

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Institute for Poverty, Land
and Agrarian Studies



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE



FACULTY
of EMS



Research, teaching and policy engagement | 1995-2025

Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies



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PLAAS TEAM



**Professor
Andries du Toit**
Director

**Professor
Ruth Hall**
Acting Director
and SARChI Chair

**Professor
Mafa Hara**
Professor

**Professor
Moenieba Isaacs**
Academic Coordinator
and Professor

**Dr
Farai Mtero**
Senior Researcher



**Dr
Phillan Zamchiya**
Senior Researcher

**Cyriaque
Hakizimana**
Researcher

**Nkanyiso
Gumede**
Researcher

**Ayanda
Madlala**
Associate Researcher

**Maud
Sebelebele**
Associate Researcher



**Siphesihle
Mbhele**
Associate Researcher

Zina Jacobs
Associate Researcher

Dr Tapiwa Chatikobo
Postdoctoral Fellow

Lameez Mota
Finance and
Operations Manager

**Donovan
Delpaul**
Senior Finance Officer



Carla Henry
Postgraduate and Continuing
Education Coordinator

**Deshnee
Subramany**
Communications Manager

**Joy
van Dieman**
Administrator

**Bahihah
Mohamed**
Finance Manager
(part-time)



**Phelela
Ngcingwana**
Administrative Assistant

**Emmanuel
Ogbuabo**
Senior Student Assistant

**Jenine
Baartman**
Office Assistant

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The year under review marked a moment of change at multiple scales, impacting on how we at PLAAS pursue our work. In South Africa, for the first time in our 30 years of democracy, the national elections saw the African National Congress (ANC) lose its majority and form a Government of National Unity – ushering in a new era of coalition politics. Of relevance for our work, the land reform and rural development mandates were detached from the agriculture portfolio, and the first non-ANC minister was appointed to lead land reform. PLAAS responded by welcoming Minister Mzwanele Nyhontso, and we held a briefing session with him to open up avenues to provide research-based contributions to policy and implementation.

South Africa was not alone in this political sea-change. On the global stage, over half the world's population headed to the polls in a historic year for democracy as more than 70 countries held elections. Many long-established political orders were upset, largely by rising nationalist and populist movements that challenged social compacts and economic policies. While the climate agreements accelerated the growth of carbon markets and climate financing, the precarious state of global development was underscored as the Global North states' attention and public finances turned to responses to the continued attacks on Gaza and Ukraine.

At the level of our Institute, we completed a review of PLAAS and embarked on a roadshow at UWC to forge closer links with sister units within the Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) Faculty and across the University. Spurred on by our institutional review, we developed and published a [Strategic Plan 2025-2030](#). It is the first time PLAAS is setting out core programmatic goals with annual indicators against which we will measure our progress as we aim to consolidate our operations, build partnerships, strengthen our postgraduate offerings, expand our footprint, and deepen our scholarship and impact. Within leadership, our Director of 14 years, Professor Andries du Toit, bid us farewell and moved on to the Faculty's School of Government and while we

advertised for a new professor to join the PLAAS team, I took on the role of Acting Director.

On the Africa stage, we convened a high-level [policy dialogue on women's land rights](#) in Dar Es Salaam, in partnership with our Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa - leveraging our field-based research in Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and engaging with African land ministries and other experts. We also presented insights from our research to two high profile knowledge exchange events: the [Global Programme for Responsible Land Policy](#) in Senegal and the [International Knowledge Exchange Forum](#) on Land Governance in Morocco. We expanded our programme of masterclasses on dimensions of land governance in Africa, bringing leading African scholars to train practitioners in governments, civil society, business, and academia. The three masterclasses addressed [food systems](#), [climate change](#), and [mining and extractivism](#). We published reports from a scoping study on [digital tech](#) in African agriculture, and developed a new grant proposal for further work in this rapidly changing field that affects farmers and farm workers.

At the more local level, we played a strategic role at the [Fisher People's Tribunal and Conference](#) with partners Coastal Links and Masifundise Development Trust, explaining the realities of people living in iSimangaliso Wetland Park. We supported the research, testimonies preparation, translations and transcriptions for the duration of the event, and supported the steering committee and jurors. We co-hosted the [Trammkassia World Ocean Day Festival](#) with the Simon's Town Museum to bring environmental defenders into conversation with coastal communities whose livelihoods are criminalised through marine conservation. To bring our research findings to a broader audience, we launched an [animation on living landscapes](#) and the need to integrate social and spatial justice into biodiversity conservation.

We engaged with the newly reconstituted Land Court, formerly the Land Claims Court, and hosted a visit

by the Judge President and Deputy Judge President of the Court to initiate a collaboration to strengthen training on the historical, social, political, and economic context for land law. This collaboration has evolved into plans for a short course for practitioners in the legal and social justice fields to underpin the adjudication of land rights.

PLAAS created a [UWC Land Collection](#) as a digital archive of key documents about land law and policy, research, and activism in South Africa. The collection was created in collaboration with UWC's Centre for Humanities Research, UWC Archival Visions and SARChI in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, funded by the South African Department of Science and Innovation and National Research Foundation.

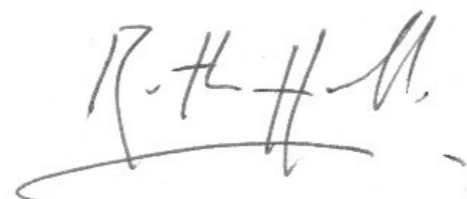
We were incredibly proud that our colleagues in the Living Landscapes in Action project team received the UWC Academic Achievers' Award for Excellent Community Engagement in 2024. We also brought community struggles for land and resource rights into the University community by hosting a screening of the acclaimed documentary film, [Mother City](#), together with our partners in UWC's Politics and Urban Governance unit, and brought Ndifuna Ukwazi and Reclaim the City into conversation with the university community about the right to land in the city.

We partnered to co-convene the [Global Land Grabbing](#) international conference in Bogota, Colombia, with collaborators in the Land Deal Politics Initiative. A sizeable PLAAS contingent of postgraduate students, researchers and partners presented their work at this important global gathering to interrogate the continued commodification and concentration of land, and the march of dispossession - often driven by financialisation, geopolitical shifts and climate response policies. We presented at several other conferences, including the [6th World Conference on](#)

[Remedies to Racial and Social Justice](#), held at UWC in partnership with the University of Missouri.

Bringing our global networks to our campus and to tackle some of the big challenges of our times, we held two public lectures, on [migration, mobility, borders and the ethics of care](#) in a world at two degrees, and [Chinese 'colonialism'](#), capital accumulation and the Belt and Road Initiative. We wrapped up our work on [Inclusive Urban Land Reform](#) with dissemination to partners and to urban land occupations movements, and embarked on several new projects. Among the new areas of work is a partnership of natural and social scientists across several universities to develop nature-based solutions to manage South Africa's rangelands in a manner that builds social equity and ecological resilience. We ended the year on a positive note, with confirmation of funds for a major new research collaboration to investigate the growth of domestic middle-classes and elites investing in farming, and the repercussions of this influx of wealth into rural economies and societies.

Our postgraduate programmes continued energetically, with a new cohort of PG Diploma students, and a sizeable group of MPhil and PhD students engaged in diverse studies in our field. Amid many successes to celebrate, we were devastated by the loss of our PhD student ['Taki' Sithagu](#), a brilliant young woman whose journey was cut short. We will miss her humanity, integrity, and intelligent analysis of land administration.



Professor Ruth Hall
Acting Director
May 2025

- Our Living Landscapes in Action project team received the University of the Western Cape's Academic Achievers' Award for Excellent Community Engagement Team
- PLAAS created a [UWC Land Collection](#) as a digital archive of key documents about land law and policy, research, and activism in South Africa. The collection was created in collaboration with UWC's Centre for Humanities Research, UWC Archival Visions, and SARChI in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, funded by the South African Department of Science and Innovation and National Research Foundation.
- Our Living Landscapes in Action project launched an animation on the sidelines of the IMCC7, ['What is the Living Landscapes in Action project?'](#), which explained to conference delegates and journalists why the project is important.
- Our research associate contributed to the 6th World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality Emerging Scholars Professional Handbook, and became a founding member of its emerging scholars programme.
- We participated in the 10th Krushna Chandra Jena Chilika-V2V Annual Field School in India: A Commons Approach to Coastal Communities Transitioning from Vulnerability to Viability.
- The Living Landscapes in Action project installed an internet tower for the community of Den Staat farm in the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape.
- PLAAS co-convened the Land Deal Politics Initiative [Global Land Grabbing International Conference](#) in Bogota, Colombia.

FAREWELL TO PROF ANDRIES DU TOIT

In April 2024, PLAAS bid farewell to its outgoing director, Professor Andries du Toit. Professor Du Toit has been a researcher at PLAAS since its inception in 1995. He has been a steady hand as the Institute's director, taking up the reins from founding director Professor Ben Cousins in 2010.

