

International course

# Competing claims on land, water and other (agricultural) resources



## Reconciling agricultural development and biodiversity conservation at the landscape level

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 27 February - 10 March 2017

You are engaged in the management of natural resources for (agricultural) production purposes, or for conservation? Then you have most likely noticed that competition over water, land, resources on that land, even over clean air has drastically increased. Resulting conflicts between land uses and groups of people are common in our work even such that “natural resources management (NRM)” can be equated to natural resources conflict management. If this applies to your working context as resource manager, policy-maker, scientist, practitioner, private sector or civil society representative then you may want to upgrade your insights and skills on how to manage conflict over the use of natural resources.

**A changing natural resources management sector requires additional expertise and skills.** The NRM sector is subject to rapid change as a result of population growth and changed consumption patterns, globalisation of natural resources markets, democratisation of environmental governance, international conventions and protocols with a bearing on resource management and conservation, as well as (man-made) bio-physical processes such as land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change. Very often these changes lead to an increased competition for land and resources between stakeholder groups from local to global levels. Many of the management approaches we apply today may no longer be effective.

The competing claims approach is a response to more conventional approaches that tend to perceive either the State, or the community, or the market as being capable of offering “easy” solutions to resource conflicts, preferably in the form of win-win solutions. Practice however proves different. How do you deal with conflicting interests between the different stakeholders,

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with different perceptions on the importance of conservation versus development, power imbalances across and between multiple scale levels?

Thinking in competing claims implies rethinking current natural resources management paradigms, applying new analytical frameworks to better understand conflicts, reviewing institutional arrangements in the sector we work, and reconsidering our roles and required expertise.

## Invitation to the short course “Competing claims on natural resources” in Wageningen in 2016

The programme targets mid to senior level resource managers, policy-makers, academia, private sector and civil society representatives with a stake in natural resources use. Wageningen University has researched competing claims over resources in the agricultural and NRM sectors over the years and developed new analytical models to gain insight in land and resource conflicts. The Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) being part of Wageningen University would like to share the latest methodologies with international professionals in the NRM sector. Furthermore, CDI believes that sharing new insights has to be accompanied with developing the skills to apply these insights in the participants’ working environment, and that this best can be done in an interactive learning environment where experience and expertise among participants from the different continents can be shared and developed into a network of practitioners.



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The 2-weeks training therefore provides a mix of sharing new knowledge, analytical tools, and skill development such as conflict analysis skills, negotiation, mediation, facilitation and communication skills. The programme is further built on case studies provided by participants, that are used throughout the course for application of best practices.

**Requirements for admission** Candidates should meet the following requirements: relevant tertiary education, at least five years of working experience in the NRM sector, competency in English.

**Strengthening your competencies to manage conflict.** The overall aim of the course programme is to contribute to sustainable natural resources management by building capacity of mid-career professionals in the NRM sector to manage conflicts over natural resources. The specific learning objectives are to become capable to:

1. contextualise and apply analytical frameworks and methodologies to better understand competing claims on natural resources;
2. apply conflict management approaches and develop competencies to manage related change processes;
3. practice a broad range of skills to manage conflict and facilitate informed negotiation processes;
4. review institutional arrangements that hamper or foster negotiated outcomes;
5. share and document cases of competing claims on natural resources to become capable of transforming conflict in positive social change.

## Be challenged by this two week programme

Week one

- understanding competing claims over natural resources – mapping and analysing competing claims to inform decision-making; building a process model;
- from competing claim to conflict – understanding power and stakeholder interests; conflicts and conflict management strategies; the value of conflict in social change processes;
- analysing conflicts (using relevant tools) and exploring trade-offs;
- analysing institutional arrangements that hamper or foster the embedding of negotiated outcomes;

- excursion (analysing competing claims in the Netherlands).

Week two

- developing strategies for managing conflicts – broadening stakeholder engagement; process design towards negotiated outcomes;
- Exploring landscape governance arrangements to manage competing claims
- building skills to facilitate negotiation processes – facilitation, communication, negotiation and mediation skills;
- closing seminar debating participants cases of strategically transforming natural resources conflicts.

## Further practical information

- **Application**, the procedure is:
  - 1) Apply at Wageningen UR CDI:** [www.wageningenur.nl/cdi](http://www.wageningenur.nl/cdi). You will receive a confirmation within a week. Candidates approved by our selection committee will received an admission letter.
  - 2) CDI** is unable to assist you in obtaining financial support, however if you want to apply for a **NFP/MENA Fellowship**, CDI will provide you with the full instructions and the web address for registration in **ATLAS**. You can check the eligibility at [www.nuffic.nl/nfp](http://www.nuffic.nl/nfp) or [www.nuffic.nl/mena](http://www.nuffic.nl/mena). A limited number of scholarships is available. As this application process takes time and requires several documents, we recommend that you **start as soon as possible**.
- **Accommodation:** Hof van Wageningen, Wageningen, The Netherlands. For prices, see the cost estimate on our website. **NFP Fellowships include** travel and full board and lodging.
- **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).
- Participants will be awarded with a **Certificate** of attendance. The programme of the course might be changed to incorporate new insights.

For an overview of all the courses visit our website: [www.wageningenur.nl/cdi](http://www.wageningenur.nl/cdi). More than 20,000 participants have gained access to the latest insights from research and best practices. From September 2013, all participants of our courses offered in Wageningen are provided with tablets as a learning tool.

