



الجامعة اللبنانية
Lebanese University



كلية الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية
Fac. of Letters & Human Sciences

**TOWARDS A POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN LAND
GOVERNANCE
SERVING THE NEEDS OF LEBANON AND OTHER MIDDLE
EASTERN COUNTRIES**

A webinar hosted by the Lebanese University, Faculty of Letters and Human
Sciences

15th and 17th June 2020, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Lebanon time

WEBINAR REPORT and PROGRAMME

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Background

The way land is accessed, used and controlled has an important impact on social, economic and environmental dimensions of a society, touching upon all key elements of sustainable social and economic development, peace and stability, and realisation of human rights. This makes land a cornerstone for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Arab region is undergoing a decade of profound change and challenges. Noticeable progress in some countries and sectors is clouded by spiralling into social unrest and violent conflict in others. Arab countries cannot be treated as a monolith, as individual countries have distinctive needs, priorities, problems and economic, political and social contexts that must be recognised when developing strategies and plans. However, while there are apparent national differences, regional commonalities and trends can be observed. These are the need to strengthen land-related institutions; reduce social exclusion, inequalities and gender gaps; and improve the responses to climate change, displacement, migration and violent extremism, which undermine the overall stability and development of Arab societies.

The Arab Land Initiative was established in 2016 to address some of the key land governance challenges faced by Arab states by increasing the coordination, collaboration, knowledge and information sharing among organisations and institutions active in the region. One of the main achievements of the initiative has been the organisation of the first Arab Land Conference, hosted in the Emirate of Dubai, UAE, in 2018 (see <https://arabstates.gltn.net/>). During the event, the Dubai Declaration on Land Governance in the Arab States was adopted, paving the road for future collaborative action on land governance and land administration in the region. The second Arab Land Conference is currently in the planning stage.

Under the umbrella of the Arab Land Initiative, the Arab Region Programme on Good Land Governance in Support of Inclusive Development, Peace and Stability is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and managed by GLTN. It has already been implemented and focuses on four priorities: promoting collaboration and coordination, developing and sharing knowledge, developing capacities of individuals and organisations, and supporting the implementation of existing land-related programmes and interventions in selected countries through the use of fit-for-purpose land tools and approaches.

In a call for proposals, GLTN and UN-Habitat identified nine different implementing partners based in the Arab region who are each currently implementing one of the areas of work: (1) land and conflict; (2) monitoring land governance and land tenure security; (3) land, female empowerment and socio-economic development; (4) capacity and knowledge development; (5) fit-for-purpose land administration; (6) land, natural resources and climate change; (7) land professionals; (8) baseline study on land-related legal frameworks; and (9) the role of the civil society in land governance. These studies will contribute significantly to filling the gap in knowledge and data related to land in the Arab region and improving the quality of learning material.

An inadequate level of professional education and research currently exists in Arab countries in the important field of land governance and related land matters. GLTN is currently conducting a comprehensive study on capacity and knowledge development in land governance in the Arab region, complementing the study already conducted by the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa, North Africa (NELGA NA), for North African countries. Both the final and preliminary results of these two studies will be taken into consideration in the design of the planned postgraduate educational programme at LU. The aim of the study is to develop programmes that meet the needs of the governments, professionals, civil society, local communities, etc. in the capacity-building required for any sustainable development strategy. In addition, capacity development is also needed to create and

foster a network of land experts and land professionals who can produce empirical evidence and transform this knowledge into concrete action as well as inform policy dialogue.

As one of NELGA's North Africa pillars, a master's programme on geospatial sciences and land governance hosted by the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV Hassan II) in Rabat, Morocco, was developed and has been operational since 2018. Notably, such a master's programme at LU for Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries should take the experiences of the newly established educational programme at IAV Hassan II, Morocco (NELGA North Africa), into consideration and establish an operational partnership.

1. Purpose

To bring together academics at LU, international and local experts from the Arab region, and members of the Arab Land Initiative to present their insights, views and experiences as a contribution towards a future postgraduate programme in land governance.