Professor du Toit continues his work at UWC, joining the School of Government on 1 May 2024, where he contributes to teaching, research, and community engagement, specifically in the areas of poverty, citizenship and democracy.

Professor Ruth Hall stepped in as acting director from 1 May to 31 December 2024. The EMS Faculty at UWC will begin the recruitment process to appoint a new Director and full professor.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

During 2023/24, PLAAS underwent an institutional review, led by UWC's Academic Planning Unit. A review panel was constituted, comprising members of the UWC executive, professional staff and external experts. The review came at a time of financial and leadership change at PLAAS. It is useful in assessing the key challenges confronting PLAAS and timely in making recommendations to move towards regeneration within the Institute. PLAAS has engaged with the assessment and the recommendations made, especially with increasing its research output, curriculum and postgraduate programme issues, and the organisation's sustainability. The panellists' views, who understand the environment in which PLAAS operates, have been welcomed. The Strategic Planning Workshop on which this document builds emerged as a core recommendation of the review, to which we have responded.

The review pointed to ways in which PLAAS's business model can be made more sustainable:

- the need to affirm and secure the position of the postgraduate coordinator responsible for continuing education;
- the Postgraduate Diploma should be revisited, and the option of a high throughput taught postgraduate programme considered;
- stronger alignment with the Faculty and University, including at the level of student pipeline, and in research links with other centres; and
- the directorship needs to be reconfigured, with a rotating directorship that in turn will require a division of labour among the three permanent professors.

STRATEGIC PLAN

After the institutional review, PLAAS team members went on to develop a five-year strategic plan for the organisation beginning in 2025. The strategy maps out the organisation's strategic orientation by its vision, mission, goals and strategies, provides a brief overview of the starting coordinates for PLAAS's strategy-making, and assesses the external and operating environments.

The [PLAAS Strategic Plan 2025-2030](#) is a roadmap in which we set out our plans and indicators of success to achieve in the next five years. PLAAS staff developed this plan around four goal areas:



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025 AND OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

30th Anniversary

Towards the end of 2024, PLAAS began preparing for its 30th anniversary celebration in 2025. In 2024, we created our new logo to celebrate this milestone.

To mark the celebration, PLAAS will hold the [Land, Life and Society](#) International Conference on the Road to ICARRD+20. From 7-9 October, global scholars and students, practitioners, policymakers, activists, and allies will convene at UWC for a three-day conversation about the politics of land and resource struggles in an era of global and local crises. Across five themes, we will engage with issues of agrarian reform and rural development – land, oceans and fisheries, climate and environment, food and politics.



PLAAS COMMUNICATIONS

A core goal this year was to develop PLAAS's communications strategy to guide the organisation's identity as it moves towards celebrating 30 years of research, teaching and learning, and policy engagement. We have begun creating an organisational identity document for consistency in our image, and our draft communications strategy focuses on storytelling with consideration to our audiences of different languages across the continent.

In 2024, PLAAS hired a Communications Manager, Deshnee Subramany, on a part-time basis. This followed a communications consultancy that highlighted the need for a central communications

person to assist with creating and executing communications content.

Since joining PLAAS, Deshnee has been integrated into all research and training areas, working closely with our collaborators in the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa to strengthen research communications on land in Africa; with our university partners in the UK and Germany, and with our South African and regional civil society partners - in each case, amplifying the work we and our partners do, and ensuring that our messages are on point and, with presence across diverse digital platforms, that they land on target.

While the age group of 25-44 remains the highest on X (Twitter), we are seeing our content making an impression on a small but growing audience between the ages of 18-24. We have 11 000 followers, whom we hope to convert to our soon-to-be opened Bluesky account.

In October 2024, PLAAS opened a new WhatsApp channel. The channel has 76 followers, where we share upcoming events and learning opportunities.

PLAAS published four videos on its [YouTube channel](#) - a new animation on the Living Landscapes in Action project, a recording of our livestreamed policy dialogue in Tanzania at the first African Women's Land Professionals Conference, a webinar on conservation by Professor Bram Buscher from Wageningen University, and our best performing video for the year - a webinar on women's land rights in post-democratic South Africa. We have an audience of 1 560.

PLAAS website

The PLAAS website boasts a user base of over 27 000 viewers, spending almost two minutes on our site. This is a significant difference between other information sites such as news ones, which typically hold about 30 seconds of user time at a time. Our searchability is high as most of our audience comes from finding us on web browsers, and a large number of people come directly to our site to find information. Our pageviews now sit at over 118 000, up from 48 000 over the past few years.

27 000

viewers on the website,
each staying for an
average of two minutes

Through the year, having a dedicated communications manager on board has resulted in an:

- increase in website usage;
- analysis of PLAAS's digital presence; and
- increase in social media interaction and presence.

Social media

Over 55% of our 4 500 Facebook followers access us on this platform from South Africa. We have a presence in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia, and Namibia in Africa, as well as the United States, United Kingdom, India, Germany and Canada. They are largely between the ages of 25 and 44. These age groups are consistent on all our social media platforms. Our best performing content are calls for applications to our training programmes, as well as photo and video shares of our events.

Our LinkedIn demographics show that over 14% of the people who interact with us are lecturers, postdoctoral researchers, professors and high-ranking professionals such as CEOs.

4 500

followers on
Facebook, more than
55% of whom are
from South Africa

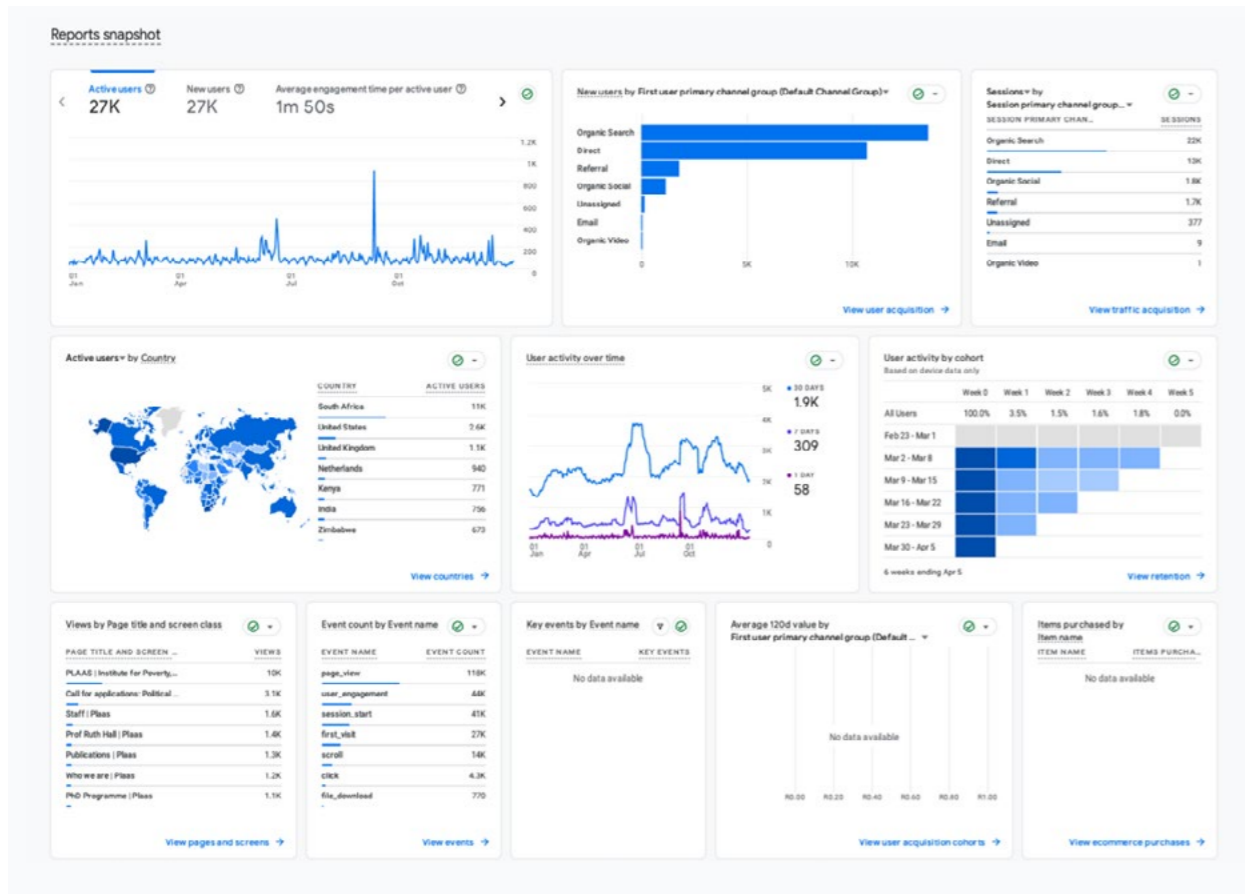
11 000

followers on
X (Twitter)

