

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

UNITED
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RIGHTS

UNITED FOR LAND RIGHTS

This report provides an overview of the main achievements and lessons learnt in 2020.
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ABBREVIATIONS

AFA	Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development	EMENA	Europe, Middle East and North Africa	MSP	Multi-stakeholder platform	UNDROP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and the Right to Land
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	NCFF	National Committee on Family Farming	UNEP	UN Environmental Programme
AU	African Union	FPP	Forest Peoples Programme	NELGA	The Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa	UNFSS	UN Food Systems Summit
AUC	African Union Commission	GDWGL	Global Donor Working Group on Land	NES	National Engagement Strategy	VGGTs	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
CAPA	Central Asia Pastoral Alliance	GLTN	Global Land Tool Network	NGO	Non-governmental organisation	W4W	Women for Women
CBI	Commitment-Based Initiative	HRIA	Human Rights Impact Assessment	NLRF	National Land Rights Forum	WAMIP	World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples
CBO	Constituency-based organisation	IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights		
CEJIL	Centre for Justice and International Law	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	PC-DAGs	Public Consortium of Decentralized Autonomous Governments		
CEPAL/ECLAC	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	IFI	International financial institution	RCU	Regional Coordination Unit		
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel	IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	REAF	Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUR		
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific	IGO	Intergovernmental organisation	REC	Regional Economic Community		
CLPI	Community Land Protection Initiative	IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development	RMI	Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment		
CoRe	Collaborating for Resilience	ILC	International Land Coalition	RRF	Rights and Rice Foundation		
CSO	Civil society organisation	IPMG	Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development	RRI	Rights and Resources Initiative		
CSRC	Community Self-Reliance Centre	IYRP	International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists	SADC	Southern African Development Community		
DD Coalition	Defending Land and Environmental Defenders Coalition	LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean	SAPA	South Asia Pastoralist Alliance		
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	LANDex	Global Land Governance Index	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals		
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	LRN	Land Rights Now	SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute		
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	M&E	Monitoring and evaluation	SICA	Central American Integration System		
		MoU	Memorandum of understanding	UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union		
		MRLG	Mekong Regional Land Governance Project	UNDF	UN Decade of Family Farming		

FOREWORD

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly touched all our lives in the past year, personally and professionally. It is true for the land sector, as for many others, that COVID-19 has not broken our system but has exposed how broken and unequal it already was.

Many ILC members faced severe challenges in 2020. Nonetheless, as we look back on the year, the solidarity and commitment we have seen throughout the network is outstanding, as are the ways in which members have adapted and managed to continue bringing about change.

We'd like to highlight five ways that members have done this in 2020.

1

ILC MEMBERS HAVE RISEN TO DEFY THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC

This year **WE SHARED STORIES FROM MEMBERS** from across the globe about what COVID-19 has meant for their work. Members have, variously, protected land and environment defenders in the face of heightened impunity of their attackers, residents of informal settlements at risk of eviction, indigenous peoples facing incursions into their territories with increasingly deadly consequences and new widows unable to keep possession of their family land. Overall, members have shown that their work for land rights is central to building resilience, sustainability and peace. The world also saw afresh the incredible role that small farmers play in providing good, safe and reliable food – one reason why **OUR “THANK A FARMER” VIDEO** went viral.

Overall, despite the severe challenges of 2020, 90% of ILC members (227 out of 250) actively took part in partnerships supported by the Coalition – a National Engagement Strategy (NES) (145 members); a Commitment-Based Initiative (CBI) (196 members); or a facility providing services to other members (95 members).

2

ILC HAS FOCUSED GLOBAL ATTENTION ON LAND INEQUALITY

The launch of **THE UNEVEN GROUND REPORT** met with widespread acclaim and **VISIBILITY IN THE WORLD'S MEDIA**. Using new methodologies and data, this pioneering initiative showed that land inequality is actually 41% higher than previously estimated, with just 1% of farms controlling 70% of all farmland. It brought global attention to how land inequality is at the heart of today's major crises, placing the struggle for more equal land rights firmly alongside efforts to overcome wider inequalities, the climate and environmental emergencies and the crises in peace and democracy, among others.

3

ILC IS “GROWING SMART”, WIDENING AND DEEPENING ITS REACH

The 2021 Assembly of Members in Jordan will consider 77 new organisations for membership. For the first time, regional intergovernmental bodies are in line to become a part of ILC, including ONU Mujeres, CELAP, CILSS and ECOWAS. Also importantly, the proportion of member organisations that belong directly to farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, women and local communities will rise beyond the 40% it stands at today, representing a further step towards such organisations becoming the leading force in our Coalition.

4

ILC IS CONVENING POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

ILC is spearheading, with the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) and others, the development of an ambitious Framework for Action for land rights leading up to 2030. **LANDEX** is gaining recognition even beyond ILC as a producer and tracker of participatory data on land for the SDGs and VGGTs. The Land Rights Now campaign, with Oxfam, RRI and over 800 partner organisations, launched a global digital mobilisation that aimed to **#CREATEASPARK FOR LAND RIGHTS**; this issued urgent action alerts and supported national campaigns, including in Guatemala to stand with land defenders and in Montenegro, where local people and activists achieved **A FIRST SUCCESS IN BLOCKING PLANS FOR MILITARY TRAINING ON THEIR PASTURES**.

5

ILC IS PROMOTING DEMOCRACY WITH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS

People-centred land governance is not just an idea for ILC members but is being made real by the superb work of over 750 members and partners across more than 30 countries. The **LANDCOLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP** is leading support for such platforms and is providing access to solutions and learning opportunities. Intergovernmental members such as FAO, IFAD and the World Bank are discovering the value of partnering with platforms in countries such as Liberia, Senegal, South Africa, Moldova, Albania, Colombia and Mongolia. In 2020, we saw 22 policy shifts in 15 countries and 11 changes towards more people-centred practice in nine countries.

On behalf of the entire ILC support team, we have been honoured to support the efforts and achievements of ILC members in this deeply disruptive year.

Michael Taylor,
Director, ILC Secretariat

Zulema Burneo,
Regional Coordinator,
ILC Latin America
& the Caribbean

Audace Kubwimana,
Regional Coordinator, ILC Africa

Mirgul Amanalieva,
Regional Coordinator, ILC Asia

Rabie Wahba,
Regional Coordinator,
ILC Europe, Middle
East & North Africa

JOINING FORCES TO CONFRONT A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a direct impact on land rights, posing additional challenges to members' efforts for people-centred land governance. While taking on additional emergency tasks, members have also ably adapted their workplans to deal with the limitations of lockdowns. Face-to-face events have been modified and moved online, allowing a remarkable continuation of change processes, evidenced by the high levels of achievement of planned outcomes in 2020.

ILC members have been at the forefront of dealing with immediate crises provoked by COVID-19 and lockdowns. With a view to the future, members have also been demonstrating how to build more sustainable and resilient economies and societies for a post-pandemic world.

In the midst of the crisis, members have stepped into the breach to respond to the emergencies of lockdown. Their connections with local communities have allowed them to respond directly to urgent needs. **ILC'S DEDICATED COVID PORTAL** has shared members' stories from around the globe.

In our **BRIEF ON "BUILDING BACK BETTER"**, we detailed four actions on land rights that members could take to confront the pandemic. Through these actions, members have been able to protect local livelihoods, safeguard local food systems, mitigate social unrest and prevent conflict.

ACTION 1

PROTECT LAND RIGHTS AND MEDIATE CONFLICTS AS PRESSURE GROWS ON LAND

Land rights are under siege and land conflicts are on the rise, due to reverse migration by returning workers, an increase in land grabbing and forced evictions, and weakened enforcement and accountability measures due to lockdowns. After the Nepalese government enforced a nationwide lockdown, ILC members CSRC Nepal and the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) physically and legally protected households from being evicted by advocating with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the provincial district government to stop forced evictions of returning and informal settlers.

ACTION 2

ENSURE ACCESS TO LAND TO MAINTAIN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC, TO ALLOW REINTEGRATION OF RETURNING WORKERS AND TO RECOVER AFTER LOCKDOWN

In South Africa, LandNNES and AFRA, together with small-scale farmer organisations, successfully lobbied the national government to prioritise small-scale farmers and support local food systems in rural and urban communities. By influencing the national Solidarity Fund, they ensured that emergency measures will now reach small-scale farmers, including those without deeds and informal and urban and peri-urban producers, whose contributions to local food systems and supply chains are essential.

ACTION 3

MONITOR AND PROVIDE LEGAL PROTECTIONS AGAINST LAND-RELATED VIOLATIONS

The context of COVID-19 has put land and environmental defenders, their organisations and communities at increased risk. That is why the Defending Land and Environmental Defenders Coalition (DD Coalition) is engaged in a joint effort – via **LANDEX** – to document acts of violence and repression against such defenders during the pandemic, monitoring the extent to which violence has continued and in many cases accelerated during the global lockdown.

ACTION 4

PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF TERRITORIES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In the Peruvian Amazon, the Wampis indigenous peoples – supported by Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) – have protected their rights by restricting access to their territories. As the government struggles to reach out to indigenous communities in the Amazon, the Wampis are working with the Peruvian military to secure their border with Ecuador, and are also working to develop and implement intercultural health plans for communal territories.

The pandemic has underlined the need to engage in more sustainable development paths. In 2021 and beyond, ILC will continue to champion land rights as a key pillar of building back better, in addition to supporting members to demonstrate how this can be done, with a focus on land rights.

AN OVERVIEW FROM THE REGIONS

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC)

The loss of human life due to COVID-19, political repression and extreme climate events has scarred our region in 2020, and the effects of this will be felt for many years to come. These events have also exacerbated longstanding structural problems in the region, such as inequality, corruption and violence.

All of these challenges have had impacts on the rural sector and, in many cases, have severely affected land governance in the region, as well as the rights and well-being of indigenous, peasant and Afro-descendant populations. ILC LAC's multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) have adapted their strategies to address a number of these challenges: intensified threats against land and environmental defenders made more vulnerable by lockdowns; evictions and land dispossession against a background of reduced law and order and the difficulties in mobilising opposition; inadequate measures to prioritise small-scale agricultural food production and the food security of households; and increased stress and violence against rural women during lockdown, with an increased burden of household and caregiving tasks.