Objectives

Participants will:

Learn about key and up-to-date land governance concepts, approaches and innovations;

Establish a preliminary digital library on matters related to land governance, consisting of workshop presentations, references, e-documents and websites; and

Create a support network of resource people who will support LU in the curricula development and implementation ahead.

Expected Outcomes

Improved understanding of the content of each area of land governance work and of methodologies and approaches relevant to Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries.

Strengthened academic capacities at LU related to land governance.

A network of experts and practitioners who will provide input and support the implementation of the master's programme at LU.

Opening Remarks

Prof Ahmad Rabah, dean of the LU Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences FLHS, welcomed representatives of GIZ, GLTN, UN-HABITAT, World Bank, the General Director of the Lebanese Land Registry and all the participants and presenters of this webinar. He stated, “We are ready to take your recommendations and opinions for the implementation of a new master’s degree in Geomatics and Land Governance, our university is very interested in launching this programme due to its academic importance. We are looking forward to collaborating with you in the future in more conferences and events.”

Prof Jean Doumit, FLHS and coordinator, welcomed all participants and presenters and underlined that LU would have liked to welcome all to a conference in Lebanon but unfortunately, due to the coronavirus epidemic, welcomed you on the virtual MS Teams platform of the Lebanese University. He expressed his gratitude to the dean of the FLHS, Professor Ahmed Rabah, for his full support of our project, “Implementing a Master’s Programme in Geomatics and Land Governance in the Lebanese University”. Prof Doumit gave an overview of the short history of the initiative and the idea of this programme that started at the GLTN conference in Beirut in February 2019. He stated that from the experiences and support of all partners and presenters at LU, the objective of the webinar towards a Master in Geomatics and Land Governance programme will be achieved.

He recalled a workshop at the Lebanese University in October 2019 with the participation and support of Mr Willi Zimmermann (on behalf of GIZ) and Dr Moha Al-Ayashi from NELGA North Africa, Morocco, to lay the foundations for interaction and to define for the Lebanese University academia the values and needs for a land governance programme in Lebanon and the Middle East as a whole. As a follow-up, an interdisciplinary task force committee was nominated that included specialists from several fields and faculties related to land governance, such as law, economics, and urban planning.

He outlined that the largest faculty at the Lebanese University, the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, has always sought to develop its academic curricula in accordance with rapid technological development, and it also tends to open new specialisations and to graduate specialists to meet the needs of society.

Jean Doumit stated that through the experiences and support of its partners, including GIZ, GLTN and UN HABITAT today, the Lebanese University will be one of the first universities to teach and graduate specialists in land governance in the Middle East. He expressed his hope for continuous cooperation to advance our programme.

Dominik Wellmann of GIZ Sector Project Land Governance stated that he was very happy to see this Webinar, “Towards a Postgraduate Programme in Land Governance: Serving the Needs of Lebanon and Other Middle Eastern Countries”, being organised by the Lebanese University despite all the challenges in which we find ourselves in recent months.

As the GIZ Sector Project Land Governance is providing advisory services to the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the GIZ Sector Project is positioning good practices and innovative concepts to improve land governance in national and international policy processes and initiatives and support such initiatives through policy advice, concept development, and knowledge generation and transfer, as well as by mainstreaming and connecting actors in land governance to each other.

BMZ is supporting several GIZ initiatives in the MENA region, among them the projects “Safeguarding Claims of Syrian Refugees and IDPs for Housing, Land and Property (HLP)” and “Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA)”, through which our support for the Network of Excellence on Land Governance (NELGA) is realised. In that light, GIZ is excited that the coordinator of the NELGA North Africa Hub, Prof Moha El-Ayachi, is here today to bring in experiences in developing a master’s programme on land governance and to strengthen the connection between LU and the NELGA network.

GIZ has been supporting the initiative of the Lebanese University towards a postgraduate programme on land governance for some time now and we are very grateful to see this workshop now being realised

in a digital format under such difficult circumstances. We wish us all two rich and engaging days of presentations and discussion and look forward to continuing to support this initiative in the future.

