



Land Governance Learning Journey

Part 2: A Training Report

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This training report is the second document in a series reflecting the Land Governance Learning Journey, organised by World Vision in Ethiopia and its Dry Lands Development Project (DryDev), in collaboration with Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation and IMARA.earth. The Land Governance learning Journey took place in 2020-2021, and aimed to prepare World Vision DryDev staff to initiate a land dialogue process in their project areas. The series contains a rapid land governance assessment (Part 1), a training report (Part 2), and this Toolbox (part 3). During the Land Governance Learning Journey, participants worked with tools based upon the collection of satellite data, land and landscape governance tools and a selection of those used in inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships. In this training report, the outcomes of the training on landscape governance are reflected. The training was focused on land governance in both the theoretical and the practical sense, and emphasises the need for land governance dialogue at local, regional and national level. It pays ample attention to the opportunity of organising and facilitating land governance dialogue on the ground.

Keywords: landscape governance, land governance, land tenure, land dialogue, multi-stakeholder partnership, satellite data collection

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1 Background

The DryDev programme in Ethiopia is run by World Vision Ethiopia and financed by - amongst others - the Government of the Netherlands. It aims at improving the lives and livelihoods of thousands of households in Ethiopia's Tigray, Amhara and Oromia regions. It has contributed to a gradual transition of communities from subsistence farming and emergency aid to sustainable rural development. This has been done through an integrated bottom-up approach with a focus on sustainable use of water, soil, and agroforestry, supporting households and communities to shift from subsistence to market orientation, leading to increased food and water security, enhanced market access, and strengthened local economies.

The success of DryDev Ethiopia is mainly attributed to its implementation approach which directly responds to farmers' desire to strengthen their organizations by supporting the different categories of farmers to increase their production and incomes. DryDev's actions have led to the improvement of water and food security at field, farm, and watershed level. This is done through project interventions such as integrated rainwater harvesting, improved agricultural practices and agroforestry, as well as responsible commercialization of the rural economy. The latter includes the provision of financial services to different categories of farmers, and the improvement of local institutions such as community organisations and local governance. All these activities are anchored in the principle that community participation is a constitutional right, and that local ownership of project activities is essential for achieving sustainable impact.

Despite its success, one of the major challenges encountered by DryDev is the issue of land tenure. Despite the great advance of Ethiopia's land titling programme, there still is tenure insecurity. The implementation of project activities related to the use of communal land remains problematic, due to unclarity of its user rights. Conflicts between farmers and herders, increased problems with land conversion, and difficulties with large-scale agro-investments are on the increase. Despite DryDev's great efforts in supporting the process, land governance remains to be a challenge, and may jeopardise the sustainability of the project results on the long run.

It is with this in mind that the DryDev management decided to embark upon a journey towards enhancing land governance. In January 2020 a plan was made to gradually build the land governance capacities of DryDev staff, to enhance the impact of their work. The plan was to have staff travel to Wageningen University in the Netherlands to join an international course on the topic. But due to the global COVID-19 pandemic the training in Wageningen was turned into an online training trajectory, tailored to the needs and demands of the DryDev staff involved. This report provides an overview of the training, its objectives and methodologies used, the content of the sessions, and the learning outcomes achieved.

2 Aim and objectives of the online training

The aim of the training was formulated as *the enhanced capacities of DryDev staff to understand the wider principles and dynamics of land governance, relate these to the local context, and prepare for potential project interventions within the project's intervention areas*. In order to do so, it was decided to not only focus on the theoretical aspects of land governance, but also to facilitation skills, to enable DryDev staff to design and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue on land governance within their intervention areas.

Prior to the training, the specific learning needs of the selected staff were identified, leading to the formulation of the following learning objectives:

1. Build on the already existing experience of DryDev staff within their intervention areas;
2. Become familiar with the basic concepts and frameworks on land governance;
3. Discover the challenges and potential solutions to improve land governance in the DryDev intervention areas;
4. Learning how to build a constructive land governance dialogue in your own intervention area.

Participants were invited from six project intervention zones in Tigray, Amhara and Oromia. However, due to poor internet connections and political turmoil only two intervention areas were represented, which are Ambassel in Amhara and Boset in Oromia.

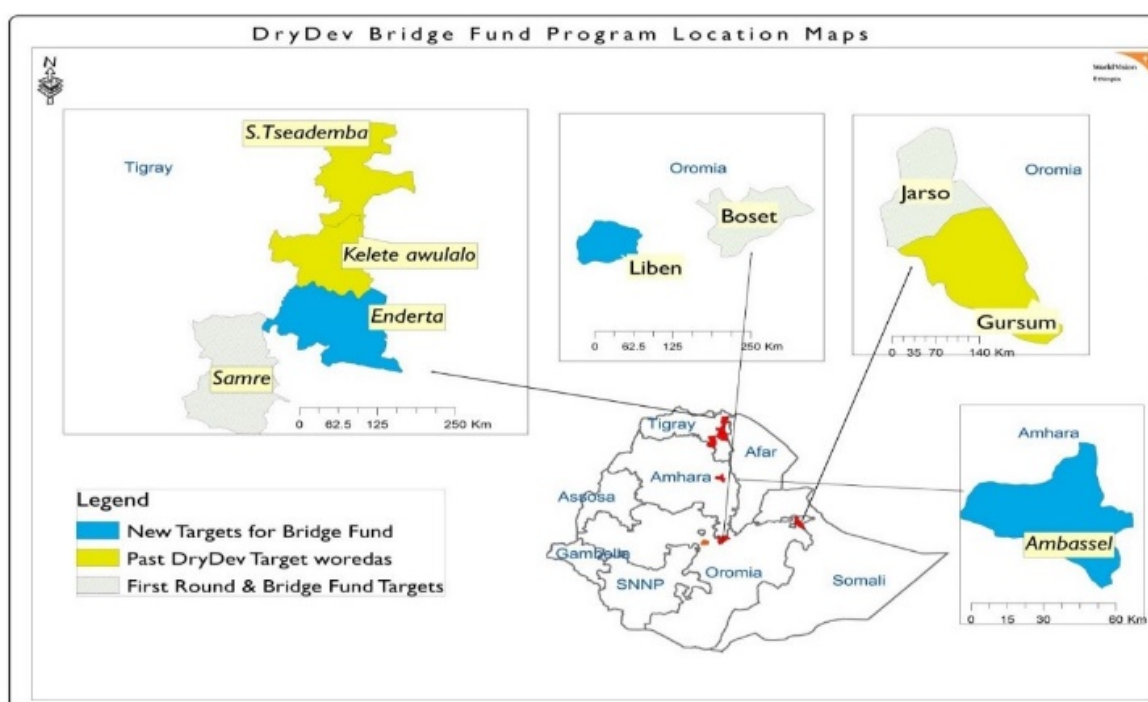


Figure 1 Map of DryDev intervention areas in Tigray, Amhara and Oromia.

3 Training methodology

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WC DI) has over 60 years of experience in raising the capacities of professionals worldwide. It has an excellent reputation of combining natural sciences with social sciences, and bridging between the academic knowledge and the professional skills and attitudes which are needed in development practice. It operates across the Wageningen based science groups, and add value by strengthening the sustainable development related capacities of partners operating on the ground. It is known for bringing the Wageningen knowledge into action, with the aim to *explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life*.

WC DI's training approach which is rooted in *experiential learning*. Experiential learning is a form of active learning which can be summarised as 'learning through reflection on doing'. It places the experience of individual learners in the core of the learning process. It moves away from learning models in which a teacher in front of a classroom transfers knowledge to learners. Instead, it strives for the learners to be in the driver seat, by focusing on the existing capacities of the learner, the concrete issues the learner is working on, and the social or environmental context in which the learner operates.

Experiential learning represents a learning experience beyond the classroom, and demands active involvement of the learners enrolled. In practical terms, it means that the activities organised aim at making learners reflect on their own experience, conceptualise the problematic issues encountered, design alternative pathways to tackle these issues, and adapt their ways of working accordingly. In this particular course for DryDev staff it means that participants explore the realities of land governance in their own area, and focus on the land governance challenges they encounter in their daily jobs. They are made to reflect on their current approaches to handle these challenges, learn from others whether there may be better ways of handling these, and building a well considered plan for improving land governance within their own context.

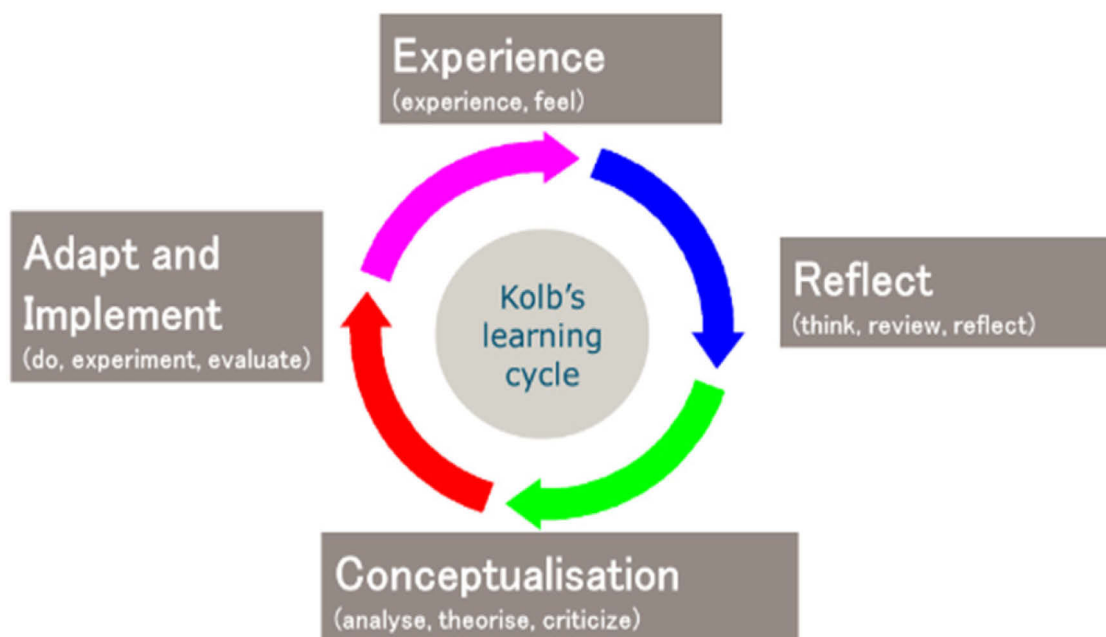


Figure 2 Schematic overview of the Experiential Learning Cycle (free after D. Kolb, 1984).

