

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) is organised biennially by the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The goal is to deepen capacity for land policy in Africa through improved access to knowledge and information on land policymaking and implementation. In particular, the CLPA is a platform for presenting research findings and focusing the attention of a comprehensive range of stakeholders on the issues and status of land policy development, implementation and monitoring in Africa. The CLPA also provides a unique opportunity to showcase emerging and promising practices and facilitate networking. Conference participants include researchers, academicians, governments (including parliamentarians and judicial officers), women and youth organisations, traditional authorities, farmers, civil society, private sector, land practitioners and development partners.

The CLPA was first held in 2014, focusing on land, investment and agriculture. A second edition of CLPA was held in November 2017 under a theme targeting youth, land and employment. A third edition was held in 2019 and focused on winning the fight against corruption in the land sector. As a result of COVID-19, the fourth CLPA which took place on November 2-4, 2021, was hybrid with the physical component held in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme of “*Land governance for safeguarding art, culture and heritage towards the Africa We Want*”. On November 21 to 24, 2023, the fifth edition of the conference was held under the theme of “*Promoting Sustainable Land Governance in Africa for Accelerated implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA*” which was the AU Theme of the Year.

The 2025 Conference Theme

From November 10 to 14, 2025, the tripartite consortium consisting of the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa will be holding the Sixth Conference on Land Policy in Africa in the context of the AU theme for 2025 which is “*Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.*” The theme provides an opportunity for African citizenry and the African diaspora to build a common position in the pursuit of justice and reparations for historical crimes and mass atrocities committed against Africans and people of African Descent, including through slavery, colonization, apartheid, genocide and neocolonial practices.

African land, African natural resources and the African people have for centuries been targeted by other nations for the provision of raw materials and labour. During the transatlantic slave trade, African men and women were kidnapped and sold off to work without pay and under inhuman and extremely harsh conditions in plantations, constructions and industries in the United States, the Caribbean Islands and Britain. They created wealth to slave owners and the countries in which they were enslaved, working under inhuman and intolerable situations.

Enslaved Africans were denied the right to own property and did not benefit from the land on which they worked. The policy of racial exclusion and discrimination from owning and accessing land through post-slavery systems such as share cropping and segregationist land laws have contributed to sharp social and economic inequalities and poverty among people of African descent.

The violations experienced by Africans and the People of African Descent during slavery were replicated during the colonial period, and continue through extractive and unjust neo-colonial practices. During the colonial period fertile and productive land was alienated, natural resources were pillaged and African heritage resources were looted. African cultures were demonized and decimated because they were viewed as a challenge to Western worldviews. Cash crops to cater for European interests were introduced and values that undermine indigenous knowledge systems and threaten food security entrenched.

It is important to address land tenure and equity challenges in Africa by critically examining the colonial and contemporary trends to come up with viable and sustainable solutions. This is especially the case due to the statutory frameworks which often mirror colonial-era policies and create barriers to equitable land access. Equally important is the need to discuss climate justice in the context of the ecological impacts of the climate emergency. Other issues worth exploration within the prism of Africa's oppressive encounter with other nations include agri-food systems, urbanization, settlements, trade and economic injustice. By reflecting on these issues and identifying opportunities provided by land reforms, education and human capital, technological advances including Artificial Intelligence (AI), indigenous knowledge systems, creativity, innovation and intra-Africa trade it is possible to propose land governance solutions for Africa and the diaspora that are just, fair and inclusive.

In line with the 2025 AU Theme of the Year, the 2025 Conference on Land Policy in Africa is as follows: ***Land Governance, Justice and Reparations for Africans and Descendants of People of the African Diaspora.***

In view of the above-mentioned focus, experts interested to participate in the Conference are invited to respond to this Call for Abstracts for papers, master classes, side events and other forms of in person and online participation in the Conference. Abstracts for papers and other forms of participation in the Conference can be submitted as follows:

1. Abstracts for the conference on ***Land governance, justice and reparations for Africans and descendants of people of the African diaspora***
2. Abstracts for papers, master classes, side events and other forms of in person and online participation in the Conference, to be submitted under the following event categories and sub-themes:

Event category for Scientific Submissions:

- i. Conference paper (in-person or online)
- ii. Pre-event
- iii. Physical/Online (Master class, among others)
- iv. Side event
- v. Poster
- vi. Booth/Exhibition

Core sub-themes: Core themes:

1. Emerging best practices in developing responsive land policies
2. Effective and transparent land governance and administration institutions
3. Data monitoring and evaluation of land governance

Conference Subthemes:

- Land tenure and equity
- Climate justice, resilience and ecological systems
- Colonialism, land and agri-food systems
- Land, urbanization, settlements and conflicts
- Land governance, displacements and international law
- Land, trade, colonialism and economic injustice

Abstracts should incorporate any of the following considerations:

- i. Gender and youth
- ii. Climate impact
- iii. Land laws and policies
- iv. Land investments
- v. Reparations
- vi. Agriculture

Abstracts should be between 700 - 1000 words, written in English or French, and submitted online in Microsoft Word format before **10th June 2025**. Abstracts that are more than 1000 words will not be considered for review. Submit your abstract through this link <https://www.conftool.com/clpa2025> and choose the submission type out of the available options.

Further information

Why should you consider submitting an abstract?

The Conference on Land Policy in Africa is the premier land policy event in Africa. The platform provides presenters with an opportunity to:

- i. Share and showcase research findings linking land policy and governance, slavery, colonialism, inequalities, neo-colonial practices, climate crisis, and practices for Pan-African integration with experts, innovators and practitioners in Africa and beyond;
- ii. Deepen knowledge and capacity development on key aspects and inclusive governance dimensions of land policy development and implementation that contribute to justice, equality and fairness;
- iii. Develop or deepen land related networks at personal and institutional levels;
- iv. Contribute to solidarity for improved land governance in Africa.

How abstracts will be selected

The organizers envisage a high level of interest in the Conference, and that more abstracts will be received than can be accommodated in the Conference program. The selection of abstracts for papers, posters and side events for consideration will therefore be conducted by a Scientific Committee appointed by the African Land Policy Centre. The Committee consists of highly respected land policy and African heritage experts in the various sub-thematic areas of the Conference.

Selection of abstracts will be in accordance with the following process:

- i. Initial Selection
- ii. The Scientific Committee will shortlist and select abstracts based on the following criteria:
 - ✓ Quality and clarity of content and presentation;
 - ✓ Originality, evidence-based and innovation;
 - ✓ Compliance with and relevance to identified Conference thematic areas;
 - ✓ Significance of the research findings for land policy formulation, implementation and monitoring, as well as justice and reparations;
 - ✓ Preference will be to African and African-based authors/presenters, and organizations; and
 - ✓ Geographic coverage.

Acceptance of selected abstracts and invitations for submission of papers will be communicated **10th July 2025**. Full papers must be submitted for inclusion of the conference programme by **30 August 2025**. All correspondences will be conducted by e-mail.

Final selection

Based on the extended submissions, final selections will be made by the Scientific Committee. However, the Scientific Committee cannot guarantee that the presentation type of choice will

be granted to authors/presenters. The decision of the Scientific Committee is final, and no correspondence will be entered.

For more information on the Conference on Land Policy 2025 please visit:
<https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/CLPA2025>

For quires, please feel free to reach out to us through: africalandconference@un.org

General Information

- i. Authors who submit abstracts are not automatically registered for the Conference on Land Policy 2025. In order to participate and present, authors must register for the Conference **on or before 10th October 2025**. Registration is made through the link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1017783/> (the link will be ready within a few days).
- ii. There is no fee for submission of abstracts.
- iii. All submitting authors/presenters will be required to confirm the following:
 - Agreement to the organizers' Terms and Conditions
 - Intent to present the product at the November 2025 Conference on Land Policy in person or online by the author or a listed co-author
- iv. Authors/presenters wishing to withdraw their abstracts are requested to do by **30 August 2025**.

Publication of Papers/ Performances/Presentations:

The Scientific Committee will select some papers from those presented at the Conference for publication in the *African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences* as may be arranged by the organizers of the Conference. The Scientific Committee will provide authors of selected papers with editorial recommendations and formatting to refine and standardize for publication purposes.