Tala Kammourieh of the UN-Habitat Lebanon Country Programme stated that UN-Habitat is looking forward to the establishment of a postgraduate programme in land governance at the Lebanese University. This programme is one of a kind in Lebanon. It is very needed in UN-Habitat's context, where land issues have been poorly managed for decades due to overlapping institutional mandates and land-related legislation, poor law enforcement and (most importantly) a lack of clear strategic vision at the central government level on how land should be managed.

She noted that issues of land governance, land valuation and land registration have been key impediments to Lebanon's formulation and adoption of a sustainable land management strategy, a housing policy, a proper framework for planning urban growth, and rural development strategies.

Furthermore, UN-Habitat Lebanon have been engaging with issues related to housing, land and property in the context of the Syrian refugee crisis response and under the pretext of developing national urban and housing policies for Lebanon. There are many important synergies to make between UN-Habitat's ongoing work in Lebanon and this postgraduate programme. UN-Habitat will be ready to support in every way it can, including (but not limited to) hosting interns that are completing this master once it's up and running.

2. Overview of the Programme

Jean du Plessis of UN-HABITAT Land, Housing and Shelter Section, moderator of the webinar, introduced the purpose and methodology of the webinar, which would consist of two half-day sessions. He welcomed all participants and provided a thematic overview. Jean explained that the presentations and discussions would be recorded. He indicated that success would depend on close interaction between moderator, technical facilitator (IT), presenter and discussant. The team would strive for smooth functioning of the MS Teams technology, though this depended on many factors, including varying internet capacities in different localities. Jean emphasised the importance of presenters keeping to their allocated time, considering the tight schedule. He encouraged participants to enter comments and questions in the chat sidebar of the platform during the presentations. Discussion after each presentation would be limited to three minutes and would focus on specific sidebar questions identified by the discussant. At the end of each day, the discussant would have time to summarise pertinent issues and lessons from the session. It had also been agreed as a webinar rule that any questions not directly answered during the sessions would subsequently be forwarded to the respective presenter for response.

For more information, see the detailed presentations and discussions annexed to the report.

<p>“TOWARDS A POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN LAND GOVERNANCE SERVING THE NEEDS OF LEBANON AND OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES”</p> <p>15th and 17th June 2020, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Lebanon time (1:00 pm to 3:30pm CET)</p> <p>A webinar hosted by the Lebanese University, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr Jean du Plessis, UN-Habitat</i></p> <p><i>IT Specialist and facilitator: Ms Zizette Chamaa, LU Beirut</i></p> <p><i>Day 1: 15th June 2020, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Lebanon time (1:00 pm to 3:30pm CET)</i></p>
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3. Presentations

Presenters	Topics (draft)
Moderator	Background, purpose, programme
Prof Jean Doumit, MSc programme coordinator, FLSH	Welcome address on behalf of Prof Ahmed Mohamed Rabah, Dean of Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, FLSH
Mr Dominik Wellmann, GIZ Germany	Welcome: BMZ/GIZ land sector programme
Ms Tala Kammourieh, UN-Habitat Lebanon	Welcome: Land-related UN-Habitat programme Lebanon
Moderator	Introduction, process
Dr Wael Zakout, Global Lead for Land and Geospatial, World Bank	Why it is difficult to reform land governance in the Arab countries, and what could be done about it
Discussant (Mr Dominik Wellmann, GIZ) and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Mr Georges Marrawi, DG Land Registry Lebanon	The system of land registration in Lebanon
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Prof Jaap Zevenbergen, University Twente – ITC, Netherlands	Responsible land administration: Geoinformation and more
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Prof Moha El-Ayachi, IAV Hassan II University Rabat, Coordinator NELGA North Africa	NELGA North Africa and MSc Geomatics and Land Governance for Northern African countries
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Prof Jean Doumit, FLSH Geomatics	Geomatics at LU and application case: Multiple criteria for decision-making methods for parcel evaluation based on UAV datasets
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Ms Ombretta Tempra, Coordinator GLTN Programme Arab Region	GLTN Arab Land Programme, land conflicts, GLTN land tools for capacity development
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments

Presenters	Topics (draft)
Dr Raze Diab, Lawyer, legal adviser and consultant on land law	Land legislation in the Middle East and the need for modernisation
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments and concluding remarks by Discussant

Day 2: 17th June 2020, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Lebanon time (1:00 pm to 3:30pm CET)

Presenters	Topics (draft)
Moderator	Recap of Day 1, Programme Day 2
Mr Willi Zimmermann, Advisor to the Arab Land Governance Initiative	Land Governance in the Arab region and the role of capacity development
Discussant (Mr Dominik Wellmann, GIZ) and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Prof Michael Kirk, Philipps University Marburg, Germany	Land economics
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Dr Ing. Uchendu Eugene Chigbu, Technical University Munich	Land-use planning and tenure security
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Dr Jawad Abi Akl, Faculty of Arts and Architecture (Urban Development and Planning)	Territorial governance and its implementation in Lebanon
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Dr Samar Sakr, FLSH	Temperature and precipitation of land distribution in Lebanon: Trends towards change?
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Mr Rafic Khouri Advisor to the Arab Land Governance Initiative	Women's land rights in Arab countries: Why do they matter in education? (<i>draft title, please review!</i>)
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Dr Marguerite Duponchel GIZ HLP project, Beirut	GIZ programme HLP Lebanon/Syria
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments
Ms Laura Cunial, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Regional Office	Short overview of HLP issues on conflict and post-conflict situations and Syria case study
Discussant and Presenter	One question from sidebar comments and concluding remarks by Discussant
Ms Ombretta Tempra, Coordinator GLTN Programme Arab Region	Concluding remarks, international perspectives
Mr Willi Zimmermann, Advisor to the Arab Land Governance Initiative	Concluding remarks, international perspective

Prof Jean Doumit, FLSH Geomatics	Concluding remarks (Lebanese University's perspective) and closure
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The webinar has been an excellent opportunity to bring together academics at LU, international and local experts from the Arab region, and members of the Arab Land Initiative to present their insights, views and experiences as a contribution towards a future postgraduate programme in land governance. Sharing knowledge, experiences and ideas on how to advance the land governance agenda in capacity development and in discussing the skills needed for a Master in Land Governance in Lebanon and the Middle East.

4. Have the Organisers Met the Objectives?

Objective 1: Learn about key and up-to-date land governance concepts, approaches and innovations.

The presentations covered a broad range of topics and themes related to land governance from an international and regional perspective, however without a claim of completeness, taking into consideration the limited time available. Presentations and discussions contributed substantially to better understanding of the content of each area of land governance work and of methodologies and approaches relevant to Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries. There were fewer LU webinar guests than expected, however.

Objective 2: Establish a preliminary digital library on matters related to land governance, consisting of workshop presentations, references, e-documents and websites.

All presenters contributed to building an initial digital library for supporting the land-related academia at LU. This web-based library consists of some 80 up-to-date references and will be accessible to all participants. The library is a very rich source of information and is linked with the land governance knowledge hub, <https://arabstates.glt.n.net/>.

Objective 3: Create a support network of resource people who will support LU in the curriculum development and implementation ahead.

Overwhelming interest was expressed by the presenters and participants in seeing the master come into practice. The idea of creating a support network of resource people who will support LU in the curriculum development and implementation ahead was most welcome.

5. Concluding Remarks

Ombretta Tempra from Global Land Tool Network and UN HABITAT concluded that the way forward is in the hands of the Lebanese University, who have done a good job so far and now need to lead the way forward. UN-Habitat/GLTN will support with content, facilitating visiting professors' arrangements and hosting interns graduating from the master. To analyse the outcomes, participation and interest during the webinar were great, and further integration and participation from organisations from the region will be enhanced in the future.

The followings topics are recommended for consideration in the master: how to foster integration of different aspects/disciplines in the land sector; land and conflict and HLP rights and how to handle HLP/land processes in conflict-affected countries, such as return, restitution, compensation, addressing historical injustices and land tenure security; women's land rights; how to foster change and facilitate change processes in the land sector; land law; valuation; and land economics. The targets for the master need to be professionals who can take on a leading role in the land-related processes in the Arab region.

