ABOUT THIS REPORT

The strength of our coalition lies in the diversity of its membership.

We thrive on sharing solutions to complex and entrenched challenges from different types of people living on and from the land, from a wide variety of countries, regions, communities and experiences.

To give a flavour of the depth and breadth of this coalition, we have invited a small selection of members and partners to be your “guides”.

YOUR GUIDES

PAINE EULALIA MAKKO
Pastoralists
UCRT

NEYDI MORALES
Youth
CCDA

AMINA AMHARECH
Indigenous peoples
AZUL

CHIEF TANYI ROBINSON
Traditional leaders
NES Cameroon

CONSTANZE VON OPPEN
Global civil society
Weltungerhilfe

ETIENNE COYETTE
Strategic Partner
European Commission

MARY JANE MAGAN
Farmers
Ormoc-Kananga Young Farmers Association

ROWSHAN JAHAN MONI
Women
ALRD

Most are representative of the people’s organisations at the ILC core, and include women, young people, family and peasant farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and local communities for whom we collectively work.

Our guides to accompany you on your journey through the report, and they will contribute with comments and insights from their own unique perspective.

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The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and the individuals interviewed for this report. They do not constitute official positions of ILC and the initiative’s reference group.


FINANCIAL REPORT 19-21

https://www.triennial.landcoalition.org/financial-report
The Earth is in a state of emergency. The past three years have seen the ever-worsening climate crisis, environmental destruction, competition for resources, conflict, social unrest — and now a global pandemic.

With all of these issues clamouring for immediate attention, it is easy to miss the common theme: land. Many of the solutions to the world’s problems lie right before us, in how land is governed and managed. Sustainable and equitable land use elevates ecosystems and communities. It builds democracy, justice, sustainability and resilience.

Only one organisation worldwide brings together land users to share a platform with practitioners, development partners and scientists. The International Land Coalition’s mission is unique: to create, expand and sustain the diverse partnerships we need for systems change. We do so in partnership and solidarity with the organisations in our network that belong to, and represent, the people who live on and from the land.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

More than ever, our work in the last three years has demonstrated that National Engagement Strategies (NES) are powerful engines for change. With over 200 members and over 500 partner organisations in several dozen countries, these forums represent farmers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, women, youth and other voices who combine to fight against historical dispossession, land-grabbing, resource-stripping, pollution and profiteering. NESs have scored major gains, in terms of policies implemented and practices changed, as the stories in this report show.

These are changes which can transform lives. Our work in Nepal, for example, has helped to break the Haliya system of generational feudal bonded labour, through securing land rights. Now the land is theirs. Instead of toiling for others, they can build, grow and invest for the sake of themselves and their children. In Peru, where women have historically been silenced and excluded from their communities, our efforts have ensured that at least 30% of community board members must be women. While in Cameroon, strengthened customary laws are protecting communities against dispossession, expropriation and eviction. All of these achievements were made possible because of the broad coalition the ILC helped create, mobilising farmers, communities and policymakers to overcome vested interests.

It is important to consider a Rural Youth CBI, as well as to maintain the Scholarship program for new leadership and virtual exchanges, that allow strengthening the capacities of leadership in the regions.

We have been working with ILC 20 years or more. It’s an eye-opener. I lean on ILC like an old man leaning on a walking stick.

It is important to consider a Rural Youth CBI, as well as to maintain the Scholarship program for new leadership and virtual exchanges, that allow strengthening the capacities of leadership in the regions.
We are also placing land at the centre of regional and global debate. Member-led Commitment-Based Initiatives (CBIs) across the globe have helped to shift narratives and build common political commitment to land rights.

FROM NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES (NESS) TO NATIONAL LAND COALITIONS (NLCS)—WHAT’S IN A NAME?

As the 2016-2021 strategic period draws to a close, ILC moves away from defining its in-country work as NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES, and moves toward NATIONAL LAND COALITIONS.

These national partnerships that first came together around a common strategy have grown to become more fully a national expression of what ILC is globally: an alliance driven by people’s organisations, moving collectively towards a common goal of people-centred land governance to meet the land targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. National Land Coalitions are member-led, including both ILC members and non-members. Each NLC is tailored to the situation in the country in which it operates, but can call upon the expertise of the ILC and fellow members in other countries to address injustice by securing land rights and removing obstacles to land reforms.

DEFENDING DEFENDERS

Tragically, a record number of land rights activists are paying the ultimate price for their cause—with over 200 killed in 2020 alone, according to Global Witness data. We are proud to have consolidated protection funds in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, to provide the defenders with their own line of defence, against intimidation, harassment, legal and physical threats and violence.

REVEALING THE SHOCKING STATE OF LAND INEQUALITY

The power of our network gives us a place on the world stage to highlight the stories of these defenders, bring public scrutiny to their battles, and facilitate adequate responses. We are also unique in our use of data to support communities and inform policymaking. Our Uneven Ground report, released in 2020, showed the scale of global inequality in land and grabbed media attention across the world. The study finds that land inequality directly threatens the livelihoods of an estimated 2.5 billion people involved in smallholder agriculture. The trends are only growing starker. There is much work to do.

PROGRESS IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

When we embarked upon this triennium, we looked forward to the in-person meetings and on-the-ground community visits, which add so much insight, and build the lasting connections so vital in an international network. COVID-19 put paid to that. We are incredibly proud of how our members and our partners, and the ILC OneTeam, adapted and rose to the challenge. Recognising the terrible impact of the disease upon so many people in so many of the countries in which we work, it is also worth noting what we learned.

The pandemic showed that local issues can become global issues, faster than we think. That we all share the same planet. And that the best — and only — way to tackle a crisis is through cooperation.

On behalf of ILC One team, we have been honoured to support the efforts and achievements of ILC members. This report is a salute to the incredible impact that members—working together with many others—have achieved over the past three years. The challenges are immense, but together we are powerful.
Infographics taken from the M&E Platform
https://membernet.landcoalition.org/monitor/cumulative
CONNECT
77 MEMBER-LED PLATFORMS ESTABLISHED/CONSOLIDATED
219 MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN CBIS, NESS
519 NON-MEMBERS ENGAGED WITH ILC’S INITIATIVES

77.5% CONSTITUENCY-BASED ORGANISATIONS* IN ILC’S MEMBERSHIP

WOMEN IN ILC’S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES
51.5%

MOBILISE
243 PUBLISHED KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS
62 GOOD PRACTICES
74 TRAININGS AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING EVENTS
3231 PARTICIPANTS IN ILC LEARNING EVENTS, MENTORING, PEER TO PEER EXCHANGES AND WEBINARS, OUT OF WHICH 63 PERCENT WERE WOMEN (1196 MEN AND 2035 WOMEN)

INFLUENCE
1019 JOINT LOBBY AND ADVOCACY ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY ILC MEMBERS: DECLARATIONS, POSITION PAPERS, POLICY BRIEFS, SHADOW REPORTS, CAMPAIGNS, MARCHES

88 AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL
446 IN ASIA
105 IN EMENA

81 IN AFRICA

557 BY NES PLATFORMS, 81 UNDER RANGELANDS, 71 ON HUMAN RIGHTS, 151 FAMILY FARMING, 92 WLR, 17 IPS, 3 ECOSYSTEM, 13 YOUTH, 17 DATA, 45 CLR, 11 SDGS
CHAPTER

HUMAN RIGHTS

16 POLICIES CHANGED

3 PRACTICES CHANGED

2019  2020  2021

14 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED
16 POLICIES PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

AFRICA (1)
- Kenya

LAC (15)
- Antigua, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Guatemala, Peru

5 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED
3 PRACTICES PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

AFRICA (1)
- Senegal, DRC, Cameroon, Madagascar

ASIA (2)
- Philippines
NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

- Creation of emergency funds for environmental and land defenders in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean
- A Crucial Gap Report revealed shocking lack of country-reported data for land and environmental defenders
- NES Nepal helped to emancipate and identify 355 ex-haliya families awaiting to be freed from agricultural bonded labour and redistributed unutilised land to landless households
- Land Rights Now reached 8.5 million people through their global mobilisation to end the criminalisation of defenders and actively engaged 238,483 individuals with 7,100 messages of solidarity expressed.

Land Rights are Human Rights.
When land rights are insecure, people are at risk.

It is a dangerous time to be a land and environmental defender. Many courageous individuals and organisations have put themselves on the front line against land grabbing, resource extraction, exploitation and pollution. They have been criminalised, harassed and threatened. Too many have paid the ultimate price.

