

## **Rethinking development and land in the context of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change**

Convener:

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This panel is about competition for and conflict over land. The Paris Agreement on climate change to stabilise the temperature below 2C and if possible even 1.5C, will have profound effect for development. One reason is that almost all scenarios with a reasonable probability of achieving these goals assume massive deployment of negative emission technologies such as afforestation, bioenergy production combined with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) and direct air capture through “artificial trees” (DAC). All such technologies have one thing in common – they are enormously space consuming. At the same time, land is already a scarce resource, manifested through the controversial rush for land in the global South – in terms of land grabbing. Close to 50 million hectares have already changed hands through such deals, corresponding to almost half the cultivated area in the EU. If climate change mitigation will be pursued through land based and area consuming technologies we can anticipate severe clashes relating to allocation of and access to land between different groups, regions, sectors, and generations. Agriculture, which is the mainstay of employment in most countries in the global South is certainly at stake, but other development aspects and processes will be affected by the increasing scarcity of land, such as migration, urban expansion, rent seeking, and infrastructure. Climate change policies are to a large extent brainchildren of the global North but they will be pursued aggressively around the world, not least in the global South. There is an urgent need to rethink how development and climate change policies can support each other in order to reduce the risk of dangerous climate change while reducing inequality and defending social justice.

Potential papers:

- Contributions from the two ongoing IPCC special reports (Climate change and 1.5 degrees, and Climate change and Land).
- Potential synergies between development and climate change mitigation
- Potential clashes between development and climate change mitigation
- Relationships between development and adaptation to climate change