Despite the complexity of the situation, the progress made and achievements recorded were extremely valuable, including successes in obtaining changes in laws and policies as well as in public practices that have more effectively incorporated the voices of indigenous and peasant populations in development processes and in the definition of public policies at national and local levels.

It is important to highlight the work done on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thanks to which the issues of access to and sustainable use of land were introduced for the first time into regional political discussions on sustainable development.

The year also saw progress on many of our priorities, including enhanced collaboration between national and intergovernmental organisations – both members of ILC (IFAD, FAO, the World Bank) and non-members (ECLAC, OHCHR, IACHR) – which has led to joint actions promoting learning, advocacy, and positioning within the region. This has strengthened LAC's MSPs through more inclusive participation as well as the incorporation of new grassroots organisations, including women and youth. We also saw an extraordinary level of membership engagement in a series of virtual learning events on rural youth, indigenous peoples, and climate change. Outcomes include the mobilisation of members for regional action in 2021.

As in past years, one of our greatest challenges continues to be working in a continent where democratic values and political spaces are under threat and where authoritarian governments and restricted civil liberties impede our efforts towards enhanced dialogue. These types of regime are resistant to any of our proposed reforms, including land redistribution and use, which helps to sustain their countries' economic and political elites. The concentration of land ownership is so high that landless people, especially young men and women, are being forced to migrate from rural areas. Impunity undermines efforts to build a just society. At the same time, LAC's status as a middle-income continent greatly limits the capacity of ILC members in the region to mobilise resources.

TOP STORIES FROM LAC

- **LA RESPUESTA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES SOCIALES Y LA AGRICULTURA FAMILIAR ANTE EL COVID-19 Y ACCIONES URGENTES**
- **LAND DEFENDERS CAN'T CATCH A BREAK FROM VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19**
- **MUJERES DEFENSORAS AMBIENTALES EN AMÉRICA LATINA: "LUCHAR POR EL TERRITORIO ES LUCHAR POR LA VIDA"**

ILC Africa's achievements in 2020 were impressive, despite COVID-19 lockdowns – a function of the overwhelming interest in achieving people-centred land governance and of its power to shape inclusion and gender equality, restore landscapes and rangelands and fight against land degradation, climate crisis and conflict.

The proportion of women actively participating in member-led platforms increased from 32.6% in 2019 to 46.6% in 2020, shifting the status quo on gender and inclusion. Youth inclusion and participation in land governance processes rose from 10% in 2019 to 32.2% in 2020. The **AFRICAN DEFENDERS EMERGENCY FUND**, which supports land and environmental defenders in critical danger and is led by ILC member Natural Justice, protected six defenders in 2020.

Like the other regions, ILC Africa went digital in 2020. As well as organising nationally focused webinars that addressed local land governance issues, it hosted the virtual Africa Land Forum, which attracted over 800 direct participants and around 1,000 others via connected platforms. ILC Africa also convened the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to reflect on how to strengthen implementation of the AU's Agenda 2063 with effective land governance.

The Forum brought together Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs), including IGAD, ECOWAS, ECCAS and SADC, to assess how the continent can better undertake land reforms at national and community levels and prioritise the allocation of resources to land policy development and implementation. These initiatives and processes, supported and driven by a multi-stakeholder approach, demonstrate our power as a Coalition; they create opportunities to connect, mobilise and influence the peoples of the continent towards secure and equal land tenure rights – for a prosperous Africa.

Our achievements demonstrate the value that African institutions place on ILC's co-convening role. Nonetheless, we are still facing the significant challenge of declining budget availability, coupled with rising numbers of critical requests coming in from members. A large gap remains that affects ILC Africa's ability to respond to members' growing expectations, and ultimately to achieve people-centred land governance in Africa.

- **I LOOK AT OUR FUTURE AS PASTORALISTS WITH CONFIDENCE**
- **PROMOTING PEOPLE-CENTRED DATA FOR SECURE LAND RIGHTS**
- **7 TOP STORIES FROM DAY 2 OF THE AFRICAN LAND FORUM 2020**

ASIA

Despite a tumultuous year, Asia's National Engagement Strategies (NESS) achieved notable success in 2020. Members in Nepal worked for the approval of the Eighth Amendment to the 1964 Land Act, which now protects the rights of landless people and informal settlers occupying public land, including in forest areas. It also mandated the government to establish a commission in March 2020 to address the increasing number of cases of land conflicts in the country. In Mongolia, rising temperatures, water scarcity and land degradation, all results of the climate crisis, are causing pastoralist and herding communities to lose access to grazing areas. In response to NES Mongolia's advocacy efforts, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry amended its Livestock Policy Development Program; this aims to introduce more sustainable herding practices, encouraging herders to reduce their livestock numbers by 20 million head by 2023.

The virtual 2020 Asia Land Forum and Regional Assembly was co-organised with the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) and ARNow! in the Philippines, and in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute. More than 200 participants attended from civil society and international organisations across Asia. This partnership yielded 24 news stories covering the Forum.

Partnerships were also front and centre in 2020 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), an intergovernmental organisation (IGO) based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This collaboration will help to scale up best practices, formulate and develop programmes to support land reform processes and promote people-centred land governance in CIRDAP Member States.

TOP STORIES FROM ASIA

- **SECURE LAND RIGHTS MEAN RESILIENCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ASIA IN THE FACE OF COVID-19**
 - **INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN BANGLADESH BRING HOPE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**
 - **SIGN-ON STATEMENT: SOLIDARITY WITH FARMERS IN INDIA AGAINST NEW FARM LAWS**
-

For members of the EMENA region, 2020 was defined by uncertainty and difficulty in keeping in touch with partners and people from a distance. The situation was further complicated in countries facing problems unrelated to COVID-19, such as when a series of earthquakes struck Albania early in the year.

The region has also set its sights on expanding its capacities and geographic presence through the *"Growing Smart"* membership expansion campaign. Twelve new members are in line to join the regional platform in 2021, which will bring the total to 30 organisations. The stories of EMENA members are becoming more visible, including through the [ILC EMENA PODCAST](#) (*Palestinian agricultural cooperative Sharaka on linking Palestinian farmers directly with consumers*), the [DATABASE OF GOOD PRACTICES](#) (*Italian cooperative Lentamente on how they reclaimed and rehabilitated abandoned land* [HERE](#)), and [ILC NEWS](#) (*Albania*, [HERE](#)).

Building and sustaining partnerships was also an important part of EMENA's success in 2020, including in preparations for the upcoming Global Land Forum in Jordan. ILC member SEEDS Jordan is facilitating the work of the National Organising Committee and has established a technical working group for each of the Forum's themes. The organising committee, co-chaired by the Government of Jordan, alongside 20 organisations based in the country, has developed and is now implementing a Roadmap to the Forum. A key pillar of the Roadmap is the development of a National Land Strategy, to be launched at the event.

Finally, the Land Rights Now campaign recorded an important success in EMENA, with the Save Sinjajevina Association in Montenegro successfully blocking an attempt to turn community grazing land into a military firing zone.



WOMEN FIRST!

As world events unfolded this year – a global health crisis, national lockdowns, food insecurity, land grabbing and evictions and increasing inequality – women and girls shouldered the biggest burden of all, and were pushed deeper into poverty and faced increased exposure to violence. Much of this can be attributed to the inadequate attention given to securing women's land rights and recognising these rights as a fundamental building block on which other rights depend, including economic justice, elimination of violence against women and gender justice in the face of climate change.

Throughout 2020, ILC made good progress on its commitment to prioritise women's land rights across NESs and CBIs, while implementing a gender-transformative approach within the network based on building gender-just platforms from the ground up. With the commitment that all ILC operations should work to overcome the marginalisation of women, these efforts were guided by **ILC'S GENDER ACTION PLAN**.

BRIDGING THE TECHNOLOGY DIVIDE

With much of the Coalition's advocacy and outreach work restricted to online efforts, women across the network opened their hearts and shared their lived experiences in dozens of webinars and workshops throughout the year. Constituency-based organisations (CBOs) ensured the inclusion of rural and indigenous women, demonstrating that it is possible to bridge the technology divide.

During the year's virtual Regional Assemblies of Members and Land Forums, there was not only equal representation of women and men but each of the regions had a dedicated session on securing women's land rights. In the LAC region, a number of virtual dialogues were organised on the impacts of COVID-19 on women, the outcomes of which were shared widely with development partners and governments to help influence programming. Members were also able to use digital tools to their advantage – such as GROOTS Kenya, which collected data from **LANDEX** to develop advocacy and peer learning materials for its work in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique.

POSITIONING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

None of the advances we witnessed towards better recognition of women's land rights would have been possible without the Coalition working in solidarity with like-minded partners.

In 2020, ILC officially joined the **STAND FOR HER LAND CAMPAIGN** as a member of the Steering Committee. The campaign, coordinated by ILC member Landesa, is intended to close the gap between law and practice for women's land rights, with the long-term goal of building a global women's land rights movement.

ILC also helped to establish a Global Reference Group for the **GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM** and *Review of the Beijing+25 process*, to ensure that women's land rights are integrated into gender-transformative action plans for 2021–2026. As a result of ILC's advocacy work, two draft action plans (on climate change and economic justice) now recognise women's land rights and their control over valuable assets including natural resources. The group also led regional consultations, bringing together 71 organisations across LAC, Asia, and Africa.

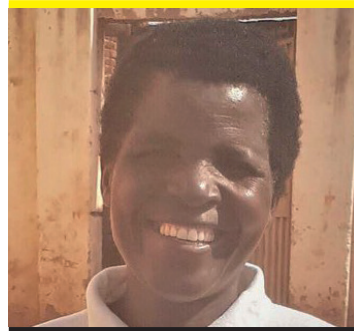


IMPACTS ON THE GROUND: CHAMPIONING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING SPACES

In many parts of the world, cultural and traditional norms continue to prevent women from participating in the same spaces as men, where important decisions are made regarding their fundamental rights and future.