Willi Zimmermann advisor to the Arab Land Initiative stated that despite unfavourable conditions such as the consequences of the novel coronavirus, the economic crisis in Lebanon and the near shutdown of the Lebanese University for a couple of months, the webinar has resulted in highly professional and engaged knowledge sharing, experiences and innovative ideas on how to advance the land governance agenda in Lebanon and the rest of the Middle East, and the agenda for establishing a master. Willi reflected on the role of universities as centres for learning, innovation and services, as well as their role in linking action research with policy dialogue and local knowledge on the ground. The Arab Land Initiative is an empowering regional network and is generating a new knowledge-sharing culture in Arab countries. Capacity development at all levels is key to moving the Arab land agenda forward, and the planned master at LU will play an important role in this regard by linking the North Africa Land Governance hub NELGA NA with a complementary Middle East Land Governance hub in the near future.

Jean Doumit, FLHS and coordinator of the master, concluded that everyone did well throughout the two-day webinar. He expressed his great pleasure regarding fruitful presentations and discussions and stated that a webinar is not enough for the main topic, "Towards a Postgraduate Programme in Land Governance Serving the needs of

Lebanon and Other Middle Eastern countries”. From the participant presentations and active discussions, it can be concluded that the purpose of the webinar has been completely accomplished. He expressed his gratitude to all participants for positive participation in the webinar and stated that all have learned through this webinar, which will help us in the implementation of a new master’s degree in geomatics and land governance. He also stated that the faculty will take all comments and recommendations into consideration and work hard to reach a good result.

The digital library enriched the results of the webinar with high and varied experiences in the field of land governance. Mr Doumit called for aspiring continuous cooperation with all and to conclude cooperation agreements between your institutions and the Lebanese University. Many conferences will bring us together in the near future to benefit and learn from significant role our experiences.

Mr Doumit stated, “I sincerely hope that the new friendship will last a long time and help to lay the foundation of Land governance in Lebanon and the Middle Eastern countries. Finally, on behalf of the Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, I would like to express my appreciation to all the participants for taking time out of your busy duties to attend the webinar.”

Discussion and General Observations

A webinar, although highly useful and professional, cannot replace face-to-face interaction in future. It must be seen as the best option in times of restricted travel for moving the process forward in developing the master and mobilising awareness and support. The smooth functioning of the MS Teams technology depended on many factors, including varying internet capacities in different localities and close interaction between moderator, technical facilitator (IT), presenter and discussant. Participants were encouraged to enter comments and questions in the chat sidebar of the platform during the presentations. Discussion after each presentation was limited and focused on specific sidebar questions identified by the discussant. At the end of each day, the discussant summarised pertinent issues and lessons from the session. It had been agreed as a webinar rule that any questions not directly answered during the sessions were forwarded to the respective presenter, and responses were monitored and documented.

The coordinator of the master’s programme on land governance and the task force members from partnering LU faculties will now face the challenges of:

- re-confirming and eventually extending the task force.
- drafting a master plan for designing the master’s programme towards implementation, considering the necessary human, organisational, technical and financial enabling infrastructure.
- discussing and eventually considering the separation of two complementary but closely interconnected master’s programmes – (1) MSc. Land Governance and (2) MSc. Geospatial Science (or Geomatics) – for mutual value creation and making optimal use of resources.
- planning workshops for discussing the skills most needed and for drafting learning modules. Reference should be made to the experiences of existing international master’s programmes in land (IAV Rabat, ITC/University of Twente, TU Munich, University of East London).
- mobilising more interest and partnerships in land-related fields within LU, in Lebanon’s professional circles, as well as in the Middle East region as a whole. The generation of knowledge networks and dissemination of land-related research is needed for overcoming the knowledge-poor realities in the Arab region compared to any other region.
- integrating the results of ongoing studies and surveys of the Arab Land Initiative for guaranteeing modern and evidence-based curriculum development.
- establishing and staffing a secretariat with young and engaged graduates of land-related fields as well as ICT management.

