



UNITING FOR LAND RIGHTS  
IN

# NEPAL

HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CHANGE

INTERNATIONAL  
**LAND**  
COALITION



The **NES NEPAL** works towards the realisation of the following  
**ILC commitments for People-Centred Land Governance:**

- » **Commitment 4:** Equal Land Rights for Women
- » **Commitment 6:** Secure Territorial Rights  
for Indigenous People
- » **Commitment 7:** Inclusive Decision-Making
- » **Commitment 8:** Transparent and Accountable Information
- » **Commitment 9:** Effective Actions Against Land Grabbing





This Contribution Analysis corroborates evidence of how the **NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY ON LAND GOVERNANCE IN NEPAL (NES) PLATFORM HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS** towards its strategic objectives, which include:

- » Expansion of the multi-stakeholder platform to influence and promote effective formulation of policies on land and related topics.
- » Reviewing the current land reform context, and scaling-up the awarding of land titles and joint land ownership
- » Development and promotion of a national action plan to implement relevant people-centred land laws and related policies.

Established in 2012 as one of the **Multi-Stakeholder platforms supported by ILC**, the National Engagement Strategy on Land Governance in Nepal is working to enhance the socio-economic conditions of marginalised populations, indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, and rural women in the country. The platform seeks to improve tenure security by supporting the formulation and implementation of people-centred and gender sensitive land policies; providing capacity-building activities and trainings on women's empowerment; and by organising multi-stakeholder policy dialogues at the community, provincial, national, and international levels.

The NES operates in all seven of Nepal's provinces, with a specific focus on the Terai Region. The platform incorporates government actors such as the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MLMCPA), the Central Bureau of Statistics, and the National Planning Commission, as well as Inter and Non-Governmental Organisations, civil society organisations, and donor networks working with land and natural resources in Nepal.

A key outcome of NES Nepal is its incorporation into a formal national platform on land governance- the **Land Governance Working Group (LGWG)** in 2018. Headed by the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA), the LGWG works to enhance engagement and solidarity in land related campaigns, and conducts annual policy-dialogues for legislative review and planning purposes.



At the policy-level, the work of NES members and other national and international organisations have culminated in people-centred land acts and amendments. NES Nepal influenced the inclusion of land rights provisions in the **2015 Constitution**, the landmark **National Land Policy (2019)** and **Land Use Act (2019)**, as well as the **7th-8th Amendments to the Land Act (2018; 2020)**. NES-led participatory processes also incited the formulation and implementation of **evidence-based model land laws in the Bhajani and Dangisharan Municipalities**.

NES members work to provide crucial support to discriminated communities who routinely face extreme restrictions and neglect by the state and society alike- including Dalits and Haliyas, Indigenous

Peoples (including the Tharu, Kumal, Gurung, and Magar), as well as women. To date, the NES' **agrarian and tenancy rights campaigns** have led to the issuing of **land ownership certificates to over 4540 village-block households, 2190 landless households, and 955 tenants**.

**Women's land rights and livelihoods constitute a major focus of the NES** and its member organisations, many of which play a catalytic role in gender justice advocacy and the promotion of female leadership in Nepal. Through NES member-led Joint Land Ownership programmes, the platform contributed to the **securing of over 9490 joint land ownership certificates spanning 2755 hectares of land**.



# THE LAND GOVERNANCE CONTEXT IN NEPAL

**IN NEPAL, AN ESTIMATED 25 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IS CLASSIFIED AS LANDLESS OR NEAR LANDLESS AS THE MAJORITY OF LAND IS CONTROLLED BY ELITE LANDLORDS, MANY OF THEM ABSENTEE.**

The traditional caste system excludes tribal groups and ethnic minorities, despite a 2011 Bill banning Caste-based discrimination and untouchability. **Dalits** (lowest-caste hierarchy grouping comprising 15% of the population) in particular continue to be subject to abuse and segregation, and are disproportionately landless. Women are also largely marginalised- and, despite making-up 70 percent of the agricultural labour force in Nepal, their land ownership lags at an estimated 19 percent, in part due to the influence of customary and religious laws as well as a historic lack of legal entitlement to land.