Although the course was originally designed to be face-to-face, the COVID situation forced the course to be online at distance. Online learning has several shortcomings as compared to face-to-face interaction. It may be less personal, as there is little room for informal interaction after the course work. Participation needs to be planned well in advance, and additional tools need to be deployed in order to keep the work lively and engaging.

In order to maximise interaction, specially designed virtual classroom was developed, using the e-learning platform TalentLMS, which allows for hosting learning sessions, and embedding documents, videos and exercises. The use of interactive tools such as Padlet, Mentimeter, Whatsapp, MIRO, MURAL, Jamboard, Google Earth, PolarSteps and additional geo-spatial modelling tools allowed for maximum interaction and exploration of land governance within their context. A healthy combination of online classroom interaction for three hours per day, combined with daily field work to be carried out by participants themselves, allowed for an integration of knowledge uptake, field experimentation and live interaction with the project's stakeholders and beneficiaries on the ground. Mixing online and offline work helped learners to optimally experiment, reflect, conceptualise, and mutually learn from both theory and practice on land governance.

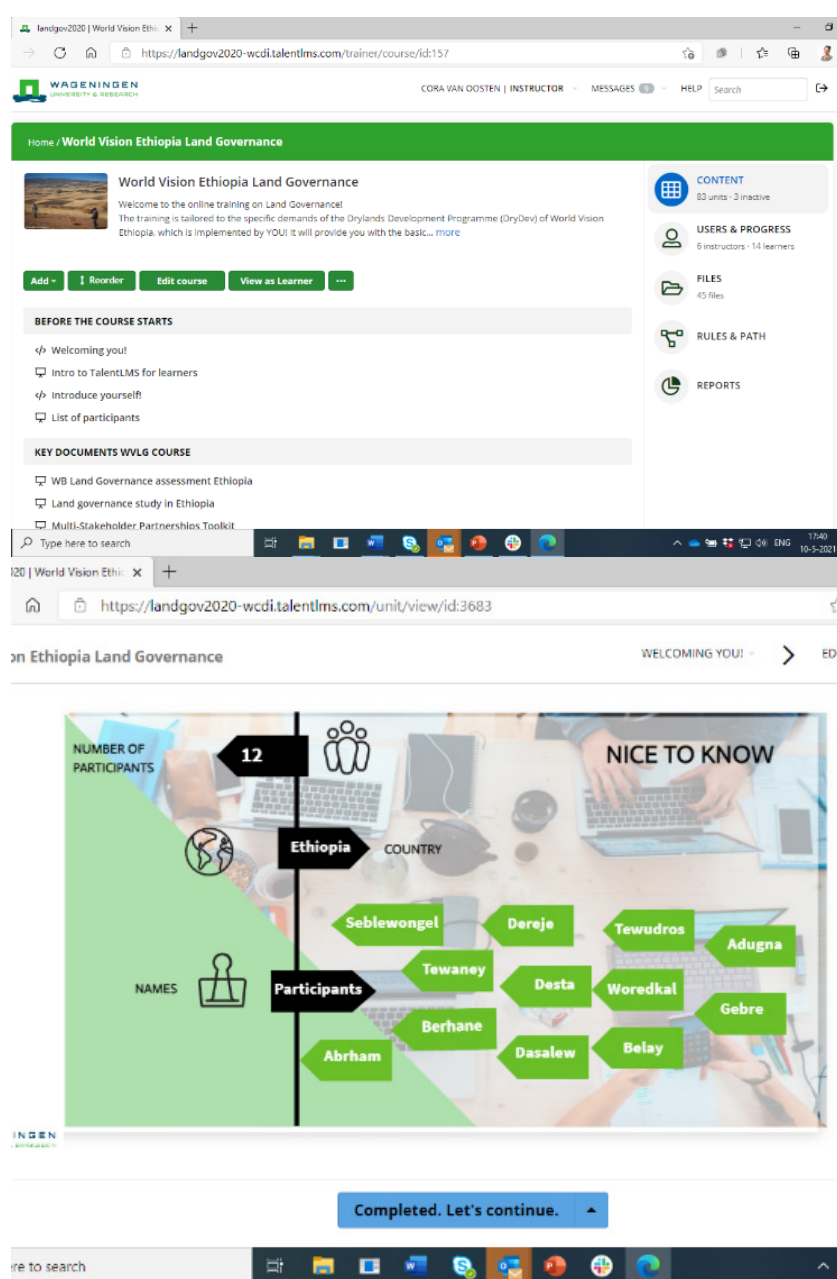


Figure 3 Screenshots from TalentLMS.

4 The day-to-day programme

The programme as how it was defined beforehand represented three weeks of training, including a first week in December, a second in February, and a third in March. The first week in December was dedicated to exploring the major concepts of land governance, including a combination of experience sharing, reflection and understanding of the major land governance concepts in Ethiopia and beyond. The second week in February was dedicated to the application of the concepts in practice, both by DryDev and by other projects and programmes operating within DryDev intervention areas. The third week was envisaged for March, with the aim to design and implement a land governance dialogue in real, to be organised together with project partners and beneficiaries, and coached by the Wageningen team. However, due to the upcoming election process it was decided to cancel this activity, and use the time and funding for the preparation of a Land Governance Toolkit, to add value to World Vision land governance activities in future.

Week 1 – Understanding the major concepts	
Monday Dec 14	Land governance in the DryDev context: Learning from our own experiences
Tuesday Dec 15	Exploring land governance: some major concepts defined
Wednesday Dec 16	Exploring land governance: legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights
Thursday Dec 17	From concepts to practice: making land tenure work for people
Friday Dec 18	Overview of lessons learned: defining the way forward
Week 2 – Putting the concepts into practice	
Monday Feb 15	Land governance: from theory to practice
Tuesday Feb 16	Learning from existing landscape governance dialogue in Ethiopia
Wednesday Feb 17	Building and facilitating a dialogue that works
Thursday Feb 18	Scaling local land governance dialogue to national land policies
Friday Feb 19	Connecting the dots – designing the land governance action agenda
Week 3 – Implementing a land governance dialogue yourself	
March	This part of the programme was cancelled, as the upcoming elections do not provide a favourable environment for local land governance dialogues. The time and funding has been converted into the development of a Land Governance Toolkit, in support of future land governance activities of World Vision Ethiopia.

Figure 4 Overview of the programme.

During the training the programme was slightly altered, due to the growing insights which led to the identification of new learning needs and demands. Due to a flexible planning the programme could easily be tailored and adapted as the training evolved.

5 Content per day

5.1 Monday December 14: Learning from our own experiences

The first day started with a technical check-in, exploring the virtual classroom and the different online tools. After that, the learners' own experiences with land governance were explored, exchanged and presented. Two teams representing Amhara and Oromia analysed the outcomes of the appraisal that took place prior to the training. They identified the challenges encountered, and the strategies undertaken by the DryDev programme. The groups prepared an overview of the outcomes of the appraisal, drew the lessons learned, and presented the outcomes to each other.

Amhara team (Ambassel)

In Ambassel, most farmers have finalised first level certification of their land. This means that in principle land rights are secured, although quite some problems related to land governance remain. In principle, all data on land administration are freely available. Nevertheless, this is not always clear to farmers, who struggle with the limited information they get. Disputes on boundaries are on the increase, and information about delineation of plots is not always smooth at the level of Kebeles, where these disputes arise. The second level certification process aims to provide more detailed information such as plot maps and geo-spatial data that would help, but this process is not yet completed. This makes farmers hesitant to invest, and hampers their access to loans. This latter particularly applies to women and youth, who feel less confident about their tenure security in real terms.

In general terms, land management remains poor. Despite enormous efforts in land and water management, pressure on land and water is mounting, while the population is rapidly growing. The land continues to degrade, and soil erosion and floods are on the increase. Land related conflicts are starting or have started to emerge, while a good spatial plan is not (yet) there. Land use decisions remain to be informal, and largely taken by males, with women and youth stay behind. According to the team, awareness raising is needed, both of government staff, farmers and other land users within Kebeles, Woredas and Zones, in order to raise the effectiveness of the promoted soil and water conservation work, and raise the effectiveness of the certification programme implemented.

Oromia team (Boset)

In Oromia, most farmers have finalised first level certification of their land. Some farmers have a second level certificate, but these very few (less than 1% in Boset, even less in Jarso and Liben, data collected from District Offices by DryDev staff, see appraisal report). Migration is relatively low in Boset and Liben, but high in Jarso, due to immediate shortage of land. Also the percentage of farmers knowing about their rights is low in Jarso (16%, as compared to 71% elsewhere, data collected from District Offices by DryDev staff, see appraisal report). One of the reasons may be the quickly emerging conflicts related to land administration and management.

