

Land tenure, cattle production, and climate crisis: a global south perspective

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INTRODUCTION

- Agrarian reforms can enhance climate action through improved credit access and sustainable practices (Singirankabo and Ertsen, 2020).
- Resource constraints and insecure land tenure impede sustainable agriculture (Nkomoki et al., 2018).
- This study examines agrarian reforms' impact on transitioning cattle farming towards sustainability and climate mitigation in the Global South.

METHODOLOGY

- This research employs a Systematic Literature Review methodology as outlined by Pejić and Cerpa (2019) (Figure 1)
- The review comprised four stages, focused on six countries, and analyzed 122 documents.
- We employed a theoretical framework focusing on land tenure, cattle farming, credit access, and deforestation's impact on climate change (Singirankabo and Ertsen, 2020).

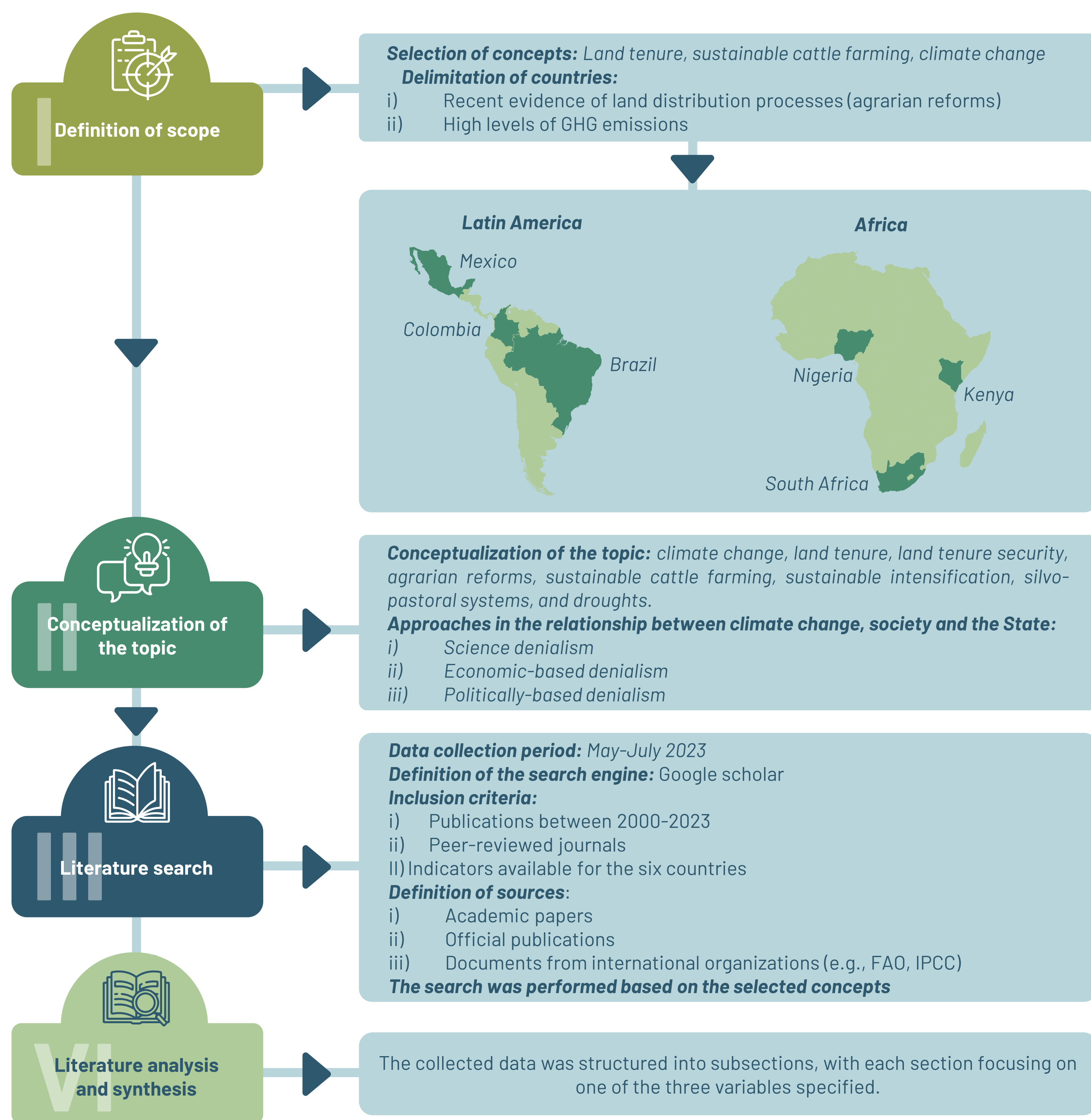


Figure 1. Conceptual and methodological outline of the study. Source: Own elaboration.