Landlessness increases vulnerability to human rights offences, including exploitative or bonded labour. Populations residing in unregistered, public, and community lands often lack legal land-titles, access to water and food resources, and face the possibility of sudden forced eviction or land confiscation. Despite reform efforts dating back to the 1950s, the land sector continues to face widespread challenges. In order to realise people-centred land governance, numerous legal provisions require immediate and comprehensive implementation.

The NES platform, together with the Nepalese government, international institutions, and civil society organisations, are making sustained efforts to ameliorate such problems by jointly formulating and implementing legislative amendments and novel land-related policies with explicit provisions for the landless, land-poor, and marginalised populations.

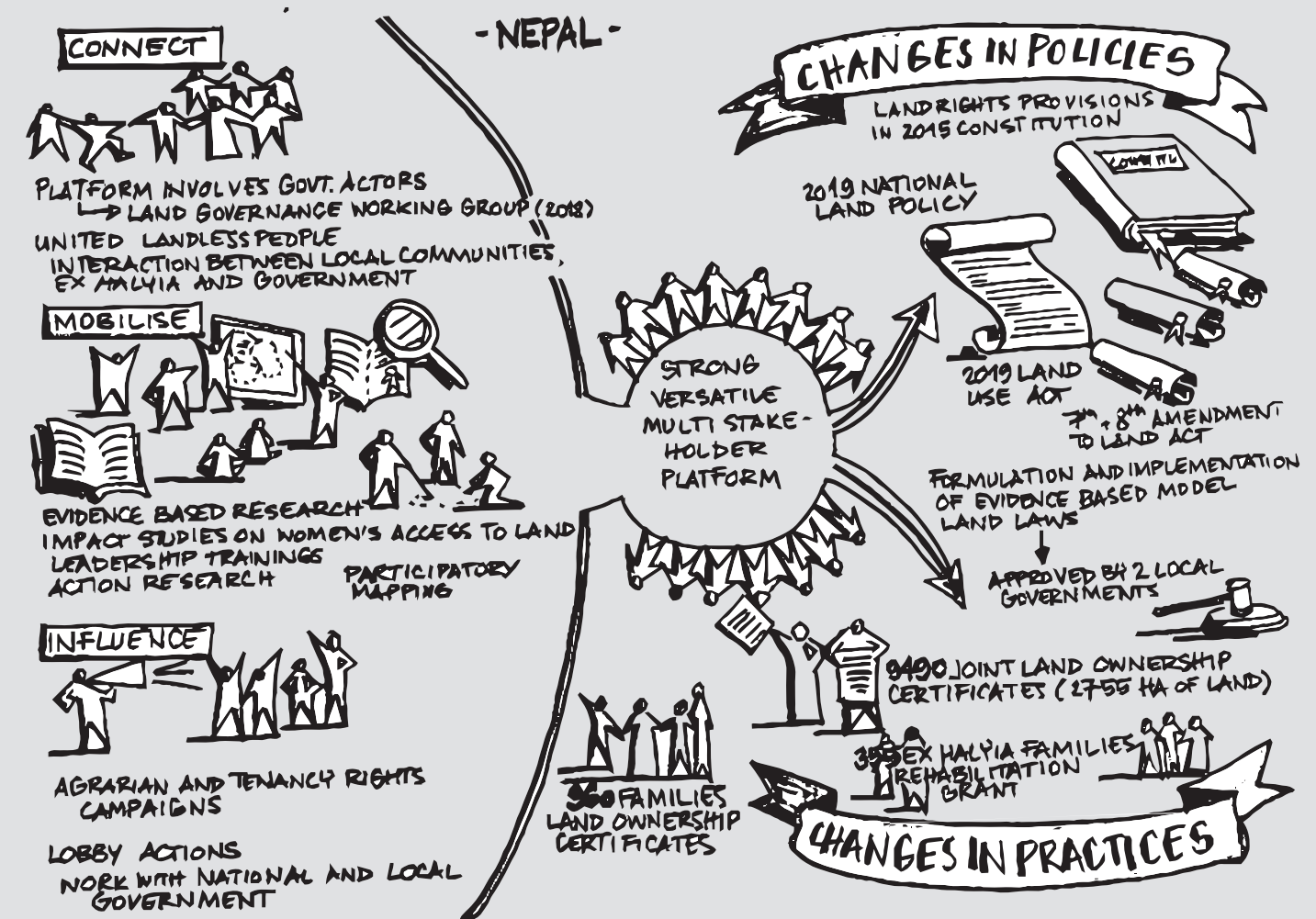
## THEORY OF CHANGE

By working effectively as a network, ILC seeks to enable its members to work with and influence external key decision-makers. These actors play a central role in any transformation of policies and practices. To this end, The ILC's Theory of Change is founded on the three pillars of **Connect**, **Mobilise**, and **Influence**.

The NES platform on Land Governance in Nepal has fostered partnerships and collaborations at local, regional, national, and international levels. This translates into the combination of diverse but complementary efforts, particularly between community-based organisations, government ministries, actors, policy-makers, and civil society organisations (**Connect**).

The platform facilitates informed and effective actions through accessible and applicable knowledge and tools by creating opportunities for innovation, piloting, and scaling up (**Mobilise**).

In turn, this facilitates and influences key decision-makers to engage with civil society actors as legitimate and necessary interlocutors in achieving people-centred land governance (**Influence**).



# NOTABLE OUTCOMES

## NES NEPAL'S INFLUENCE ON LAND-RELATED POLICIES

The joint and complimentary efforts of the LGWG and the NES with civil society organisations and development partners have led to the **inclusion of people-centred provisions in the 2015 constitution, the 2019 National Land Policy, the 2019 Land Use Act, as well as the 7-8th amendments to the Land Act.**

Together with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, members of NES Nepal facilitate land reform processes by co-ordinating periodic dialogues with a variety of stakeholders working on land including the Constituent Assembly, Parliamentarians, landless communities, and major political parties. Evidence-based research produced by NES members servers to inform policy formulation and amendments, especially regarding the rights of land deprived communities and female farmers.