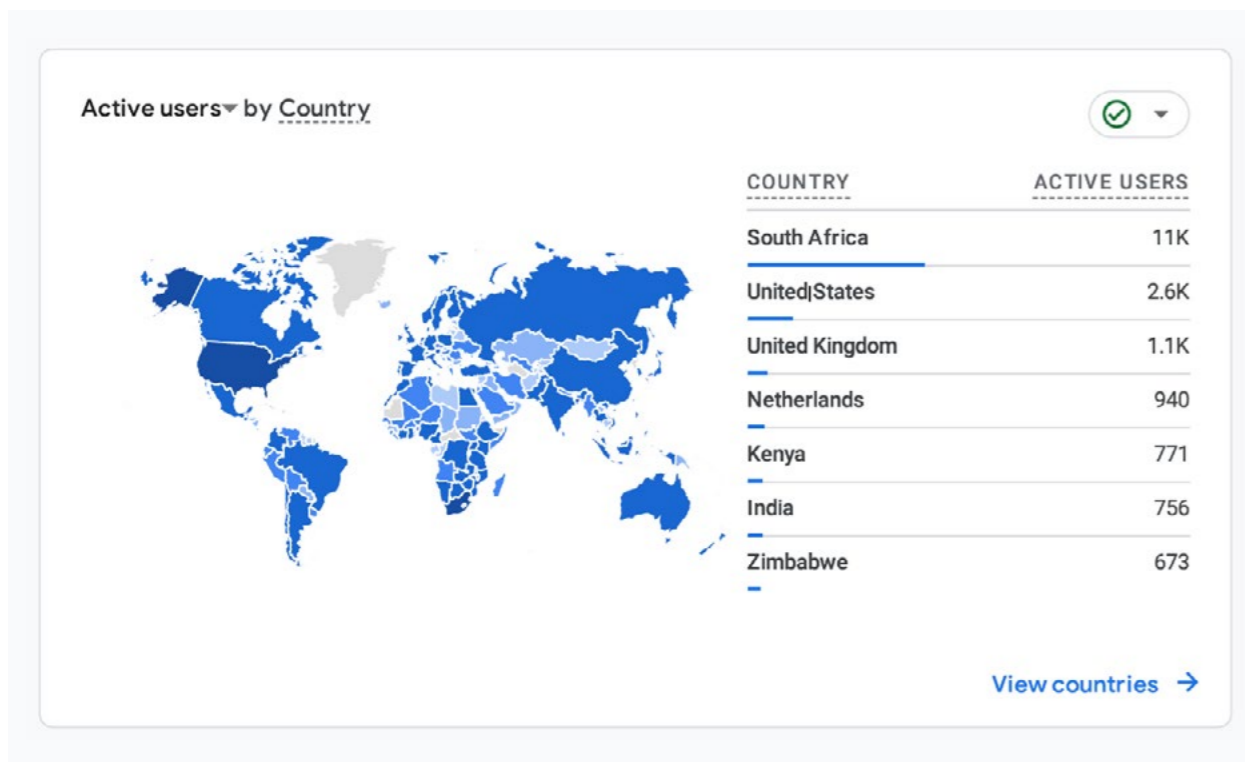
1 560

followers on
YouTube





Active users on our site come from all over the world, with a majority from South Africa, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Our footprint in Africa is growing. This is a key focus point for our communications.



RESEARCH PROJECTS

Inclusive Urban Land Reform

Dr Farai Mtero and Nkanyiso Gumede

Funder: [Claude Leon Foundation](#), Duration: 2023 - 2024.

Despite progressive provisions in South Africa's Constitution to help more people access land, the land reform programme has failed to address land-related inequalities, which are particularly severe in urban areas. In rural areas, development has collapsed, small rural towns have slumped and job shedding in the commercial farming sector has led to migration from these areas and land occupations in cities and urban peripheries. The Inclusive Urban Land Reform in South Africa project illuminates poor people's struggles for land access, often characterised as land reform from below. Drawing on selected case studies

of land occupations in urban peripheries, the [Inclusive Urban Land Reform in South Africa](#) project casts a spotlight on urban poor people's needs and what they would like equitable and inclusive land reform to look like. In 2024, the research team strengthened their relationships and collaborations with civil society and grassroots organisations in urban land reform. We convened a Women's Month webinar through the office of the Dean of the Economic and Management Science at UWC. Titled [Women's Land Struggles](#), we hosted land activist organisations Nkuzi Development Association, Ndifuna Ukwazi and Alliance for Rural Democracy on an analysis of post-apartheid equitable access to land. We also focused on a media interview for a documentary on Cape Town's urban housing crisis, and highlighted our research in a documentary on the City of Cape Town's spatial and land injustice, [No Place to Call Home](#).



Living Landscapes in Action

Professor Moenieba Isaacs

Funder: [Oak Foundation](#). Duration: 2021-2024

A project since 2021, the anticipated outcomes of the [Living Landscapes in Action project](#) were incorporating a slow methodology approach to research, social and spatial justice, as well as community action with evidence that calls for policy change. An end-of-grant report will be submitted in 2025 as the project's first phase comes to an end. Since the project's start, the LLA theory of change has evolved, embedding researchers with the appropriate language and cultural skills within the communities where we conduct our work. Our research evidence has fed into key advocacy tools,

such as an animation on what social and spatial justice in conservation is. We finalised shooting our advocacy documentary film, due for release in 2025, showing our evidence, slow methodology, and relationship with communities in Cape Town, iSimangaliso, and Mapungubwe. Our evidence-based research has helped conceptualise blue injustice for small-scale fishers in marine and wetland conservation. Our inputs were presented at the inaugural Africa Regional Small-Scale Fisheries and Blue Economy Summit, among other activities highlighted in the Director's note.



Vulnerability to Viability

Professor Moenieba Isaacs and Professor Mafaniso Hara

Funder: [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#), Canada. Duration: 2020-2028

Small-scale fisheries support more than 90% of the 120 million people in capture fisheries globally, and the sector contributes two-thirds of the global fish catch destined for direct human consumption. Yet an estimated 5.8 million fishers in the world earn less than \$1 per day. Small-sale fishers are economically and politically marginalised, highly vulnerable to change, and until recently remained largely invisible in policy debates in most countries. The [Vulnerability to Viability \(V2V\)](#) project investigates reasons and conditions contributing to small-scale fisheries vulnerability and what factors enable them to transition to viability. The project involves transdisciplinary research and

networking in collaboration with small-scale fishing community organisations, NGOs, governments and universities in six Asian countries – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand – and six African countries – Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania. Professor Isaacs is on the steering committee for the [V2V Working Group i-AdapT](#). This year, two of our research associates – Sipheshile Mbhele and Zina Jacobs – attended the 10th Krushna Chandra Jena Chilika-V2V Annual Field School in India, where they presented on A Commons Approach to Coastal Communities Transitioning from Vulnerability to Viability.



Livestock, Climate Change and Land Reform

Dr Tapiwa Chatikobo

*Funder: [United Kingdom Research and Innovation](#),
via the [Institute of Development Studies](#).*

Duration: 2023-2024

The redistribution of land in South Africa and Zimbabwe has, over several decades, opened up opportunities for small-scale livestock farmers. Yet most policies and support focus on crop production. At a time when

climate change is threatening rural livelihoods, we are investigating whether those farmers who gained access to more land through land reform are better able than others to withstand climate shocks, adapt land use practices and sustain livelihoods. This project released a new research report, [Livestock, Climate Change and Land Reform in South Africa](#). In 2025, the team hopes to publish a new journal article in *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice*.

Responsible Use of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources for Sustainable Development

Professor Mafaniso Hara

*Funder: [Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation](#) through the [Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations](#).
Duration: 2019-2024*

Fisheries and aquaculture make substantial contributions to food security and the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. The sector's sustainability is under pressure from overfishing; illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; climate change; pollution; and ocean acidification. The goal of the Responsible Use of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources for

Sustainable Development Project was to contribute to the sustainable use and conservation of fisheries. This project came to an end in 2023, with a final workshop in June 2024 on integrating local fisheries adaptation plans into local and national planning. We organised and facilitated the final handover workshop for 30 people after the project activities concluded, where we trained people in new skills, such as jewellery, soap and candle making. We provided skills and knowledge in business and financial handling, design strategies, self-confidence and self-actualisation. Read the [workshop report here](#).



Adaptive Fisheries Governance

Professor Mafaniso Hara

Funder: [Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate](#), United Kingdom. Duration: 2023-2026

The [Building Adaptive Fisheries Governance Capacity](#) research project focuses on inland fisheries in Malawi and Uganda and their abilities to adapt to changing environments. Shifts in climate, communities' social and economic situations, funding, the availability and use of resources, and global politics entail that states need to have systems and structures that allow for adaptive fisheries governance that alleviates biodiversity loss and protects aquatic resources. At the same time, adaptive governance could help communities and governments strengthen their climate resilience and reduce poverty. Between 2023 and 2024, the team conducted national and

district briefing workshops and interviews with key stakeholder groups at local, district, and national level in both countries. In the first quarter of this year (2025) we presented the fieldwork findings at a national workshop in each of the two countries. Over 300 participants, comprising representatives from government agencies and civil society organisations relevant to fisheries governance, attended the various briefing workshops. Our fieldwork findings were presented under four major themes: enforcement and trust, co-management, information and communication, and biodiversity protection and adaptation to climate change.