NES platforms are taking on this challenge and have achieved early successes in their advocacy efforts, as governments have adopted gender-sensitive laws and have ensured gender justice in their practices. In *Albania*, the adoption of a new forestry sector law has ensured that management plans for forests are drafted with gender-balanced public participation. Similarly, in *Mongolia*, NES members managed to get *soums* (district-level government) to accept women as joint signatories for Pasture Use Agreements which define pasture use between herders and the *soums*, thus strengthening women's decision-making power and control over household resources.

NES platforms also worked to increase women's participation in decision-making spaces. In *Cameroon*, NES members successfully advocated for the restructuring of traditional customary practices, with the result that the membership of "*Councils of Notables*" must now have at least 30% participation of women and youth.



READ MORE

- [FELIA'S STORY: RURAL WOMEN FEED THE WORLD, BUT CAN THEY GET A SEAT AT THE TABLE?](#)
- [NES MALAWI CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS](#)

The NES model proved to have impact even in the most challenging of contexts. NES *Guatemala* informed and helped push through approval of the Ley de Desarrollo Económico de las Mujeres (Law on the Economic Development of Women), securing access for women to economic and productive resources.

INSIDE THE NETWORK: INTEGRATING TOOLS, UPHOLDING GENDER JUSTICE, AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

In addition to promoting women's land rights in communities and global policy spaces, ILC is also a network made up of many women. Promoting gender justice and facilitating exchanges among women within the Coalition remained a priority, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis. [WOMEN FOR WOMEN \(W4W\)](#), ILC's mentoring and solidarity network which includes 41 women from 27 member organisations, continued to enable exchanges and reciprocal support. Participants judged it *"inspirational for women's careers"*; *"a safe space where both mentors and mentees can reciprocally learn"*; and *"an opportunity for learning from the passion, the experience and the diverse realities of women involved"*. It is also in this context that ILC organised the first *Mothers of ILC table talk*, a space for working mothers to discuss the challenges involved in balancing work and family care during a global pandemic.



MEET WINNY AND NADYA

- [PARTICIPANTS IN THE WOMEN4WOMEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME](#)

"When it came to changing and influencing local policy, I didn't know if I could do it. Luckily, I was not alone. I could always turn to women from other organisations – some ILC members. We work together, share information and consult with one another."
 Winnie Chepkemai, Women's Land Rights Officer,
 Kenya Land Alliance

PARTNERING FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE IN LAND GOVERNANCE

Securing land rights is the key to ending poverty and building peaceful and just societies, but it is clear that we cannot work in isolation. This year, ILC worked harder than ever to build *strategic global partnerships* to widen action on key areas in which we seek to make a difference. Here's a glimpse into some of these wider partnerships.



LANDCOLLABORATIVE

Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) are the *"vehicles for change"* within ILC. Such platforms are also increasingly recognised as being critical for inclusive land governance, including by [FAO IN THE APPLICATION OF THE VGGTS](#). The [LAND COLLABORATIVE](#) brings together leading supporters of MSPs in the land sector in a global community of practice that promotes effective MSPs for land governance.

In 2020, the Land Collaborative's core group of FAO, Welthungerhilfe and CoRe expanded to include the [MEKONG REGIONAL LAND GOVERNANCE PROJECT](#) (MRLG). This growing partnership solidifies significant geographical expansion, which now includes outreach to 40+ countries, including LAND-at-scale programme target countries.

THE CONVERGENT GROUP

Working closely with the Land Collaborative, the Convergent Group was formed in January 2020 to coordinate support in specific countries with multiple land governance programmes. Partners in the Group are the World Bank, IFAD, FAO, Welthungerhilfe and the ILC One Team. ILC's effort in particular has been to build opportunities in target countries for MSPs to play a stronger role in land reform programmes.

A global mapping of *convergent countries* identified a first cohort of five "high-potential" pilot countries with overlapping MSPs and IGO programming (where at least four partners are operating, including two IFIs and two MSP supporters). In these countries, partners are linking MSPs with the implementation of large land programmes: in Colombia ([MULTIPURPOSE CADASTER PROJECT](#)), Tanzania ([LAND TENURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT](#)), Senegal (Projet Cadastre et Sécurisation Foncière au Sénégal) and the Philippines ([SUPPORT TO PARCELIZATION OF LANDS FOR INDIVIDUAL TITLING \(SPLIT\) PROJECT](#)).



READ OP-ED BY MICHAEL TAYLOR

→ [IT'S WORLD FOOD DAY,
AND IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE](#)

A GLOBAL LAND STRATEGY

Most countries are off track on meeting the SDG targets on land. Moreover, visibility for land governance in the face of pressing and urgent global crises is at risk. In this context, ILC is working with the Global Donor Working Group on Land and FAO and GLTN to co-convene a “*global land strategy*” to scale up attention and action on the land targets contained in the SDGs. One of the first actions is to develop a *Global Land Governance Report* to give visibility to the status and importance of land in the SDGs.

ILC’s position as co-lead reflects growing recognition of the Coalition as a global convenor for the land community and as a guarantor for participatory approaches in these types of process. ILC is also providing part of the data for the report via LANDex, ensuring a prominent space for people-centred data.



The **SDG LAND MOMENTUM GROUP**, facilitated by the ILC support team, revealed that **ONLY SEVEN OUT OF 47 COUNTRIES REPORTED ON SDG LAND TARGETS** at the 2020 SDG High-level Political Forum – fewer than 15%. In order to encourage *higher levels of reporting on land-related targets*, the SDG Land Momentum Group developed a methodology to aid state parties and civil society organisations (CSOs) to comprehensively report on the four identified targets of the 2030 Agenda. The *methodology* was piloted in four countries in Latin America (*Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras and Peru*) and the findings of these pilot studies will provide a springboard for a regional advocacy plan on the SDGs. With webinars being held in 2020 to introduce the methodology to various stakeholders and to increase pressure for the realisation of the SDGs, the SDG Momentum Group envisages a higher number of stakeholders reporting on land in 2021.

READ THE REPORT

→ [HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THE SDGS IF COUNTRIES ARE NOT REPORTING IN DEPTH ON LAND-RELATED SDG TARGETS?](#)

UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

In 2020, the ILC support team began officially engaging with the *UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)* to ensure that land rights remain at the heart of sustainable food systems. This included partnering on the **WORLD FOOD DAY 24-HOUR GLOBAL RELAY EVENT**, being part of the *Champions Network* and *Leadership Group* and planning towards an *independent dialogue* on land and food systems in 2021. All interactions are geared towards promoting a stronger voice for CBOs in the Summit.

A COALITION OF MEMBER-LED PLATFORMS

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

National Engagement Strategies (NESs) are multi-stakeholder platforms that help to simplify and unpack complexities of land governance by setting priorities and designing solutions to a country's most challenging land-related issues. They are successful in doing this partly because they are member-led and nationally owned and help to build trust and inclusivity between government and local communities.

As of 2020, ILC supported 30 national platforms. Africa hosts the largest number (11), followed by Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (eight each), and then Europe, Middle East and North Africa (three). NESs are increasingly becoming the hubs through which ILC's regional and global initiatives are translated into tangible country-level progress towards people-centred land governance, ensuring greater integration between ILC activities. For example, by the end of 2020 40% of NESs had mainstreamed LANDex into their triennial workplans, equipping them to engage with governments in reporting on land-related SDG indicators.

We also witnessed NES platforms revolutionise their internal governance systems, in part due to the new operating model, which has prompted many to expand their current membership, prioritise CBOs, promote more women leaders in NES governing bodies (with an increase of 5% taking the total to 40%) and include government representatives in their steering committees (Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Albania, Liberia and Malawi). This is a huge testament to many decades of trust building that ILC has helped to foster between local communities, CSOs, international agencies, and governments.



ILC UNDERTOOK A CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS IN 3 COUNTRIES TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHERE AND HOW NES WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ITS GOAL TOWARDS PEOPLE CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

MORE ARE IN THE WORKS.

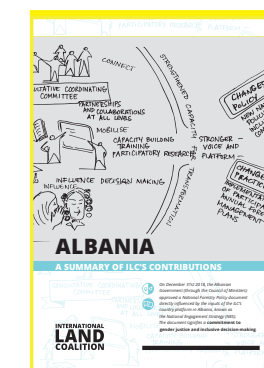
Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, NESs have been able to quickly adapt to challenging circumstances. Some were able to successfully influence recovery packages to include specific measures for rural women (Senegal), indigenous peoples (Peru) or small-scale and family farmers (South Africa).

In more politically volatile environments, networks and alliances supported by NESs were able to prevent the enactment of new policies that would further harm communities and erode democratic principles (Guatemala, Argentina).

Despite the circumstances, we saw many NES platforms make remarkable progress working alongside non-state actors and government authorities to advance the cause of people-centred land governance.

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: ONE CHANGE IN POLICY

Through NES *Albania's* trusted partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, it was able to actively contribute to the drafting of a new Forestry Law. The law was approved in April 2020, and allows farmers and forest users to reach co-management agreements directly with local municipalities.



READ MORE

- ➔ [SPECIAL STORY ON HOW ALBANIAN FARMERS ARE LOOKING AFTER THE COUNTRY'S VAST FORESTS](#)
- ➔ [ILC'S CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS IN ALBANIA](#)

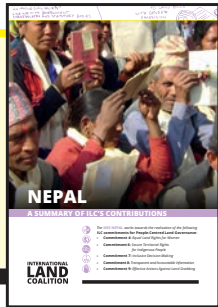
Read more about this in ILC's contribution analysis in Albania and a special story on how Albanian farmers are looking after the country's vast forests.