The platform also served as a member to an informal, civil-society led working committee set-up to revise the legislative changes pertaining to land and agriculture, which provided recommendations to the government regarding the amendments to the Land Act, the Right to Housing Act (2019), the Food Sovereignty, and the Food Right Act (2019).

The NES host, the **Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC)**, further served as the secretariat for the formulation process for the National Land Policy (2019) and together with the MoLMCPA, positioned the needs of marginalised populations at the centre of the formulation process. As a result, the policy includes provisions to ensure tenure security and ease of land access for landless residents in unregistered lands.

NES INVOLVEMENT	POLICY	ACTION
Policy Formulation	Action Plan for Land Reform	NES contributions to 13-point action plan, 2012-13
	Constitution (2015); Constitutional Provision (Article 40) on Land Rights of Landless Dalits	NES guidance as per the inclusion of Dalit land rights and land reform agendas in the constitution through its membership in intra and inter-ministerial platforms
	Land Use policy (2015); Land Acquisition Act (2015); Tenancy Problem Solving Unit; Land Registration Guideline for Earthquake Victims (2016)	NES inputs and facilitation, through its host member, the Community Self-Reliance Centre
	Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act; Right to Housing Act (2018)	NES membership in civil society network involved in relevant consultation and formulation processes
	National Land Policy (2019)	NES membership in the land-related policy drafting committee
	Land Use Act (2019)	NES feedback on draft bill to Government; NES members lobbying and advocacy efforts targeting political parties and members of parliament to endorse the act and policy
	Joint Land Ownership (provisions)	NES guidelines for Joint Land Ownership policy document
Policy Amendments	Draft Guthi Bill (*withdrawn)	NES feedback
	6-8th Amendments of the Lands Act 1964 (2016; 2018; 2020)	NES facilitation and lobbying of Council of Ministers to endorse guidelines and regulations; review of draft Bills; policy discussions and recommendations
	Land Use Policy 2012 (2015)	NES recommendations to government through policy dialogues
Policy Implementation	Land Reform Action Plan	Government approval of 13-point action plan for scientific land reform formulated by NES members, 2013
	National Land Policy (2019)	NES host serves as secretariat for the formulation of the policy implementation process
	Tenancy Land Rights	Government formulation of Tenancy Problem Solving Unit within the Ministry of Land Management (2018) as a result of NES lobbying; NES efforts to extend tenancy land rights claim application period
	8th Amendment of Land Reform Act (2020)	NES member serving as an expert/ board member for Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC)
	Land Rights of Landless/homeless Dalits	Government commits to provide land to landless Dalits as a result of NES lobbying efforts.