Anchovies for Human Consumption

Professor Mafaniso Hara

Funder: [Water Research Commission](#)

Duration: 2022-2026

Anchovies are high in nutrition and are abundant in South African waters but are not widely used for direct human consumption. Only about 50% of the annual total allowable catch for anchovy is harvested, leaving an estimated 150 000 tonnes unused. This project looks at how anchovies could contribute to South Africa's staple food basket as an affordable fish for people with lower incomes, as well as how fishing and production of anchovy products – smoked, dried, pastes, and powders – can assist with job creation. Unique to this project is that we are exploring the products for lower income groups, as opposed to past failed attempts that looked at high-end market products such as anchovy fillets. In 2024, we submitted three reports, with our findings on the geographic areas and seasons for catching anchovy suitable for human consumption; content-proximate composition, mineral and fatty acid profile of anchovy products; and consumer awareness of the new anchovy products. We created new knowledge on how to use small pelagic fish (such as anchovies) for people by creating new anchovy products. We have two PhD students working on the project, both of whom are women.





Informality in South Africa’s food system

Professor Mafaniso Hara

Funder: [Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate](#), United Kingdom. Duration: 2023-2025

Land and the aquatic environments are the foundation of all food production. Given that nature and food production are inseparably linked, they affect one another in terms of hazards: food production can be hazardous to the environment and the environment can be hazardous to food production. Gaps in our understanding of these interactions limit our ability to manage the associated effects and hazards. In addition, climate change complicates levels of food production. There needs to be a clear understanding and balance between the effects of natural resource use and users’ needs when managing food systems. The One Food project proposes placing hazard profiling and management at the heart of sustainable food system design – environmentally, economically and socially. The overarching goal of the project is

to advance approaches that identify and mitigate against hazards to build sustainable food supply and the associated gains, including poverty alleviation, enhanced human health, biodiversity and environmental protection, and climate efficiency. At the inception of the project, a need to synthesise existing knowledge on informal food systems was highlighted, which represents an important component of food systems in developing countries, including South Africa. In 2024, PLAAS was tasked to review and synthesise research on food informality in South Africa and other developing African countries, as well as examine the implications on informality into a unified One Food approach. The PLAAS One Food Project Phase 1 report is about this review and synthesis.

REPAiR of Rangelands in Southern Africa

Dr Farai Mtero and Professor Mafaniso Hara

Funders: [UK Research and Innovation Building a Green Future](#), [Natural Environment Research Council](#), and the [Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office](#)

Across Southern Africa, communally governed rangelands and grasslands support wildlife, vast informal economies and millions of people. There has been international interest in rangelands as spaces for landscape restoration and ecosystem management associated with nature-based solutions (NbS). But much of the evidence about NbS comes from very different settings in the Global North, with assumptions that are a mismatch to the histories and changing social, ecological and political contexts of Southern African rangelands. REPAiR (Resilient and Equitable Nature-based Pathways for Southern African Rangelands) is a new three-year research project that critically explores whether and how equitable, contextual, community-led approaches to nature-based solutions can support adaptability

and resilience in Southern Africa’s rangelands. It is in partnership with the [Institute of Development Studies](#), [University of Cape Town](#), [University of KwaZulu-Natal](#), [Kew Royal Botanic Gardens](#), and [Meat Naturally Africa](#). Our study brings together multiple forms of knowledge and transdisciplinary collaboration, including case studies focused on sites in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape. Researchers will use methods from natural and social sciences, including ecological surveys and participatory approaches with local people. The project also analyses how relevant policies are shaped, the effects of these policies and how they could change. Alongside the work in South Africa, the project will exchange knowledge with collaborators in other countries in Southern Africa and beyond.



SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH CHAIR IN POVERTY, LAND AND AGRARIAN STUDIES

Professor Ruth Hall

Funder: [Department of Science, Technology and Innovation/National Research Foundation](#). Duration: 2010-2024

Professor Ruth Hall has held the [South African Research Chair in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies](#) since 2020. The Chair is a five-year funded programme of the National Research Foundation, and was previously held by Professor Ben Cousins from 2010-2014, and from 2015-2019. The last cycle of the Chair was 2020-2024. The SARChI provided the space for a research programme of individual projects related to each other by their research questions and approaches. Through the chair, Professor Hall has supported a new generation of critical scholars in land and agrarian studies in South Africa and the region. The SARChI cohort has four postdoctoral fellows, 10 PhD candidates, and four MPhil students. Their research projects combine surveys and in-depth ethnographic methods about key issues and questions in agrarian political economy. Through this work, UWC has been strengthened with a critical mass of activity, scholars, students, and research projects. The SARChI has also spread PLAAS further on continental and global maps by playing an important role in cementing our global scholarly networks and continental research and training collaborations.

The Chair has succeeded in producing a substantial, cohesive body of knowledge through funded scholarships at Masters, PhD and postdoctoral level; the research of the Chair; and research conducted through leveraged funds. The Chair has been notable for its active engagement in public dialogue and policy discourse, providing a critical and independent voice in the political arena amid the most controversial and pressing debates of our times: land reform, property rights and expropriation. Both incumbents, Professors Cousins and Hall, have been at the centre of these discussions, providing high-level advisory support at the ministerial, parliamentary and presidential levels, while also conducting their own field research, supervising a sizeable cohort of students, teaching, and leading

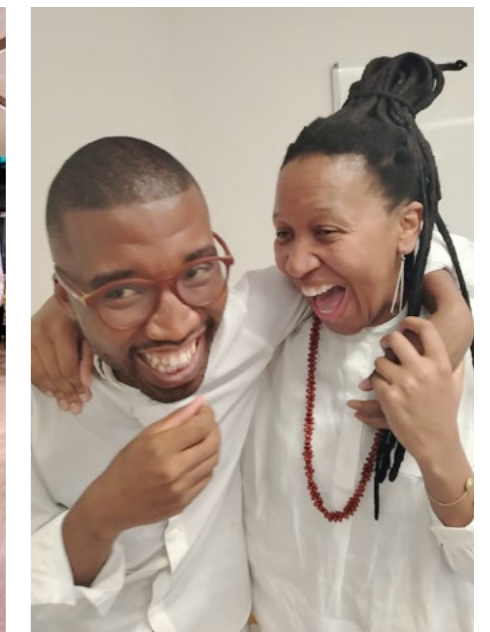
national and international research partnerships. A robust and invigorating core of SARChI students has emerged - theoretically sophisticated, adept at scholarly writing, experienced in presenting their work at international conferences, and poised to take on academic or applied research roles in the future. In many respects, this Chair should be considered a significant success, and the return on investment is substantial in terms of the throughput of trained social scientists, mostly black and mostly South African, but also in terms of knowledge produced and the public benefit of advancing national goals, research strategy and rigour in public discourse.

The third cycle of SARChI (2020-2024) saw the publication of six journal articles, three book chapters, one co-edited book, the production of four documentary films and a short animation summarising research findings, and the launch of a podcast series. The Chair became Editor-in-Chief of the [Journal of Peasant Studies](#), and contributed to global scholarship in this way and through convening global conferences, while also bringing the SARChI postgraduate cohort into these intellectual forums. We also launched the [UWC Land Collection](#), a digital archive curated jointly by PLAAS and the Centre for Humanities Research, as a public resource for researchers, students, activists and policymakers.

Human capital development was achieved through convening nine conferences, four international writeshops, four local writing retreats, one global small grants programme, one spring school, a podcast series, films, and an animation that were widely disseminated and discussed, public talks, student colloquiums and exchanges to several other universities in Africa and Europe. National and international conferences, including some that we convened, exposed the SARChI cohort of postgraduate students to the cutting-edge of knowledge and debate in our field.

OVERVIEW OF SARCHI ACHIEVEMENTS (2010-2024)

	Phase 1 2010-2014	Phase 2 2015-2019	Phase 3 2020-2024	Total
Journal articles (single or co-authored)	7	6	7	20
Editing of special issues of journals	2	1	0	3
Books (co-authored, edited, co-edited)	4	3	1	8
Book chapters – peer reviewed	9	9	3	21
Book chapters not peer reviewed	3	0	0	3
Research reports, working papers and policy briefs	8	10	2	20
Non-academic/popular publications	13	26	18	57
Keynotes / invited presentations in plenary/public talk	10	17	39	66
Podcast episodes	0	0	13	13
Short films and animations	0	0	5	5
Digital land archive	0	0	1	1
Presentations at conferences, workshops and seminars	79	80	78	237
Policy engagement – presentations	No record	23	38	61
Awards	4	1	1	6
Media interviews	55	129	65	249
PhD students – graduated	4	4	7	15
MPhil students – graduated	7	3	5	15
Postdoc publications (journal, working papers, reports)	13	22	23	58
Student publications (journal, working papers, reports)	13	31	24	68
Postdoc/student presentations at conferences, etc	40	83	26	149
Conferences and workshops organised by the Chair	7	6	9	22
Training workshops for postgraduate students	11	8	9	28
Total outputs/events	289	462	353	1 125



ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Postgraduate Diploma

Our flagship Postgraduate Diploma is a professional degree aimed at policymakers, planners, managers, and fieldworkers working in local and national government bodies, non-governmental organisations, private sector companies, and consultancies. In 2024, we saw two graduations from this recognised and career-enhancing qualification. For the 2024 intake, we had our 2023 cohort of seven students merging with 2024's new intake of nine students. Postgraduate Diploma students were encouraged to attend the University's academic writing workshop, hosted by the Division for Postgraduate Studies during the first block session. They all found the session to be valuable in their learning.