SCALING UP PROTECTION FOR LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

Over the past three years, the International Land Coalition has boosted its support for land defenders. Our Defenders Protection Funds provide direct resources to defenders under legal and physical peril in Africa and Latin America / Caribbean region (in Spanish). Worldwide, we shine a spotlight upon defenders, amplifying their voices and bringing attention to their cause.

We also leverage our global presence, and the power of our network, to highlight the work of defenders worldwide. Land Rights Now, a joint campaign between ILC, Oxfam and Rights and Resources, raises awareness and generates support for those who protect the land and the environment: read more about our achievements in the indigenous peoples section.

CASE STUDY

AFRICAN EMERGENCY FUND


ILC was the founding supporter, and the human rights and environmental law nonprofit Natural Justice administers and implements the fund from Kenya. It was always envisaged that ILC’s “seed capital” investment would allow the fund to source additional donors and in 2021, this became a reality with additional funding partners coming on board, meaning the fund could give grants and assistance to a wider base than just ILC members. ICCA Consortium are now funders, alongside other members of the African Activists for Climate Justice project–African Women Communications Network (FEMNET), Oxfam Novib, the African Youth Commission, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Often the grants are used on behalf of several defenders, or a community who are facing targeted attacks against them. The type of attacks vary from illegal or habitual arrests and detentions, or targeted lawsuits, to physical assault, harassment and intimidation. Grants can be used to pay legal fees or bail, or more general support for people who are under threat.

“The leading type of support we have given is covering urgent and short term legal assistance,” says Eva Okoth, project manager for Natural Justice. “The second type is medical or psychological support for physical attacks and trauma. And increasingly, we are helping with temporary relocation and assistance in basic needs for communities who have been evicted.”

Alongside death threats and police intimidation, the fund has seen a growing trend of digital harassment. “Many campaigns are moving online and communities are turning towards technology for advocacy,” explains Eva, “which means they can be tracked, traced, hacked, and cyber-bullied. We’ve had cases of communities tracked and stalked without them even knowing about it. In others, they’ve been targeted for theft of equipment and laptops.”

NOTES

3 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k52OVHwyWC8
5 https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?e=__test_email__&u=608130c9788e13674ce2c8a37&id=4a8416282a
6 https://naturaljustice.org
7 https://www.iccaconsortium.org
An important part of the fund’s work involves training and capacity-building to resist such emerging threats, and also to sensitise communities about what their rights really are. This has been particularly crucial in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, two countries where democratic space is shrinking and attacks on those who defend the land are becoming more prevalent. Other countries which have received grants include Kenya, Somalia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Senegal.

“The fund started as a rapid response initiative,” says Eva, “but one of our key successes has been moving away from being simply reactive. We are now providing preventive and long-term support doing more in terms of capacity building, campaigns and advocacy. We are doing more in terms of research and collecting data. The type of cases we deal with in Africa are still underreported and by giving these communities and defenders platforms in regional and international processes to amplify these issues provides a further layer of protection.”

DEMANDING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY FROM GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES

Our coalition’s ability to connect diverse partners means defenders can learn from others and exchange knowledge. And our focus on human-centered data gives communities and policymakers the information they need to strengthen their demands and make decisions.

ILC’s support to the Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED), formerly the Defend the Defenders Coalition, helped build a platform of more than 70 national and international human, environmental, and land rights organisations, many of which are ILC members, to scale up protection for land and environmental defenders and demand greater accountability from government and businesses.

During the pandemic, ALLIED researchers reported an uptick in threats, harassment and violence against defenders. Many governments had been less responsive and more absent in areas of land conflict. In many countries, the judiciary was suspended, surveillance heightened and emergency laws – enacted to contain the spread of the virus – were used to detain dissidents and limit activism and protests. Despite this, activities including evictions, demolitions, and extractive projects such as mining were allowed to proceed.

The research was conducted using public records and ILC’s LANDex® global land index, demonstrating how data can be a responsive and powerful tool in the campaign for human rights. Find out more about LANDex and ILC’s information innovations in our Data section.

8. https://www.ainw.org/defenderscoalition

In 2021, ALLIED partners released their report: A Crucial Gap: the limits of official data on attacks against defenders and why it’s concerning®, confirming that 94% of states have not reported against SDG 16.10.1, severely undermining our ability to monitor the situation of land and environmental defenders. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) officially supported the report during the High Level Political Forum in 2021.

ALLIED also campaigned for the ratification of the Escazú agreement, the first binding environmental and human rights instrument in Latin America, which finally entered into force in April 2021.

MAKING LAND RIGHTS A HUMAN RIGHT

ILC has strongly advocated for having land recognised as a human right by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). The CESCR is developing a general comment on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, that will clarify the specific obligations of States parties relating to land and the governance of tenure of land under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. After a broad consultation within the land community, together with its members and a panel of high-ranking experts, the ILC secretariat drafted a contribution to the General Comment draft.

CASE STUDY

RIGHTS, RECOGNITION AND FREEDOM IN NEPAL

Nepal provides a striking example of how ILC member-led platforms can mobilise diverse groups to bring about dramatic change and transform lives.

Through our members, ILC has been active in the Himalayan nation for over a decade. In the years 2019-2021, the reforms advocated for by the National Engagement Strategy began to be implemented, impacting thousands of lives and making a radical change in the country’s direction on land and human rights.

Kudos to NES for initiating a good change in Nepal.

In non-democratic countries, it is difficult to speak of “demands” or even of talks or negotiations or with governments and even less with companies because in this case it is the state that takes care of everything. Local and foreign investors have only one interlocutor: the Government.

Radical change requires great effort! Kudos to NES for initiating a good change in Nepal.

94% of states have not reported against SDG 16.10.1, severely undermining our ability to monitor the situation of land and environmental defenders.
INFLUENCING POLICY AND LAWS

The NES (which includes the Nepali Government’s land ministry, the Bureau of Statistics, the National Planning Commission, and Peoples Organisations together with a range of NGOs, civil society organisations and donors) contributed to the 2019 National Land Policy, which called for recognition of informal tenure and equitable redistribution targeting the landless.

The NES influenced the Land Act of 2019, which acknowledges the role of local land councils in controlling fragmentation of agricultural land and protecting natural resources. An amendment to the Act in 2020 provides for land distribution and legal registration for informal land users.

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES

Through ILC members and partners engaged in the NES, people are finally being emancipated from the “Haliya” system, a form of bonded labour which has been imposed upon mostly Dalits, the so-called “untouchables” in the Hindu caste system. It is a form of agricultural bonded labour which entraps entire families to service debt.

By 2019, 11,000 of an estimated 19,000 families had been identified. The NES assisted hundreds with interim assistance to families awaiting rehabilitation grants from the government.

The NES succeeded in reducing the gender gap for women’s leadership and livelihoods. Among other initiatives, 10,000 joint land ownership certificates have been issued, adding women’s names on land titles alongside their husbands’.

Activities by NES campaigners have led to more recognition of land tenure among communities traditionally discriminated against, or neglected. Over 4,500 village-block households, 2,190 landless households and 955 tenants have received land ownership certificates through NES interventions.

DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

ILC has also been fundamentally involved in putting data at the heart of Nepal’s land policy. Jump to the Data section and find out more!

For the full picture on how ILC members and partners are contributing to change in Nepal

RELATED MULTIMEDIA:

- Claiming Freedom: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oV40jDFXXgA
- Parvati Ludar from Nepal: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AirAP_mEYM8
- Looking back at 2020–NES Nepal: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdHXRfPrt1w

BEST PRACTICES FROM THE NETWORK:


MEMBER STORY

Meet Chandra Ram Lohar, who was recently emancipated after being enslaved since childhood, and to discover more about the remarkable story of the Haliya, and their path to freedom.

READ STORY

This is a great achievement! - I would be interested to understand how this change has been achieved, in particular whether cultural change barriers to equal ownership existed and if yes, how they were addressed.

CHAPTER

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

10 PRACTICES CHANGED

4 POLICIES CHANGED

2019

2020

2021

3 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED 4 POLICIES TO SECURE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS

AFRICA (1)

LAC (2)

Ecuador, Peru

6 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED 10 PRACTICES TO SECURE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS

LAC (6)

Argentina, Ecuador, Paraguay, Bolivia

ASIA (2)

Bangladesh, Cambodia
Indigenous peoples’ organisations are an important part of the ILC membership, and defending their rights to land and territory is a collective commitment of all members. Wherever indigenous peoples’ territorial rights are recognised, land is used in a more just and sustainable way. Indigenous communities carry a deep understanding of the land and territories they inhabit, and know that protecting it is key to their traditions, beliefs and identity.

