

Why is land security important?

Today, 862 million people face persistent hunger. Rising food prices threaten to push another 100 million people into hunger. Many are among the 1.5 billion people who live on 2ha or less of land. Access to land is a primary determinant of the ability of poor households to feed themselves.

Rising food and commodity prices, sharply increasing production of agrofuels and new carbon-trading mechanisms that place a monetary value on standing forests and rangelands are driving a new global rush for land.

What is land tenure security?

Land tenure security is based on the security of the holder of land and the perception of (and respect for) his or her ownership as long-term and inviolable, whether it is held individually or used by a collective or community. Land rights include permanence of tenure, legality of ownership and the freedom to use, bequeath, lease, lend or grant one's land.

Why is equitable access to land important for development?

Access to land allows households to produce their own food and actively engage in the local economy. In times of hardship, the productive potential of land provides a safety-net from absolute poverty. Access to land contributes to poverty reduction, reduces migration, both urban and trans-national, and creates more economic equity among a rural population. Asset inequality, particularly of land, reduces economic growth and the impact of gains in productivity on poverty.

Land is an important economic asset and a basis for identity, dignity and social inclusion. Secure land tenure contributes to ensuring the realization of fundamental human rights, particularly the right to an adequate standard of living, which includes access to water, food and housing. Land is also an enormous political resource, defining power relations between and among individuals, families and communities. Inability to access land has been a major contributing factor to social exclusion, instability and conflict in many countries. Secure access to land gives rural people a voice in their own progress and development.

ILC Members

Africa

Aide et Action pour la Paix (AAP)
Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA)
Centre Béninois pour l'Environnement et le Développement Economique et Social (CEBEDES)
Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM)
Kenya Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP)
Kenya Land Alliance (KLA)
Land Access Movement of South Africa (LAMOSA)
Land Net Malawi (LN Malawi)
Land Net West Africa (LNWA)
Mau Community Forestry Association (MACOFA)
Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE)
Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone (UEFA)
Uganda Land Alliance (ULA)
Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE)
Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA)
Zimbabwe Regional Environment Organisation (ZERO)

Latin America

Acción Campesina (AC)
Asociación Latino-Americana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP)
Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales (SER)
Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, Económicas, Políticas y Antropológicas (CISEPA-PUCP)
Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales (CEPES)
Comité de Desarrollo Campesino (CODECA)
Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas (CONGCOOP)
Consejo Coordinador de Organizaciones Campesinas de Honduras (COCOCH)
Convención Nacional del Agro Peruano (CONVEAGRO)
Federación Nacional de Cooperativas Agropecuarias y Agroindustriales R.L (FENACCOOP)
Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio (FEPP)
Fundación Tierra (fTierra)
El Grupo ALLPA - Comunidades y Desarrollo (ALLPA)
Instituto de investigación y desarrollo (NITLAPAN)
Union Verapacense de Organizaciones Campesinas (UVOC)

Asia

Asian NGO for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)
Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)
Bhartiya Jan Sewa Ashram (BJSa)
Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC)
Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA)
Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)
Indonesian Community Mapping Network (JKPP)
Indonesian Institute for Forest & Environment (RMI)
MODE Nepal (MODE)
Social Development Foundation (SDF)
Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE)
Society for Development of Drought Prone Area (SDPPA)
South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA)
STAR Kampuchea (STAR)
Task Force Mapalad (TFM)

Global

Association pour l'Amélioration de la Gouvernance de la Terre, de l'Eau et des Ressources Naturelles (AGTER)
Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche pour le Développement (CIRAD)
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (DWHH)
Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI)
European Commission (EC)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)
International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED)
International Union Of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant Catering, Tobacco And Allied Workers Associations (IUF)
Rural Development Institute (RDI)
Secours Populaire Français (SPF)
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Bank (WB)
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION SECRETARIAT

C/o IFAD Via Paolo di Dono, 44
00142 - Rome, Italy

tel: (0039) 06 5459 2445
fax: (0039) 06 5459 3628
(0039) 06 5459 3445
info@landcoalition.org



INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

www.landcoalition.org



INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

Land
Dignity
Development

Who are we?

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue and capacity building.

Since its founding in 1995, the ILC has grown to encompass 65 organizations in 40 countries. These include the UN and other international and multilateral organizations, producer and farmer organizations, research institutes, trade unions, NGOs and community-based organizations.

As a coalition of civil society and intergovernmental organizations, ILC builds multi-stakeholder alliances to uphold the resource rights of poor women and men. It provides a mechanism to work together across institutional and sectoral boundaries towards implementing a pro-poor land agenda. Access to land is linked to many development goals including increased food security, conflict prevention and combating desertification and environmental degradation.