# SIGNIFICANCE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS CONTRIBUTED TO BY THE NES

*The majority of participants in our Analysis validation survey **strongly or absolutely agree** the main NES outcome was the **support to policy formulation, amendments, and implementation**. The following section outlines the key legislative developments influenced by the NES Nepal platform.*

## 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENTS TO THE LANDS ACT (1964)

The first legislation designed to initiate the land reform process was the Lands Act, introduced in 1964 to ensure the equitable distribution of agricultural land. Despite six rounds of amendments, it failed to adequately protect tenure rights by lacking a statutory obligation to redistribute agricultural land, and the poor implementation of such provisions.

The 7<sup>th</sup> amendment, endorsed by the President and enacted in 2018, **committed the government to provide land to Dalits, especially for housing proposes**. The amendment represents a significant step towards addressing landlessness by provisioning an implementation mechanism for a constitutional provision for Dalit rights.

In 2018, the NES host CSRC and the wider civil society network expressed concerns in their submission to the Ministry of Law regarding the lack of a robust definition of landlessness and land entitlements. A civil society-led consultation meeting in 2019 assessed the proposal for the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment, and provided recommendations regarding its provisions. Approved in 2020, **the 8th amendment provisions land distribution and land rights registrations for informal settlers, squatters, and landless populations**. To assure their effective implementation, the act incited the set-up of a Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC), to which a NES member is serving as a board member. The NES facilitated the amendments chiefly by lobbying the Council of Ministers to endorse the relevant guidelines and regulations, by reviewing the draft Bills and providing recommendations, as well as through their participation in policy discussions.



## 2015 CONSTITUTION OF NEPAL

The 2015 Constitution notably introduced the **prohibition of gender-based discrimination, equal inheritance and property rights for both women and men, as well as the provision of land rights for landless Dalits**. A major contributing factor to the inclusion of people-centred land governance perspectives in the 2015 Constitution was the work of NES members in engaging over 2000 policymakers in policy debates, and unifying over 50 thousand stakeholder perspectives.

However, the constitution still lacks a legal definition of landless Dalits, the criteria to identify landless Dalit families, and the procedures to re-distribute land.

## 2019 NATIONAL LAND POLICY

Following a seven-year review process, the **National Land Policy was formally endorsed in 2019**. Regarded as a landmark policy for addressing land access issues and the recognition of informal tenure, the policy seeks to improve the regulation, management, use, and governance of land resources. It formally recognises the duty of the state in guaranteeing equitable benefits in sharing land, as well as the sustainable use of land resources for development. The policy has recognised the aspirations of global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land Fisheries and Forest (VGGTs).

## 2019 LAND USE ACT

The Land Use Act serves to drive economic development, control the fragmentation of agricultural land, and regulate the land market by effectively classifying the country's land resources for use and management. The act acknowledges the crucial role of land councils in preserving local approaches to land tenure and the Land Use Implementation Structures. Significantly, it paves a foundation to provide land for agriculture, housing for the landless, as well as joint land-ownership certificates that are of particular importance for securing women's land rights.

### Empowering Women through Secured Land and Livelihood Access: Joint-Land Ownership Programs

NES Nepal works to empower women in securing their access to land and livelihoods, most prominently through the promotion of joint-land ownership (JLO) certificates and research to guide and inform policy formulation and amendments regarding the rights of female farmers and land-poor women.



The NES' periodic impact studies assessing the effectiveness of JLO policies and women's access to land helped identify major shortcomings and implementation gaps. As a result, platform members **successfully lobbied the government to accept the JLO provisions and financial concessions to women registering land in their name.** To date, the NES member-led<sup>1</sup> JLO programmes have led to the issuing of **over 9490 joint land ownership certificates, and provisions for joint land ownership in eight local government<sup>2</sup> land acts.**

The NES' leadership trainings and knowledge sharing activities further strengthen the agency of rural women. The NES host, Community Self-Reliance Centre, leads these efforts by technically supporting the National Land Rights Forum in their capacity-building activities and trainings on women's empowerment.