Yet this can put them at odds with corporations, governments and outside pressures. ILC brings the strength of its network in support of indigenous activists and their organisations, to resist these pressures and ensure their voices are heard. Indigenous peoples’ role as the guardians of our planet benefits all humanity. But even more importantly, it is their right to be there, to have peace of mind and a sense of security over their homelands.

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Land Rights Now campaign** led to significant law and policy changes in Liberia, Montenegro, Panama, Paraguay and Peru
- **Law changed as result of successful campaign and capacity building to protect the land rights of Batwa people in DRC**
- **The government of Bangladesh officially recognised 23 more indigenous communities living in country**
- **ILC members in Bangladesh opposed the construction of a 5-star hotel on land belonging to the Mro indigenous community through capacity building and public demonstrations.**

Indigenous people are all over the country but not very concentrated except for in the hill districts. Their livelihood is mostly subsistence farming and they have many issues about tenure, because they believe in common rights but these are not codified into law. This is the opportunity for land grabbers to grab their land for tourist resorts or other development.

“...We as Indigenous People, cannot live without the forest because our market is there, there we hunt, there we find our medicine, our handicraft is there. We live from that. That is why we will never stop protecting our forests.”

Luisa Moro González, community member of Santa Clara

Find out more and add your name to the petition to support the guardians of the Amazon.

**CLICK HERE**

**Land Rights Now (LRN)** aims to promote and secure the land rights of Indigenous people and local communities worldwide. The ILC Secretariat co-convenes the campaign, in collaboration with Oxfam International and the Rights and Resources Initiative.

Over 630 organisations and more than 80,000 individuals—from global rights campaigners to local grassroots movements—are signatories of the campaign, which demands land rights for the up to 2.5 billion people who depend on land or natural resources which are held, used or managed collectively.

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12 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADrgyc7z08Q
13 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4d-launch
14 https://www.landrightsnow.org/get-involved/create-a-spark/
15 https://www.landrightsnow.org/light-of-hope-amazon-peru/
16 https://www.landrightsnow.org
17 https://www.oxfam.org/en
18 https://rightsandresources.org
CASE STUDY

LEGAL RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORIAL RIGHTS IN DRC

The Batwa people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (also known as Pygmies) have long been among the most marginalised members of society. Their land rights are generally not recognised. Batwa have repeatedly been evicted from their lands due to the creation and expansion of protected areas (such as national parks), without their consent or compensation. They have also lost land to mining, timber and agriculture companies. In January 2021, at least 46 people were massacred by militia in an attempt to take over their area and its land.

Since 2015, ILC members have been pushing for recognition of the rights of the 600,000 Batwa people in DRC. With the adoption of a new law in 2021, the DRC parliament acknowledged the land rights of indigenous peoples, introduced new measures to protect them, and crucially, recognised the role of women in indigenous communities.

ILC MEMBERS IN DRC CAMPAIGNING FOR BATWA RIGHTS

- Program for the Integration and Development of the Pygmy People
- Union for the Emancipation of Indigenous Women
- Council for the Defense of the Environment through Legality and Traceability
- Environment Resources Naturelles et Développement

Find out more about the law, and meet Sibauzui, a Batwa woman who is among those who will benefit from the ILC-backed campaign to recognise Indigenous rights.

CAMPAIGN WINS

- Successful prevention of a military exercise on pasturelands in Sinjajevina, Montenegro (see more in the Community Land Rights section)
- Legislation for recognition of indigenous land rights in protected areas in Panama
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) wins on indigenous lands in Peru under threat from oil companies, and the granting of regional land titles
- Legislation for implementation of Inter-American Court ruling on indigenous peoples’ land rights in Paraguay
- Passage of the Land Rights Act in Liberia recognising the customary land rights of 3 million Liberians

Explore the Land Rights Now campaign and find out how you can become part of the movement.

For more life-changing impact from the LRN campaign, head to our Community Land Rights section.

The advances made in particular in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, must be highlighted in the EMENA region and the creation of a Global Indigenous Peoples platform, as discussed in Rome in 2019 would be a crucial step for the ILC to promote indigenous peoples’ land rights in accordance with the terms of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and International Labor Organization Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. The recognition of the land rights of the indigenous people cannot be done without the recognition of their autochthony and their right to self-determination and the respect of the fundamental principle of Free, Informed and Prior Consent.

I hope ILC can now support members in DRC in following-up on implementation. We have observed [...] that policy and/or legislative change does not necessarily result in changes on the ground.

I believe NES Philippines is also campaigning for legal recognition of Indigenous People in the Philippines. I admire them for doing so. Their intervention is very significant for IP’s territorial rights.

The Batwa people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (also known as Pygmies) have long been among the most marginalised members of society. Their land rights are generally not recognised. Batwa have repeatedly been evicted from their lands due to the creation and expansion of protected areas (such as national parks), without their consent or compensation. They have also lost land to mining, timber and agriculture companies. In January 2021, at least 46 people were massacred by militia in an attempt to take over their area and its land.

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19 https://www.landrightsnow.org/get-involved/
CASE STUDY
AGAINT LAND GRABBING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S LAND IN BANGLADESH

Nearly 160 million people live in Bangladesh, making it one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Land is consequently subject to significant pressure, and access to natural resources is hindered by the legacy of the colonial era, a lack of adequate land reforms, and shortcomings in land governance. The lack of documentation and the feeling of unsafety are contributing to the growth of land grabbing, particularly towards indigenous communities.

In 2020, a private company grabbed the land that belonged to the Mro indigenous community in the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) for the construction of a 5-star hotel. While the government has not abandoned the project yet, the CHT Commission openly advised the government to abandon the realisation of this project following public demonstrations organised by ILC members and the Mro community.

Thanks to the work and advocacy of NES in the country, the High Court Division of the National Supreme Court took an exemplary standby defining rivers as “living entities” and as “persons”, and acknowledged the systematic grabbing and pollution of their waters. The significance of this judgment is evident when considering that 18% of the country’s population relies on rivers for drinking water, and more than half of the population uses rivers for herding purposes.

Get the full picture on how ILC members and partners are contributing to change in Bangladesh!

CLICK HERE

BEST PRACTICES FROM THE NETWORK

- https://learn.landcoalition.org/en/good-practices/la-defensa-territorial-del-valle-de-%C3%ADntag-frente-al-extractivismo/
CHAPTER

WOMEN’S LAND RIGHTS

2019 2020 2021

13 PRACTICES CHANGED

6 POLICIES CHANGED

3 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED
6 POLICIES TO SECURE WOMEN’S LAND RIGHTS

AFRICA (3)
- Ghana, Zambia

LAC (3)
- Peru

5 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED
12 PRACTICES TO SECURE WOMEN’S LAND RIGHTS

LAC (6)
- Guatemala, Brazil, Argentina

ASIA (2)
- Afghanistan, Mongolia
An initiative by ILC members, **Mujer Rural y Derecho a la Tierra** (Rural Women and Land Rights) covers 13 countries across the continent and has influenced policies and practices in Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Peru, strengthening the decision-making powers of rural women on land governance. In Nicaragua, members contributed to securing an exemption on local municipal land taxes on land purchases made by women.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST  

ILC works both through National Engagement Strategies and thematic platforms. Where we see the greatest success is when regional thematic platforms like Mujer Rural team up with NES’s to advocate for women’s land rights in a country. One of the biggest successes we saw this triennium was in Peru.

**CASE STUDY**

**SPEAKING UP IN PERU**

“Women are no longer going to be like in the past, women are going to be equal to men or perhaps even more so.”

Maribel Barrientos Najarro

In 2019, the ILC NES promoted the amendment of article 19 of the General Law of Peasant Communities to ensure that at least 30% of community board members are women. As a result, hundreds of Quechua rural women from Ayacucho, like Maribel, have been recognised as qualified comuneras in their communities, overcoming the prejudice and machismo culture which has traditionally sidelined women’s voices in land issues.

Secure land rights for women and girls is linked to increased women’s leadership and autonomy, enhanced economic opportunities, better security, safety, and standing in society. This helps build thriving and resilient households and communities with improved incomes, better child nutrition, greater educational attainment for girls and more sustainable use of natural resources. Women-led organisations in ILC have been actively engaged in leadership training and mentoring, cross-regional exchanges, and have made their voices heard on a regional and global level. Notable successes include drives to recognise wives alongside their husbands on land registrations, increased awareness of women’s land rights and new reporting methodologies to measure progress in women’s rights.

**NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS**

- In Nicaragua, members of the Mujer Rural Initiative helped secure an exemption on local municipal land taxes on land purchases made by women
- NES Peru promoted a law change to ensure that at least 30% of community board members are women
- Collective Women’s Land Rights Commitment widely endorsed during the Beijing+25 Conference
- Leadership training, mentoring and solidarity network for 41 women within the coalition

**RURAL WOMEN COULD RULE THE WORLD**

In all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, women own and manage less land than men. Only 30% of them own any agricultural land, despite the crucial role that women play in agriculture, food sovereignty and the preservation of biodiversity.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of domestic violence happened all over the world and Bangladesh is not exempt from that. Women, children and elderly are worst affected.

Traditional African community values puts men first and women behind, even if the men don’t do anything. But now we are looking at who is adding value to the family and the community. So here, we have brought women into the traditional council. The problem is old habits die hard, so that even though women can own land some of the women themselves shy away from being responsible for their land. We’re trying to change that through mentoring and encouragement.

One of the cross-cutting themes during these 3 years concerns women and gender justice. It is a major theme for ILC, given the place and role that women play in the process of using land and resources as custodians of knowledge and know-how.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of domestic violence happened all over the world and Bangladesh is not exempt from that. Women, children and elderly are worst affected.

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"In the future, I believe that the 30% gender quota currently established in the law can lead to full equality prompting the new generations to be more involved in the political life of their people. I think that the future is not distant, but rather near if the law is promoted, disseminated and it becomes a tool to change community statutes.”
Tanja Pariona, former congresswoman of the Republic of Peru

For the full contribution analysis of ILC’s work in Colombia

COLOMBIA: LIGHT IN THE SHADOWS
Emerging from decades of conflict, Colombia faces many of the land challenges of its neighbours, especially land inequality which is the highest in the continent caused by an increase in latifundio (large-scale land ownership). Particularly affected are rural and indigenous women.

In 2019, ILC members CINEP and CDS together with women’s organisations, under the umbrella of the Mujer Rural initiative, used their platform to present a report on the situation of rural and peasant women’s rights, including land rights.

They compiled an alternative report to the Colombian state’s own assessment of progress presented to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Where the official document lacked the inputs necessary to capture the experience of many, especially rural and peasant women, ILC’s report highlighted the continued socio-economic decline experienced by these women, owing to the state’s failure to implement laws protecting women’s land rights.

The ILC has reported back on how they did it, as part of its extensive library of resources on good practices. This is just one of the many ways the organisation promotes exchange of ideas, and inspiration across countries and continents.

For the full contribution analysis of ILC’s work in Colombia

Related Multimedia:
» Looking back at 2020: NES Colombia
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhAFjf2vkWZw

A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT ON WOMEN’S LAND RIGHTS
In June 2021, ILC members including Landesa, GLTN/UNHabitat, Oxfam, Huairou Commission, Nkuzi Development association and the Global Feminist Land Platform facilitated drafting of the Collective Women’s Land Rights Commitment that has been endorsed widely by global UN agencies, grassroots groups, the private sector and CSOs. This marks the start of a five-year process to achieve immediate and irreversible progress on gender equality and human rights for women and girls.

In Africa, ILC members have also demonstrated the capacity and influence to set the regional agenda. ILC was at the forefront working to prepare a women’s land rights agenda with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), whose members are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. IGAD member states approved a 10 year agenda for women’s land rights in July 2021.

This triennium, ILC joined the Stand For Her Land (54HL) Campaign Steering Committee, joining Landesa to mobilise financial resources to carry out the campaign in Bangladesh, Colombia, Senegal and Uganda.

29 https://d3g34vzr2q2kg.cloudfront.net/media/documents/ILC_Good_Practice_0177_Colombia_en.pdf
32 https://stand4herland.org
COLLECTIVE WOMEN’S LAND RIGHTS COMMITMENT TO THE GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM IN PARIS.

“As actors committed to achieving the SDGs and keen not to leave anyone behind, we will work together to secure land, housing, property (HLP), biodiversity and natural resource tenure rights and participatory land governance for 100 million rural, urban, grassroots, indigenous women and youth; and together, will partner to collectively advocate for recognition of these rights as a foundational condition for achieving gender equality, economic justice, adequate housing, climate action, land degradation neutrality, peace and stability. We are committed to empowering rural, urban, grassroots, indigenous, woman-led and community-based organisations living in poverty, and with land, housing and property insecurity; we recognise this requires us to share power and resources ourselves, as we ask others to do the same. We are committed to mobilise, partner and build synergies with other stakeholders towards development of the implementation plan and delivery of this commitment.”

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”.

“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.”

Winny Chepkemai, Women’s Land Rights Officer, Kenya Land Alliance

ILC WOMEN ARE MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

As a coalition with an international platform, we shine a spotlight on the women who work so tirelessly for their land and communities, to spread their powerful message. Here we profile some of the inspirational women who have partnered with ILC over the last three years.

WINNY CHEPKEMOI, KENYA LAND ALLIANCE

Winny is a young female activist working with ILC Member, the Kenya Land Alliance33. In her advocacy work, she faces the dual obstacle of overcoming preconceptions based on her age and gender.

“In 2019, we were training a council of elders on why they should embrace women’s land rights. I remember when we stepped into the meeting, they addressed my boss. I felt like I was not significant in the room. ‘Maybe her role is to get tea: to make us comfortable’. They were shocked when they heard that I was taking up the meeting. They said: she is not married; how can she talk about land rights?”

FELIA SIKUBWEZA, NES MALAWI

Felia is a farmer with a young family, who was trapped in an abusive marriage. Support from the Coalition of Women Farmers in Malawi (COWFA) gave her the courage to leave her situation.

Today, Felia is an active member of NES Malawi and is often called into traditional courts and district dispute resolution meetings to consult on land cases because of the vast knowledge she has acquired. Chiefs even engage her and the other participants to advocate for other women during dispute resolution cases on land if they feel that the victims cannot represent themselves.

Rural women feed the world, but can they get a seat at the table?

READ HERE35


https://www.kenyalandalliance.or.ke

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

- Commitment 1: Secure Tenure Rights
- Commitment 4: Equal Land Rights for Women
- Commitment 7: Inclusive Decision-Making
- Commitment 8: Transparent and Accountable Information
- Commitment 9: Effective Actions Against Land Grabbing

HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CHANGE
UNITING FOR LAND RIGHTS IN MALAWI

For the full contribution analysis of ILC's work in Malawi

CLICK HERE

RELATED MULTIMEDIA
- Looking back at 2020: NES Malawi
  https://youtu.be/lccBiMut1nU

YAHAYRA HERRERA, YORLING LÓPEZ AND BELKIS GONZÁLES, NICARAGUA

In the El Jícaro region of Nicaragua, many women have gained access to land thanks to a women-led land cooperative supported by NES Nicaragua and ILC member Trócaire. The cooperative offers credit to its members and prioritises investment in women to enable them to buy land, training them to be successful producers.

Yahayra Vásquez Herrera owns three-quarters of a block that she acquired through the cooperative in October 2018. “Now I feel happy. I feel calm because I have my land, knowing that it is mine. The other women say that now we are recognised, they invite us to meetings, we are taken into account in the community,” she says.

Yorling Velázquez López has seen her living conditions improve and now aims to acquire more land in the future. “My idea is to pay and get other credits to buy more land. I am investing in apples, corn, beans and coffee, in order to have more products to sell,” she says.

Belkis González adds: “There are things that I did not know which the workshops have taught me. It has helped our family, because what I learn I share with my husband, and between the two of us we have put it into practice in our yard and on the plot we bought.”

Women fighting for land in Nicaragua (in Spanish)

READ HERE

AIGUL AYDARBEKOVA, KYRGYZSTAN

Meet Aigul as she tells us about nomadic women in Kyrgyzstan and their role in restoring their land.

WATCH VIDEO

BEST PRACTICES

Women have to fight because of the culture, the tradition, the mindset, they have to struggle to translate their demands to the higher policy level.