Block 1: 4 March – 22 March 2024

LAS711: Structural Poverty and Marginalised Livelihoods in Southern Africa <i>Convened by Professor Andries du Toit</i>	LAS712: The Political Economy of Land and Agrarian Reform in Southern Africa <i>Convened by Dr Phillan Zamchiya</i>
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Block 2: 26 August – 13 September 2024







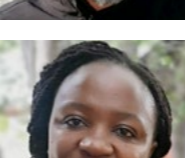
LAS713: The Economics of Farming and Food Systems <i>Convened by Professor Ruth Hall</i>	LAS714: Social and Ecological Dimensions of Ecosystems Management <i>Convened by Professor Moenieba Isaacs and Professor Mafa Hara</i>
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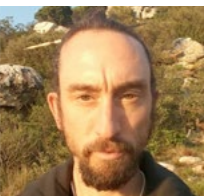















MPhil and PhD Programmes

The Academic Programme offers the MPhil (full thesis) in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies and the PhD in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies programme. It offers specialised training in theories, concepts and research methods appropriate to the emerging field of enquiry of poverty, land and agrarian studies. This will contribute to the further development and strengthening of engaged scholarship on issues of great relevance to societies in Africa in particular, experiencing the rapid transformation of their rural economies. In 2024, PLAAS registered two new PhD students and two new MPhil students.




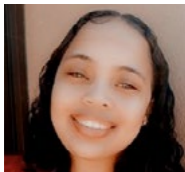


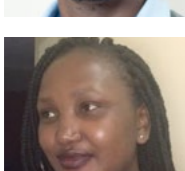
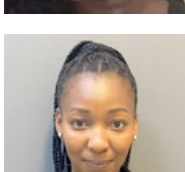

PhD Candidates

Student	Thesis Title
 Yoliswa Msweli (South Africa)	Investigating a Conception of Justice for Land in South Africa: A Perspective from the Historically Dispossessed Supervisor: Prof Andries du Toit
 Sifundiso Ndhlovu (Zimbabwe)	The Military in State-led Agricultural Interventions in Umguza, Zimbabwe: Implications for Inclusion in Poverty Reduction Supervisor: Dr Phillan Zamchiya
 Temakaolo Mathebula (South Africa)	The Socio-Political Dynamics Influencing Farmer Adaptation To Climate Change In Ozwathini, Kwazulu-Natal Supervisor: Dr Farai Mtero
 Augustine Fosu (Ghana)	Accumulation and Social Differentiation among Cashew Farmers in Neoliberal Ghana Supervisor: Dr Farai Mtero
 Avhatakali Sithagu (South Africa)	The Dealings between Local Government and Traditional Authorities in the Context of Neo-customary Land Practices in Former Homelands Supervisor: Professor Andries Du Toit
 Cassiem Khan (South Africa)	The Social Meaning of Giving in the South African Muslim Community: An Empirical Study of Solidarity and Dignity in the Institutions and Practices of Zakah Supervisor: Professor Andries Du Toit
 Charity Rusere (Zimbabwe)	Agrarian Change and Social Differentiation after Zimbabwe's Fast Track Land Reform Programme: A Comparison between Beneficiaries and Non-beneficiaries Supervisor: Dr Phillan Zamchiya Co-supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall

Student	Thesis Title
 <p>Cyriaque Hakizimana (Burundi/South Africa)</p>	<p>Generational Dynamics of Commercial Farming in Highland Kenya</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall</p>
 <p>Deshni Pillay (South Africa)</p>	<p>Investigation of the Health and Wellbeing Benefits from Biodiversity in South Africa</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Mafa Hara</p>
 <p>Florian Kroll (South Africa)</p>	<p>Conundrums of Food Governance in South African Metropolises</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Andries Du Toit</p>
 <p>Kushekwa Namakando (Namibia)</p>	<p>Investigating the Nature and Role of Peasant Rural Social Movements in Land Politics and Agrarian Reform in Postcolonial Namibia</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr Phillan Zamchiya</p>
 <p>Lebogang Moremedi (South Africa)</p>	<p>Understanding the Artisanal Small-scale Diamond Mining for Sustainable Livelihood in the Northern Cape: The Case of Zama Zamas</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Moenieba Isaacs</p>
 <p>Malebo Hellen Moepi (Malawi)</p>	<p>Informal and Formal Cross-border Fish Trade by Women in Southern Africa: The Case of Malawi and South Africa</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Mafa Hara</p>
 <p>Molela Shane Phiri (South Africa)</p>	<p>The Politics of Tenure Security: Social Tenure Dynamics and Property Regimes on State-owned Redistributed Farms in South Africa</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall</p>
 <p>Nduduzo Majozi (South Africa)</p>	<p>A 'New Urban Revolution'? Socio-spatial Dynamics within an Abahlali base Mjondolo Land Occupation at eKhanana in Durban, South Africa, from 2018 to 2021</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall</p>

Student	Thesis Title
 <p>Chikondi Manyungwa (Malawi)</p>	<p>An Investigation of Women Participation in the Fish Value Chain and Value Chain Governance in Malawi: A Case of Msaka on Lake Mawi and Kachulu on Lake Chilwa</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Mafa Hara</p>
 <p>Nhlanhla Joseph Ginindza (South Africa)</p>	<p>Assessing the Governance Model of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Western Cape: A Pathway to Sustainable Livelihoods or Precarity?</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Moenieba Isaacs</p>
 <p>Primrose Nkomboni (Zimbabwe)</p>	<p>Land-use Changes, Livelihood Transformations and Ecological Dynamics in Matobo District, Zimbabwe</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr Farai Mtero</p>
 <p>Refiloe Joala (South Africa)</p>	<p>The Political Economy of Boom Crops and Changing Agro-food Systems: Understanding Patterns of Social Differentiation in Zambia's Emerging Soya Complex</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall</p>
 <p>Richard Lumumba Odenda (Kenya)</p>	<p>Development as Dispossession: Policy Choices, Mega-projects and their Effects on Land Rights in Tana River Delta, Kenya</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall</p>
 <p>Rose Sallema Mtui (Tanzania)</p>	<p>Blue Economy Investments and Injustices Around Marine Protected Areas: The case of Mtwara Coast, Tanzania</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Moenieba Isaacs</p>
 <p>Sithandiwe Yeni (South Africa)</p>	<p>Land, Livelihoods and Belonging: A Gender and Generational Perspective of Agrarian Change</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall</p>
 <p>Wilson Mhlanga (Zimbabwe)</p>	<p>Governance, Livelihoods, Food Security and Gender Roles in the Kapenta (Limnothriisa Miodon) Fishery on Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Moenieba Isaacs</p>

MPhil Candidates

Student	Thesis Title
 <p>Ashley Fischhoff (South Africa)</p>	<p>The Political Economy of Social Reproduction and Survival: Urban Land Occupations in Stellenbosch, South Africa</p> <p>Supervisor: Prof Ruth Hall</p>
 <p>Bhavna Ramji (South Africa)</p>	<p>Trade Union Labour Litigation in the Western Cape Agricultural Sector</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Andries Du Toit</p>
 <p>Godfrey Massay (Tanzania)</p>	<p>State Repossession and Redistribution of Farmlands in Tanzania: Class and Gender Analysis of Beneficiaries in Kilosa District</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr Phillan Zamchiya</p>
 <p>Jamie-Lee McKay (South Africa)</p>	<p>An In-depth Analysis of Relational Value-chain Governance in the Livelihoods of Informal Food Service Street Traders in Wallacedene, Kraaifontein</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Andries Du Toit</p>
 <p>Maliviwe Makeleni (South Africa)</p>	<p>The Impacts of Farmers' Support Initiatives on Agricultural Productivity and Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in Suurbraak, South Africa</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr Farai Mtero</p>
 <p>Nkanyiso Gumede (South Africa)</p>	<p>The Impact of Land Reform on Farmworkers in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: A Study of the Outcomes of the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy in Relation to the Employment, Land Rights and livelihoods of Farmworkers in uMgungundlovu District Municipality</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ben Cousins</p>
 <p>Sienna Molepo (South Africa)</p>	<p>A Chief without a Chieftaincy? Struggles over Subjecthood and Territorial Control in Bakgatla ba Mmakau, South Africa</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall</p>
 <p>Sisanda Tembani (South Africa)</p>	<p>The Role of Urban Agriculture in Township Food and Nutrition Security: A Case Study of Cape Town</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Mafa Hara</p>
 <p>Tetelo Maila (South Africa)</p>	<p>Land Reform and the Impact of Strategic Partnerships on Livelihood Strategies of the Siboshwa Community, Mpumalanga, South Africa</p> <p>Supervisor: Professor Ruth Hall</p>

Postgraduate research workshops: PLAAS hosted two research workshops for our Masters and PhD students. We kicked off the year with Professor Andries du Toit and researcher Cyriaque Hakizimana hosting a workshop on data analysis. The programme was designed to help PLAAS postgraduate students with a practical understanding of how to analyse empirical data and included software tools to analyse qualitative and quantitative data. Students were asked to put the work into practice with their

own research. Later in the year, Professor Ruth Hall convened a research workshop on data presentation, how students can present their research at academic seminars and conferences, and public speaking.