Decisions on land use, technical input and crop choice are mainly made by men, although also women have a say, especially in Boset and Liben. The number of farmers using their certificate (first level) to obtain financial support remains low, except for Boset, due to active intervention of the DryDev team.

In Boset, there is great progress made on more sustainable land and water management, however, in general terms land and water management remains poor, and degradation and erosion is a great threat to productivity.

5.2 Tuesday December 15: Exploring land governance: major concepts defined

Within literature, governance is defined as The rules, processes and structures through which decisions are made about access to land and its use, the manner in which the decisions are implemented and enforced, and the way that competing interests in land are managed. Land governance relates to the manner in which public officials and institutions acquire and exercise the authority to shape public policy and provide public goods and services (World Bank, 2007). This includes the rules, policies, processes, institutions and structures that manage the use, allocation, access, control, ownership, management and transfer of land, including the political and administrative structures through which land related decisions are taken. Land governance is shaped through state structures such as land agencies, courts and ministries responsible for land, as well as non-statutory actors such as traditional bodies and informal agents. It entails both the legal frameworks and policies on land, as well as traditional and informal practices that enjoy social legitimacy (Palmer et al., 2009). Land governance is a broad term, which includes the following:

- Land policy: the set of agreed principles to govern ownership (or access to), use and management of land resources to enhance their productivity and contribution to social, economic, political and environmental development and poverty alleviation;
- Land tenure: the nature of and manner in which rights and interests over various categories of land are created or determined, allocated and enjoyed;
- Land administration: the structure and processes for the determination, archiving and delivery of land rights, and the systems through which general oversight on the performance of the land sector is managed;
- Land information system: A set of principles governing the collection, processing, storage and use of data on land ownership, usage, quality, location and change over time and the body of data sets prepared for use in decision-making on the basis of those principals.

After presenting the World Bank's Land Governance Assessment Framework (<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28507>) the groups carried out a land governance assessment for Ambassel and Boset, with the following results. As compared to the general situation in Ethiopia, legal pluralism and conflict occurrence in both areas scored high, but also public awareness on land rights scored high. This high level of awareness may be due to DryDev's many activities on the ground.

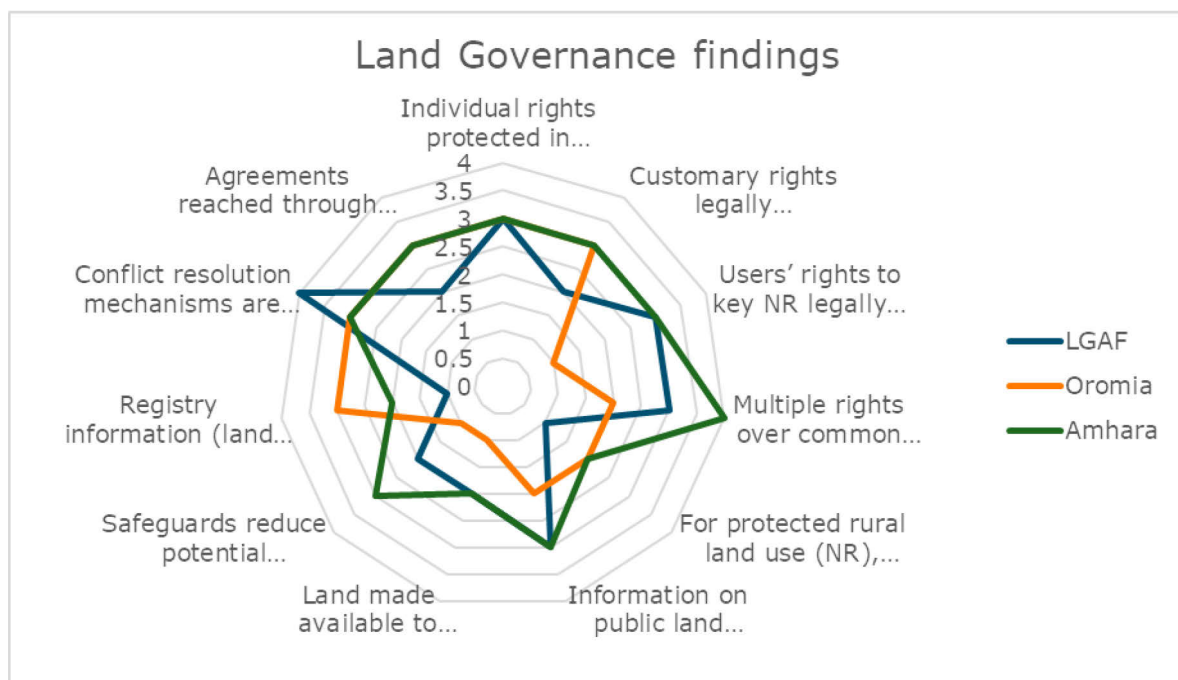
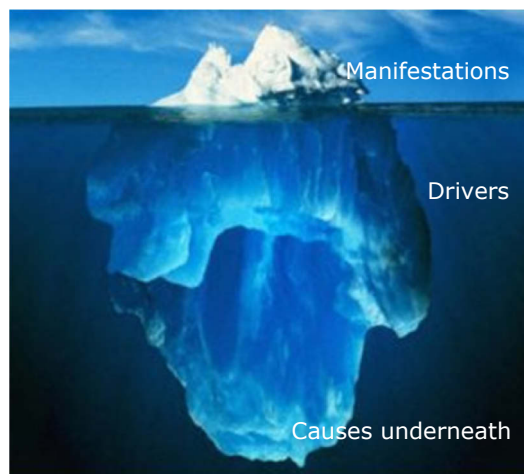


Figure 5 Land governance assessment in Ambassel and Boest (done by participants).

5.3 Wednesday 16 – Land conflicts: manifestations, drivers, causes underneath

When further analysing land governance in Ambassel and Boset, the participants realised that they are experiencing multiple conflicts related to land. Given the complexity of these conflicts they find it hard to fully understand the conflicts, which are the manifestations, and which are the deeper drivers behind. In an attempt to get grip, we applied the so-called *Iceberg Model* which differentiates between the manifestations of a conflict, which is the part of the conflict which is visible hence publicly known.

Underneath a manifestation of a conflict however are the drivers of conflict, which may not be visible and publically known. Even further underneath may be the deeper drivers of conflict, which are not only invisible, but not even known, as these are embedded in the deeper social and institutional structures of society. Applying the model, participants realised that the conflicts in their areas are manifested in conflict between farmers, between farmers and herders, and between farmers/herders and companies. The drivers of these conflicts are the increasing competition for water and land between farmers, herders and companies. The deeper causes underneath are related to poor desing and implementation of land governance, lack of information, communication, clear understanding or political will.



Analysis of land governance conflict in our implementation areas

The conflicts as how these are manifested:

- Population growth, increased pressure on land
- Poor land management skills of farmers
- Soil degradation, declined fertility of soils, erratic rainfall, droughts and floods
- Conflict between farmers-farmers, farmers-herders, farmers-herders-companies, plus particular problems for women and youth
- Migration

The drivers of conflict:

- Expansion of farm land, encroaching on rangeland
- Competition between water used for livestock and water used for irrigation
- Livestock grazing on farm land and during times of area closure for the rehabilitation of the land
- Unclear delineation and recording of boundaries, especially near communal lands
- Unequal and unfair distribution of available fertile land

The deeper causes underneath:

- Even if rights exist on paper, these are often misinformed or misunderstood
- Land conversion from farm land to urban settlement
- Land conversion from communal land to cultivated land
- Remaining communal land is managed by the Government
- Rules and regulations to protect smallholders and pastoralists exist, but there is frequent transfer of land through gift or inheritance without formalising transfer of ownership
- In theory, land rights are protected, but in practice is little information and poor understanding of information, while land is issued to investors without EIA or compensation
- Poor legal service provision and lack of support to those who bring land conflicts to court
- Administrative support services are provided, but not at the Woreda level

Figure 6 Analysis of land govenrance conflict (done by course participants).

5.4 Thursday December 17: Legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights

The next level of complexity to be added to the growing understanding of land governance is that of institutions, or in other words, the rules and regulations which define land governance. Although in theory, land tenure is well administered and clear, in practice a lot of unclarity remains. One piece of land may be used by multiple land users, each using the land in different ways, either in parallel or integrated, or segregated over space or time. Traditionally, there is a practice of agro-silvo-pastoralism which combines agricultural production with forestry and/or livestock rearing on the same land, and seasonal occupation of farmers and herders in alternation. This system can work very well, as these land uses are complementary and take place on different times or seasons. But there are also examples of clashing land use, spatial competition and conflict (see land governance appraisal discussed during the previous days). How are such land use conflicts approached from a governance perspective? How to deal with overlapping rights and competing land use from the angle of rights? How to analyse the roles, the rights, the responsibilities, and the power positions of each of the users involved?

The participants discussed in two groups how in Ambassel and Boset the land is allocated, managed and inherited, leading to complementary or conflicting land use. They differentiated between the formal or statutory system as how it is designed and promoted by the National Government, the Regions, the Woredas and the Kebeles. They also analysed the customary system, as how this is still practiced as the most common practice, especially on the communal land which has not been allocated yet, but still operates through traditional and cultural systems which differ per location. Both systems are legitimate, although legitimised through different rule systems regulating land use, land sales, land inheritance and otherwise transfer of land. Within the DryDev intervention areas, as in many countries in the world, both formal and informal land tenure systems co-exist. If space is sufficient and resources are abundant, this is not necessarily problematic. But once space is limited and resources are scarce, problems emerge and conflicts arise.

