

Are Ordinary Africans Getting the Continent Back – or Not?

– *The Fate of Community Lands in Africa in 2016*



Open LARRI seminar with renowned land tenure expert Liz Alden Wily

When: Wednesday 24 February 2016, 13.30-15.30

Where: Vasagatan 1 in Gothenburg at School of Business, Economics and Law, Room B-32

LARRI is proud to announce that Liz Alden Wily will come to Gothenburg on the 24th of February to hold an open seminar on the theme of customary property in Africa based on her rich experience with community land issues from research and development practice.

Liz Alden Wily is an internationally renowned land tenure expert and independent researcher with wide-reaching experience from a number of countries throughout the developing world but with a particular focus on customary tenure and community land security in sub-Saharan Africa, on which she has published extensively. She is a Fellow of the Rights and Resources Initiative, a Fellow of Van Vollenhoven Institute in the School of Law in Leiden University, and an Expert Associate of Katiba Institute, a constitutional law reform body in Kenya, where she resides for most of the year.



Community lands refer to the lands which rural communities traditionally own and govern under customary regimes. While homesteads continue to multiply with each generation, globally, a remarkable proportion of community lands remain shared properties, owned collectively by community members under customary norms. These areas are most vulnerable to reallocation by governments. The surge in real or threatened losses is invigorating popular determination to secure formal recognition of community lands as community property. This presentation critically examines progress in Africa, where two billion hectares are unrecognised community lands, belonging by custom to more than half a billion rural Africans. Are they getting legal recognition of this ownership or not?

Register to Maria Ölund, The LARRI Project Coordinator: maria.olund@gu.se

Top photo: Steve Evans



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The Land Rights Research Initiative is a platform for discussion and collaboration among researchers, students and others interested in land rights issues in the context of global change. LARRI is hosted by GCGD The Gothenburg Centre of Globalization and Development at University of Gothenburg. Find more information about LARRI on: www.gcgd.gu.se/larri---land-rights-research-initiative Contact maria.olund@gu.se the LARRI Project Coordinator to sign up for our newsletter or follow us on Facebook or Twitter: @LandRights_Swe