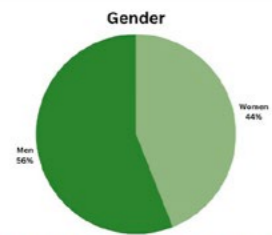
Graduations: In 2024, PLAAS celebrated doctorate graduate Dr Rose Mtui, supervised by Professor Moenieba Isaacs, and Masters graduate Ashley Fischhoff, supervised by Professor Ruth Hall. We expect three PhD and two MPhil completions in 2025.

Continuing education

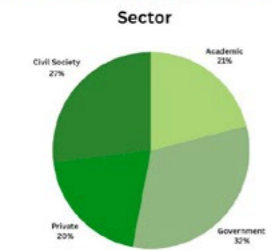
PLAAS maintains its success in its continuing education offerings. The continuing education hub is led by Professor Moenieba Isaacs as co-coordinator on the [Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa](#) (NELGA) project - alongside Professor Ruth Hall - and lead PI on the Living Landscapes in Action short course. All administrative activities are facilitated by Ms Carla Henry, Coordinator: Postgraduate and Continuing Education. A support team is made up depending on which short course is presented. We have delivered six NELGA short courses since its inception in 2018, three Living Landscapes in Action short courses since 2022, and four masterclasses for 2024.



Overall Gender Representation



Overall Sector Representation



Regional Representation



332

Land professionals trained by UWC-PLAAS through the Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa

39

African countries exposed to the Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa short course



The Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa

PLAAS hosted its sixth NELGA short course on the [Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa](#). This course is hosted in collaboration with the [African Land Policy Centre](#), [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#) (UNECA) and is funded by GIZ. In 2024, we brought together leading experts in African land and natural resource governance including Professor [Kojo Amanor](#), Professor [Mamdou Goita](#), Professor [Patricia Kameri-Mbote](#), Professor [Yasmine Moataz Ahmed](#), Dr [Emmanuel Sulle](#), Professor [Issa Shivji](#), Dr [James Murombedzi](#), Dr [Boaventura Monjane](#), Professor [Andries du Toit](#), [Eileen Wakesho](#), and [Stha Yeni](#). For the 2024 cohort, 72 land professionals attended the short course. We awarded 67 participants with a Certificate of Competence and five others with a Certificate of Attendance, celebrated at a virtual graduation ceremony held in October. We have now trained 332 land professionals across 39 African countries, 44% of whom are women.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF LAND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA SHORT COURSE

MEET THE LECTURERS 22 - 26 JULY 2024



NELGA Tracer and Impact Study

In 2024, we sought feedback from our NELGA alumni. PLAAS, through GIZ, commissioned an external [Tracer and Impact Study](#) of the NELGA short course titled the Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa. The overarching aim of the study was to provide evidence of the reach and impact of our capacity building, knowledge, and governance, specifically on participating alumni and the larger land governance sector.

Even though the NELGA short course is a week long, it had a significant impact on alumni's understanding, skills, and confidence in land governance across Africa. The course deepened their knowledge; broadened perspectives; and fostered behavioural changes, which enabled alumni to apply their learnings in their careers, contribute to projects and policy, and produce insightful research. It also encouraged further qualifications and facilitated professional development within the NELGA.

The findings of the Tracer and Impact Study proved the value proposition of the course, and was an endorsement of its ongoing impact. The study underscored that the short course was unique in Africa: the only course that offers a political economy lens, an Africa-centred plan, a comparative approach offering the opportunity to build capacity and awareness of the state of land governance, diversity and equity, continued engagement and support, and an integration of theory and practice.

The Tracer and Impact Study revealed a gap in topics such as climate change, food systems and land governance, and issues around land grabbing and large-scale acquisitions. These insights came from participants in earlier, in-person versions of the course, before it was moved online. PLAAS has addressed this gap in the curriculum to include climate change and food systems in the curriculum since 2021. This deep dive post-hoc evaluation of the six iterations of the course provided us with a solid base to embark on our strategy to diversify funding to continue the course and market it.

Living Landscapes in Action: New Thinking in Integrating Biodiversity and Social Justice

Supported by the Oak Foundation, the Living Landscapes in Action [short course](#) - New Thinking in Biodiversity and Social Justice - trained 27 conservation professionals in 2024 in addition to our previous 40. Our participants are from Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Each group undergoes an intense five-day programme of interactive learning, a field trip, presentations, debates and formal assessment. This year's field trip was to iSimangaliso Wetland Park in KwaZulu-Natal. Participants work with different stakeholders in communities and officials in World Café style groups where each group is interviewed for a presentation and written report in their assessments. For 2024, we commissioned former PLAAS colleague, Professor [Thembele Kepe](#) (University of Toronto) to talk about the histories and paradigms of conservation, decolonising the concept, rights, livelihoods and access in southern Africa. This year also saw additions to our [Mazingira Yetu Network](#), a group of short course alumni to learn further from one another.

27

conservation professionals attended the Living Landscapes in Action short course in 2024

Masterclasses

PLAAS kicked off its Living Landscapes in Action Masterclasses in 2024. The first masterclass was a closed session with members of the Mazingira Yetu Network. Professor Robert Fletcher of Wageningen University delivered a class on a basic income for the conservation sector as a strategy to help fund convivial biodiversity conservation.

Under the NELGA umbrella, we held three masterclasses. Dr James Murombedzi, the Head of African Climate Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, addressed the topical issue of climate change and land governance in Africa. This masterclass received an overwhelming response with 163 in attendance. Professor Mamadou Goita of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems commemorated World Food Day with a class on food systems and land governance on the continent, which 85 participants attended. We ended the 2024 masterclass series with Dr Yao Graham of Third World Network with a deep dive on mining, extractivism and land rights in Africa. This masterclass was well attended with 101 participants. Participants received a letter of attendance based on their engagements throughout the masterclass.

NELGA Masterclass
Climate Change and Land Governance

Dr James Murombedzi
Head of the African Climate Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

17 September 2024
10:00 - 13:00 SAST
Zoom link attached

NELGA
FACULTY OF EIMS
UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE
PLAAS

NELGA Masterclass
Food Systems and Land Governance

Professor Mamadou Goita
International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems member

Wednesday, 16 October 2024
10:00 - 13:00 SAST

NELGA
FACULTY OF EIMS
UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE
PLAAS

NELGA Masterclass
Mining, Extractivism and Land Rights in Africa

Dr Yao Graham
Coordinator of Third World Network - Africa

Thursday 05 December 2024
10:00 - 13:00 SAST / CAT
Register on: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3tnzcc>

NELGA
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UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE
PLAAS

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles and book chapters

Bunce, B., Hornby, D., Cousins, Ben. 2024. [Navigating the contradictory dynamics of production and social reproduction in collectively owned agricultural enterprises in South Africa's land reform.](#) *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 24(3): 453-476.

Du Toit, Andries. (2024). [The Land and its People: The South African 'Land Question' and the Post-Apartheid Political Order.](#) *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 50(2), 207-224.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. The Constitution's Mandate for Transformation: From Expropriation Without Compensation to Equitable Access to Land. In Zenker, O., Walker, C., Boggenpoel, Z. (eds). [Beyond Expropriation Without Compensation: Law, Land Reform and Redistributive Justice in South Africa.](#) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 143-164.

Hara, Mafaniso and Nunan, F. 2024. Fisheries. In Carmody, P., Murphy, J.J. (eds). [Handbook of African Economic Development.](#) Edward Elgar Publishing: 379-389.

Mtero, Farai, Nkanyiso Gumede, and Ramantsima, K. (2024). [Emerging patterns of accumulation in land redistribution in South Africa.](#) *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 24(1).

Research reports, policy briefs, and working papers

Bwerinofa, I.J., Chatikobo, Tapiwa, Mahenehene, J., Manaka, M., Mlotshwa, M., Murimbarimba, F., Mutoko, M., Sarayi, V. and Scoones, I. 2024. [Small-scale agricultural mechanisation in Zimbabwe.](#) IDS: Brighton.