READ HERE

38 https://lac.landcoalition.org/es/noticias/nicaragua_historias-de-mujeres-que-luchan-por-el-acceso-la-tierra/
39 https://twitter.com/landcoalition/status/1408349382933785617?s=20
YOUTH 2019 2020 2021

1 COUNTRY HAS CHANGED
1 PRACTICE TO BENEFIT YOUNG PEOPLE
AFRICA (1)
Malawi
NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

ILC’s Youth Leadership programme mentored 29 Fellows over the last 2 cohorts

Decisions about land use will impact upon generations to come. Yet young people, who will have to live with the consequences of those decisions, are often excluded from decision-making processes. The ILC is committed to encouraging rural youth in their communities and on a global scale to step into their power and challenge the status quo in their land rights struggles.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Supporting youth to make their voices heard can bring about lasting, long-term change.

ILC seeks to empower and harness the potential of youth to bring about transformation towards people-centred land governance, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to be the leaders of tomorrow.

The ILC’s Leadership Programme in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean is a scheme to encourage and develop emerging women and men leaders from ILC grassroots organisations. The programme aims to develop their skills to lead social change and take on leadership roles within their organisations and in the life and work of ILC. It also provides member organisations an opportunity to examine and renew their leadership methods. The programme also aims to help them become more resilient, effective and inclusive organisations.

A collective view of leadership, solidarity and gender justice are at the foundation of the programme, which consists of three learning dimensions—individual, organisational and networking leadership.

2019 was the first full year of recruitment to the scheme. By the end of the year it had enrolled 104 people (58% women) from 63 members and from 53 countries worldwide. With the onset of COVID-19, the programme moved online.

Read more about the programme42 and meet the 2021-2022 fellows43.

Our members under the Youth and Land Initiative in Asia share with us why access to land for rural youth needs to be secured in order to alleviate poverty and unemployment. When rural youth participate in decision-making roles, change can happen at the local and national levels. That is why a wide process of national consultations in Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, India and Cambodia were carried out obtaining key missed information on the situation of youth, their main challenges and demands, as well as their proposals, which is the base to the five position papers that will be launched before December.

LAC has also implemented a participatory process including members and stakeholders in building the strategy called “Youth leadership for land governance and natural resource management in Latin America and the Caribbean natural resource management” launched in July 2021. It will start with the virtual school on youth, land and territory between October 2021-March 2022.

BEST PRACTICES FROM OUR NETWORK:


40 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkaXc1KqsQI&list=PLCYUCMHaHqQ0NhzFXplKpdCGNOdU6_8d5
44 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXZKH019vkY
CHAPTER
COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS

34 PRACTICES CHANGED

9 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED
16 POLICIES TO SECURE COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS
AFRICA (10)
Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, Liberia, South Africa
LAC (2)
Argentina, Ecuador
EMENA (1)
Moldova
ASIA (2)
Nepal

16 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED
16 POLICIES TO SECURE COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS
AFRICA (17)
South Africa, Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Togo, Tanzania, Senegal
LAC (4)
Venezuela, Argentina, Belize
EMENA (1)
Moldova
ASIA (12)
Afghanistan, India, Mongolia, Nepal
Successful blocking of military training grounds on common land in Montenegro

Vast swaths of the world’s land—nearly five billion hectares—are unprotected and vulnerable to land grabs and destruction. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the ILC works for the full involvement of local communities in the ownership and management of this land so that it can be protected.

HOME ON THE RANGELANDS
SECURING LAND RIGHTS FOR THE PROTECTORS OF ONE OF EARTH’S MOST PRECIOUS ECOSYSTEMS

For centuries they have been the custodians of this land, but increasingly, pastoral communities are under pressure from climate change, land grabbing and urban expansion. In East Africa, rangelands are where stock herders and small-scale farmers exist alongside wildlife, yet they are seldom involved in the decisions about how to protect and manage this land.

In the last triennium, through the Participatory Rangelands Management Project (PRM), ILC has helped secure more than 246,773.4 hectares of rangelands in the region: 85,629 ha in Kenya and 161,144 ha in Tanzania.

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

- Participatory Rangelands Management Project secured more than 246,773.4 hectares of rangelands for pastoralists in Tanzania and Kenya
- Law changed in Kyrgyzstan gave more responsibility to pastoralist communities to restore their pasturlands with recognition that nomadic practices are key to countering degradation
- NES Cameroon developed code of conduct to increase women’s participation in decision making in relation to customary land management
- Successful blocking of military training grounds on common land in Montenegro

With representation at municipal and national level, the pastoralists of this region are now able to ensure that long-term plans take their needs and the unique demands of their territories into account. This was achieved through issuance of Customary Rights of Occupancy certificates where necessary, and through an enhanced presence in public and legal forums.

A key part of this initiative is to amplify the voice of women in the land management process, with a quota of at least 35% women on public bodies; in fact, the participation of women currently stands at 45 percent.

Pressure on land use has led to intercommunal violence in both Kenya and Tanzania. Through the forums and conflict resolution systems adopted, a 60 percent decrease in land related conflict has been reported.

ILC members the Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE, Kenya) and the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) have been leading the implementation of PRM since December 2017, supported by funding from the European Union.

CASE STUDY
FIGHTING AGAINST THE CLOCK TO RESTORE PASTURLANDS IN KYRGYZSTAN

Meet Aigul Aidarbekova. She is a generational pastoralist–her parents and grandparents were herders–in the Naryn region of central Kyrgyzstan. It’s a challenging lifestyle, made all the more difficult by the effects of the Climate Crisis.

In 2019, ILC member, Kyrgyz Jayity as part of the National Engagement Strategy in Kyrgyzstan, helped amend the law to give more responsibility to the communities to restore their pasturlands.

Together with the Ministry of Agriculture, members of the National Engagement Strategy in Kyrgyzstan pressed for the new law. This law, instead of blaming pastoralist communities for overgrazing, recognises that their nomadic practices and migratory patterns are key to countering degradation in the face of extreme climate events. The group also participates in the Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance, a thematic initiative of the ILC.

With the new law, things have also started to change for women and youth who traditionally have never been involved in decision making.

https://www.landcoalition.org/en/newsroom/home-on-the-range/
“Before, women did not pay any attention to the topic of the pastures, since we did what our men told us. Over the past years, we have had a good opportunity to express our viewpoint. We are invited to the meetings. We express our ideas. We talk about what we need in migration and we receive timely assistance,” says Aigul.

But mapping on the same piece of land by different actors often produced different and irreconcilable maps, leading to the disqualification of participatory mapping as a reliable tool for identifying community land rights and resources.

In certain cases, the National Institute for Cartography was not able to validate some land maps and the local communities were not able to claim their land rights based on the land maps.

As part of the NES in Cameroon, ILC member Centre pour l’Environnement et le Développement (CED) partnered with government departments, the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK), Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), community leaders and community members to develop a harmonised and generally accepted land mapping methodology. Find out how they did it READ HERE

For the full picture on how ILC members and partners are securing the rights of pastoralists across Central and South Asia, READ HERE

MAPPING RIGHTS AND WRONGS IN CAMEROON

In Cameroon, community-led conservation is gaining momentum as a response to the intensification of land and natural resources exploitation. Recent years have seen growing pressure on land from large infrastructure projects, mining, agro-industries, and logging.

The country has a dual system of land rights, with customary land rights recognised alongside registered land rights. However, protection for customary land rights is often weaker than it is for formal registration. As a result, community land has been exploited by external investors, with minimal or no benefit for the local community. NGOs have been supporting local community members to conduct participatory mapping of their community lands to enhance their protection.

For the full picture on how ILC members and partners are securing community land rights against dispossession, expropriation and eviction in Cameroon, READ HERE

ENGAGEMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT IN MALAWI

Despite a suite of new land laws to bring more democratised and gender-sensitive land transactions in Malawi, awareness and implementation of the laws remain a challenge.

The NES platform in Malawi, a consortium of partners, donors and community groups, initiated an engagement strategy with traditional leaders, who play a fundamental role in the management of land in rural areas. In parallel, it has promoted better understanding of the land laws through community meetings and workshops, becoming an important reference for the Government to align the implementation guidelines and procedures with the needs and issues faced by women, men and youth on the ground.

In order to raise awareness and improve the understanding of the new land laws among Malawian people, the NES has supported national radio and television programmes on the new land laws. By engaging students in rural communities, support was also offered for the formulation of plays and songs advocating for the promotion of the voice of women and youth in land issues.

It is indeed great that women are being recognized as having significant role in agriculture production.

A very positive example, it is important that participatory approaches are linked to official registration processes.

The customary courts used to be run by the traditional leaders themselves but this put them in conflict with the formal courts, which are from the Anglo-Saxon tradition. People have more faith in the traditional system, but of course the formal system remains stronger.

