#)
- [Climate smart agriculture](#)
- [Key submissions to UNFCCC by FAO and partners](#)
- [FAO Climate change blog](#)
- [FAO Climate change Twitter Account](#)



GENETIC RESOURCES



## Coping with climate change. The importance of genetic resources for food security

TO PROVIDE FOOD AND NUTRITION security when confronted with the challenges of climate change we will have to confront new problems, often unpredictable, and without precedent. The safeguarding and sustainable use of the genetic resources of plants, animals, forests, invertebrates and microorganisms are key to maintaining our ability to achieve food security through proper agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture practices.

It is essential to link climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programmes to genetic resources objectives while simultaneously considering the need for food and nutrition security. Access to and development and use of a wide portfolio of genetic resources will serve as the essential insurance policy that enables responses to future changes in production conditions. In this way, genetic resources for food and agriculture will serve as the security net for our food.

To learn more:  
[Coping with climate change](#)