In order to get grip on this 'institutional pluralism', the groups studied the *Continuum of Rights*, which is a tool developed by UN Habitat, and which clarifies the rights and responsibilities over various categories of land, including private land, state land, communal land, etc., and the multiple stakeholders which depend on these. Participants analysed the different conflicts that were identified on Wednesday, and assessed for each of these who are the right holders, what are the types of rights they have, what are the responsibilities or duties these rights entail, and which are the revenues that are derived from these rights. In addition, it was analysed how stakeholders usually get to an agreement in case of conflict, how are these agreements made, and who benefits most from these agreements.

Continuum of Land Rights

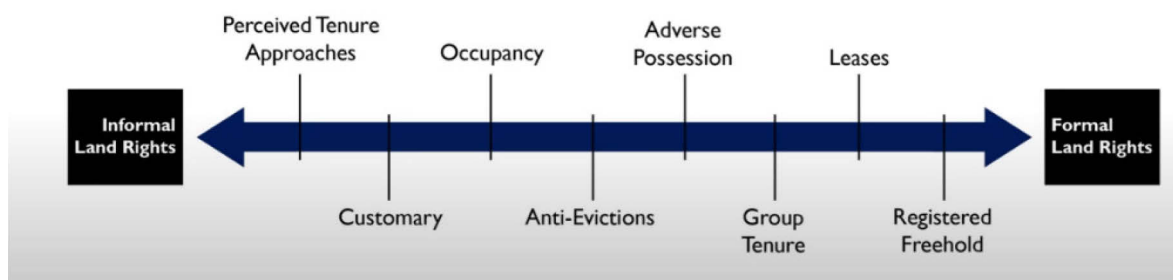


Figure 7 The Continuum of Land Rights (UN Habitat).

5.5 Friday December 18: Making land governance work for people

In principle, every citizen has rights. At the same time, every citizen has responsibilities. Every right comes with a responsibility, meaning that all citizens are right holders and responsibility bearers at the same time. With regard to land governance, all land users have access to certain rights on land. The basis of *good* land governance is that all stakeholders in a landscape have the land rights that they need in order to be able to cater for the basic needs and demands of their households. Yet at the same time, all stakeholders have the responsibility to take good care over the land they are entitled to, and that they respect the rights of others. Good land governance is therefore built on a balance between rights and responsibilities, to ensure that all stakeholders are in the position to derive benefits from their land, according to their needs, while maintaining the land healthy and fertile to the benefits of all.

Within this context the two groups carried out a 'light' stakeholder analysis to identify the stakeholders who affect changes in land governance, and the stakeholders who are affected by changing land governance. Based on this, we discussed who actually knows the rules and regulations well, who takes part in decision making, and who is positively or negatively affected by the decisions taken. Through the 3R tool, we analysed for both Ambassel and Boset how land governance plays out differently for the different stakeholders involved, leading to a number of persistent conflicts as how these were described on Wednesday. It was discussed how these conflicts are to be managed by the different sets of rules at play. How can we, as DryDev staff, influence, adapt and improve the current rules and regulations, in order to solve the current conflicts, and avoid new conflicts to emerge?

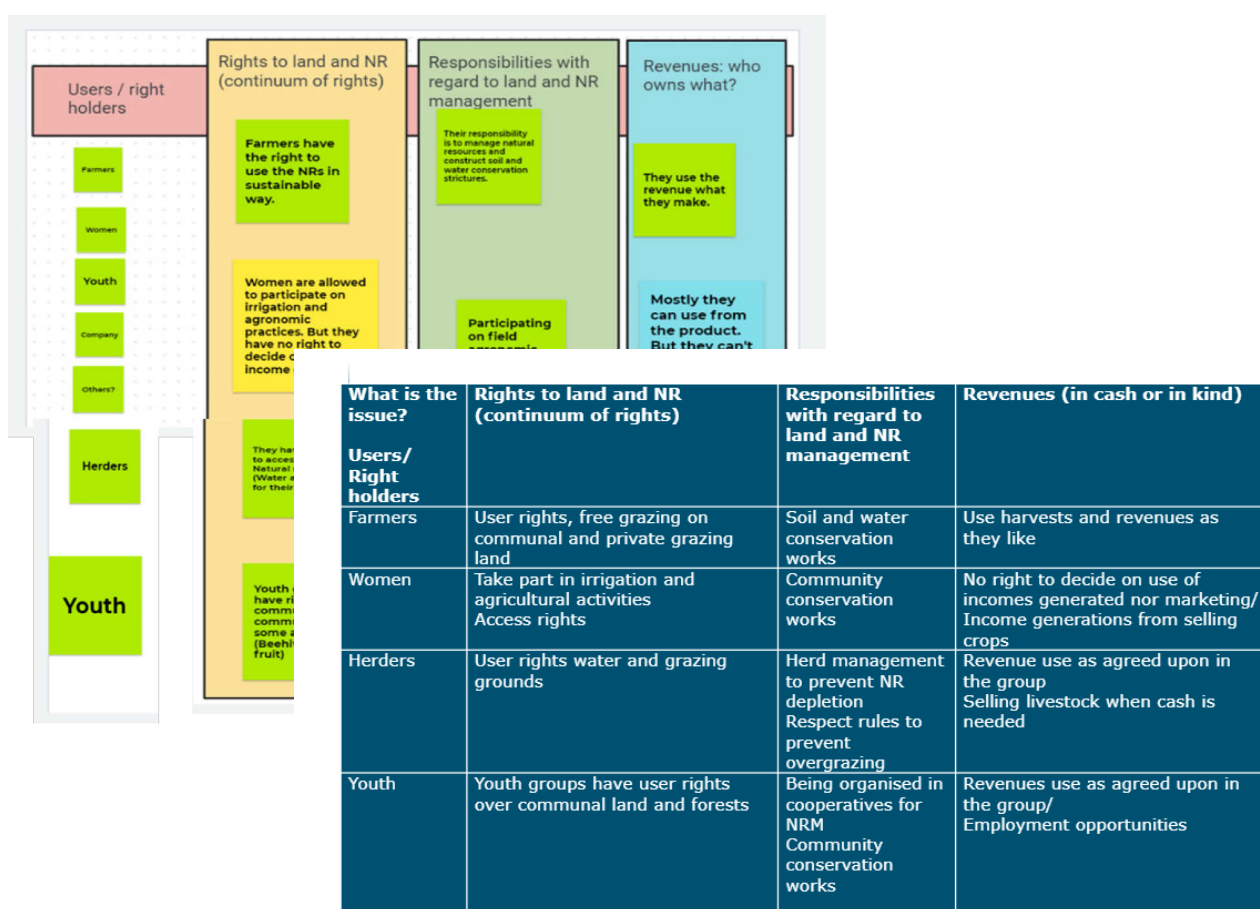


Figure 8 Implementation of the 3R Tool (done by course participants).

5.6 Monday February 15: Land governance from theory to practice

The second week is less focused on the general concepts of land governance, but more focused on how these general concepts can be practically applied within Ambassel and Boset. The key question is not how land governance is defined, but how land governance can be enhanced through multi-stakeholder dialogue. This question is based on the assumption that the best way to address societal issues is by bringing all the involved actors together, to share perspectives, to form a joint understanding of the issue, and search for common solutions which are good for all. This is an assumption that was discussed, accepted and endorsed by all participants as being the right way forward.

A multi-stakeholder approach is not new to DryDev, as it is already succesful in creating and facilitating dialogue within watersheds, where DryDev has brought together the different water users in watershed committees. Much has been invested in organising and capacitating these watershed committees, and training these to oversee good water management, address commonly felt issues, and bring these to a good end. Integrating the issue of land governance within the agendas of these committees will be the easiest and most effective way to start a land governance dialogue on the ground. After all, within a watershed there are multiple uses of land, and multiple land users behind. Each of these land users may have different needs and interests, hence deriving different land rights having different responsibilities attached. Addressing these rights and responsibilities regarding water and land collectively would therefore be a practical way forward. A multi-stakeholder approach to watershed management combines well with land dialogue, in which multiple land users realise that they have a collective challenges to be addressed, to be solved through joint action.

How to design and facilitate such a process that works for all? How to kick-start a constructive dialogue between stakeholders, and help them to address land governance issues in their areas? How to plan the process? How to facilitate the process? How to bring the process to a good end?