ASIA: SIX CHANGES IN POLICIES AND 12 CHANGES IN PRACTICES

In Asia, NESs have partnered with CBI platforms and linked into global and regional processes to create opportunities for evidence-based policy dialogue. For example, in *Kyrgyzstan* NES members have created the National Committee on Family Farming (NCFF), aligning with the UN Decade of Family Farming. A successful collaboration between the Central Asia Pastoral Alliance (CAPA), NES Kyrgyzstan and NES Mongolia contributed to the championing of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) by Mongolia, and its adoption by the UN General Assembly. With CAPA's support, the NESs in *Mongolia* and *Kyrgyzstan* were also able to amend existing regulations on pasturelands at both national and sub-national levels.

In *Cambodia*, the NES platform convinced the government to include indigenous peoples' organisations in consultations on the development of national policy that affects their communities.

In *Nepal*, the NES platform provided direct inputs into the amendment of the Eighth Amendment to the Land Act 1964, which contains strong provisions for redistributing unutilised land to landless households.



READ MORE

→ [ILC'S CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS IN NEPAL](#)

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:
SEVEN CHANGES IN POLICIES AND THREE CHANGES IN PRACTICES**

Across Latin America, NES platforms advocated for greater investments in support systems for family farming ensuring territorial sovereignty, the recognition and protection of indigenous communities' right to land, and the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

In *Argentina*, the NES platform influenced the Family Agriculture Council to agree to include CBOs in the process of revising Law 27,118 on Family Agriculture.

In *Ecuador*, partnership building with local authorities resulted in formalisation of the Public Consortium of Decentralized Autonomous Governments (PC-DAGs), which will govern ancestral territories and support locally managed ecosystems in a number of provinces.

In *Peru*, the NES highlighted the disproportionate impact and spread of COVID-19 among Amazonian indigenous peoples. The Ministry of Health adopted the NES's recommendations in its intervention plan for the Amazon.

In LAC, more than in any other region, emphasis should be placed on the efforts made to strengthen platforms' ability to provide support to social movements, while for example in Guatemala the government used the pandemic to silence and weaken their efforts and to criminalise land and environmental defenders.



READ MORE

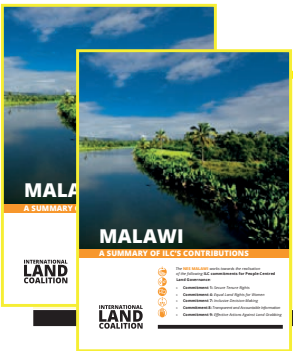
→ [ILC'S CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS IN COLOMBIA](#)

AFRICA: THREE CHANGES IN POLICIES AND FOUR CHANGES IN PRACTICE

A number of NES platforms in Africa achieved *legislative breakthroughs*, demonstrating how MSPs can promote people-centred land governance.

In NES *Kenya*, members and partners ensured that the new Electronic Land Transactions Regulations were in line with the Community Land Act of 2016 by working closely with the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning. The platform's contribution helped to ensure that the new law, which took effect in July 2020, respected the communal management of land tenure. In *Tanzania*, the collaboration with IFAD has demonstrated that it is possible to bring together government, civil society and communities to undertake inclusive village land use planning, by using a multi-stakeholder approach.

In countries where new land-related *laws are in the process of being implemented*, in particular in *Malawi* and *Togo*, NESs have organised large civic awareness campaigns targeting traditional leaders. With the pandemic restricting rural outreach, NES Malawi turned to television and radio programmes to sensitise communities about the changes. In *Cameroon*, sustained advocacy led to the suspension of land allocations that would have violated customary rights in the Lekie, Vina and Dja-et-Lobo departments. Furthermore, the NES convinced the country's highest authority to halt logging in the Ebo rainforest, one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.



READ MORE

→ [ILC'S CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS IN MALAWI](#)

COMMITMENT-BASED INITIATIVES AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY

Commitment-based initiatives (CBIs) provide a platform for ILC members with a regional and/or global focus to advocate for one or more of **ILC'S 10 COMMITMENTS**. They are powerful vehicles for ILC members to enhance collective efforts and influence public policies at all levels.

As of 2020, ILC was supporting **27 CBI platforms** (four Global, nine Africa, five LAC, eight Asia and one EMENA), **engaging 196 members for learning exchange opportunities, advocacy and data collection**. The **governance structure** of the platforms, under the new operating model criteria, guarantees **joint leadership**, inclusive **participation** in decision-making, strategic growth in numbers and **diversity** of members and non-members and the promotion of **gender justice**, with 50% of CBI focal points being women.

Throughout the year, members have risen to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic, demonstrating that their work for land rights is central to building resilience, sustainability and peace. Below are just a few examples of their determination and their achievements.

FAMILY FARMING

The **Strong Small-Scale Farming Systems initiative** is one of the most successful examples of how CBIs can be integrated into national- and regional-level policy debates, and of how sustaining partnerships with IGOs and regional bodies – such as REAF, SICA, ECOWAS and ASEAN – can lead to policy change. This rich collaboration between members and partners contributed to the approval of seven national plans under the UNDRP in the **Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Indonesia, Peru, Costa Rica, Nepal and Panama**. By the end of 2020, 19 NES platforms had engaged with the UNDRP and seven countries had adopted family farming policies thanks to these joint efforts.

ILC also launched a manual on the **UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS AND THE RIGHT TO LAND (UNDROP)**, in partnership with the **Geneva Academy**, in an ongoing effort to build members' capacities on international human rights instruments and to highlight key messages and recommendations that can be used in their advocacy efforts.



THE WORLD ALSO SAW AFRESH THE INCREDIBLE ROLE THAT SMALL FARMERS PLAY IN PROVIDING GOOD, SAFE AND RELIABLE FOOD – ONE REASON WHY OUR “THANK A FARMER” VIDEO WENT VIRAL

→ **[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)**



RANGELANDS

2020 was also an important year for enhanced provisions on **rangelands and mobility**, culminating in approval by the FAO Committee on Agriculture to propose 2026 as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)**. It was also an opportunity to reshape our network's advocacy on rangelands as the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) took over coordination, making this platform more directly a support mechanism for a global movement of pastoralists. In Asia, the two ILC sub-regional platforms of the Asia Rangelands Initiative, **CAPA** and the **South Asia Pastoralist Alliance (SAPA)**, in collaboration with **NESS** in the region, supported in-country policy dialogues and engagement to improve regulations on pasturelands in **Afghanistan, India, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan**.



WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

Members of the Women's Land Rights Initiative continue to play a critical role in promoting **gender justice** in the work of NESs at the country level. In countries like **Uganda, Zambia and South Africa**, key CBI leaders are also chairing NES platforms. This not only promotes women's leadership but ensures that NES platforms continue to advance women's land rights as a priority in their work.

Regional work is also about getting the word out, and in Latin America and the Caribbean the rural women's initiative is doing just that through its regular **podcast “Mujer Rurales por la Tierra”**, which can be found on Soundcloud:

[HTTPS://SOUNDCLOUD.COM/MUJERESPORLATIERRA](https://soundcloud.com/mujeresporlatierra)

For more information, read the “**Women First!**” section above!



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In **Africa**, the ILC Indigenous Peoples' Initiative supported advocacy efforts to implement the African Court ruling in favour of the Ogiek in **Kenya**, and is currently working towards the identification of land grabs on indigenous territories and organisational strengthening of the San in **Botswana**.



READ A SPECIAL OP_ED BY JOAN CARLING AND MIKE TAYLOR

→ **[FROM COLONIALISM TO COVID-19, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SHOW RESILIENCE IN FACE OF EVICTIONS](#)**

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR TRANSFORMATION

Having established itself as a learning network, ILC played a growing role in 2020 in strengthening the capacities of member-led platforms for effective change. Together with ILC members, this is oriented towards mobilising a broader land movement that also extends to climate change, food systems and inequality, among other issues. This helps to keep land prominent in the global agenda, strengthens land rights and land governance and alleviates other inequalities and global crises in which land is central.

A LEARNING NETWORK

ILC's learning initiatives combine online and face-to-face learning (see the **COMMUNITY LAND PROTECTION LEARNING INITIATIVE** and the **YOUTH AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**). However, like so many other organisations, in 2020 the Coalition moved all of its learning activities online. As part of the *ILC Webinar Series 2020*, 28 learning webinars with a global, regional or country focus reached **1,909 direct participants** on Zoom, 33% of them from member organisations, and 50% women. Of 81 panellists, 49% were from member organisations, and 48% were women. Many more participants followed the webinars through livestreaming on Facebook Live and YouTube.

Webinars allowed us to be agile and timely in our response to critical issues, for instance on COVID-19 and land in **ASIA, AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA** and at the **GLOBAL** level, and to meet and engage with new and sometimes difficult-to-reach audiences, including IGOs and non-members. These new connections gave ILC an opportunity to offer more specific training, for instance on **SDG REPORTING** and **LANDEX**. ILC, together with AGTER, also launched the first year of its online course on land grabbing in **ENGLISH, SPANISH** and **FRENCH**; 82 participants joined the course, 42% of them from member organisations, and 44% of them women.

*For more learning resources, visit the **LEARNING HUB**, which is constantly updated with how-to notes, videos, blogs and manuals co-designed with members.*

THE COMMUNITY LAND PROTECTION INITIATIVE

The **COMMUNITY LAND PROTECTION INITIATIVE (CLPI)**, co-led with Namati and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), equips members with the practical skills to support communities to document and protect their customary lands.

Participants in the initiative receive a community land protection innovation grant and are technically supported through year-long exchange, follow-up and mentoring activities.

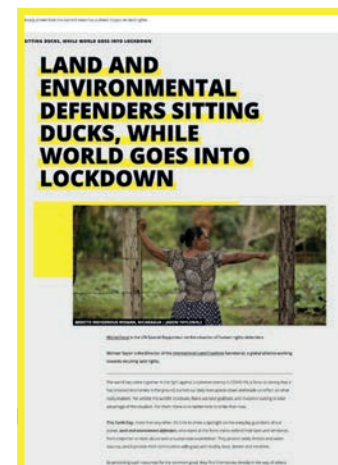
LOCALLY MANAGED ECOSYSTEMS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The United Nations has declared *2021–2030 to be the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration*. Through ILC's engagement, land tenure is recognised as a key area of action for the decade, and the Coalition will play a lead role in its implementation. In LAC, the *ILC Semiarid Platform*, in alliance with IFAD and the Brazilian Semiarid Alliance (ASA), began implementing a three-year regional knowledge exchange programme for climate change-resilient production in semi-drylands in Brazil, El Salvador and Argentina.

LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

The **DEFENDING LAND AND ENVIRONMENT DEFENDERS COALITION (DD COALITION)** supported, through a campaign for ratification of the *Escazú agreement*, the first binding environmental and human rights instrument in Latin America. Globally, the ILC Secretariat consolidated contributions from 11 members to the *UN Environmental Programme (UNEP)'s Environmental Human Rights Defenders Policy*. Regionally, interventions led by the *Africa region* resulted in the release of *nine human rights land defenders facing court charges* – four in DRC, two in Madagascar, one in Senegal and two in Cameroon. In *LAC* meanwhile, the initiative strengthened its relationship with *OHCHR* and *ECLAC* by organising the Forum of Environmental Defenders in South America.

For the DD Coalition's work on *collecting data* to better track attacks against defenders, beyond killings, please **REFER TO PAGE 35**.



READ A SPECIAL OP-ED BY MICHEL FORST AND MICHAEL TAYLOR

→ **LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS SITTING DUCKS, WHILE WORLD GOES INTO LOCKDOWN**

The partnership has grown into a *global network of nine organisations and 18 community land protection leaders and advocates*. Despite the restrictions of 2020, CLPI partners made good progress towards implementing their strategies.



INTRODUCING THE CLPI
→ [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

In *Chile*, the Chilean NGO *Observatorio Ciudadano* supports indigenous peoples to combine Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIAs) with investment chain mapping to hold mining companies accountable. It traced three projects on indigenous land that had committed serious human rights violations to a Canadian gold mining firm, Kinross. An advocacy strategy is being developed to identify pathways for the Colla de Pai-Ote community to hold stakeholders accountable and to obtain justice.



MEET KARINA
→ [LEARN HOW TO HOLD COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL](#)

The *Community Self Reliance Centre* in *Nepal* signed an MoU with local government to implement innovative context mapping plans to support the redistribution of land to families of landless and informal land users. In all 1,047 households were surveyed, and resource mapping, visioning and valuation exercises were completed. A total of 249 people from six indigenous Tharu communities took part. CSRC will facilitate village-level land redistribution reforms in the first quarter of 2021.



READ MORE
→ [HELPING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES SECURE LAND RIGHTS IN NEPAL](#)



MEET JAGAT
→ [LEARN HOW TO LEAD A COMMUNITY THROUGH CONTEXT MAPPING](#)

In *Liberia*, a post-conflict context where pressure on land is already high and is increasing, the *Rights and Rice Foundation (RRF)* is supporting seven communities to develop by-laws on land and natural resources. Working alongside the Liberia Land Authority to ensure replication and upscaling, it has signed seven MoUs with traditional authorities to maximise ownership, buy-in and enforcement of the by-laws.



MEET JOHN
→ [LEARN HOW TO ENGAGE IN PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING](#)

The Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment (RMI) is implementing an integrated social forestry project in two localities, applying visioning and other participatory tools to prepare an accountable land management plan for local communities as a way to protect their land rights.



MEET WAHYU
→ [LEARN HOW TO BUILD COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP](#)

LAND INEQUALITY AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

A highlight of 2020 was the production of the *Land Inequality report*.

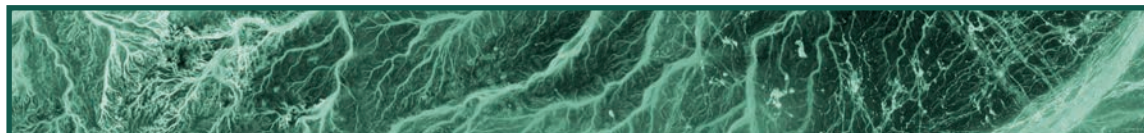
“UNEVEN GROUND: LAND INEQUALITY AT THE HEART OF UNEQUAL SOCIETIES” was co-produced by ILC and Oxfam, and was based on 17 studies by 16 members and four non-members, including global organisations and local CSOs, think-tanks and research organisations.

The research shows not only the *shocking and increasing state of land inequality in the world* but also how this relates to other inequalities and is central to many of our planet’s current crises, ranging through democracy, climate change and environmental crises, unemployment, and mass migration to health crises and pandemics.

The report attracted a significant amount of attention, with over *600 webinar participants* throughout land inequality week, *over 120,000 impressions across social media* and a notable amount of **PRESS COVERAGE**. The word is out: land inequality is a bigger problem than we thought, and it is on the rise. The need to address it is urgent, and it is in all our interests to do so. A round-up of the week’s events can be found **HERE**.

Overall in 2020, *ILC produced 129 knowledge products*, including *24 discussion and research papers, 18 policy and technical briefs, 12 good practice studies, seven how-to notes, 11 manuals and toolkits and 21 audiovisuals*. The first *Science for Action* brief, **“SECURING LAND AND TERRITORIAL RIGHTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES”**, was also produced out of an ongoing collaboration between ILC’s research and CGIAR members and the Global Land Programme.

These knowledge products and collaborations help our members and the broader land community to find inspiration and solutions to the challenges they face on a daily basis. By sharing their experiences, we’re not only able to keep the learning cycle alive within the network but are putting out new and exciting research that we hope will change the course of land rights in the development agenda.



GLOBAL
LAND
GOVERNANCE
INDEX

DATA FOR PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

As **LANDex**, ILC’s tool for people-centred land monitoring, is being rolled out in more and more countries, it is gaining legitimacy at global and national levels and is cementing ILC’s convening power on people’s data. Besides land governance monitoring at a national level, LANDex is also more widely used for SDG and VGGT monitoring, SDG parallel reports and country assessments, and to build a merged dataset on attacks on land and environmental defenders.

With the support of public **LANDex webinars** in three languages, 2020 saw full implementation of the tool in five countries and the start of implementation in another seven. **In Latin America**, LANDex was fully implemented in *Peru* and *Chile*, while select LANDex indicators were used in parallel SDG reports for *Argentina* and *Ecuador*. With Prindex (the Global Property Rights Index), LANDex is leading a deep dive into perceptions of tenure security on collective land in *Colombia*. **In Asia**, LANDex was fully implemented in *Mongolia* and *Bangladesh*, while Land Watch Asia began a regional application of several of its indicators in *Kyrgyzstan*, the *Philippines*, *Indonesia*, *Cambodia* and *India*, adding to existing data in *Nepal* and *Bangladesh*. **In Africa**, in-depth LANDex trainings were held for *Kenya* and *Togo*. *South Africa* has a full dataset, while *Liberia* has developed the first ever LANDex Country Assessment, which will serve as a baseline for the new NES.

Beyond the implementation of LANDex, 2020 also saw the introduction of **monitoring frameworks** that allow the index to directly monitor land-related aspects of the *SDGs and VGGTs*. The frameworks provide for a LANDex-SDG and a LANDex-VGGT index score, as well as disaggregated scoring for targets, indicators, chapters and principles, and a complementary narrative report. The monitoring exercise contributes directly to strengthening the land components of official monitoring initiatives.

ILC co-led the **Data Working Group** of the DD Coalition to track violations against land and environmental defenders. Working towards a global dataset that will be stored in LANDex, the group oversaw pilot data consolidation processes in *Kenya, the Philippines, Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala*. During national lockdowns, the group collected data on COVID-19-related attacks via LANDex and through public links. **A STATEMENT** reflecting the threats to indigenous peoples during the pandemic was published on the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples.



READ MORE

→ [RISKS TO INDIGENOUS AND OTHER LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS HEIGHTENED DURING COVID](#)

Lastly, ILC is continuing its engagement with the *Land Matrix* and *LandMark*. In 2020, the Land Matrix contributed to the sustainable investment discussions of the G20, and it is now used to monitor VGGT implementation. LandMark continues to be developed as the world's foremost portal for making visible claims on community land and the territories of indigenous peoples.

EMERGING LEADERSHIP IN THE NETWORK

Constituency-based organisations (CBOs) represent 40% of ILC's membership. These are the organisations that directly represent land users and are accountable to them; in ILC they represent over 70 million land users, including small farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and women. Not only do they have a seat at the ILC table but they are *shaping the direction and future of the network*. Within these organisations, the continuity of strong leadership is critical, as they often operate in adverse contexts. Yet investing in a new generation of leaders and/or style of leadership is often a challenge.

Throughout 2020, ILC continued to invest in regenerating leadership as a means of strengthening the CBOs in our network and unlocking the potential of the next generation. Youth Ambassadors from the [ILC-JAI JAGAT FELLOWSHIP](#) continued to build their experience with a series of regional and global online events. These included the UN Food Systems Summit for World Food Day, when [ILC LED A SESSION ON YOUTH, LAND AND NON-VIOLENCE](#). The young leaders were also on the front line in responding to COVID-19 as they contributed to advocacy campaigns and COVID response initiatives (e.g. local markets in the Philippines, local green economy initiatives in India), and replicated trainings in their communities and organisations (Nkuzi in South Africa and FUNDE in El Salvador). Their experience also inspired [A MANUAL ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS](#).



LEARN FROM MOLATELO

→ [HOW TO BUILD A SOCIAL MOVEMENT](#)

LEARN FROM THE JAI JAGAT

→ [ACCESS TO LAND, SOLIDARITY AND NONVIOLENT ACTION](#)

COMMUNICATIONS, VISIBILITY AND AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

In 2020, ILC communications activities saw a sharp upturn as the entire Coalition (and world!) went digital. This evolution has been a double-edged sword when it comes to our impact: we have gained immediate and easier access to the change-makers we're trying to influence, but we've also had a new adversary to overcome – digital fatigue. This made it even more important to come up with effective and powerful communications messages and methods.

From digital advocacy to visual storytelling, the Coalition was able to adapt quickly, and by the end of the year not only had we brought *greater visibility to ILC as a global reference point on land issues* but we had also helped to *position land rights with emerging topics*, in particular global health pandemics, food systems, and inequality.