## CHANGING PRACTICES: INTERVENTIONS TO SECURE LAND RIGHTS

### FORMULATING EVIDENCE-BASED MODEL LAND LAWS AND ACTION PLANS WITH MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

The NES seeks to decentralise land policy formulation by supporting provincial and community-level processes. In light of the 2017 Local Government Act, the NES supported two local governments -the Bhajani municipality of Kailali and the Dangisharan Rural Municipality of Dang- in formulating local land acts and action plans. The plans were developed in partnership with academic institutions and with data generated through action research. **As of 2019, the two municipal governments have approved and implemented the model laws and action plans.** The NES has provided similar support to the municipal government of Ramdhuni municipality (Sunsari District) in mapping their land and natural resource contexts.

These participatory mapping processes exemplify a major change in land governance practices, as numerous stakeholders from various levels of government engaged with the LGWG in outlining common priorities and in formulating joint action plans.

### STRENGTHENING THE VOICES OF LANDLESS PEOPLE THROUGH LAND RIGHTS FORUMS AND TENANCY LAND RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS

The NES collaborated with Land Rights Forums to unite landless peoples in their pleas against forced evictions and land grabs. Over 100 thousand agricultural workers, bonded labourers, and marginalised communities (including Dalits and Indigenous Peoples) united under the NES member **National Land Rights Forum's** land rights forums to strengthen their call for secure land rights.

1 55% participants in the validation survey for this analysis strongly or absolutely agree that the assistance to Joint-Land ownership was a key outcome of the NES

2 Belaka Municipality (Udayapur District), Baijanath Rural Municipality (Banke District), Helambu Rural Municipality (Sindhupalchok District), Dhangadhimai Municipality (Siraha District), Gulariya Municipality (Bardiya), Kalika Rural Municipality (Rasuwa), Bhajani Municipality (Kailali).



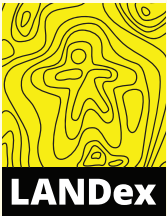
The NES Tenancy Rights Campaign<sup>3</sup> held over 20 consultations with local communities with insecure land tenure including peasants, tenants, informal and Ailani settlers, as well as village-block residents. As a result, **over 960 families residing in Village Blocks received land ownership certificates**, and a further 50.000 applications for land tenancy separation were filed in 2019 alone.

### FACILITATING THE HALIYA WITH GOVERNMENT REHABILITATION GRANTS

In Nepal, Haliya refers to agriculturally bonded labourers. The Nepalese Government identified Haliya families for grant allocation, sparking wide controversy as community and Haliya activists claim the government is excluding large populations in the rehabilitation process.

The NES facilitated interactions between local communities, municipalities, as well as district level authorities, which have since committed to assure the inclusive take-up of affected populations in the rehabilitation processes. In 2019, the NES assisted 355 Ex-Haliya families awaiting a rehabilitation grant, out of which over 240 families received either the first or final trench for housing.

3 65% of participants in the validation survey for this analysis strongly or absolutely agree the support of its members to Land Rights Forums, which bring together landless people to strengthen their pleas against forced evictions and land grabs, was a major outcome of the NES



### PRODUCING NATIONAL LAND GOVERNANCE DATA THROUGH THE GLOBAL LAND GOVERNANCE INDEX (LANDex)

The **Global Land Governance Index (LANDex)** is a people-centred tool for land monitoring that generates data according to a combination of people-generated, third party, and official data. In 2018-2019, LANDex was piloted in Nepal by the NES host. Several national and government institutions, such as the NPC, the CBS, and the MoLMCPA have committed to include LANDex in national data collection processes, including the 2021 National Population Census and Agricultural Census.

The implementation of LANDex in Nepal highlights lessons drawn from the contribution analysis- namely the multi-sectorial engagement in land governance; the work on women's land rights; as well as efforts towards inclusive decision-making processes.