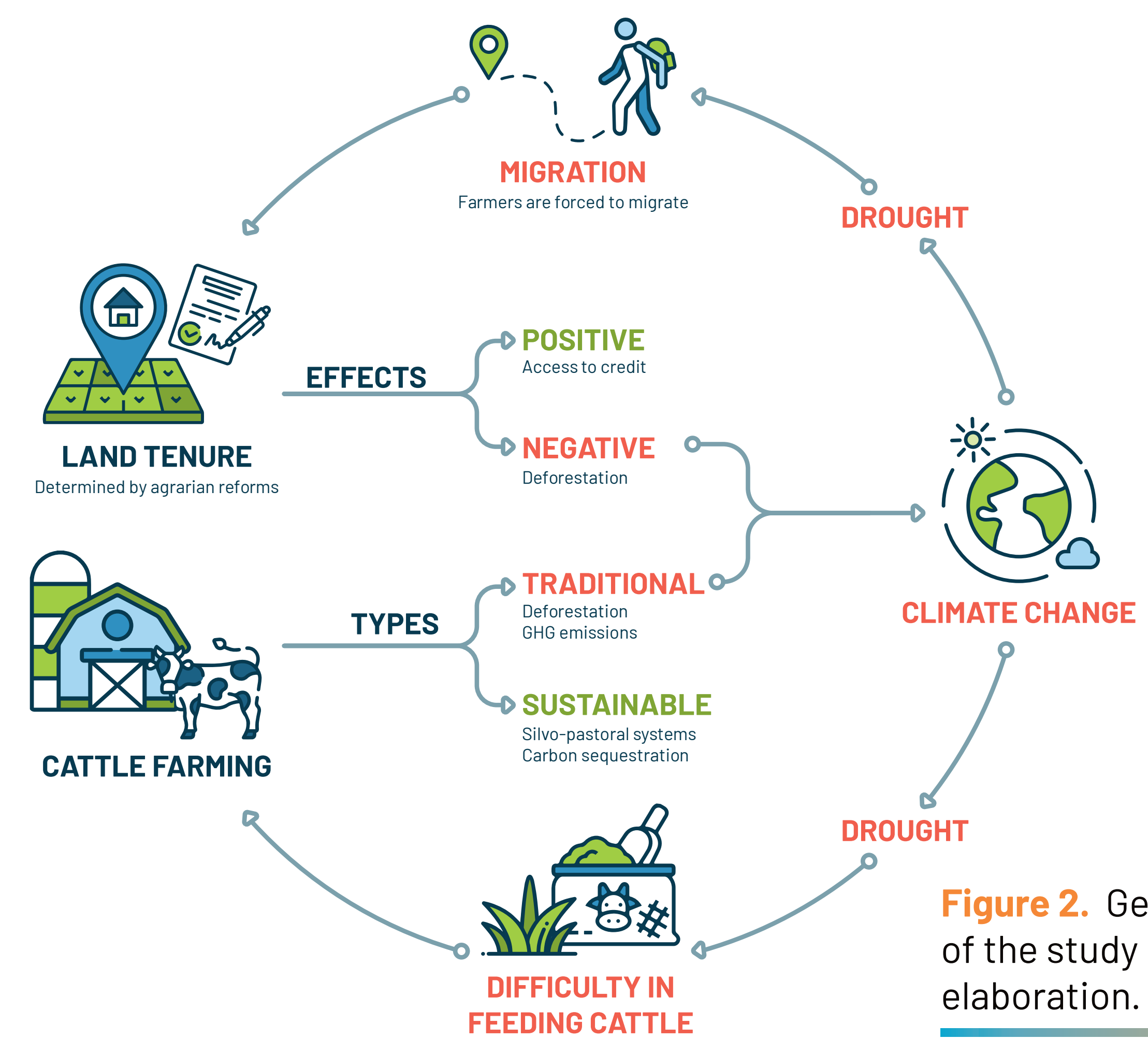


Figure 2. General framework of the study. Source: Own elaboration.

RESULTS

- Target countries have implemented various land distribution policies (Table 1).
- Land tenure security has not consistently mitigated climate change in the Global South.
- Sustainable cattle farming remains largely unadopted despite its significant climate impact.
- Weak governance, resource mismanagement, and deforestation hinder climate action in the studied regions.

Table 1. Key agrarian reform processes in the countries of analysis

COUNTRY	TYPE OF REFORM	OBJECTIVE	YEAR
Mexico	Legal: Program for Certification of Ejidal* Rights and Title of Urban Plots.	Promoting land tenure security through titles	1992–2006
Brazil	Governmental: The administrations of Cardoso (1995–2002) and Lula da Silva (2003–2010) stand out.	Granting land to families that do not possess it	Since 1995
South Africa	Legal: Political Constitution (section 25, known as the Property Clause).	Redistributing land to black South Africans to address the inequities of Apartheid	1996
Nigeria	Governmental: Establishment of the Presidential Technical Committee for Land Reform.	Reforming the 1978 Land Use Decree (which nationalized land) and strengthening property rights	2009
Kenya	Governmental: National Land Policy	Recognizing community land rights	2009
	Legal: Political Constitution.		2010
Kenya	Legal: Land, Land Registry, and National Land Commission Laws.	Recognizing community land rights	2012
	Law of Communal Lands		2016
Colombia	Peace Process: Section 1 of the Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict.	Democratizing land access for the benefit of peasants and rural communities	2016

*Ejido: Land distribution and ownership system institutionalized after the Mexican Revolution, which involves granting a piece of land to a group of people for their exploitation.

CONCLUSIONS

- While adaptation efforts are progressing, developing countries need greater support from major emitters for climate adaptation.
- Agrarian reforms must prioritize environmental considerations alongside socioeconomic goals.
- Modernized land records are vital for sustainable agricultural development.
- Continued implementation of Sustainable cattle farming is essential for climate action.

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