Chatikobo, Tapiwa, Cousins, Ben, with Samuels I and C. Cupido (eds.). 2024. ['Livestock, climate change and land reform in southern Africa.'](#) Research Report 56. Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape, and Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK.

Hakizimana, Cyriaque. 2024. ["Carbon Markets in Africa and their implications for land rights: Literature review and annotated bibliography."](#) Working Paper 66. Cape Town: Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

Ntauzi, Clemente. 2024. [Land Displacements, Production Relations and Resistance in the Context of Chinese Investments in Mozambique.](#) In *Chinese Investment in Africa: Its Variegated and Contradictory Character in Relation to Land, Agriculture, Mining and Infrastructure.* Cham: Springer International Publishing: 45-61.

Wach, E., Hall, Ruth. 2024. [Land commoning in deagrarianized contexts: Potentials for agroecology?](#) *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*, 12(1).

Wolford, W., White, B., Scoones, I., Ruth Hall., Edelman, M., Borras, S.M. 2024. [Global land deals: what has been done, what has changed, and what's next?](#) *Journal of Peasant Studies.* Published online open access 14 March 2024.

Yeni, Sithandiwe, 2024. [Land, natural resources and the social reproduction of South Africa's relative surplus population.](#) *Journal of Agrarian Change*, Published online open access 29 April 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. [Acumulación por desposesión: el «acaparamiento de tierras» en África austral.](#) *Temas*, 117: 58-67.

Wolford, W., White, B., Scoones, I., Hall, Ruth, Edelman, M., and Saturnino M. Borras Jr. 2024. [Global land deals: What has been done, what has changed, and what's next?](#) LDPI Working Paper 01.

Msofi, Loveness and Chimombo, M. 2024. [Land Pawning and Land Grabbing: A focus on Rural Malawi.](#) Land Deal Politics Initiative 2, Working Paper 08.

Monjane, Boaventura, Ntauzi, C. 2024. From 'Silent Privatization' to Policy-Supported (Re)concentration: [Historicizing the Dynamics of Land Concentration in Mozambique.](#) Land Deal Politics Initiative, Working Paper 56.

Nalwimba, N. 2024. [Digital Tech in Zambian Agriculture.](#) PLAAS Working Paper 66. Cape Town: Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape.

Kiaka, R. 2024. [Digital Tech in Kenyan Agriculture](#). PLAAS Working Paper 67. Cape Town: Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape.

Media and blogs

Gumede, Nkanyiso. 2024. [‘No Place to Call Home’](#). 26 November 2024. News24.

Gumede, Nkanyiso. 2024. [Nelson Mandela Foundation takes state to court over lack of land reform](#). 9 December 2024. Cape Talk Radio.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. [PLAAS mourns the passing of activist icon and MPhil student Constance Mogale \(1971-2023\)](#). 25 January 2024. PLAAS blog.

Hall, Ruth and Madlala, Ayanda. 2024. [Colombia’s expropriation without compensation and lessons from South Africa](#). 8 May 2024. PLAAS blog

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Live interviews on Mandela Day. University of the Western Cape. 18 July 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. [Women’s access to rural land: findings of the Commission on Gender Equality](#). Newzroom Afrika. 24 August 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. [The Land Bank crisis](#). Cape Talk. 10 September 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. [What is green grabbing and how is it impacting indigenous people?](#) Cape Talk. 23 September 2024.

Isaacs, Moenieba. 2024. [South Africa: Tensions within Marine Protected Areas](#). 4 September 2024. The Catch.

Isaacs, Moenieba. 2024. [African Parks unveils \\$1b plan for 30x30 conservation goals amid abuse claims](#). 15 October 2024. Mongabay.

Luxen, V. 2024. [Digital Tech: the case of German Actors](#). PLAAS Working Paper 68. Cape Town: Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape.

Isaacs, Moenieba. 2024. [A rethink of how we produce and consume food is needed](#). 18 December 2024. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

Mbhele, Siphesihle 2024. [Local fishing communities struggle against exclusion and ocean industrialisation](#). 17 October 2024. Mail & Guardian.

Mbhele, Siphesihle and Isaacs, Moenieba. 2024. [South Africa’s first Fisher People Tribunal](#). Broadcast 24 October 2024. CapeTalk.

Mtero, Farai. 2024. [Creating equitable pathways in South African rangelands: why history and politics matter](#). 12 November 2024. REPAiR blog, PLAAS blog.

Phiri, Shane. 2024. [Lessons from the International Interdisciplinary Security of Land Tenure conference held at the University of Free State](#). 31 May 2024. PLAAS blog.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. [‘Give rural women access to land’: experts](#). 17 August 2024. TimesLIVE.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. [Shift in Zimbabwe’s Land Tenure Policy](#). 18 October 2024. Accountability Lab in Zimbabwe X Spaces.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. [Islam, custom, statutory law, and women’s land rights in rural Senegal](#). 10 November 2024. PLAAS blog.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. [Cattle herders and the ‘green struggles’ in Senegal](#). 17 December 2024. PLAAS blog.

EVENTS

Gumede, Nkanyiso and Ruth Hall. 2024. Mother City documentary screening. PLAAS, Politics and Urban Governance Research Group, University of the Western Cape. 5 November 2024.

Gumede, Nkanyiso. 2024. [Women’s Land Struggles webinar](#) co-convenor. University of the Western Cape, Economic and Management Science Faculty and PLAAS. 29 August 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Chinese ‘colonialism’, capital accumulation, and the Belt and Road Initiative. Public talk by Yan Hairong and Barry Sautmann. PLAAS. 28 November 2021.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Global Land Grabbing Conference co-convenor, Bogota. Institute of Development Studies, Cornell University, City University of New York, International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Transnational Institute. 19-21 March 2021.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Tramakassea World Ocean Day Festival. Cape Town, Muizsenberg and Simon’s Town Museum. South Africa. 7-8 June 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Fisher Peoples Tribunal. Kalk Bay Trinity Hall. 12-15 August 2024

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Masterclass: Conservation Basic Income by Robert Fletcher 31, January 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024 Masterclass: Climate Change and Land Governance in Africa by James Morumbenzi.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Masterclass: African Food System and Land Governance in Africa by Mamadou Goita.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024 Masterclass: Artisanal Mining and Land Governance in Africa by Yao Graham.

Mtero, Farai and Ruth Hall. 2024. 2024. The great reshuffling: mobility, borders and care at +2 degrees. Public talk by David McDermott-Hughes. PLAAS. 13 August 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. [Women’s Land Rights Dialogue](#) at First African Women Land Professionals Association Conference, Tanzania. 26 November 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. 50th Anniversary of the Journal of Southern African Studies co-convenor. ‘Change and Continuity in Southern African Politics’, University of Cape Town. 16-17 June 2024.

Conference and workshop presentations

Dangwa-Rusere, Charity. 2024. In Search of a Great Leap Forward: Comparing State- and Private-led Contract Farming by Zimbabwe’s Differentiated Resettled Small-Scale Farmers. Paper presented at the Annual Sam Moyo Summer School, Harare, Zimbabwe, 5-9 February 2024.

Gumede, Nkanyiso. 2024. Farm workers and dwellers on land reform farms. Meeting on Virtual Stakeholder Engagement on Farm Workers and Dwellers. Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa. Cape Town, South Africa 18 November 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Pre-SONA (State of the Nation) briefing: land on the agenda. Ambassadors briefing. Cape Town, South Africa. 8 February 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Sharing a Planet in Peril grant proposal workshop. University of Cologne. Cologne, Germany. 20-22 February 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Building the next generation of African land experts. GIZ Head Office. Bonn, Germany. 23 February 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Exchange with PhD students. Institute for Security Studies, The Hague. Erasmus University. Rotterdam, Netherlands. 27 February 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Land reform environmental scan policy briefing. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development director general’s office. Cape Town, South Africa. 8 March 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Political transition in South Africa. LAS712 postgraduate diploma lecture. Cape Town, South Africa. 24 February-14 March.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. ABSA Inbound Foreign Investor Roadshow policy advisory. Cape Town, South Africa. 15 March 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Landlocked. Public talk at Franschhoek Literary Festival. Franschhoek, South Africa. 18 May 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Beyond Expropriation Without Compensation: Law, Land Reform and Redistributive Justice in South Africa. Panel discussion at launch of our joint book. Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies. Cape Town, South Africa. 27 May 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Food and social justice in South Africa. Keynote address. South African Food Sovereignty Campaign Land. Cape Town, South Africa. 13 June 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. PLAAS strategic planning retreat. Cape Town, South Africa. 10-12 July 2024.

Hall, Ruth and Moenieba Isaacs. 2024. Presentation to the ambassador of Norway. Policy briefing. Cape Town, South Africa. 19 July 2024.

Hall, Ruth and Moenieba Isaacs. 2024. The political economy of land governance in Africa. Cape Town, South Africa. 22-26 July 2024.

Hall, Ruth and Borras, S. 2024. Writeshop in critical agrarian studies and scholar-activism training. China Agricultural University. Beijing, China. 28 July to 5 August 2024.

