

Urban Land Governance for Sustainable Development

Bridging Land, Water and Natural Resources

Cluster 1

Land and the Rule of Law

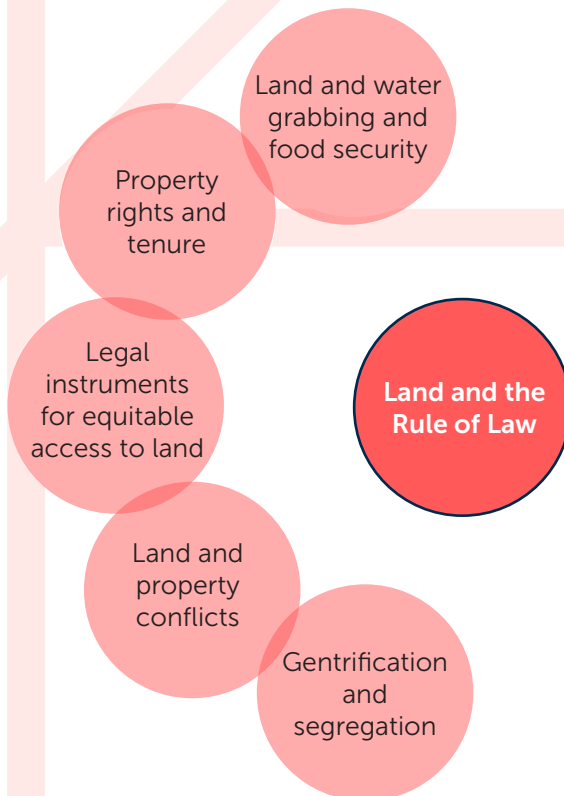
Most conflicts in the world have their roots in land, water and natural resources disputes and the unequal distribution of these valuable resources. These conflicts can be international, national and even on community and family levels, and they have significant implications on human and property rights. Land conflicts often leave groups and individuals disenfranchised and socio-economically worse off. With rapid urbanisation, access to land, water and natural resources is more scarce in urban and peri-urban areas as different groups compete for limited resources with increasing demand. Understanding the dynamics of land rights and the rule of law provides the needed knowledge and skills required to intervene in land conflicts and the accompanying consequences, allowing for the equitable distribution of natural resources.

What will I learn?

Land Rights and the Rule of Law is the entry cluster into the Urban Land Governance for Sustainable Development master track. It offers students a look into the socio-legal and socio-political aspects of land, water and natural resources. The cluster deals with real-life legal and rights issues from an academic viewpoint. It focuses on the legal and institutional setup that underpins social problems in the urban and peri-urban sphere. It exposes students to international perspectives and cases that address issues pertaining to property and land rights, land tenure modalities, land conflicts, gentrification, segregation, informality, land grabbing and food insecurity and unequal distribution of resources. The cluster provides an in-depth analysis of the role of institutions and stakeholders, offering future urban actors the tools to solve these societal problems in inclusive and sustainable ways.

The cluster will link theory to practice by taking students on a study visit to the city of Amsterdam and Almere.