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For the full picture on how ILC members and partners are securing the rights of pastoralists across Central and South Asia, READ HERE

WATCH VIDEO ➔

48 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxY0GI7wRko
CASE STUDY
MY HUSBAND’S LAND

When Justine Epse Bel lost her husband, she also lost her land. As a woman, she had no inheritance rights over the land she called home. Like her, many other women - unmarried or widowed - in the village of Log-dikiti in Cameroon.

Land is crucial in Cameroon, as half the population live in rural areas and are highly dependent on land for their livelihoods and subsistence. Most land, however, is ruled by customary rights which tend to discriminate against women and youths.

In 2019, NES leader Ngoken Iris Flore saw the opportunity to change things by organising workshops to educate communities on equitable customary land management. After several community consultations and thanks to the active involvement of the community Kings, in March 2020 NES Cameroon developed a Code of Conduct on Equitable Customary Land Management for youth and women.

“In order to achieve a change in mentality, it was necessary to make stakeholders understand that women and youths are human beings and that justice is the basis of land management. The male participants in the workshops had to understand that those oppressed are members of their own families and that they play a central role in income generation.” - Ngoken Iris Flore

Since then, the code has been distributed to over 50 traditional authorities reaching more than 300 community members. Having a code of conduct has helped to resolve numerous disputes over land, giving women and young people a tool to ensure that their land rights are respected.

54. https://d3o3cb4w253x5q.cloudfront.net/media/documents/2020_3_nes_report_good_practices_malawi_en_web_1.pdf


LAND RIGHTS NOW IN MONTENEGRO

In December 2020, protesters and community activists successfully prevented the government of Montenegro from occupying traditional pasture land for military activities.

For 51 days, community members and activists braved snowy and sub-zero weather in a protest camp at the foot of Margita mountain, epicentre of an area designated for military training by the outgoing Montenegrin government. Camping within the site earmarked for the army, they successfully prevented the military from accessing their pastures.

Their aim was to maintain a blockade until a new government, more sympathetic to Sinjajevina’s plight, was installed. An unexpected delay in the transition triggered a game of cat and mouse between herders and the military, and made headlines in Montenegro and abroad.

On December 5, 2020, the new Minister of Defense, Olivera Injac, announced that there would be no military training and invited protesters to go home. She committed to examining all documentation related to Sinjajevina and to talk to the local residents as soon as the opportunity arises.

But locals and activists of the Save Sinjajevina association are only temporarily relieved. They are still calling for the government to scrap the decree establishing the military training ground, and to create a protected area that is co-designed and co-governed by local communities.

Find out more about the “Save Sinjajevina” campaign


This goes to show that a unified movement with knowledge about land laws and policies is a great weapon against unlawful forces possessed by those supposed to be law implementers.

54. Looking back at 2020: LRN Montenegro

https://youtu.be/_bKLy2aiV28

48
COMMUNITY LAND PROTECTION INITIATIVE

Together with Namati\(^56\), and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Community Land Protection Initiative is equipping ILC members with the practical skills to support communities to document and protect their indigenous and customary lands.

The initiative, offered to selected ILC members, provides a unique opportunity to engage in cutting-edge community land protection efforts and embark on a year-long peer-to-peer learning journey.

Each year, a select number of participants teach one another their most successful fieldwork strategies, collaborate on innovative solutions to complex problems, and pool their knowledge and expertise in ways that can then offer lessons to members across ILC’s network.

One example was knowledge sharing on how to work productively with the government\(^57\). This was the result of a collective exchange that took place during the second workshop of the Community Land Protection Learning Initiative, in July 2019. Contributing members included: RMI, JKPP, RRF, Observatorio Ciudadano, ICCA, IIED and NAMATI.

Today, the Community Land Protection Learning Initiative contributes to securing land rights and strengthening struggles in nine countries.

RELATED MULTIMEDIA

\(\Rightarrow\) https://youtu.be/57yIO9xQQKU

I have heard about this initiative and find it very interesting — in particular the horizontal learning. I would love to hear a bit more about it: which were the most interesting approaches that were presented by participants in the last cohort? To which extent do participants share and/or duplicate learnings in their countries? Will ILC continue to support this initiative?

BEST PRACTICES IN OUR NETWORK


\(\Rightarrow\) https://learn.landcoalition.org/en/good-practices/la-defensa-territorial-del-valle-de-%C3%ADntag-frente-al-extractivismo/


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\(^56\) https://namati.org

\(^57\) https://learn.landcoalition.org/en/manuals-toolkits/how-work-productively-government/

\(^58\) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57yIO9xQQKU
CHAPTER
LAND INEQUALITY

2019  2020  2021

1 COUNTRY HAS CHANGED THEIR 1 POLICY TO FIGHT LAND INEQUALITY
AFRICA (1)
Kenya

4 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED 4 PRACTICES TO FIGHT LAND INEQUALITY
LAC (2)
Argentina, Colombia

ASA (2)
Nepal, Cambodia

4 PRACTICES CHANGED
1 POLICIES CHANGED
Recent years have seen a growing recognition that inequality lies at the root of so many of the issues facing our planet. In land, the problems caused by inequality are stark. ILC’s groundbreaking research helps to make the case for reform and addresses this issue head-on.

UNEVEN GROUND REPORT
GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH, AND GROUNDS FOR CONCERN
In 2020, ILC released an unprecedented report into growing land inequality worldwide. The in-depth research proved that land inequality is significantly higher than previously recorded, with current data showing a 41 percent increase compared to traditional census data.

The report, Uneven Ground: land inequality at the heart of unequal societies, sheds new light on the scale and speed of growing inequality, and provides the most comprehensive picture currently available. The report was informed under a wide partnership led by the International Land Coalition, in close collaboration with Oxfam.

“In the framework of this project, a new way to measure land inequality was developed that goes beyond land size distribution captured through traditional agricultural censuses”, says Ward Anseeuw, co-author of the report and coordinator of the initiative.

Historically, methods to measure land inequality excluded vital pieces of information, such as the value of land, multiple ownership and landlessness, as well as the control a person or an entity has over those factors.

And the trend is upward. Global inequality experts blame the upward trend of land inequality partly on the increased interest from corporate and financial actors, such as investment funds, in agricultural land investments. As corporate and financial investments grow, ownership and control of land becomes more concentrated and increasingly opaque.

Today, the largest 1 percent of farms operate more than 70 percent of the world’s farmland and are integrated into the corporate food system, while over 80 percent are smallholdings of less than two hectares that are generally excluded from global food chains. This phenomenon has even reached European shores with less than 3 percent of farms now accounting for more than half of the farmed land in the EU.

If not addressed, and if the trend continues, increasing land inequality will have significant negative consequences for all societies, on economic and social development, on the environment and on democracy and peace. Yet the authors insist that land concentration is not inevitable.

The solutions, however, require a profound transformation of power relations and political, economic, social and legal norms. The report encourages, to name but a few, democratisation of land governance, a strengthening of land-related regulation, full transparency of land holdings, true recognition of minority rights, and finally government support towards equitable and sustainable agricultural production models.

The report gathered significant media coverage around the world, from publications such as Der Spiegel (Germany), La Repubblica (Italy), The Guardian (UK), the Bankok Post (Thailand), and the Delhi Post News (India). See the wide range of media: https://elink.io/p/landinequality-985a5b6
To keep the buzz going, in 2021, ILC Director Michael Taylor and Oxfam Executive Director, Gabriela Bucher put out a joint op-ed "5 ways we can address land inequality and women’s land rights".

Download the full report and additional resources, such as solution papers, data and case studies.

EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD

Based on the research of the Uneven Ground report, ILC has developed a campaign to raise awareness of land inequality and promote the multiple benefits to society and the environment of diversity in land ownership and use. Under the tagline Experts in Their Field the campaign celebrates small-to medium-scale farmers, land users and producers whose traditional knowledge, skills and custodianship of the land is in danger of being lost as land inequality increases.

Check out the campaign.

