

# Land Administration for Climate Change in Practice: Developing a Research Agenda

Fairlie Kate (Australia) and Francesca Marzatico (New Zealand)

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## SUMMARY

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has reached nearly-universal ratification with 198 countries participating in its supreme governing body the Conference of The Parties (COP). Nevertheless, climate and disaster records continue to be broken as world leaders meet annually at the United Nations climate summits to publicly renew their commitment to take action in order to counteract the adverse effects of climate change. The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Special Report on Climate Change and Land of 2019, while discussing the unique function of land as a “source and sink of CO<sub>2</sub>” (IPCC, 2019, A.3.1), stresses that climate change exacerbates the land degradation process and that intensifies the coastal erosion and impinges “on more regions with sea-level rise adding to land use pressure in some regions” (IPCC, 2019, A.2.8) The centrality of land in the actions aimed at counteracting the adverse effect of climate change is also highlighted in the 2021's COP26 that saw recognition of the stewardship role that indigenous peoples play with regards to land. Land is also featured in the COP26, t the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, with 145 countries committing to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation; Within the land and surveying domain, the contribution of good land governance and land administration to sustainable development is well recognised (Williamson, Enemark, Bennett, McLaren), and strong linkages have been made between tenure insecurity and climate vulnerability (and vice versa) (Quan and Dyer, 2008; Mitchell et al. 2019 ).

This paper is written in two parts. Firstly, it contends that there is a broader role of land administration to be recognised in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and seeks to provide an initial mapping of the contributions that can be made as a first step towards developing a research agenda that can support the identification of a pathway for localised solutions on land administration and climate change. Secondly, it discusses how investments in land administration

can contribute to climate change mitigation efforts in practice by drawing lessons learned from four of the current projects from Land Equity International to discuss the impact of land administration projects towards national climate change commitments.

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