ILC works for the landless, those with insecure land rights and the vulnerable:

- *small and marginalized farmers, especially women*
- *those reliant on common property resources, including water, forests, pastures, rangelands and indigenous territories*
- *those threatened by extractive industries, conservation and tourism*
- *victims of land-related conflicts*

Why do we work together?

Fair and sustainable access to land and natural resources for the poor is complex and raises many questions. Dialogue is needed to resolve land issues that are both technical and highly sensitive, politically and socially. A comparative advantage of ILC is its unique status as a bridge between civil society and intergovernmental organizations, bringing diverse groups together, sharing information and providing opportunities for collaborative policy dialogue and advocacy where diverse and often competing interests can be negotiated.

How do we work together?

The Coalition is a membership based organization governed by its Coalition Council, which ensures that its mandate, mission and strategic plan are carried out. Members share knowledge, experiences and news on land issues. Members meet every two years at a General Assembly and work through meetings and shared participation in conferences. The coalition is served by a secretariat currently hosted by IFAD in Rome, with nodes in Latin America (hosted by CEPES, Peru); Africa (hosted by the Kenya Land Alliance); and Asia (hosted by Asian NGO Coalition, Philippines).

Our core activities

1. Policy dialogue and advocacy

As a global coalition ILC creates and benefits from unique opportunities to engage in dialogue on land issues. Through the ILC, members with varying access to political economic power and engage in addressing issues of land access.

2. Knowledge management, networking and capacity building

The membership base facilitates sharing of diverse experiences in promoting pro-poor policy and practice, scaling-up of successful innovations and supporting capacity building to promote their uptake.

3. Governance and management

ILC relies on the active participation of its members, and in turn is accountable to them. ILC seeks to involve its members in key governance and management processes to establish ILC as an autonomous, decentralized and financially sustainable coalition.

Some ILC Initiatives

LAND Partnerships

Working together to build a pro-poor land agenda

The challenge of establishing land policies that provide a framework for equitable access to land requires a multi-stakeholder effort which must include the landless and poor land users. ILC members create 'LAND Partnerships' in key countries to support bottom-up pro-poor land policy formulation and implementation. LAND partnerships are currently being implemented in 11 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Land Reporting Initiative (LRI)

Monitoring and reporting equitable access to land

Many ILC members monitor and evaluate the implementation of land-related laws, policies and programmes and their impact. The LRI supports and builds on these efforts for greater collaboration between civil society, international organizations and governments to improve the monitoring of land rights and evaluation of land policy.

Women's Access to Land

Promoting gender equity in control over land

Women's role in agriculture has broadened and deepened in recent decades, yet their access to land is often limited by unfavourable laws and norms. ILC links research and action on women's access to land and encourages members to mainstream women's access to land into regional activities.

Securing the Commons

Secure rights for users of commonly-held resources

Between one and two billion people live on the world's commons; 5 billion hectares are under common-property regimes, over one third of the world's total land area. Resource users on the commons are often made vulnerable by inappropriate policies and laws governing resource tenure. ILC members and partners work together to document successful approaches to achieving tenure security for commonly-held resources, and advocate for their recognition.

Indigenous Peoples and Pastoralists

Territorial rights for indigenous peoples and pastoralists

An estimated 350 million indigenous peoples represent approximately 5% of the global population and 15% of the world's poor. Increasing land insecurity in the face of competition from more powerful outsiders is often singled out by indigenous people's organizations as the greatest threat to their future. ILC supports innovative efforts by these organizations to secure land rights, and aims to reduce land-based conflict between indigenous peoples and landless farmers. It also supports advocacy by indigenous peoples for land rights in global fora.

Globalization and new commercial pressures on land

Strengthening access to land in the face of growing tenure insecurity

Recent global trends are prompting a massive increase in global commercial interest in land and natural resources. In the context of liberalised trade and property laws in many countries this is creating unprecedented pressures on land resources and placing new tensions on land tenure systems. ILC strengthens collaboration between its members in gathering information, stimulating research and deepening understanding of the impact of such trends on land access.

Agrarian reform and family farming

Access to land and tenure security for smallholders

In many countries, the average size of smallholdings is decreasing and landlessness is increasing, undermining household food security and leading to demands for a new generation of agrarian reform. ILC works with its membership, including unions and farmers' organisations, to uphold the tenure rights of smallholders and assist landless farmers to gain land rights as a first step towards attaining wider human rights, including the right to food.

The work of the Coalition is made possible by funding from multilateral and bilateral donors.