

: Programme

As at: 21/03/2022

Brandenburg Online Dialogue “Learning with Africa”

Competition for Land: Strategies for conflict-sensitive climate action

Via Zoom

24 March 2022, 17.00 – 18.30 hrs (CET)

Conference languages German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

With funding from the State of Brandenburg



#BB0D22

Background

In many countries and regions, land is a scarce resource and therefore in great demand. This applies to Brandenburg and to many regions in Mozambique. With the surge in demand for renewable energies to reach global climate targets, a further player has increasingly entered the frame in recent years. Land is being sought as a matter of urgency, often by major international investors, e.g. for the construction of wind turbines, large-scale solar farms or the production of biofuels or the extraction of natural gas. This can create competition with other forms of land use, including agriculture and landscape, nature and biodiversity conservation.

What can be done to find lasting and peaceful solutions to land conflicts and, at the same, reconcile climate action and sustainable development in all its dimensions? Which strategies have already proved their worth in achieving a fair balance between divergent interests? What is the role of regional, municipal, state and civil society actors in this context? And what kind of framework should be set by legislators?

We look forward to discussing these topics with experts from Brandenburg and Mozambique at the second Brandenburg Online Dialogue “Learning with Africa”.

The **Brandenburg Online Dialogue “Learning with Africa”** is open to anyone interested in engaging in conversation with African and European experts. The emphasis is on learning through partnership, drawing on regional and local experience from Brandenburg and selected African regions in thematic areas of common interest. The series forms a separate strand of the longstanding Potsdam Spring Dialogues.

The **Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)** is a cross-party, non-profit organisation, funded by the German federal states of Berlin, Brandenburg, North Rhine-Westphalia and Saxony. sef: provides an independent international forum for creative thinking on urgent peace and development issues. It brings together present and future policy-makers, their advisors and academic experts, civil society and the business community in dialogue. The sef: attaches special importance to integrating perspectives from different world regions into the political debate.

Programme

- 16.55 hrs** **Virtual “check-in”**
- 17.00 hrs** **Welcome**
Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp
Head of the Department for European Affairs, Ministry of Finance and for Europe of the State of Brandenburg, Potsdam
- 17.05 hrs** **Musical prelude**
Protestant School Neuruppin
- 17.10 hrs** **Competition for land:
lessons learned from Brandenburg and Mozambique**
Marisa Balas
Consultant and researcher on gender inequality in land access, Maputo
Willi Lehnert
Head, Alliance of Young Farmers
(Bündnis Junge Landwirtschaft e.V.), Brandenburg
- 17.30 hrs** **Strategies for conflict-sensitive land governance in line
with holistic sustainable development**
Marisa Balas
Willi Lehnert
Dr Fritz Reuswig
Senior Scientist, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- 18.00 hrs** **Open debate with the audience**
- 18.25 hrs** **Fairwell**
Dr Michèle Roth
Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
- Chair**
Dr Tanja Busse
Journalist and Moderator, Hamburg

Speakers' Bios



Marisa Balas

Marisa Balas has more than 25 years of professional experience in managing digital transformation projects, coordinating with governments, multilateral/bilateral institutions, private sector and educational institutions. She holds a Master of Science in ICT Management from TU Delft (Netherlands); a Diploma in management from Henley Business School (UK); PMP certificate from PMI (USA) and an EFQM Assessor Certificate from EFQM (Belgium).

For the past decade she has been involved in Land Administration and Land Management reforms, including the redesign of Land Administration Processes as one of the tasks of the team that designed and managed the implementation of the Land Information System for Mozambique (SiGIT). She has participated in several Land Tenure Regularization and Community Delimitation initiatives and led the implementation of a pilot to test a Fit For Purpose Land Administration approach in which the focus was a more participatory engagement from the community. More recently she has started her PhD research aiming at improving gender equality in land access and land tenure by designing a gender sensitive framework for land administration.



Willi Lehnert

Willi Lehnert is the executive director of Bündnis Junge Landwirtschaft e.V. (Young Agriculture Alliance). He has been working for 10 years in the areas of land policy, activities of non-agricultural investors, access to land for farms and assisting start-ups on their way to regional agriculture in Brandenburg. He is currently setting up the Brandenburg land platform, a portal where land owners offer their land to farmers and sustainable business, thus providing concrete support to start-ups, young farmers and local business.



Dr habil Fritz Reusswig

Dr Fritz Reusswig is senior researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and lecturer in environmental sociology at the Humboldt University in Berlin. He studied sociology and philosophy at the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main. In 2008, he completed his habilitation thesis "Consuming Nature" on modern lifestyles and their environmental consequences at the University of Potsdam. Since then, he has been involved in numerous research projects on climate protection and climate adaptation at municipal and state level. He is a member of the Climate Council of his home city Potsdam.