



Edited by **Ansoms & Hilhorst**

• **LOSING YOUR LAND**

Dispossession in the Great Lakes

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Losing your land: Dispossession in the Great Lakes

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Abstract of the book

Africa is increasingly confronted with the commodification of its space and extreme forms of land competition. There is a lot of research ongoing on large-scale cases of land grabbing. However, local and medium-scale land-grabs may be as uprooting for people's livelihoods, particularly in land-scarce overpopulated regions. What is the role of local power dynamics, often rooted in history, upon these processes of land competition and dispossession? And through which strategies do the already poor and vulnerable try to hold onto their land in post-conflict settings?

Case studies in the Great Lakes Region (Eastern DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda) show the huge impact of local and medium land-grabs on people's lives and livelihoods. How do such local land-grabs come about in a conflictuous environment characterized by both weak and strong states? The book illustrates that land grabs are not sterile projects 'parachuted' from the outside. It points to the way in which local actors – particularly local elites – are involved and how the deals entail different opportunities and constraints for different interest groups. In this way, this book sets an eye on how local-level land grabs interact with previous and potential future conflicts.

Book contents

Chap. 1 - Introduction: Causes and Risks of Dispossession and Land Grabbing in the Great Lakes Region (An Ansoms and Thea Hilhorst)

Chap. 2 - Land Grabbing and Development History: The Congolese Experience (Jean-Philippe Peemans)

Chap. 3 - This Land is My Land: Land Grabbing in Ituri (Dan Fahey)

Chap. 4 - Land Grabbing by Mining Companies: Local Contentions and State Reconfiguration in South Kivu (DRC) (Sara Geenen and Jana Hönke)

Chap. 5 - Competition over Soil and Subsoil: Land Grabbing by Local Elites in Eastern DRC (Kalehe, South Kivu) (Klara Claessens, Emery Mudinga, and An Ansoms)

Chap. 6 - The Continuities in Contested Land Acquisitions in Uganda (Mathijs van Leeuwen, Ilse Zeemeijer, Doreen Kobusingye, Charles Muchunguzi, Linda Haartsen, Claudia Piacenza)

Chap. 7 - Land Grabbing and Power Relations in Burundi: Practical Norms and Real Governance (Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka and An Ansoms)

Chap. 8 - Land Grabbing and Land Tenure Security in Post-Genocide Rwanda (Chris Huggins)

Chap. 9 - The Reorganisation of Rural Space in Rwanda: Habitat Concentration, Land Consolidation, and Collective Marshland Cultivation (An Ansoms, Giuseppe Cioffo, Chris Huggins and Jude Murison)

Chap. 10 - 'Modernizing Kigali': The Struggle for Space in the Rwandan Urban Context (Vincent Manirakiza and An Ansoms)

Conclusion (Thea Hilhorst and An Ansoms)