61 https://eslink.io/pt/landinequality-985a5b6
64 https://www.landcoalition.org/en/newsroom/true-experts-in-their-field/
CHAPTER
FAMILY FARMING AND FOOD SYSTEMS

14 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED 17 POLICIES FOR FAMILY FARMING AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

AFRICA (3)
Niger, South Africa

LAC (9)
Colombia, Mexico, Dominican Republic, LAC, Peru

EMENA (1)
NENA

ASIA (5)
Japan, Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal

18 PRACTICES CHANGED
17 POLICIES CHANGED

2019

2020

2021

14 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED 24 PRACTICES FOR RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS AND FIGHTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

AFRICA (3)
Cameroon

LAC (3)
Ecuador, Colombia

EMENA (6)
Albania, Kosovo, Moldova

ASIA (12)
Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan
The UN Decade of Family Farming, 2019-2028

When the UN General Assembly voted to recognise the Decade of Family Farming, it aimed to generate new political commitment to supporting family farmers. ILC members, including National Land Coalitions and intergovernmental members such as IFAD and FAO, are among those bringing awareness of these vital producers to the international stage. With ILC support, through 3 regional platforms, members are together advocating and working for the implementation of the Decade Action Plan. This rich collaboration between members and partners contributed to the approval of seven national plans under the UNDFF in the Philippines. Through their projects and programs, not only were these farmers able to till their awarded lots, but also, their children were skilled to pursue farming as essential source of income.

In our community, each family has its own portion of farms within the village. The allocation moves from generation to generation and is mostly run by women. When one of them passes on, the next one takes over. So it never used to be an individual having land – which is why it is a problem now, with land having a value. In the past, we would never sell land. It was unheard of for a family head to sell land because when it’s sold, the heritage is gone for good.

Great that also a case from the Global North is captured in this report: acknowledging that improved land governance isn’t just relevant in countries of the Global South but that it’s a global concern.

- In Germany, prices for agricultural land have been rising by 142% between 2006 and 2017 (in some regions by up to 300%). Land inequality is rising and there are indications that the right to equal access to land for men and women is not really reflected in actual land ownership.

In my community, there are many farming families who are striving so hard to gain the rights of their farm lots. This has been an issue for a long time now. We are very lucky to be supported by concerned NGOs that is connected with ILC in the Philippines. Through their projects and programs, not only were these farmers able to till their awarded lots, but also, their children were skilled to pursue farming as essential source of income.

I admire UN General Assembly for voting to recognise the Decade of Family Farming. And also appreciate the joint efforts of different organizations and groups that contributed greatly in the approval of seven national plans under UNDFF. As an agriculture advocate, I look forward to 10 great and fruitful years.

Did you thank your local farmer today? In these uncertain times, family farmers and smallholders are working tirelessly to keep food systems supplied with healthy, sustainable produce. Meet some of them in this video.

Between 70-80 percent of world farmland consists of family farms, producing more than 70 percent of the world’s food. Strong small-scale farming systems are vital to humanity’s food security. Yet many family farmers and small-scale producers live in, or on the edge of, poverty. Land rights can be the key to securing better livelihoods for them and their families, and to keep their knowledge and custodianship of the land at the heart of our food systems, for the health of humanity and the planet.

The Decade is for all those working and promoting family farming in the world. It is not the property of any group of organisations alone. There are national committees and farmers’ organisations on the ground, and they have their agendas and priorities. The Decade is a tool to promote these objectives. What we have done is create an opportunity, but it is a first step and now is when the hard work starts. Now we need to make these 10 years into a positive change for family farmers.”

Austin Ortiz, World Rural Forum

Find out more at the Decade’s dedicated website.

From Abandoned Land to Urban Farming

In Italy, as in many parts of the world, pressure on agricultural land from real-estate development and industry is high. One organisation bucking the trend is Lentamente Cooperativa Agricola®, a social farming cooperative and ILC member that has been giving new life to abandoned public land in the area through social farming activities with the local community.

Read the full photo story.

“Land owners often prefer to keep their land, even if they don’t use it in any way, just because they are waiting for someone to buy it and build a parking lot or apartment blocks. The potential financial return is more important,” says Donato De Marco, founder of Lentamente. “My hope is that what we are doing will still have a long term impact, even though it might end at some point. There are so many different things that could be done on unused public land, I wish the city would see it.”

Download our Good Practice report on Social Farming for Social Inclusion in Italy®.

66 https://www.familyfarmingcampaign.org/en/
67 https://lentamente.wixsite.com/lentamentecoop
68 https://www.landcoalition.org/en/newsroom/from-abandoned-land-to-urban-farming/
KEEPING LAND RIGHTS CENTRAL TO BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Land is one of the core elements of food systems from its production to waste management. ILC made a number of efforts to make sure that adequate focus is given to the centrality of land in building future sustainable food systems in the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Together with a group of co-conveners, ILC conducted two regional preparatory meetings to raise awareness of the Summit, and why land should be one of the central themes in the Summit’s discussions.

ILC presented five solutions to the Summit:

- **A human rights approach**
  Building sustainable food systems starts with respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of people who live on and from the land.

- **Rebalance power**
  Tackle discriminatory cultural norms and practices which hinder women’s equal access to and control over land, and their decision making over local food systems.

- **Transparency and accountability**
  Avoid ‘farming without farmers’ and the corporatisation of agriculture by increasing transparency and accountability of land investments, ensuring that the social and environmental value of land is prioritised.

- **Protect access to commons**
  As part of securing food systems of local communities, including the recognition of pastoralists as food producers.

- **Recognise indigenous rights**
  Recognise indigenous peoples’ territories and customary land governance systems, as well as their contribution to mitigate climate change, and restore ecosystems.

ILC director Mike Taylor is a champion of the UN Food System Summit, a recognition of the entire ILC network for its ongoing work on land and food systems. ILC made efforts to assure that centrality of land is part and parcel of the priorities of the Summit, its outcomes and the related ongoing work, including developing a joint op-ed with the Summit’s Special Envoy, Dr. Agnes Kalibata “land rights for small producers: a critical solution to the world’s food systems”.

Together with our co-convenors, we held three regional independent dialogues, engaging a total of 280 land rights experts from our respective networks. The purpose was to collect ideas for potential game-changing and systemic solutions to bring to the UN Food Systems Summit.

With this in mind ILC continues to work with the action track IV of the summit: Advance Equitable Livelihoods, and officially registered a commitment with the Summit to continue to work on land issues in building sustainable food systems.

RELATED MULTIMEDIA

**PARTNERSHIP IN PALESTINE**

ILC member Sharaka, meaning ‘partnership’ in Arabic, is a Palestinian volunteer-run initiative that aims to support Palestinian farmers by promoting local seasonal and Palestinian produce and goods and by linking farmers and consumers directly.

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST ABOUT SHARAKA’S WORK

BEST PRACTICES FROM OUR NETWORK

- [cultivar-las-tierras-abandonadas-para-evitar-el-acaparamiento-de-reCURSOS-naturales/](https://learn.landcoalition.org/en/good-practices/cultivar-las-tierras-abandonadas-para-evitar-el-acaparamiento-de-recursos-naturales/)

Like ILC, Welthungerhilfe also decided to be part of the summit process (and to engage as one of the co-conveners of the independent regional dialogues). However, it should be acknowledged that this was a difficult decision given that various civil society partners – and probably also numerous ILC members – decided to stay out of the formal summit process.

We believe that it was good for ILC to get and to remain involved in the Summit process. However, we would encourage ILC to address such conflicts of interest within its membership even more openly.

I totally agree that these five solutions should be identified to keep land rights issues aligned with creating sustainable food systems.

Indeed an important process, I was happy to participate; up to us all now to ensure appropriate follow-up!

Sharing good practices among members from different ILC regions and providing funding in exchange for know-how is a laudable and beneficial strategy in a bottom-up approach.

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70 [https://news.trust.org/item/20210714115228-ymwxo](https://news.trust.org/item/20210714115228-ymwxo)


ECOSYSTEMS AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

CHAPTER 2019 2020 2021

24 PRACTICES CHANGED
12 POLICIES CHANGED

7 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED 12 POLICIES FOR RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS AND FIGHTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS
AFRICA (2)
Cameroon, Tanzania
EMENA (3)
Albania, Moldova
ASIA (7)
Bangladesh, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan

14 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED 24 PRACTICES FOR RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS AND FIGHTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS
AFRICA (3)
Cameroon
LAC (3)
Ecuador, Colombia
EMENA (6)
Albania, Kosovo, Moldova
ASIA (12)
Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan
NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

- Creation of water roundtables in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Venezuela to facilitate dialogue between governments and CSOs and push for the construction of public cisterns.
- Plataforma Semiaridos contributed to successfully guarantee greater access to water to 2500 peasant families and 5000 indigenous families in the Chaco region.
- New national forest law decentralised decision making powers over forest rights in Albania.
- ILC became official partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, providing a platform to promote the centrality of land rights for climate action.