Module content



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Photo by Giorgi Gvilava

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Cluster 2

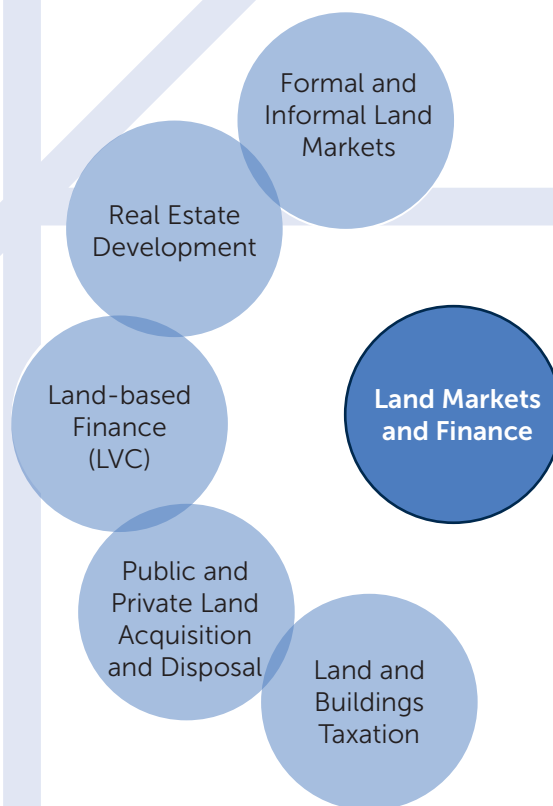
Land Markets and Finance

As market economies rise, cities experience rapid economic growth, leading to urban expansion and transformation at an unprecedented rate. These transformations create a pathway for economic and financial investment primarily on land. Land is a resource that significantly determines how cities work. Access to land and property is believed to be a social equaliser; it is strategic for improving economic productivity, social equality and environmental sustainability. The commodification of land benefits a few to the detriment of a large group, perpetually increasing the inequalities in urban and peri-urban areas. Stakeholders such as landowners, developers, land users and governments operate increasingly through markets that have inherent failures, exclude the marginalised and have proven not to be financial, political or environmental resilient to shocks. These failures include investments that distort land and property values and make it unaffordable to local inhabitants of certain age, gender, culture and socio-economic groups. This cluster will unbundle the complexity of land markets demand, supply and speculation. It will address the opportunities governments and the private sector have to utilise windfalls from land transactions and real-estate development to provide basic services to all, reduce inequalities and benefit society at large.

What will I learn?

The Land Markets and Finance is the second cluster of the Urban Land Governance for Sustainable Development master track. This cluster provides to students and future urban actors the knowledge and skills required to utilise economic and financial growth from land (property), water and natural resources to benefit all socio-economic groups in society in sustainable ways. It equips urban actors with the know-how on the fundamentals of land market dynamics, real estate market, investment patterns, development practices and legal and economic land-related policies and instruments. Future urban actors will be able to identify, analyse how these issues shape cities and society, and how they can contribute to equitable development.

Module content



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Urban Land Governance for Sustainable Development

Bridging Land, Water and Natural Resources

Cluster 3

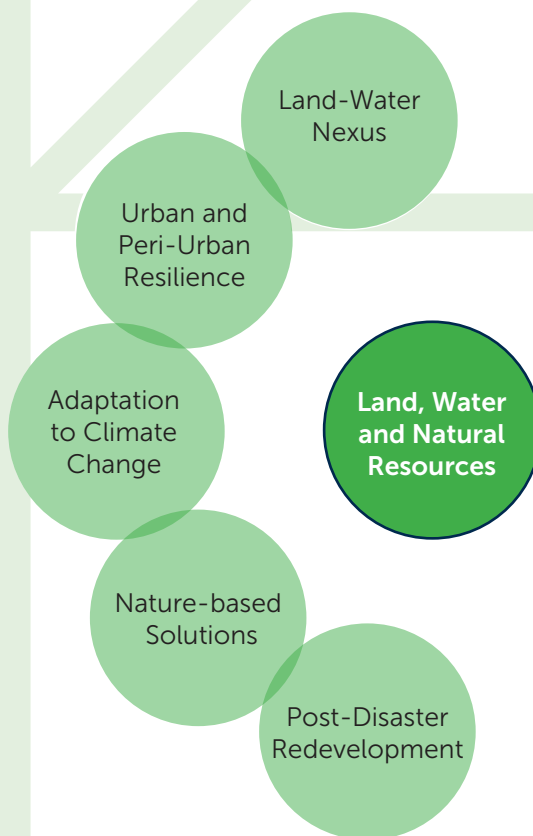
Land, Water and Natural Resources

The sustainable use and management of land, water and natural resources is a complex, multi-layered challenge: it has environmental, social, political, institutional, legal and economic dimensions that all need to be recognized and addressed. The challenges of urban land and water management cut across sectors and jurisdictions, and as a result, their solutions must be multi-sectoral and cross-jurisdiction in nature. Water and natural resources in cities, which are important components of land markets, are included as platforms of development or as scarce resources to be accessed and/or protected. Through case studies of complex problems in land, water and natural resource management, the cluster will apply theoretical knowledge of sustainable development to real-world, practical examples. It will give students the critical insights and tools to understand the multiple linkages between land, water and natural resources. Participants will learn how land managers and land developers need to incorporate water and natural resources in their mode of development to achieve proper sustainable cities.

What will I learn?

Land, Water and Natural Resources is the final cluster of the Urban Land Governance for Sustainable Development master track. The cluster will enable participants to understand the land-water nexus and create strategies that demonstrate the vital role land policy has in successful urban governance and environmental management. Students will be able to analyse legal and markets aspects of land-with-water rights and land-related instruments that could finance urban adaptation measures towards climate-related hazards to prevent social, environmental and economic disruptions. The principles of resilience and risk will be applied to land use, water management and environmental policies in urban areas. The course focuses on water sensitive cities and the “golden rules” of water and delta management, along with their implications in land use planning towards urban resilience, culminating in the study visit the Room for the River project in the city of Nijmegen.

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Photo by Ishan