The Arab Land Initiative is generating a new knowledge-sharing culture. This will include strengthening land-related research and promoting new, innovative fields of research through awareness-raising and capacity development. An inventory of existing and ongoing land-related research and expertise/researchers at LU and other Lebanese institutions and organisations, as well as in the Middle East as a whole, is urgently needed and should be addressed.

The documentation of the webinar on land governance at the Lebanese University will be hosted by the website of the Arab Land Governance Initiative: <https://arabstates.gltm.net/home/>.

Annex 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND PRESENTERS

Name	Organization	Contact
Dominik Wellmann	GIZ Germany	dominik.wellmann@giz.de
Jean du Plessis	Moderator UNHABITAT	jean.duplessis@un.org
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Jean Doumit	Lebanese University	jeandoumit@ul.edu.lb
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Uchendu Eugene Chigbu	Technical University Munich	ue.chigbu@tum.de
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Moha El-Ayachi	IAV Hassan II University Rabat	m.elayachi@iav.ac.ma

Annex 2: BIOS OF PRESENTERS AND ORGANISORS

	<p>Prof. Ahmed Rabah (Webinar host) Dean of the Faculty of Letters & Human Sciences Lebanese University PhD in History University of Wales- Britain Published a number of academic articles in <i>Manafeth Thaqafieh</i> and <i>Awraq Jami3iya</i> Coordinated the Master's program of History Participated in a number of Arab and international conferences Supervising a number of Masters and PhD students Heading the current Curriculum Development Committee Heading all the committees of academic and administrative planning A member of the Research Proposal Planning Committee ahmed.rabah@ul.edu.lb</p>
	<p>Mr. Dominik Wellmann (GIZ, Discussant) Dominik Wellmann is an adviser at the GIZ “Sector Project Land Governance” where he provides technical advice on land issues to the German Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) and is involved in coordinating national and global networks on land governance. Before joining GIZ headquarters in Germany, Dominik spent 4 years working with the “Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG) Project” in Southeast Asia. MRLG initiated land related multi-stakeholder platforms with partners from government, civil society, academia and the private sector. Dominik holds a master’s degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology</p>
	<p>Mr. Jean du Plessis (Webinar moderator) Jean du Plessis is a land and capacity development expert in the UN-Habitat Land, Housing and Shelter Section. He draws on more than 25 years of experience in the areas of land, housing, human rights, forced evictions and development. He has worked for local, national and international NGOs, as well as the South African Government and the U.N. Jean has country experience in South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Egypt, Palestine, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Haiti, Nepal and Iran. jean.duplessis@un.org</p>
	<p>Mrs. Zizette Chamaa (Webinar IT coordinator) Master degree in Language Sciences & Communication (Informatics), Diploma in Applied Mathematics and Statistics. Lebanese University: Analyst Programmer Former Computer System Engineer -Holcom –Lebanon, worked as a trainer of Unix Operating Systems in the ministry of Defense Iraq. She participated with AFED in Enviromental projects as: reforesting burnt parcels in Lebanon Mountain Chouf 2006, as well as other regions in Baskenta and Kesrwan area in Lebanon. zcandle@ul.edu.lb</p>