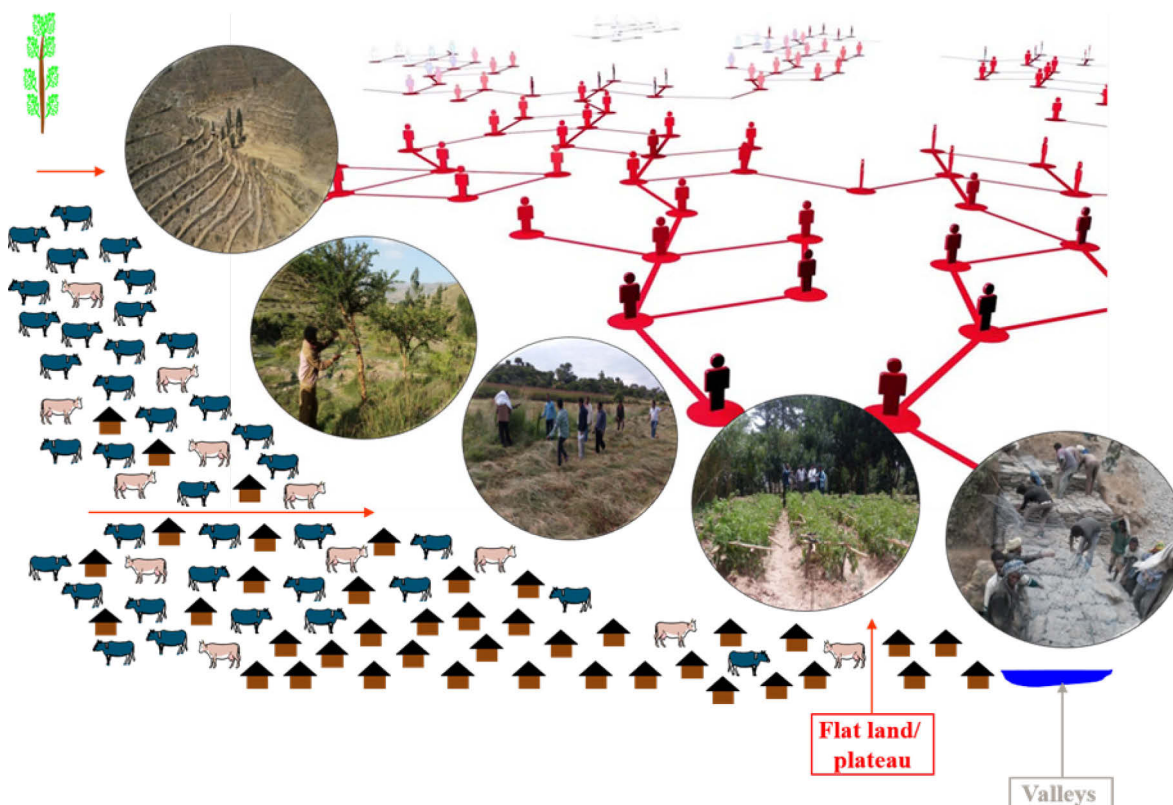


Figure 9 Schematic overview of the work of the watershed committees as created and supported by DryDev.

5.7 Tuesday February 16: Learning from Land Governance dialogue in Ethiopia

Land governance dialogue is not new in Ethiopia. The Government of Ethiopia is facilitating land governance in all its regions, including Amhara and Oromia. With the assistance of national and international (non) governmental organisations, regional platforms have been created, and a national land governance dialogue was launched, in an attempt to enhance land governance for Ethiopia as a whole. *Land for Life Ethiopia* and partners are involved in the organisation of such land governance dialogue at the regional and national level, with the financial and technical support of the German GIZ (governmental development assistance) and Welt Hunger Hilfe (NGO). DryDev could certainly learn from the experience of Land for Life, but Land for Life could also learn from DryDev, which -more than Land for Life- operates at the local level.

The session was joint by Mr. Retta Menberu and Mr. Fikru Takele from Land for Life Ethiopia who were invited to share their experiences with land governance dialogue. They shared what are the challenges they encounter, and what have they undertaken to tackle these challenges effectively. Land for Life implements a land dialogue process in various regions in Ethiopia and beyond (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burkina Faso). Land for Life's approach is built on the conviction that land governance must be built on the interests of communities, traditional authorities, representatives of the governments and other stakeholders of a certain landscape. Together with stakeholders it aims to create space for dialogue, in order to tackle commonly felt problems together. It operates from a human rights-based perspective, with the aim to build inclusive and democratic decision-making regarding land tenure. Land for Life's theory of change is built on the assumption that through multi-stakeholder dialogue stakeholders can engage in a facilitated process of learning and reflection, with the aim to create a conducive environment for improving land governance, starting at the national level where national policies are shaped.

In general terms, Land for Life's model seems to work, as several constructive dialogues have taken place at the regional and national level, and currently being decentralised to the local level, amongst others in Oromia. However, also Land for Life is encountering challenges, which partly overlap with the challenges faced by DryDev. Some of these challenges include political friction and instability hampering the process, weak private sector involvement, lack of representation of high level policy makers at the local level, and a poor system of tracking progress made and challenges encountered. Building on this complementarity, Land for Life is highly interested in collaboration with DryDev, and launch a land governance in Amhara and Oromia jointly. For more information: <https://land-for-life.org/>

Explore, engage, build trust	Create framework for collaboration	Seek land governance changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key land governance challenges identified • Resonance among key actors built • Flow of relevant information established • Joint training and exposure conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory dialogue and facilitation introduced • Joint vision, strategy and work plan formulated • Recognised MAP governance structure established • Resource base clarified and strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened coordination and synergies between land governance interventions • Meaningful participation of affected citizens in land policy dialogue • Joint monitoring and response to emerging issues • Principles of VGGT and CFS-RAI principles taken up in policy reform and implementation

Figure 10 The Land for Life model to build constructive land governance dialogue at multiple levels.

5.8 Wednesday February 17: Building a dialogue that works

Building solid and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue is an art, which requires the capacities to design the process, the social skills to facilitate the process, and the attitude to make the process truly inclusive. In order to acquire these capacities we examined the 'multi-stakeholder dialogue' process model developed by Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, and tailor this to DryDev's project areas. For more information on this process model see https://www.wur.nl/en/show/CDI_MSP_portal.htm

An effective Multi Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) process needs a careful process design which fit into the institutional context in which the MSP takes place. There will never be a simple recipe or blueprint; rather, you will need to follow an iterative process together with the stakeholders in which you assess the present situation, plan, implement, review, adjust, and again plan ahead.

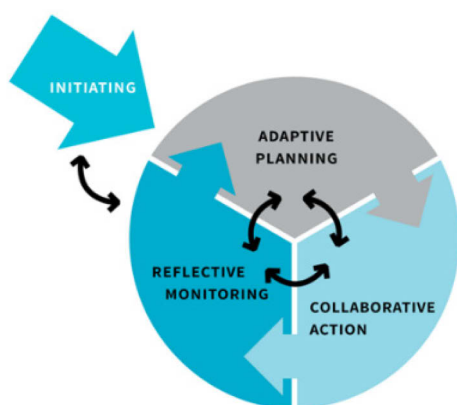


Figure 11 MSP process model.

Whilst every MSP process is unique, there are common process phases to take into consideration. Figure 5 captures these phases which might be helpful in designing your process. The table presents a checklist to make sure you haven't overlooked anything. The four main phases are iterative; you will continually revisit them as your MSP progresses (Brouwer & Woodhill, 2016).

A practical check list for the design and implementation of a multi-stakeholder dialogue is given in figure 12.

Typical actions during the initiation process	Typical actions for the adaptive planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify reasons for an MSP• Undertake initial situation analysis (stakeholders, issues, institutions, power and politics)• Establish interim steering body• Build stakeholder support• Establish scope and mandate• Outline the process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deepen understanding and trust• Identify issues and opportunities• Generate visions for the future• Examine future scenarios• Agree on strategies for change• Identify actions and responsibilities• Communicate outcomes
Typical actions for the collaborative action	Typical actions for the reflective monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop detailed action plans• Secure resources and support• Develop capacities for action• Establish management structures• Manage implementation• Maintain stakeholder commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a learning culture and environment• Define success criteria and indicators• Develop and implement a monitoring mechanism• Review progress and generate lessons• Use lessons for improvement

Figure 12 Checklist for organising a successful multi-stakeholder dialogue (free after Brouwer and Woodhill, 2016).

5.9 Thursday February 18: Scaling from local dialogue to national policy

Our guest Mr. Bezuaalem Bekele from GIZ German Development Cooperation shared his experience on how local dialogue can be upscaled to national dialogue, and how such national dialogue can contribute to a more detailed design on national policies on land governance. He paid special attention to the challenges of land degradation, farmer-pastoralist conflict, and difficulties with private land investment, and advised the groups on how DryDev can contribute to enhancing land governance in Ethiopia.

The session was seriously hampered by internet problems, and was therefore not as interactive as it was meant to be. Nevertheless, the group learned from Mr. Bekele how the Government of Ethiopia has promoted the development of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (VGGT), as developed by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012. These guidelines describe a set of general and specific principles for responsible governance and the rights and duties of the state, the private sector and the local population living in urban and rural areas. Within the guidelines the State is recognised as a bearer of responsibilities to respect all legitimate tenure rights, and to safeguard and promote these tenure rights and their enjoyment against infringements. The VGGT is explicit in its position towards the responsibility of business enterprises, and their need to act with due diligence to avoid infringing on the human rights and legitimate tenure rights of others. The same Committee on World Food Security endorsed the ten Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems in 2014. The guidelines form a valuable instrument to hold all parties responsible for their behaviour, including government, farmers and private companies alike.

The presentation of Mr. Bekele raised many questions regarding the practical implementation of these guidelines. The participants were interested in the principle, yet highly critical on the practicability of these, as what they see in their intervention zone is not conform the principles. A vivid discussion around implementation emerged. Mr. Bekele explained how the international community is supporting the Ethiopian government in operationalisation of the guidelines, but without sketching the real life situation in Amhara and Oromia. During the discussion he highlighted his willingness to cooperate with DryDev, to learn more from its experiences in the field. He offered collaboration and assistance in the design and implementation of a land governance dialogue in Ambassel and Boset. This would not only help DryDev to get dialogue started, but it would also help GIZ, as it would provide a wealth of information and local experience, hence helping to get the local voices better heard within nationally formulated policies.