Hall, Ruth and Farai Mtero. 2024. Economics of food and farming systems. LAS713 postgraduate diploma module. Cape Town, South Africa. 26 August to 4 September 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Expert symposium on social justice, hunger and the Constitution. Prof. Thuli Madonsela, Law Faculty, Stellenbosch University. Boschendal, South Africa. 5 September 2024.

Hall, Ruth. 2024. Section 25(5) strategy meeting. Political and legal strategy meeting. Legal Resources Centre, Ndifuna Ukwazi, SERI, Nelson Mandela Foundation, PLAAS. Cape Town, South Africa. 6 September 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Fisheries governance in Africa. French Ambassador's residence in Pretoria. 28 May 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Beyond the Blue: Women of the Sea panel. Tramakasea World Ocean Day Festival. Cape Town, South Africa. 7-8 June 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Living Landscapes in Action in the City of Cape Town, iSimangaliso and Mapungubwe, South Africa - resilient communities: integrated strategies to advance conservation, culture, and economic development. Biodiversity Funders Group Annual Members Meeting Rockport, Maine 9-12 June 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Promoting blue justice for small-scale fishers and communities in Africa. Keynote address. Regional Small-Scale Fisheries and Blue Economy Summit. 3-7 June 2024, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Science and policy Lab on innovations for sustainable aquatic food systems. Sustainable Agri-Food Systems Intelligence - Science-Policy Interface. LIMAQUA, Swedish Agricultural University Malmö, Sweden 17-20 June 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Slow methodology panel organiser and lead. 6th World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality. University of the Western Cape. Cape Town, South Africa. 3-5 September 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Blue activism in South Africa. Keynote address. 6th World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality. University of the Western Cape. Cape Town, South Africa. 3-5 September 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Blue justice approach to conservation policy development and implementation in Africa. 7th International Marine Conservation Congress. Cape Town, South Africa. 13-18 October 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Blue justice, spatial injustices and convivial conservation in marine and coastal ecosystems. University of the Western Cape Research and Innovation webinar. Cape Town, South Africa. 30 October 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Vulnerability to Viability: navigating transitions and pathways in small-scale fisheries. 7th International Marine Conservation Congress. Cape Town, South Africa. 13-18 October 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Marine spatial justice and small-scale fishers in South Africa. 7th International Marine Conservation Congress. Cape Town, South Africa. 13-18 October 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. Integrating social justice and biodiversity conservation, Living Landscape in Action. SANParks Exco, GM and Park Managers Vision 2040 Conversation: Socio-economic development at landscape level. 20 November 2024.

Isaacs Moenieba. 2024. How can sustainable, inclusive, and accessible innovation be fostered in aquatic food systems? Science and Policy Lab on Innovations for Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems. Sustainable Agri-Food Systems Intelligence-Science-Policy Interface. Waterfront, LIMAQUA. 8-10 December, 2024.

Madlala, Ayanda. 2024. Gender and equity panel participant. 6th World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality. Cape Town, South Africa. 3-5 September 2024.

Madlala, Ayanda. 2024. Conservation as land grabbing: Struggles in and around protected areas in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. International Conference the Global Land Grabbing, Bogota, Colombia. 19-21 March 2024.

Madlala, Ayanda. 2024. Gender and social reproduction postgraduate lecture. Living Landscapes in Action short course. Cape Town, South Africa. 26 February to 1 March 2024.

Mbhele, Siphesihle. 2024. Blue militarisation and criminalisation: voices from Nibela. Tramakasea World Ocean Day Festival. Cape Town, South Africa. 7-8 June 2024.

Mbhele, Siphesihle. 2024. Slow methodology panel participant. 6th World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality. University of the Western Cape. Cape Town, South Africa. 3-5 September 2024.

Mbhele, Siphesihle. 2024. How can sustainable, inclusive, and accessible innovation be fostered in aquatic food systems? Science and Policy Lab on Innovations for Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems. Sustainable Agri-Food Systems Intelligence-Science-Policy Interface. Waterfront, LIMAQUA. 8-10 December, 2024.

Mtero, Farai. 2024. National Environment Research Council (NERC) project introductions. Equitable and Nature-based Climate Resilience in Sub Saharan Africa (Nbs in SSA). International Environment and Climate Symposium. Nairobi, Kenya, 18-19 September 2024.

Mtero, Farai. 2025. Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme. 44 Quarterly UCP Meeting. Matatiele, South Africa. 11-13 March 2025.

Mtero, Farai. 2024. Port St Johns research and action in lower Umzimvubu catchment (UCP). 43rd quarterly UCP meeting. Port St Johns, South Africa. 19-21 November 2024.

Mtero, Farai. 2024. Resilient and Equitable Nature-based Pathways in Southern African Rangelands (REPAIR) project launch workshop. University of KwaZulu-Natal. KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 23-28 June 2024.

Phiri, Shane. 2024. Negotiating tenure security on state-owned farms in South Africa. International Interdisciplinary Security of Land Tenure conference. University of Free State. Bloemfontein, South Africa. 6-8 May 2024.

Phiri, Shane. 2024. Tenure security: the nexus between power and authority. Journal of Peasant Studies Writeshop. China Agricultural University. Beijing, China. 1-7 August 2024.

Sebelebele, Maud. 2024. New thinking in integrating biodiversity and social justice'. Living Landscapes in Action short course. 26 February to 1 March 2024.

Sebelebele, Maud. 2024. Slow down and listen to the voices of those living down the hill: cultural heritage sites and the question of contemporary forms of Indigenous Belonging'. The Political Ecology Network Conference (POLLEN) 2024. Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies. Lund, Sweden. 10-12 June 2024.

Sebelebele, Maud and Moenieba Isaacs. 2024. Primitive accumulation and natural resources; the case study of Den Staat in the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape. PLAAS Postgraduate Diploma lecture. Cape Town, South Africa. 26 February to 1 March 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. The Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa. International Knowledge Exchange Forum on Land Governance. Geo-Intelligence: Smart Land Governance for Resilient Territories. Africa Land Policy Centre (ALPC) and the Northern Africa node of NELGA. Rabat, Morocco. 24-27 September 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. Formalisation and implications for women's land rights. First African Women Land Professional Associations Conference. Ardhi University, NELGA East Africa Node. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. 24-28 November 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. New rural landscapes and tenure relations in Limpopo. Engaging the Problematic of Extended Urbanisation in South Africa. University of the Witwatersrand. Johannesburg, South Africa. 1-6 November 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. State of land politics in the region. Ukuthula Trust. Johannesburg, South Africa. 11 November 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. Has ZANU PF reached the end of line? Flawed authoritarians and failing strategies in Zimbabwe'. African Studies Association of the UK International Academic Conference. Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom. 4 August 2024.

Zamchiya, Phillan. 2024. The political economy of land governance in Africa'. 2024. Anchoring practitioners' experience in responsible land governance systems, International knowledge exchange workshop. GIZ Global Programme for Responsible Land Policy. Somone, Senegal. 7-11 October 2024.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income and expenditure (2023/24)

INCOME	Notes	2023	2024
		19 014 118	18 595 652
Claude Leon Foundation - Urban Land Reform	1	1 000 000	1 000 000
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	1	1 597 984	1 894 531
Future Agricultures Organisation (FAO)	1	281 177	784 119
HSRC One Food	1		300 000
Adaptive Fisheries	1		225 529
Institute of Development Studies - REPAIR	1		2 033 523
Institute of Development Studies - STEPS	1		241 850
Oak Foundation - Living Landscapes	1	7 048 457	
Pennsylvania State University	1		411 929
SA Government - National Research Foundation Chair (NRF)	2	4 150 000	4 150 000
SA Government - Water Research Council (WRC)	1	273 913	173 913
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	1	555 066	
University of Cologne	1	120 413	
University of the Western Cape - Staffing support	3	3 987 108	4 510 701
University of the Western Cape - Other Income	4		2 869 557

EXPENDITURE	NOTES	2023	2024
		25 926 051	22 416 336
Personnel costs (including UWC permanent staff)	1, 2, 3	12 340 281	9 011 726
Operational costs	1, 2, 3	2 163 514	4 316 879
Equipment and rental	1, 3	958 588	97 702
Research costs (service-level agreements with partners)	1, 2	3 716 794	1 720 206
NRF research costs	2	2 143 694	4 150 000
Teaching and training (bursaries for postgraduate programme + consultants)	1, 3	623 091	881 557
Dissemination (including communications)	1	226 867	
Travel and accommodation (includes events and research assistants)	1	3 753 222	2 238 266

Note 1: PLAAS Income in the form of research grants. The income is generally received in advance and expenses occur as per contractual guidelines and deliverables.

Note 2: Includes NRF Chair and NRF Research Grant expenditure for the period.

Note 3: UWC income equals expenditure (as part of the Institutional subsidy).

Note 4: UWC other income in the form of budget support.



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11 May 2025
Annual Report 2024
Cape Town

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