COVID-19 AND #THANKAFARMER VIDEO

With the onset of **COVID-19**, it was important to share the struggles of members during the crisis and to show how the pandemic was influencing their work around the world. For these reasons, we developed a **COVID-19 WEB PORTAL**. By collaborating with our members and with the press to write and publish op-eds, we were also able to increase the reach of these stories. In Asia, three articles written by the focal points of ILC platforms were published by Reuters, the *Delhi Post* and Incline, highlighting what land rights mean in times of crisis: see, for example, **"WITH MUSIC, BANGLADESH'S INDIGENOUS YOUTH OFFER HOPE AMID COVID-19"**. Meanwhile, at least 16 media and press agencies in LAC and in Spain published content focused on ILC, including **LA VANGUARDIA**, **EL DIARIO.ES**, **FORBES**, **IPS** and **EL ESPECTADOR**, among others.

Globally, ILC's Director, Mike Taylor partnered with respected opinion leaders to raise visibility of the plight of land and environmental defenders and indigenous peoples during the pandemic – with **Michel Forst**, former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, in **"LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS ARE SITTING DUCKS, WHILE WORLD GOES INTO LOCKDOWN"**; and with **Joan Carling**, an indigenous activist from the Cordillera, Philippines and co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG), in **"FROM COLONIALISM TO COVID-19, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SHOW RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF EVICTIONS"**.

Amidst all of the pandemic noise, we also took a moment to pay **VIDEO TRIBUTE TO THE MILLIONS OF FAMILY FARMERS AND SMALLHOLDERS ACROSS THE GLOBE** who were working tirelessly to put healthy food on our tables – and not just during the pandemic, but every day. The message resonated with the public as it went viral over social media, garnering over **46,000 views on Twitter** and reaching more than 205,700 people on Facebook, with **37,000** full play-throughs.



#THANKAFARMER

→ [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND PARTNERING WITH THE UNFSS 24-HOUR GLOBAL RELAY CONVERSATION

ILC partnered with the *UN Food Systems Summit* to lead one of the sessions during its 24-hour Global Relay Conversation. The session, entitled *"Non-violent movements and the next generation of leaders"*, featured the voices of seven young activists (five of whom were from the ILC Youth Leadership Programme). The partnership not only helped to position land rights with the emerging topic of sustainable food systems, but also gave a platform to the young and inspiring leaders within our network. Throughout the 24-hour global event, ILC's #ThankAFarmer video was played on loop between sessions. The event managed to reach more than **2.5 million people**.



WATCH ILC'S YOUTH LEADERS

→ [NON-VIOLENT MOVEMENTS AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN FOOD SYSTEMS](#)

"UNEVEN GROUND": DIGITAL LAUNCH AND MEDIA OUTREACH

For the *"Uneven Ground"* report, ILC invested in a **digital launch**, including an online report to better showcase the research findings. The **UNEVEN GROUND WEBSITE** generated nearly **10,000 unique visitors** in November–December alone, **120,000 impressions across social media** and a notable amount of **PRESS COVERAGE AROUND THE WORLD**, including from The Guardian, Der Spiegel, Reuters and Mongabay, and in radio interviews in Ecuador, the United States, Italy and Ireland.

Communications efforts this year also focused on creating powerful stories and demonstrating members' achievements through evidence-based storytelling.

**MEET JOSUA SITUMORANG,
ONE OF NINE YOUNG LEADERS CHOSEN FROM THE ILC NETWORK TO MARCH
FOR A BETTER FUTURE WITH THE ILC-JAI JAGAT 2020 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME.**

This docu-series follows Josua and the other young fellows as the march took them on a 100km journey through the congested roads of central India to the paddy fields of rural communities, while learning the principles of the non-violence movement along the way.



JOSUA'S JOURNEY

→ [WATCH THE VIDEO TEASER](#)

We also took a deeper dive into ILC's contribution analysis, speaking with individuals and providing a more human glimpse into the impact and work of our NES and CBI platforms.



RURAL WOMEN'S DAY

→ [READ FELIA'S STORY](#)



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

→ [READ FLORIAN'S STORY](#)

PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO ILC PLATFORMS

In 2020, *communications training* was offered to NES and CBI platforms in Africa, Asia and LAC. The trainings focused on how to build an effective communications strategy, identify audiences and define strategic messages, and were followed up with one-to-one consultations to support facilitators in finalising their plans. By the end of the year, *13 platforms in Asia had finalised their communications strategies, as well as five platforms in Africa and 13 in LAC.*

EXTENDING OUR REACH

ILC's total audience across *social media channels grew by 20% in 2020, to a grand total of 29,966 followers by the end of the year.*

CAMPAIGNS

**Land
Rights
Now**

As the *Land Rights Now campaign* reached the end of its first phase (2016–2020), it has established itself as a trusted and respected alliance and platform that has successfully ensured visibility for collective land rights, offering clear added value for all involved, from local to global organisations, despite limited resources.

The pandemic forced a stop to planned activities, as indigenous peoples and local community organisations channelled their energies into COVID-19 response work. To adapt, we convened a group of interested organisations for conversations on how to campaign and build public engagement in this new context, which resulted in a digital mobilisation in December.

#CreateASpark for land rights achieved excellent reach and engagement: the [CAMPAIGN VIDEO](#) was viewed over 3 million times across various platforms, Twitter impressions in December increased 10-fold to 262,000, over 13,000 people signed a petition to secure indigenous land rights in Peru (to be handed over to the Judges of the Constitutional Court in 2021) and a science panel co-organised with the Earth Institute at Columbia University raised the visibility of a significant body of evidence in support of collective land rights and built linkages with the scientific community.

Land Rights Now (LRN) worked with ICCA Consortium member *Save Sinjajevina Association* to conduct a [EUROPEAN SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN](#) and protest actions in Montenegro to save the biggest mountain grassland in the Balkans from being turned into a NATO military firing range. [PROTESTING HERDERS AND ACTIVISTS SUCCESSFULLY STOPPED MILITARY TRAINING](#) by camping on access roads for 51 days.

In addition to co-convening LRN, in 2020 ILC joined the [CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE](#) of the *Stand For Her Land campaign* (see the Women First! section).

ILC continued to support the [JAI JAGAT 2020 CAMPAIGN](#) of a foot march to Geneva, which started in India in early 2020 before moving on to Armenia, but which had to be adapted due to lockdowns implemented across the globe. To continue spreading the message of non-violence, we focused on telling the story of a Jai Jagat ILC fellow to show the impact of non-violent mobilisation.

NETWORK AND GOVERNANCE

CONSOLIDATING THE GAINS OF REGIONALISATION

The 2016–2021 strategy was characterised by a sustained shift towards a more regionally relevant Coalition with strengthened regional governance structures and consolidated Regional Coordination Units (RCUs), regional strategies, workplans and budgets.

Regional Assemblies are proving themselves to have convening power well beyond ILC itself, with regional IGOs and governments now looking to the Coalition as a convincing partner on land issues. This year, ILC **Africa** collaborated with the AUC and IGAD to hold a **VIRTUAL FORUM**, whose **DECLARATION** reaffirmed the Coalition's engagement and political role in the region, including for the realisation of the African Union's Agenda 2063. In **Asia**, ILC and its farming organisation members AFA and ARNow! worked with international partners, such as the Stockholm Environment Institute, to **REINFORCE WORK IN THE REGION ON FAMILY FARMING AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**. In **LAC**, CBOs, grassroots organisations and NGOs, universities and IGOs (the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and various UN bodies) came together at ILC's largest regional event with a focus on joint action against inequality.

Alliance building at the regional level continues to intensify. ILC **Africa** signed MoUs with IGAD, NELGA and UEMOA, and Global Land Alliance. ECOWAS and CILSS expressed interest in formalising their membership of ILC. In **Asia**, an MoU between ILC and CIRDAP will help with the scaling up of best practices and will develop programmes in support of land reform processes and promote people-centred land governance in the 15 CIRDAP Member States. In **LAC**, ILC has formed alliances with OHCHR, ECLAC, CEJIL, Global Witness and Protection International to enhance work on the protection of environmental and land defenders.

STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL NETWORK

The ILC "One Team" is spread across Rome, Bogor, Lima and Nairobi, with more than 50% of its 40+ employees based outside of Rome, and thus closer to the work of members. The team was already equipped to work effectively in a dispersed manner, and so the transition to lockdown conditions was achieved with little disruption to work processes.

The *ILC Council* oversaw a complex period in 2020 and the outbreak of COVID-19 only increased the range of demands, which included revising financial targets, guiding the COVID-19 response, and the impact assessment process and early design of the new strategy.

In January 2020, the Council appointed a *Constituency-Based Organisation Working Group*, composed of *UCRT*, *MARAG*, *SEEDS* and *AZUL* as Council members and *Luna Creciente* and *ROPPIA* as non-Council members, to strengthen the influence and engagement of *constituency-based organisations*¹ within the network. One of their first actions was to oversee a survey of ILC members, which established that 40% of its member organisations directly represent land users, representing a total of over 70 million people. This provides a strong foundation for the new strategy's emphasis on the role of CBOs in the network.