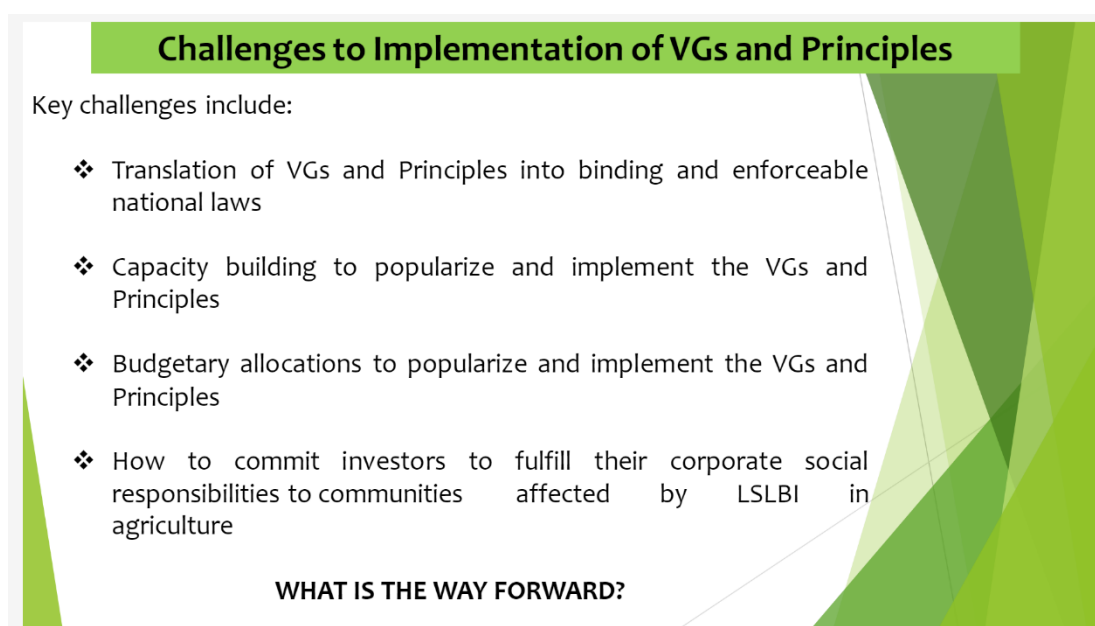


Figure 13 The major challenges to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, as presented by GIZ (Bekele, 2021).

5.10 Friday February 19: Designing land governance in your intervention area

The last day was dedicated to the design of the initial steps for starting a land governance dialogue in Ambassel and Boset. Both groups prepared a design, and decided to start the dialogue with a stakeholder workshop, with the aim to jointly assess land governance, and identify the major obstacles to land governance in practice.

After consultation, both groups decided to build on the idea of Land for Life, and start the workshop with a coffee session, to discuss land related topics in an informal manner, in order to break the ice. Both groups decided to directly link land governance to the sustainable management of land and water, in order to introduce the more delicate and politically oriented conversation on land tenure. Both groups discussed the difficulty of facilitating a dialogue, as this could be sensitive, given the political tensions underneath. Bringing all stakeholders together may not be the best way to go, as single stakeholder sensitisation meetings may be preferable instead.

In an attempt to support, the session focused on the facilitation of delicate multi-stakeholder dialogue. We watched a series of short videos on the communication skills which are needed for successful dialogue, and discussed the content. The key point discussed is that for any sensitive multi-stakeholder dialogue, success won't just happen; it will arise from the implementation of a carefully considered design, and great facilitation skills of those who organise and facilitate the process. Six points of attention were discussed in more detail:

1. A process design should outline the main phases of a MSP, and contain all the potentially sensitive issues for each of the phases;
2. The MSP should have a well-defined and agreed upon mission and vision, and be flexible in order to respond to unexpected events;
3. The MSP should be designed according to a sound rationale for the change that it hopes to instigate;
4. The facilitator should master a set of facilitation skills which are required during the entire process, including the design, the management, the implementation and the monitoring of the MSP;
5. Sometimes, an external facilitator may be preferred over a team member, as neutrality and impartiality may be needed. An external facilitator is in the position to highlight alternative positions and perspectives, and potentially promote an atmosphere of shared learning and understanding, by removing pre-existing communicative barriers that may exist;
6. A good MSP should have a good balance between the practicalities of land management with the more politically oriented and problematic issues related to land tenure. Combining practical information with space to share worries and concerns opens the space to build a more constructive dialogue.

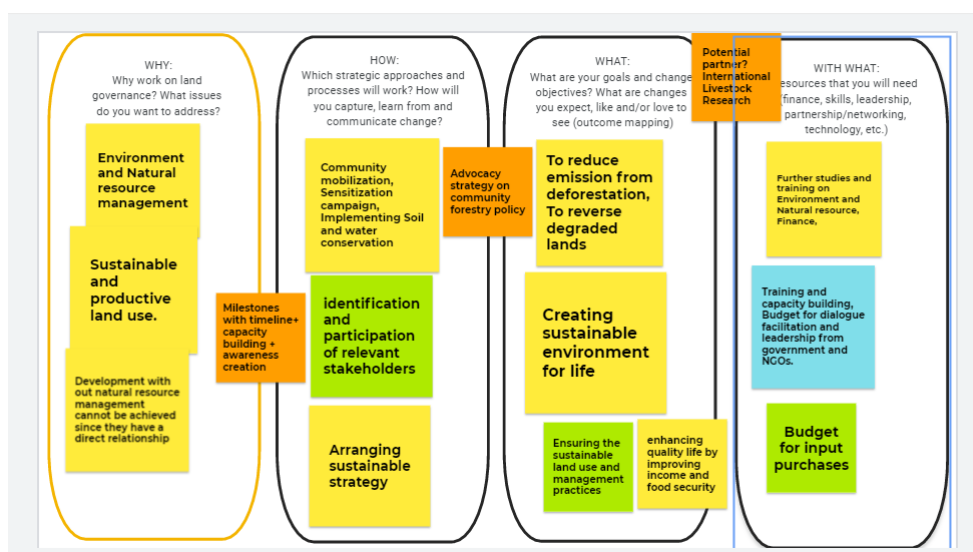


Figure 14 The process design as produced by participants during the exercise.

6 Daily field work: Illustrating land governance with satellite data

Stakeholders have different 'stakes' within a landscape. As a result, each stakeholder will have a different view and interpretation on the landscape and the issue(s) at stake. Satellite data and other geodata can help the facilitator of a dialogue to provide an objective view on the landscape and its issues from an environmental perspective, by visualising a landscape's ecological dynamics over space and over time. This may help the dialogue to be more strategically oriented, as participants may get to an agreement that despite the differences, they do share an important concern.

In order to familiarise the participants with the use of geo-data they were exposed to a series of exercises to be undertaken in the field, with the use of mobile phones. The data collected can support the land governance dialogue, as it provides the material to visualise landscape dynamics, and identify the rights and responsibilities involved.



Figure 15 Overview of the steps in using geodata for land governance.

Overview of the tools used (more detailed information available in the toolkit)

Polarsteps – is an application that automatically tracks travellers' journeys. The app uses offline GPS-tracking and once Wi-Fi connection is available, and it transfers all tracked information to the traveller's Polarsteps webpage. The trip is displayed on an interactive map showing the traveller's routes, key locations and photos. Users can instantly add photos and locations to the interactive map or do it afterwards. <https://www.polarsteps.com>

Google Earth Timelapse – is a global, zoomable video that lets you see how the earth has changed over the past 35 years." This application is accessible on an desktop and as mobile application. During the training, we have chosen to use the desktop application. <https://earthengine.google.com/timelapse/>

Sentinel Playground - utilizes Sentinel Hub technology to enable easy-to-use discovery and exploring of full-resolution Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2, Landsat 8, DEM and MODIS imagery, along with access to the Earth Observation data products. It is a graphical interface to a complete and daily updated Sentinel-2 archive, a massive resource for anyone interested in Earth's changing surface, natural or man-made. <https://apps.sentinel-hub.com/sentinel-playground>

Global Forest Watch (GFW) - offers the latest data, technology and tools that empower people everywhere to better protect forests. With over 100 global and local data sets to learn about conservation, land use, forest communities and much more. <https://globalforestwatch.org/map/>

Water Productivity Open Access Portal (WaPOR) - to monitor Water Productivity through Open access of remotely sensed derived data." This portal mostly covers Africa in 250, 100 and 30 meter resolution. <https://wapor.apps.fao.org/>

SoilGrids – global gridded soil information – is a system for global digital soil mapping (250 meter resolution) that makes use of global soil profile information and covariate data to model the spatial distribution of soil properties across the globe." <https://soilgrids.org>