	<p>Dr. Wael Zakout Dr. Wael Zakout is the World Bank Senior Technical Advisor and Global Lead for Land and Geospatial. Dr. Zakout joined the World Bank in 1994 and held several positions in East Asia, Europe and Central Asia, and MNA regions of the World Bank and worked extensively on land policy and governance programs in more than 30 countries. Dr. Zakout has a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in civil and environmental engineering focusing on geomatics and land policy.</p>
	<p>Mr. Georges Maarrawi Georges Maarrawi is the Director General of the Lebanese General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre (GDLRC). He started his professional career at the Lebanese Ministry of Finance in 1995 and due to his professionalism and hard work, he took the responsibilities of various managerial positions until his appointment as the head of a Regional Tax Office in 2005. He holds an MBA in Business Administration and was granted an honorary doctorate from the Lebanese Canadian University in 2016.</p>
	<p>Prof. Jaap Zevenbergen Jaap Zevenbergen is professor in Land Administration and Management at ITC, University of Twente, where he lectures and supervises MSc and PhD students from all of the world, mainly from Africa and South-East Asia. Among other project work, he has contributed to curriculum development projects in land management in among others, Belarus, Russia, Vietnam, Rwanda, Guatemala and Colombia. He sits and has sat on boards of among others Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), the Academy for Land Governance (LANDac) and the Land Portal. j.a.zevenbergen@utwente.nl</p>
	<p>Prof. Moha EL-AYACHI Moha EL-AYACHI Is a Professor Moha El-ayachi at the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine Hassan II, Collège of Geomatic Sciences and Surveying Engineering, Morocco. His domain of academic and research activities are Land governance and geospatial sciences. Currently, He is the Academic Coordinator of the Master degree program in Geospatial Sciences and Land Governance and leading the regional Network of Excellence on Land Governance in North Africa. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences. He is consultant Educator and certified Trainer in Land governance enhancement using the GNSS based VRS Network technology. He fluently conducts studies in Arabic, English, and French. The major topics of his work are linked to the use of Mobile GIS technology gathering both the GIS tools and GNSS solutions to facilitate spatial data collecting and processing and enhance land management and natural resources management.</p>



Prof. Jean Doumit (coordinator of the master program)

Jean Doumit is a full Professor in Geoinformatics at the Lebanese University, and head of the Geography department in the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Branch-2.

PhD in GeoSciences- Master degree in Geoinformatics and Bachelor of Surveying Engineering.

Coordinator of the Master program of Geomatics and Land governance in the Lebanese University.

Since 2009 Prof. Doumit teaches subjects in Remote Sensing and Geospatial Information Science and technology. His research interests include Digital Cartography, Geospatial Data Analysis, Remote sensing and GIS among others.

Prof Doumit is a recipient of multiple international awards for his success and findings in scientific research and is an author/coauthor of several Scientific books and publications.

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Ms. Ombretta Tempra GLTN

Ombretta Tempra is a Land Specialist with UN-Habitat, representing the Land, Housing and Shelter Section in the Regional Office for Arab States. Architect and urban planner by training, with a master's degree in international cooperation and a diploma on land administration, Ombretta Tempra has been working with UN-Habitat since 2004. After assignments in Italy and Argentina with private sector and NGOs respectively, she joined the UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Africa and then worked for the Somalia and Liberia offices. In 2011, Ombretta moved to the Land and Global Land Tool Network Unit where she led the land and conflict and Arab states portfolio and served as the Network coordinator. During this period, she developed the Arab Land Initiative and provided support to various countries, including Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Lebanon and Somalia. Her main areas of technical expertise are housing, land and property rights, land administration, spatial planning, shelter, displacement and migration. Ombretta also has extensive experience in programme management, resources' mobilization, partnership development and capacity building.



Mr. Razi A. Diab

Razi A. Diab is a Legal Expert and Consultant mainly focusing on the Arab region. He is as well Land Law and Policy Advisor and Short-Term Consultant with the World Bank, GLTN and GIZ. He Holds an LLB. from Damascus University, the Faculty of Law, LLM.

International Commercial Law from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK and an LLM. American Law from Boston University, Massachusetts, USA.

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Mr. Willi Zimmermann

Willi Zimmermann is a Senior Land Policy Expert who supports the Arab Land Governance Initiative as freelance advisor. He is helping to build professional capacity networks and modernise land-related project implementation in the Arab region.

Before retirement, Willi Zimmermann worked more than 25 years as Senior Land Officer with GIZ around the globe and in Germany. He also enjoys supporting international postgraduate programs. He has organised/co-organised numerous land-related international conferences and published on matters of land and its people. He is German national, graduated at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology KIT, Germany.

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Prof. Michael KIRK

Michael Kirk is a professor of development economics, agricultural economics and co-operative science at the School of Business Administration & Economics, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany. He joined this position in 1997 after having graduated as an economist at Göttingen University with a specialization in development economies. His work is focusing on New Institutional Economics, in particular, property rights, economic cooperation, hybrid organizations and collective action, land/resource tenure and policies, resource economics, (global) commons, in particular, biodiversity and environmental services. His regional focus is on Africa, South-East Asia, the Near and Middle East as well as on Europe. Since 2017 he is also Adjunct Professor at Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST), Windhoek, Department of Land and Spatial Science.