MEET AMINA AND DINESH

→ [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

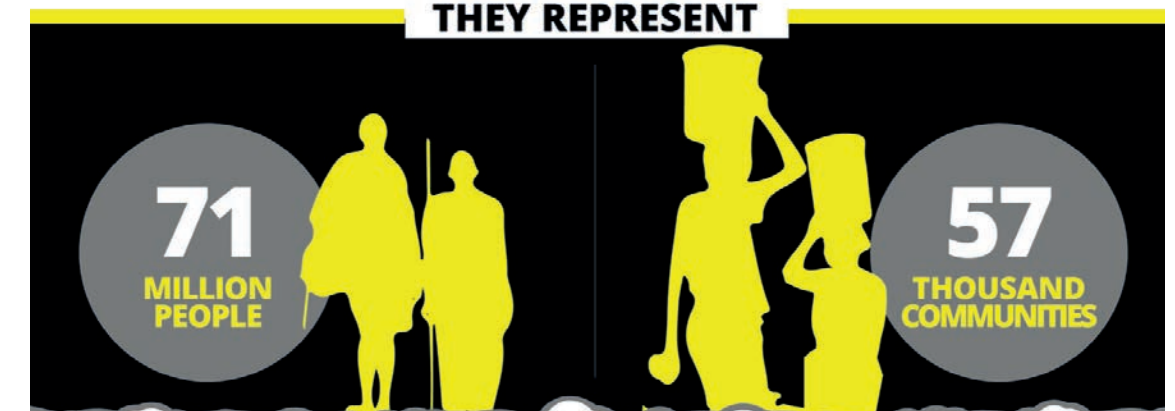
OUT OF **254** MEMBERS



101 ARE CONSTITUENCY-BASED ORGANISATIONS

40%
OF OUR TOTAL
MEMBERS

THEY REPRESENT



¹

Constituency-based organisations are defined as "organisations that directly represent land users and are accountable to them. The constituency the organisation represents are indigenous peoples, youth, women, pastoralists, rural workers, rural community members, fishers, landless, forest dwellers and users, and hunter gatherers, peasants and afrodescendentes and quilombolas to whom ILC's commitments are addressed in order to realise people-centred land governance. NGOs that work closely with land users but do not represent them are not CBOs."

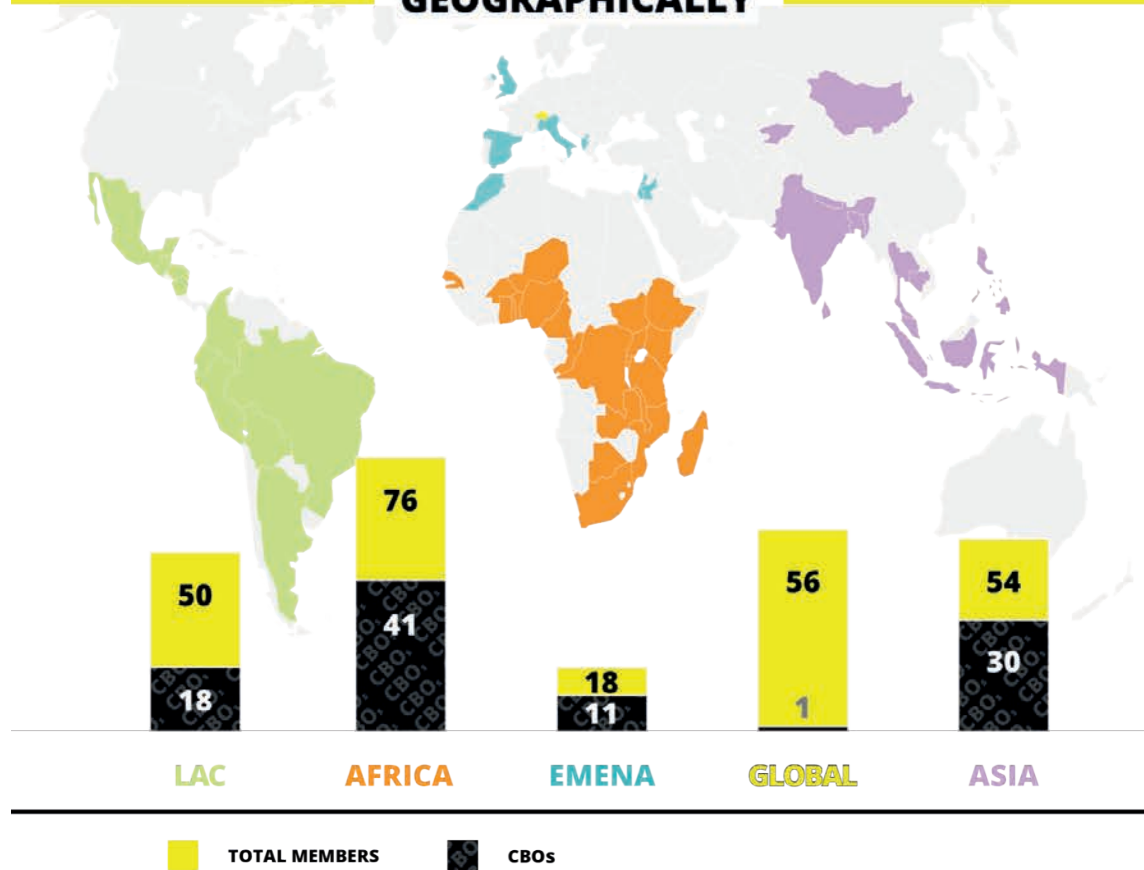
TOP LAND USER GROUPS REPRESENTED



+ RURAL WORKERS, FEMINISTS, FOREST DWELLERS, PASTORALISTS, FISHERS

* OUT OF THE 101 CONTITUENCY-BASED ORGANISATIONS, SURVEY RESPONDENTS WERE ABLE TO SELECT MORE THAN ONE OPTION PUTTING THEM IN THE MIXED CONSTITUENCY CATEGORY

GEOGRAPHICALLY



The **Council Committee on the 2016–2021 Impact Assessment**, which was composed of *IFAD, IWGIA, FUNDE, KPA, SEEDS* and *UCRT*, was mandated to ensure that lessons from the past were able to feed into the new strategy for ILC. Meanwhile the **Membership Committee**, consisting of *CEPES, KPA, IFAD, IWGIA, SEEDS* and *UCRT*, supervised the 2020–2021 expansion of ILC membership. They emphasised “**GROWING SMART**”, being strategic and targeted in order to fill gaps of under-represented regions and expertise in ILC, including more representation of CBOs. The Committee’s call attracted 93 expressions of interest. The *2021 Assembly of Members* will be responsible for final decisions on membership, including the termination of inactive members (eight have been identified).

Implementation of the Council-approved **GENDER ACTION PLAN** continued under the guidance of the **Gender Oversight Committee**, which includes *WiLDAF, Espaço Feminista, KPA, AZUL* and *IWGIA*. Nine members conducted gender audits, culminating in the formulation of gender action plans. Members acknowledged that audits contributed to “a deeper understanding of organisational limits” and that they “increased honesty within the organisation and promoted more inclusive approaches”. The Gender Oversight Committee also validated the use of *quotas to promote gender balance* in governing bodies, including in NES and CBI committees. Early results of this policy are evident, with 57 of 103 M&E reports for 2019 and 2020 including data on the gender composition of governing bodies, and an average participation rate for women of 44.6%. Finally, in response to cases reported to the ILC One Team in 2019, the Coalition committed to be a safe space for all and introduced a **POLICY AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT**.

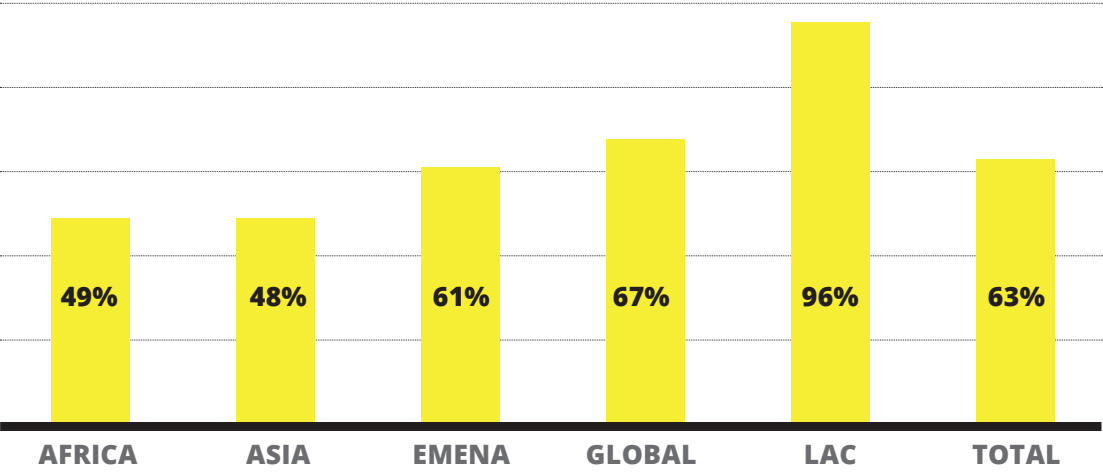
Despite the uncertainty caused by travel restrictions and the likelihood of its postponement, preparations for the **GLOBAL LAND FORUM** in *Jordan*, originally scheduled for October 2021, continued under the leadership of the National Organising Committee. Key themes and lead organisations were defined and meetings continued in virtual form throughout the year. A **BROCHURE** informed potential donors of planning status, though the context meant that there were no concrete commitments of support. The June 2020 Council meeting emphasised the importance of in-person participation by one delegate from each member organisation, with virtual participation enabling broader engagement of members and the wider land community.

ILC’s dedicated online platform, **MEMBERNET**, is the go-to space for members for key network functions, outcomes and administrative procedures. By end of 2020, Membernet was hosting a number of tools for the ILC network: *Oneflow* improves the efficiency and clarity of administrative procedures; the **MONITORING AND EVALUATION** platform supports the commitment of the revised operating model to better measure and present ILC’s results; while the *ILC Corner* supports institutional capacities and connections between members. In 2020, MemberNet recorded 24,000 page views across 2,780 active sessions, with an average of 5.17 entry sessions per user.

ILC MEMBERSHIP FEES AND RESERVE FUND

In 2016, the ILC Council created a Reserve Fund using membership fees. The purpose of the Fund is to protect the autonomy of the Council from potential liabilities arising from its decisions, while also protecting IFAD in its role as host of the Secretariat. With a target of USD 600,000 to be reached by 2021, the Reserve Fund stood at USD 669,254 by the end of 2020. Meeting the target a year in advance is good news. In 2020 The ILC One Team made every effort to support smaller members facing COVID-related challenges by accepting contributions in-kind. Nonetheless, the rate of collection of membership fees in 2020 was lower than in previous years, reaching 63% on average by December 2020. The regional breakdown is shown below:

Rates of 2020 membership fee collection by the end of the year



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The revised operating model introduced in January 2019 brought ILC’s potential as a catalyst to the fore. The Council approved the first ever triennial budget and workplan, covering the period 2019–2021. This envisaged that ILC would raise USD 33 million in core funding to support member-led NES and CBI platforms and the network as a whole. It also anticipated that these platforms would leverage a further USD 33 million directly from donors. This allows ILC to support a growing number of platforms that are increasingly financially sustainable, while protecting the Coalition’s uniqueness as a network rather than a donor.