The LANDex scores reflect a number of NES achievements. Indicator 4A measures the extent to which the legal framework on land is gender sensitive; the score in part reflects the aforementioned 2015 Constitution that prohibits gender-based discrimination and includes provisions for equal inheritance.

The LANDex score for indicator 7A reflects the extent to which national laws call for the inclusion of both men and women in local decision making; in Nepal, mechanisms for public participation in land governance and multi-stakeholder engagement are strong. Likewise, LANDex 7C, which measures the levels of diversity in multi-stakeholder platforms – including women, youth, and customary rights holders among others- scored well.





## A STRENGTHENED CAPACITY FOR TRANSFORMATION

### CONSOLIDATION OF A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM AND EXTENSION TO A FORMAL NATIONAL PLATFORM

By 2019, the NES platform had grown from six to 27 members. The cultivation of a strong and versatile platform, alongside the formulation of the LGWG prompted by the NES, has allowed it to directly influence the priorities and programs of the Nepalese government relevant to people-centered land governance (PCLG).

Headed by the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation, the LGWG works to enhance engagement and solidarity in land related campaigns, and conducts annual policy-dialogues for legislative review and planning purposes. The LGWG's Coordination Committee comprises various government bodies, United Nations Agencies, international non-governmental organisations, as well as community-based organisations working to secure the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and Women in Nepal.

Such collaborations seek to guarantee that the PCLG principles enshrined in the new Constitution, among other recent land policies, remain a priority for policy makers at all levels. The engagement of prominent actors such as the government, combined with the growing competences of its diverse membership, are allowing the platform to harness a robust capacity for transformation.





# TIMELINE



## ONGOING



**SECURE TENURE RIGHTS**  
Tenancy Land Rights Campaigns



**EQUAL LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN**  
Assisting Joint Land Ownership certifications and processes; generation of data; promoting female leadership in the land sector



**INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING**  
Institutionalisation and democratisation of People's Organisations: Strengthening Land Rights Forums



**TRANSPARENT AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION**  
Research and Model land laws

## 2018



**SECURE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**  
Support to high-level policy dialogues regarding Indigenous Peoples



**INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING**  
Expansion of NES Nepal to a formal, government led Multi-stakeholder platform referred to as the Land Governance Working Group (LGWG)



**SECURE TENURE RIGHTS**  
Facilitating the Haliya with Government Rehabilitation Grants



**INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING**  
Platform membership growth to 27 members

## 2015-ONGOING



**SECURE TENURE RIGHTS**  
Supporting policy formulation, amendments, and implementation (2015 Constitution; Land Use Policy; National Land Policy, Food Rights Act, Land Use Act, Housing Rights Act, Land Act)

## 2012



**SECURE TENURE RIGHTS**  
Creation of the NES Nepal Multi-Stakeholder Platform



# NES NEPAL'S INVOLVEMENT IN ILC'S COMMITMENT-BASED INITIATIVES (CBI)



## STRONG SMALL-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS (CBI 2)

The NES and ILC members CSRC, CDS, NLRP engaged in the set-up of national committees on the implementation of the United Nations' Decade of Family Farming.



## DIVERSE TENURE SYSTEMS (CBI 3)

The NES Nepal coordinator participates in advocacy efforts and roundtables discussions to influence reforms related to rangelands and pastoralists, including a national policy analysis of rangelands and the mapping of pastoral areas.



## EQUAL LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN (CBI 4)

The ILC and NES members Abhiyan and CSRC are engaged in capacity-building efforts, such as trainings, for female leaders. The NES also actively engages in the relevant CBI strategy meetings.



## SECURE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (CBI 5)

The ILC and NES member COLARP conducted research on Policies and Practices of Land Tenure among Indigenous Peoples of Nepal, organised a workshop on Indigenous Peoples in Nepal, and directly engaged in the high-level policy dialogues for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with the support of the ILC secretariat and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs.



## TRANSPARENT AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION (CBI 8)

The ILC and NES members CSRC, COLARP, and MODE are engaged in the Land Watch Asia platform that works towards ensuring that access to land and agrarian reform are addressed in national and regional development agendas.



## PROTECTED LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS (CBI 10)

The NES host CSRC is responsible for mainstreaming engagements with National Human Rights Institutions through the NES Nepal platform.