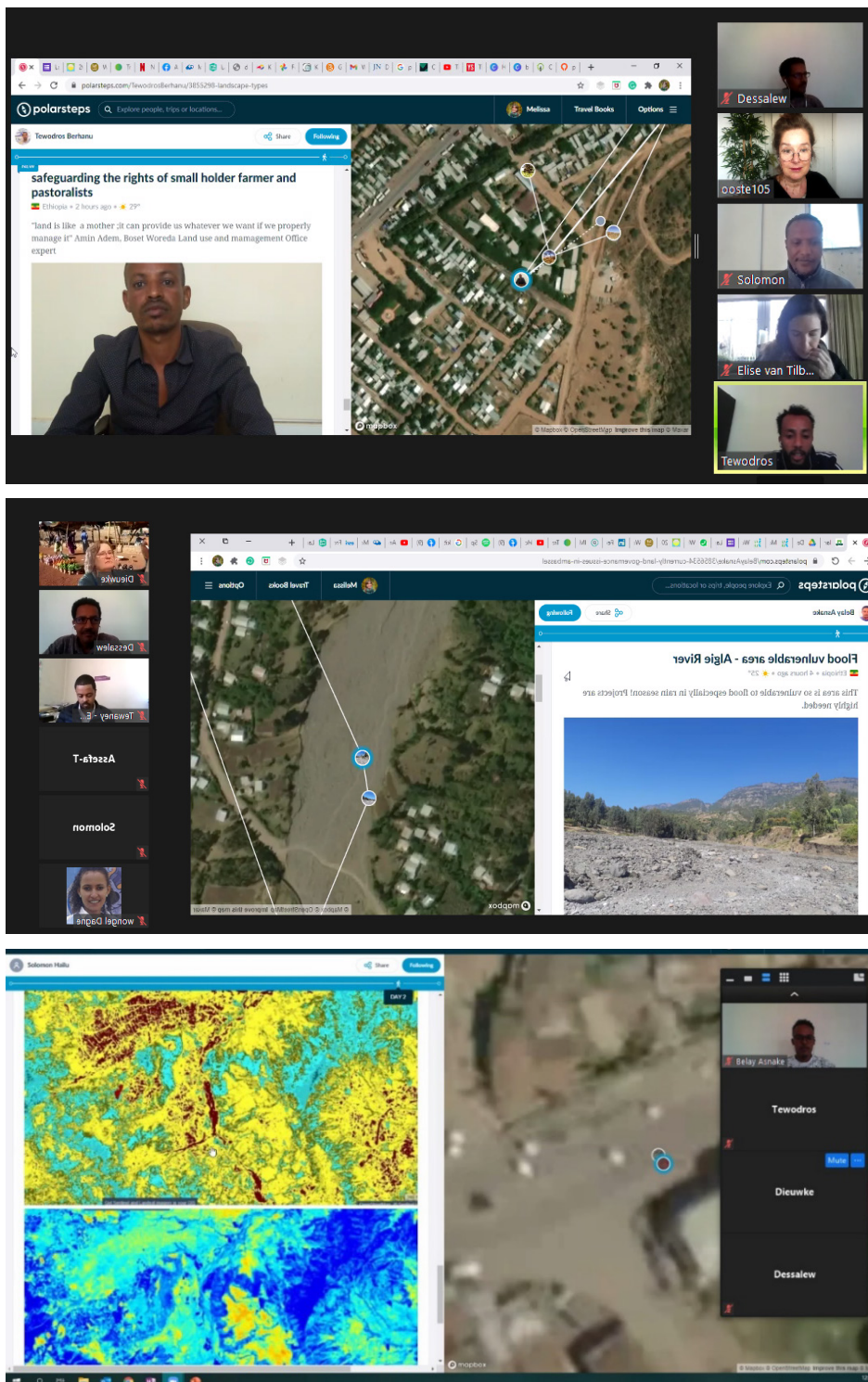


Figure 16 Images of the field work in progress:

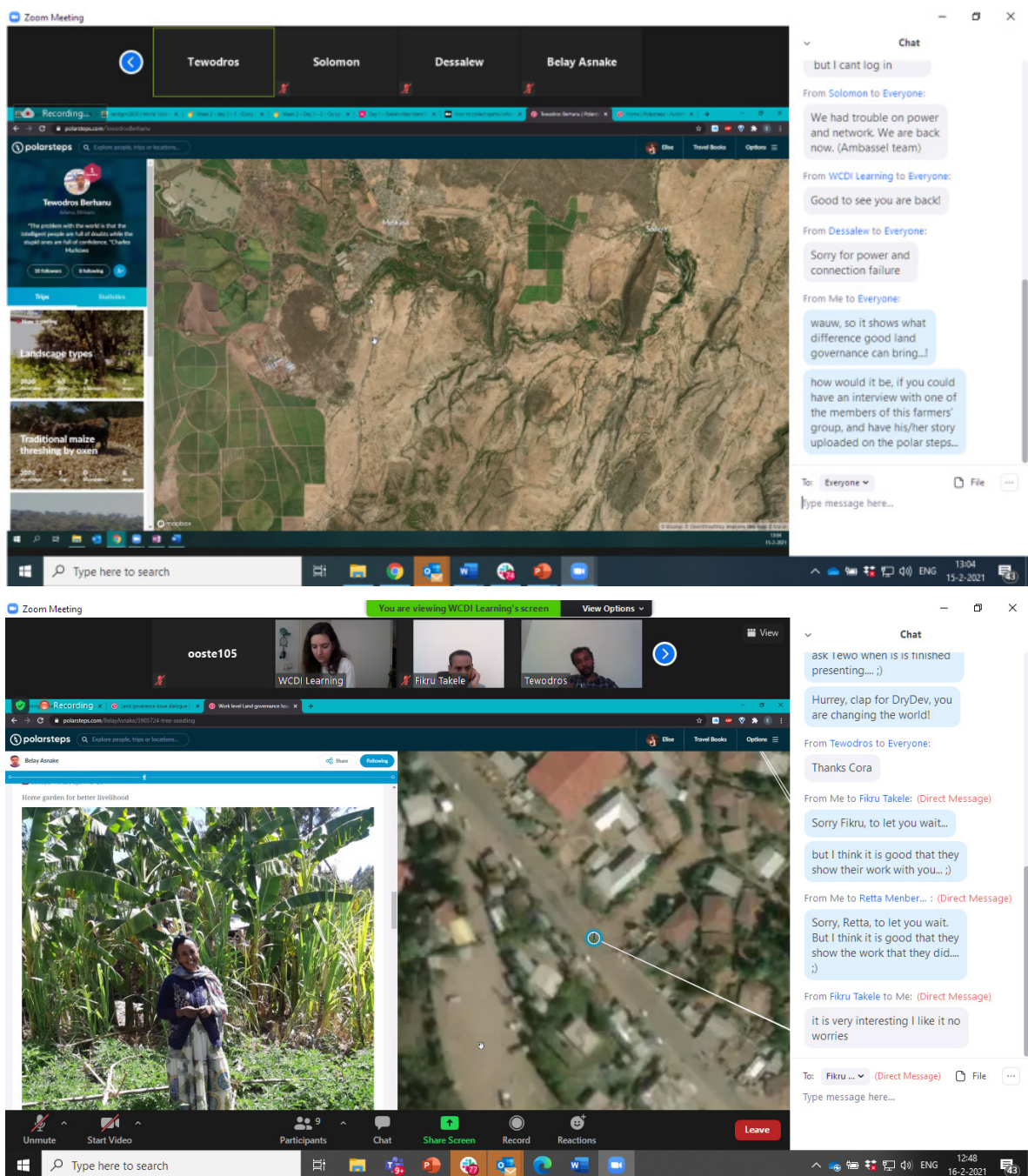


Figure 17 Images of the field work in progress.

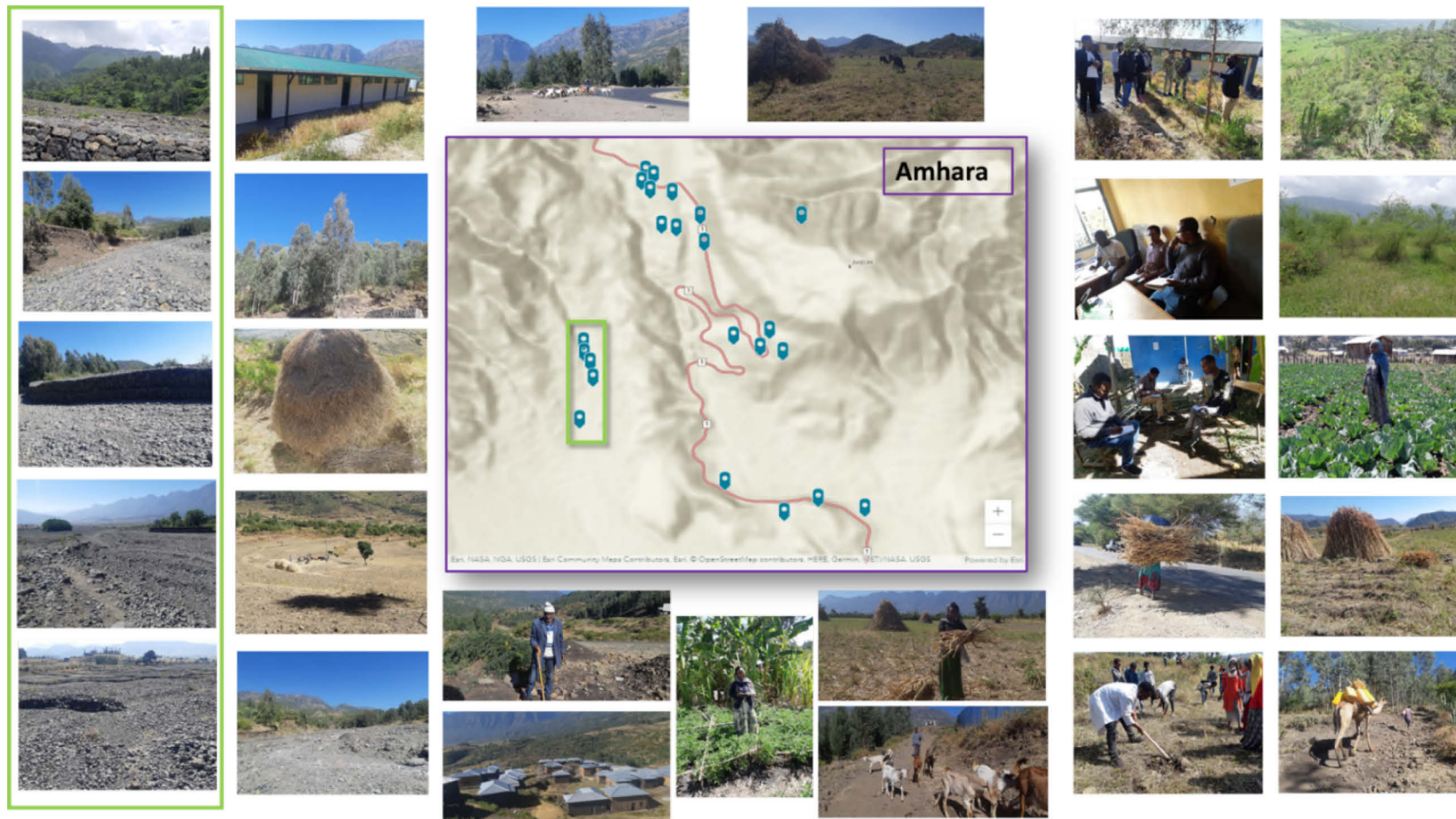


Figure 18 Overview of the Polarsteps journey to Ambassel in Amhara.