Dr. Uchendu Eugene Chigbu

Uchendu Eugene Chigbu is a lecturer and researcher in land management and land tenure. He coordinates the doctoral programme in Land Management at the Technical University of Munich. He is a Co-Chair of the International Training and Research Cluster of the Global Land Tool Network (UN-Habitat) and an active member of the Commissions 2 and 8 of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

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Dr. Jawad Y. Abi Akl

Jawad Y. Abi Akl is an architect and urban planner teaching at the Lebanese University, within different Faculties and Departments (Urban Planning, Architecture, Geography and Sociology). Before being a full-time faculty member at the Lebanese University in 2014, Jawad Abi Akl taught at the Holy Spirit University and at the Lebanese American University. He also worked for eight years at the Lebanese Standards Institution as chief of the Technical Department.

	<p>Dr. Samar Sakr</p> <p>Samar Sakr is graduated with PhD in climatology and air pollution from the University of Aix-Marseille France in 2012.</p> <p>Associate professor and researcher at the Lebanese University Campus Fanar and Dikwane department of geography (2012 – 2020).</p> <p>Member of AIC. she participated in conferences on air dynamics and air pollution in France, Italy and Tunis.</p> <p>Since 2018: General Scientific coordinator in climate change for the Euro-Arab union of geomatics in Lebanon.</p> <p>she has published works on the dynamism of the air, the local aerology of Beirut, air pollution and microclimate in European and American Scientific journals.</p>
	<p>Dr. Rafic Khouri</p> <p>Rafic Khouri is graduated with a PhD in development economics from Sorbonne University (Paris).</p> <p>He has been in charge of managing and developing the Order of French Surveyors' European and international relations. He has been, among other responsibilities, a major organizer of the Federation of Francophone Surveyors (25 countries represented).</p> <p>His focus has always been on the surveyors' role in the development of sustainable land administration and management, to serve development and human rights purposes.</p> <p>He is currently, on a voluntary basis, the adviser of the Arab Union of Surveyors' President for international relations.</p> <p>Elected in 2018 member of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Steering Committee, in the capacity of co-chair of GLTN's Professional Cluster.</p> <p>Since the end of 2019, occupies the position of senior consultant supporting the Global Land Tool Network and its Arab Land Initiative.</p> <p>Also currently, consultant for the World Bank about Arab countries land profiles.</p>
	<p>Dr. Marguerite Duponchel</p> <p>Marguerite Duponchel is currently based in Beirut as a technical advisor in the GIZ Housing Land and Property project aimed at safeguarding HLP rights of Syrian IDPs and refugees. Prior to this position, she worked 6 years in the World Bank in both the Global Land and Geospatial Unit and the Agriculture and Rural Development team of the Development Research Group on both operations and analytical pieces/research including large scale land operations in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Rwanda, Uganda, among others. She was also the Country Economist for the International Growth Centre in Uganda from 2012 to 2014, based in the Central Bank. Marguerite also worked as a researcher for the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa on questions related to migration, and for UNDP and UNHCR. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne. Her research interests include agriculture, land, poverty, social safety nets and civil conflict.</p>



Mrs Laura Cunial

Laura Cunial has worked on the right to legal identity including access to civil documentation and housing, land and property (HLP) rights in conflict and post-conflict situations such as in Liberia, Kenya, Vietnam and Syria and in countries hosting refugees such as Lebanon and Jordan. Currently Laura is the Research Adviser for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) legal aid researches related to the Syrian crisis. In this position, she is leading researches on civil documentation and HLP issues for displaced Syrians. In 2016 – 2019 she led NRC legal aid program in Syria. Laura is a member of the New York State Bar. She received her Bachelor's degree in International Law from Trento University (Italy) and a Masters of Law from University of California - Hastings College of the Law (USA).