A notable result was the call for more representation of Indigenous Peoples in the NES and LGWG platforms; the platforms have incorporated two Indigenous people's organisations in their membership, namely the Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples, and the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities. The NES also facilitates dialogues among indigenous and non-indigenous peoples to foster a common understanding and consensus on land related issues.

## GLOBAL ADVOCACY WITH A FOCUS ON VGGTS AND SDGS

NES Nepal is employing a mechanism to monitor the progress against the relevant SDG indicators and VGGT principles. The ILC, in collaboration with NES Nepal, is currently compiling a shadow report on SDGs in Nepal based on LANDex data.

The Government of Nepal **reported on its progress on SDGs** at the 2020 SDG High Level Political Forum, and is one of the few countries reporting on the SDG indicator 1.4.2.A (accessible [here](#) and [here](#)).

# KEY CHALLENGES

## TRANSLATING COMMITMENT INTO PRACTICE

### CONSTRAINTS IN LAND GOVERNANCE AND REFORM

The implementation of people-centred provisions for secure land tenure and rights depend on inter-and-intra ministerial coordination and cooperation. Whilst the national government endorses land and natural resource policies, key ministries and departments often express conflicting views. Centralised land administration, a lack of legal knowledge, and the unaddressed commitment to land reform have further obstructed the implementation of numerous policy provisions, despite the formulation of numerous several high-level land reform commissions.

### SHORTAGE OF FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The 761 newly established government units often lack the financial and human resources, and in some cases the political will needed to improve land management practices- undermining the potential of the recent progressive constitutional provisions.

### IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES

Indigenous peoples advocate for self-determination and reclaiming of their territories, while some CSOs involved in NES advocate for state land reform.

### IMBALANCED ENGAGEMENT BY PLATFORM MEMBERS

The degree of involvement/contribution towards the results is highly skewed. Furthermore, not all stakeholders are aware of the distinction between the NES platform and the LGWG.



# LESSONS LEARNED

## **FOSTERING TRUST AND A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & RECOGNITION OF NES CONTRIBUTIONS**

Local and provincial governments are increasingly willing to work with the NES, while political parties are starting to join platform members in their advocacy for people-centred land governance.

## **INCORPORATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND LOCAL EXPERTS**

Incorporation of indigenous knowledge and local experts in policy dialogue was a significant factor in policy formulation and in garnering the attention of the government to land related discrimination and access issues

## **UNDERSTANDING LINKAGES WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

It is important, yet challenging to identify and understand the work of other international development partners in the Nepalese land sector and of other similar thematic areas of the NES. The outcomes cited by international organisations operating outside of the NES and their overlaps with the work of the platform represent a further area that requires possible partnership building and alignment.

The **ILC's Database of Good Practices** documents and systematises the experience of ILC members and partners in promoting people-centred land governance, as defined in the ILC's Antigua Declaration. Further information at <https://www.landcoalition.org/en/explore/>

## **WE COULDN'T DO IT ALONE!**

The NES consolidates linkages with relevant actors in the Nepalese land sector and international development partners in order to promote knowledge sharing complementary activities, as well as to avoid the duplication of efforts. Prominent development partners working with the Nepalese land include ActionAid, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), CARE, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Oxfam, and the World Bank- which are also ILC members.

*Nepalese State Actors collaborating with the NES include (\* are NES platform members):*

- » Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MOLMCPA)\*
- » National Planning Commission (NPC) \*
- » Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)\*
- » Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Cooperative and Natural Resources (PCACNR):
  - » Provincial and local governments
  - » Constitutional Commissions

Upon the invitation of national committees and bodies, NES members regularly participate in land-related debates and policy discussions, and serve as key members of government commissions in the land sector- including the Public Land Forum, a district research and planning body, and the Public Land Management Committees, which assist the formulation of public land use guidelines. The NES is also a member of several relevant networks and initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Right to Food Network and the Programme on Women's Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

# ILC IN NEPAL

The International Land Coalition has six member organisations based in Nepal, all of which are active participants in the NES Nepal multi-stakeholder platform on land governance.