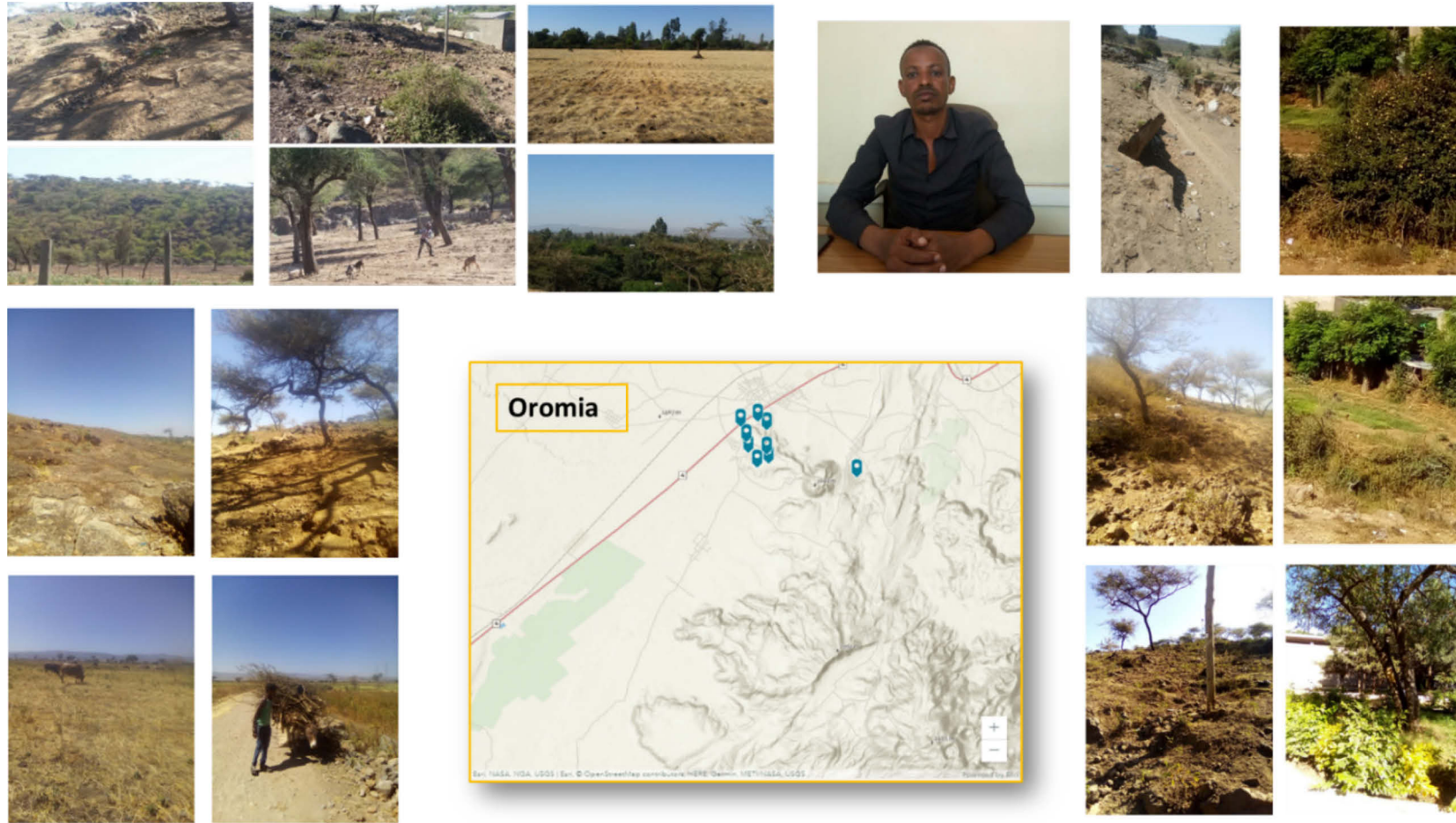


Figure 19 Overview of the Polarsteps journey to Boset in Oromia.

7 Learning outcomes and evaluation

At the end of every day, the learnings of the day were evaluated through an online poll. All days were unanimously evaluated as good to very good. The tools were considered useful and interesting, and the overall learning outcomes were considered as achieved. Although the participants were disappointed about the cancellation of their travel to the Netherlands, they were satisfied with the learning outcomes achieved through this online training.

The design of the land governance dialogue was successfully done, but participants were worried about the feasibility of the dialogues to be implemented in the field. Given the upcoming local and national parliamentary elections it was decided to not carry out the local dialogues, as this would not be appreciated by the regional and local governments. It was decided to postpone the exercises to a later moment, hopefully within a future follow up phase of the DryDev programme. The organisation of real dialogue in the field would have added value, not only in terms of direct interaction with stakeholders, but also in terms of collaboration with Land for Life and GIZ, as both parties are keen to collaborate with World Vision on the topic of land governance. But the sensitivity of the topic and the proximity of the elections would not have provided an ideal environment for the dialogue to bear fruit. It is hoped that within the future, World Vision will have another opportunity for organising land governance dialogue in practice, further building on DryDev achievements and consolidating its long term results.

Organising an online course on land governance has been challenging. Land governance is a sensitive topic, and requires direct and sometimes confidential conversation, which is not easily done online. Moreover, technical limitations due to poor internet connections were hard to overcome. Nevertheless, the course was implemented and its objectives were maximally achieved. The TalentLMS learning environment was fit for purpose, and the online tools were engaging, allowing for maximum interaction and participation. The combination of online sessions with field work was effective, and the use of PolarSteps with mobile phones and additional geodata tools were novel, and added value to the programme. It allowed for visualising invisible information, and direct stakeholder interaction in the field. It provided opportunities for tangible field work, and it exposed participants to the world of geodata which are freely available online. The outcomes of the field work are immediately applicable to the design of any stakeholder dialogue to be organised in Ambassel or Boset.

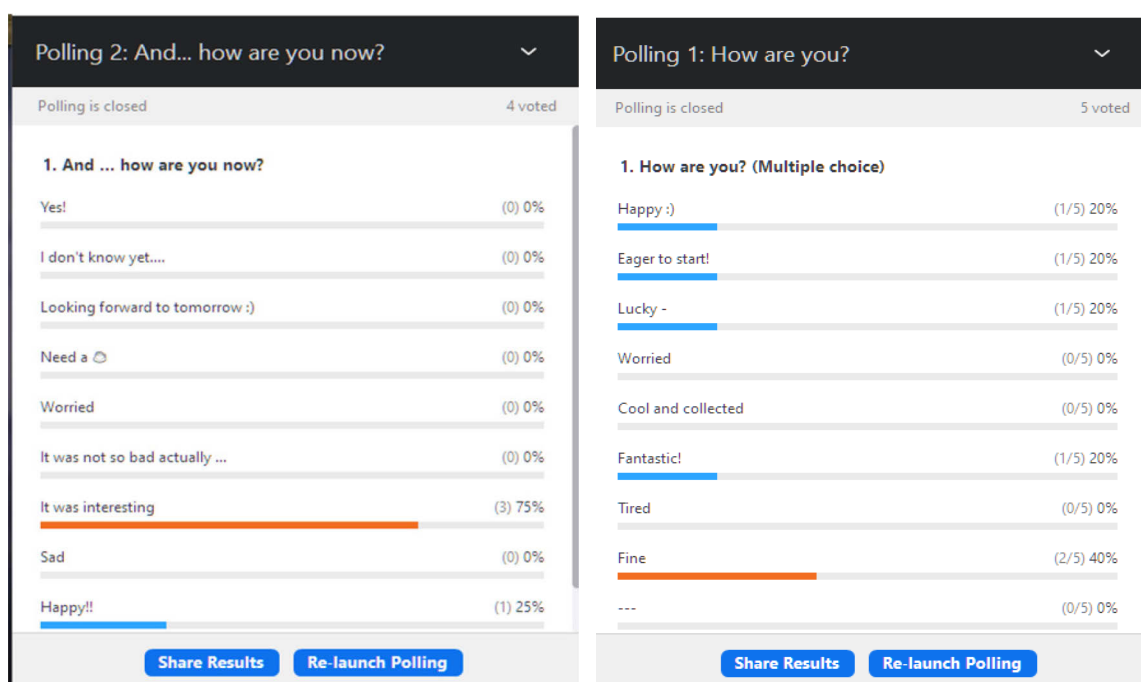


Figure 20 Screenshot of online evaluation of the course.

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Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation supports value creation by strengthening capacities for sustainable development. As the international expertise and capacity building institute of Wageningen University & Research we bring knowledge into action, with the aim to explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life. With approximately 30 locations, 6,500 members (5,500 fte) of staff and 12,500 students, Wageningen University & Research is a world leader in its domain. An integral way of working, and cooperation between the exact sciences and the technological and social disciplines are key to its approach.



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