2020 proved to be a complex year. In April, the ILC Council reviewed the triennial budget targets, given that only USD 21.5 million had been secured by that time and in light of the global crisis. The Council agreed to reduce its financial targets to USD 25 million for both the core and the leveraged components. At the same time, it confirmed the validity and key elements of the triennial workplan with no major changes for the remaining period, except for reduced financial support to NES and CBI platforms and revisiting plans for major face-to-face events. Finally, the Council stressed the need for fundraising to fill the remaining financial gap in order to meet the revised targets.

By the end of 2020, ILC had secured approximately USD 23.5 million, including a new contribution from BMZ. Negotiations with IFAD, and possible smaller contributions from the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund and the Ford Foundation, may close the gap. Expectations that the RCUs would raise funds directly for regional workplans have not yet materialised.

In summary, our progress at the end of year two against the triennial core budget target stands as follows:

TARGET CORE	25,000,000
CORE TOTAL SECURED	23,300,000
CORE IN NEGOTIATION	1,560,000
GAP	140,000

Despite facing the same challenges in the donor landscape, member-led platforms have made reasonable progress towards their targets. The gap is larger than for the core budget, but a full year still remains for successful proposals to come through. Below is a snapshot of the situation as of December 2020. Over the course of the year, the ILC support team assisted members to prepare and submit 51 proposals, of which nine were successful and 19 unsuccessful, while 21 were awaiting a response.

TARGET LEVERAGED	25,000,000
LEVERAGED SECURED VIA SEC	5,406,000
LEVERAGED SECURED VIA PLATFORMS	5,794,000
LEVERAGED IN NEGOTIATION VIA PLATFORMS	3,498,000
GAP	10 302 000

In terms of overall spending, the 2019–2021 budget was designed to be supportive of the regionalisation process. The table below demonstrates the good progress made in the implementation of regional budgets, with the exception of EMENA, which is a new platform that is still being strengthened as a regional network. Figures are tentative until receipt of the audit report in April 2021.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LOOKING AHEAD

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought sudden and abrupt changes to the way that ILC works. While it was disruptive, the network was able to adapt, probably to a greater extent than other more rigid institutions, with remarkable speed and without losing effectiveness.

Some changes will be embraced in the long term and will become the “*new normal*” for ILC. The Coalition’s outreach expanded considerably as the world shifted online. For example, the triennial target for participants in ILC trainings was exceeded by 454% as these were offered virtually in 2020. The Regional Land Forums engaged with a higher number of participants than ever before. The commitments taken to the Council in January 2020 to significantly reduce travel across the network were of course dramatically surpassed, but travel will not return to previous levels once restrictions are lifted. The increased network vibrancy, at lower cost and with lower carbon emissions, will permanently shape the way that ILC works, including plans for the upcoming Global Land Forum as a hybrid face-to-face and virtual event. ILC has invested in its capacity to offer high-impact online events by investing in training for the whole of its support team and some members.

A focused lesson-learning process in 2020 unfolded with the launch of the impact assessment for the 2016–2021 strategy, which was strongly oriented to inform the 2022–2030 ILC strategy. Consultations with the Council, the full membership, and key partners on the new strategy converged into **seven “asks” from across the membership to shape the ILC of the future:**

- 1 Focus:**
Do less, better.
- 2 Framing:**
Show the value of people-centred land governance to equality, food systems, climate, and peace and democracy.
- 3 Constituency-based organisations:**
At the forefront of ILC, especially women and youth.
- 4 Partnerships:**
Be a powerful global and regional voice and convenor.
- 5 Impact:**
NES and CBI platforms make a difference on the ground, going beyond policy to its implementation.
- 6 Learning:**
Continue to build ILC as a learning network.
- 7 Funding model:**
Smaller core budget with larger leveraged potential for high-impact platforms.
ILC as a catalyst not a donor.

These characteristics will define the new ILC strategy to be adopted by members before the end of 2021. The new strategy will further sharpen the Coalition’s impact and efficiency, building on what the draft impact assessment indicates will be a strong legacy of the current strategy. A clear challenge ahead is the **funding of ILC’s new strategy**, which will be ambitious in its transformative agenda. The pandemic has accelerated an already difficult funding environment, as declining overall availability of funding coincides with donor attention being consumed by immediate and urgent global crises. At the same time, many donors are decentralising funding opportunities from their capitals to host countries. The following measures are being taken to reduce the risk for ILC:

- 1** Build an operating model capable of demonstrating **increasing impact with reduced core budget**, through a more focused role for ILC while maximising the leveraging potential of member-led NES and CBI platforms through support to members to build direct relationships with donors.
- 2** Demonstrate and communicate clearly the fundamental **role of people-centred land governance in sustainably addressing urgent crises** that the world faces.
- 3** Work through the Global Donor Working Group on Land to **collectively engage donors** on the role of ILC and how it should be funded.
- 4** Take the next steps in regionalisation with the capacity for **regional ILC platforms to become more financially autonomous**, including the possibility for RCUs to register themselves as legal entities in their host countries.
- 5** Make every effort to retain existing donors, while **attracting new donors** that have not traditionally funded ILC.

Overall, 2020 has shown that the ILC network can thrive and still be a powerful change-maker, despite the enormous challenges the year presented. This bodes well for its future as it faces the transition to a new strategy in highly uncertain times.

PROGRESS AGAINST TRIENNIAL TARGETS

OUTCOMES

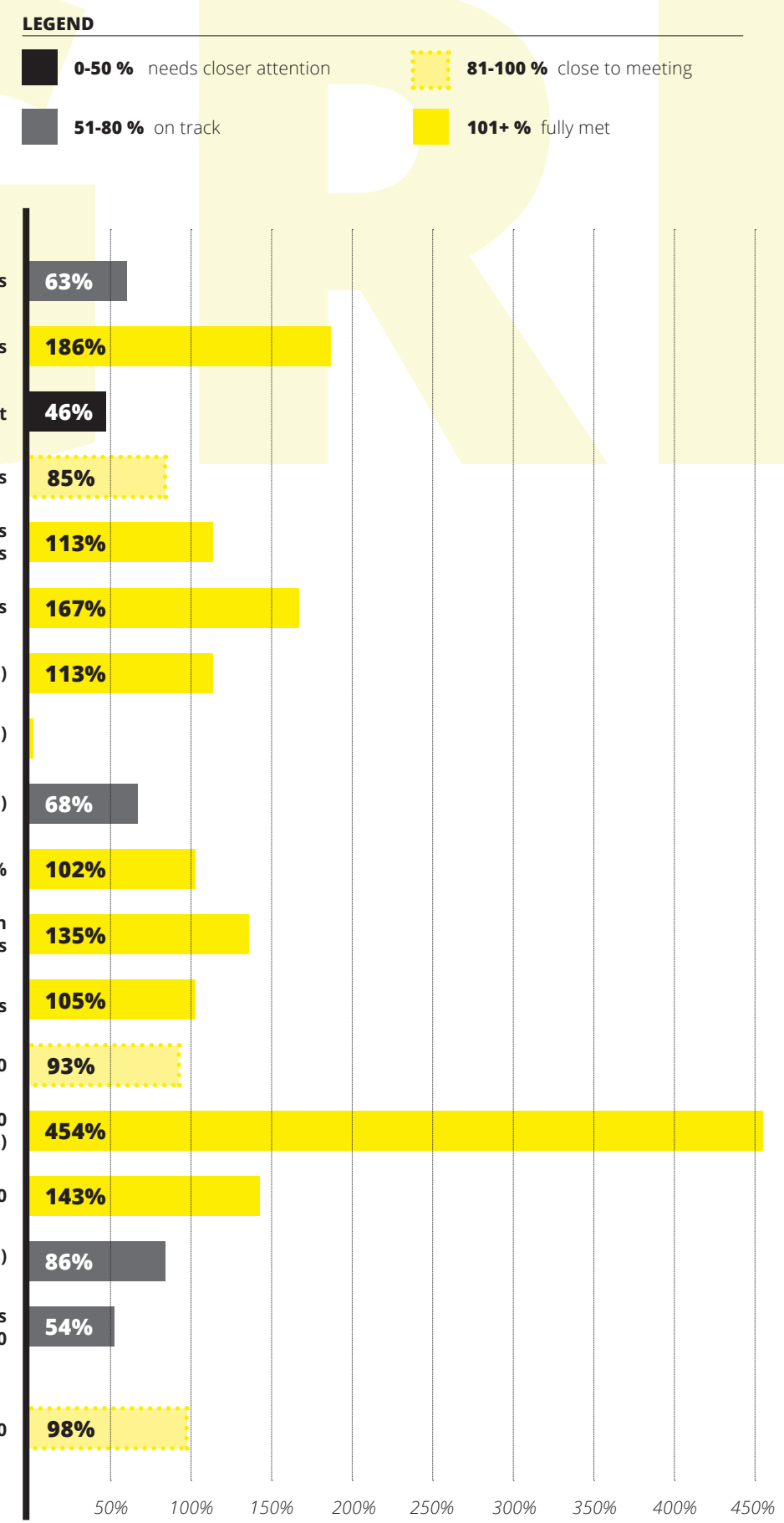
CHANGES
IN POLICY
PRACTICE AND
STRENGTHENED
NETWORK
CAPACITY

CONNECT

OUTPUTS

MOBILISE

INFLUENCE



INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION SECRETARIAT c/o IFAD

Via Paolo di Dono 44 , 00142-Rome, Italy tel. +39 06 5459 2445

fax +39 06 5459 3445 info@landcoalition.org | www.landcoalition.org