## **ABHIYAN NEPAL**

works to create effective demands to claim land and resource rights by empowering impoverished, exploited, or discriminated individuals and communities.

## **COMMUNITY SELF-RELIANCE CENTRE (CSRC)**

facilitates land and agrarian rights campaigns by educating and empowering the landless and land-poor. CSRC is the acting co-ordinator of national-level discussions and workshops, as well as the NES platform. ILC has endorsed CSRC's mandate for since 2007, through the Land Rights and Livelihood Security Initiative.

## **CONSORTIUM FOR LAND RESEARCH AND POLICY DIALOGUE (COLARP)**

unites researchers and policy practitioners in promoting evidence-based policies through participatory research to assist the landless and land-poor in gaining access to and control over productive resources.

## **COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CDS)**

builds capacities for participatory development processes through skill-based education. CDS conducts research pertaining to issues of development and sustainable livelihoods, with a specific focus on land and natural resources.

## **MODE NEPAL**

is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to sustainable development and fostering bottom-up planning, participatory approaches, and social equity in Nepal.

## **NATIONAL LAND RIGHTS FORUM (NLRF)**

is a national association that unites and empowers land-poor tenants, squatters, tillers, agricultural labourers, and smallholder farmers through its provincial, district, and village land rights forums. Women and the youth represent over 50% of NLRF's membership.





## MEET THE PLATFORM

The National Engagement Strategy on Land Governance in Nepal brings together diverse but complementary efforts, particularly between the national and municipal governments, inter-governmental organisations, and the civil society. The platform currently comprises 27 members and is active across all seven of Nepal's provinces, with a particular focus on the Terai Region.

### *Academia*

- » College of Development Studies (CDS)
- » Kathmandu University

### *CSO*

- » MODE Nepal

### *CSO/NGO*

- » Centre for Social Development Research (CSDR)
- » Mahila Ekta Samaj
- » Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN)

### *Government body*

- » Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
- » Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MOLMCPA)
- » National Planning Commission (NPC)

### *Indigenous People's organisation*

- » Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP)
- » Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)

### *International NGO*

- » CARE Nepal
- » Habitat for Humanity Nepal
- » Individuell Människohjälp Swedish Development Partner
- » Lutheran World Federation Nepal
- » Oxfam

### *Multilateral organisation*

- » World Bank

### *NGO*

- » Abhiyan Nepal
- » ActionAid Nepal
- » Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC)
- » KIRDARC

### *Peoples' organisation*

- » National Land Rights Forum (NLRf)

### *Research Organisation*

- » Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP)

### *UN agency*

- » Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- » International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- » International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- » UNHabitat





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STRATEGIC PARTERS AND CORE DONORS



Government of the Netherlands



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



IFAD  
Investing in rural people



Sverige



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



# NES

NATIONAL  
ENGAGEMENT  
STRATEGY

National Engagement Strategies - often referred to as “NES” – are multi-stakeholder platforms set in motion by the International Land Coalition (ILC). They are led by national actors, and include ILC members and partners to promote the Coalition’s joint goal of people-centred land governance.

NES platforms are helping to simplify and unpack land governance complexities by setting priorities and suggesting solutions to some of the most difficult land-related issues in a country. NES platforms are promoting collaboration and bridging the gap between government, the private sector, civil society including grassroots organisations, international agencies, traditional authorities and academia.

All ILC members have the opportunity to set up national platforms with the technical and financial support of the ILC.

These platforms use ILC’s 10 commitments to people-centred land governance as their compass, while promoting the Voluntary Guidelines for Land Tenure (VGGTs) and the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa.

Photos: ©ILC/ Bhabishya Paudel

## ILC ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE c/o CIFOR

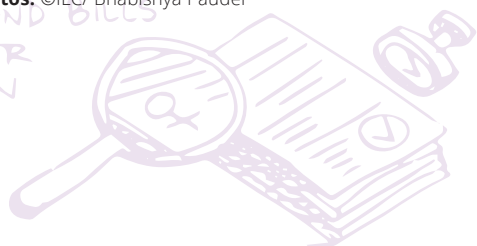
United Jalan CIFOR, Situ Gede, Bogor Barat, Bogor 16115, Jawa Barat, Indonesia

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