CASE STUDY

SEMIÁRIDOS

In Latin America, semiarid regions are ecosystems where rainfall is less than the water lost by evaporation, with heavily marked wet and dry seasonal cycles and large temperature variations. These regions—in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, the north-east of Brazil, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, and Venezuela—harbour great cultural biodiversity, due to a wealth of natural resources and the presence of indigenous peoples and rural communities. The semiarid regions in which the ILC initiative, Semiaridos works, cover 160 million hectares and 52 million people.

In Argentina, the Semiáridos initiative was crucial for designing the Law on Water Access and Management, which was presented to the Salta Government during the Water Forum in November 2019, and adopted a month later. The law guarantees greater access to water to 2,500 peasant families and 5,000 indigenous families in the semiarid Chaco province. The CBI has additionally contributed to the development of 2,000 cisterns which have helped both rural communities and indigenous peoples in the Chaco access clear, running water for themselves and their livestock.

Lucia, her daughter Ivana, and Nestor are among these people. Find out more about them, their story and the work of ILC members to bring water to their communities.

Learn more on the Semiaridos Platform’s dedicated website and our contribution analysis.

CASE STUDY

Semiáridos

The Climate Crisis is the gravest threat facing the planet. Its consequences will be felt most by the most vulnerable: rural dwellers, small-scale producers, people who live in or close to poverty, and marginalised communities. Yet these groups — ILC’s core constituents — are already developing many skills and practices which the wider global community should support and learn from, in terms of emissions reduction, adaptation to climate change, and mitigation of its effects.

Here we profile some of the projects which are building resilience and driving change, protecting ecosystems, and those whose livelihoods depend upon them.

Currently, climate change is a serious problem for the planet and ecosystems, but it is only the consequence of no less serious practices that must be addressed in order to reduce the phenomenon and save the planet, humans, wildlife and flora. For years the extractive overexploitation and the squandering of resources, ended up impacting planet Earth by polluting it and causing the scarcity of resources and the disappearance of species and the modification of the lifestyles of local residents. In dispossessing communities in the name of globalization, industrialisation and gain, states have made a deadly choice.

Bangladesh is one of the lowest riparian countries in the world, and every year the symptoms are more evident. This is a huge issue: drought, flash floods, salinity, these all affect food production, security and livelihood.

Listening to users of land and resources is a healthy and sustainable approach, and securing and guaranteeing the rights of communities is beneficial for ecosystems and biodiversity because their vision is sustainable and lasts.

Rural dwellers, small-scale producers, people who live in or close to poverty, and marginalised communities all play a role in implementing solutions and building a more sustainable world is essential and undervalued.

I am glad that this is being featured and considered in addressing agriculture and land related issues.

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Watching the video "73 Watch Video" on YouTube is highly recommended.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofe3FBTh1Vg&list=PLCYUCMHaHqQ36tcylELk5w_0ECz27fows&index=2

https://www.semiaridos.org/en/

Albania’s forests are an important national resource, but centralised control over many decades failed to protect them. A study by the National Federation of Communal Forests and Pastures of Albania (NFCCPA) shows that forest renewal is 2-3 times higher when the forest is administered by farmers and local forest users rather than included in common areas or administered by local government. Through the National Engagement Strategy in Albania, ILC members and its partners have played a key role in a national Forestry Reform Process, conducting local level consultations that, in turn, informed national dialogue and decision making. An important milestone was the passing of a new national Forest Law in 2020 after many years of work by the NES with parliamentarians and government ministries. The law is having a profound effect on farmers, women, and all forest users, decentralising decision making powers and control over forest rights to local municipalities. Crucially, the law allows legal use of forests by communities, permitting them to sell non-timber forest products which were previously illegal.

**CASE STUDY**

**FORESTS AND LIVELIHOODS IN ALBANIA**

Florian Torba is a farmer and forest user in the Peshkopi region of north-eastern Albania. More than 50 percent of the country is pasture land or forest, but using that land according to sustainable practices is not always straightforward. Like so many farmers, Florian depends on the forest for food, fodder and fuel. But a lack of basic infrastructure, like roads and irrigation, hampers development. NES Albania is helping to build trust and partnerships between government and civil society to set priorities and implement solutions to their country’s most difficult land-related issues. It’s also offering technical support to farmers like Florian and neighboring communities to learn how to more effectively plant seedlings, including for acacia and nut trees, medicinal plants, and non-timber forest products, as well as increase the bee population of the area. Together with the municipalities, the local community and the support of GEF Albania, 7000 poplar seedlings were planted close to the main river bank of Devoll, to protect it from erosion and flooding.

As a result of these partnerships—including with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment—NES Albania has been able to contribute to the drafting of a new law to decentralise decision making powers over forest rights to local municipalities, which will in turn allow them to come to solutions and agreements with farmers directly. It would also allow farmers like Florian to sell the non-timber forest products.

Find out more about Florian’s story and the work of NES Albania.

**HEALING THE PLANET BY SECURING LAND RIGHTS: THE UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**

In 2021, ILC partnered with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to bring our collective perspective on land rights to this campaign run by ILC members UNEP and FAO. The decade will run until 2030, just in time for the deadline of the Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. As a supporting partner, ILC is committed to ensuring that the voices of local communities and indigenous peoples are given a platform to share with the world their community-led restoration initiatives, such as agro-ecological practices, and community-led forest and rangelands management. More often than not, these sustainable practices are not recognised and hardly taken into account in policy and regulation.

Globally, the planet continues to lose forest cover roughly the size of the United Kingdom each year. Yet, across the globe, forests that have been given over to the custodianship of local communities see not only increased economic opportunities, but better protection.

Securing the land rights of these groups is crucial to restoring ecosystems. The active involvement of ILC in the decade-long campaign will ensure that these issues are put front and centre.

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77 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WvYOjEtXxs
79 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2qYtwbZts&list=PLCY5CMMnHQQ3NszjU6l5w_BECZ7faw&index=4
80 https://www.decadeonrestoration.org
CHAPTER
PEOPLE’S DATA AND PARTNERSHIPS

9 PRACTICES CHANGED

9 COUNTRIES HAVE CHANGED 9 PRACTICES FOR PEOPLE CENTERED DATA

AFRICA (2)
Senegal, Kenya

LAC (6)
Guatemala, Nicaragua, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Bolivia

ASIA (1)
Kazakhstan
Making sustainable decisions means having access to high-quality information. That applies whether at the global, intergovernmental level, or in the local community. Whether it is knowing who owns or controls land, or how to tackle climate change, only through data can people be confident that they are doing the right thing. However, too often those who live on and from the land are excluded from decisions about their land by those in power.

ILC BELIEVES IN DEMOCRATISING DATA. In the hands of land-users and citizens, data can be a powerful tool that has the potential of shifting those power imbalances — as our Uneven Ground report demonstrates. Across the globe, ILC members are collecting and managing “people-centred” data, according to their own priorities. ILC is assisting in the production of ‘Shadow Reports’ which help hold governments accountable to their own commitments, especially the SDGs.

By doing so, they are able to show the complex realities of land governance on the ground, provide information they need to advocate for their rights, while holding governments accountable to the promises they make.

With OVER 200 MEMBER AND OVER 500 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS COMING TOGETHER IN 77 NATIONAL AND THEMATIC PLATFORMS, ILC supports these initiatives by providing tools and training to generate and use people-centred data. These initiatives are participatory, consultative and respond to the demands of members.

For more on our Uneven Ground report, which analyses data harvested from all around the globe to reveal the stark and growing inequalities in land, see page 52, “Land Inequality”.

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

- LANDEX global index was developed to help democratise data and help keep governments and businesses accountable
- The Nepalese government expressed their interest in further developing LANDEX as a robust tool for data collection
- SDG Land Momentum Group exposed that only seven out of 47 countries reported on SDG land-related targets at the 2020 High Level Political Forum
- Land Collaborative initiated the first learning cycle on private sector engagement

LANDEX

LANDEX is a global land index that puts people at the centre of land data, democratising land monitoring and building a data ecosystem where all voices can be heard, built in consultation with members and strategic partners of ILC. Based on common indicators and methodologies, LANDEX gives priority to people-centred data, giving a platform to the individuals and communities often absent in official numbers. Initiated in all NES countries, the full index has presently been used in countries as diverse as Colombia, Senegal, Peru, Chile, Mongolia, Bangladesh and South Africa.

Ten additional countries have carried out partial implementation: Cambodia, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.

A joint defender data dataset (10C) is being generated in five six countries: Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico and the Philippines. While six countries are using LANDEX data to monitor the SDGs through parallel reports: Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras, Nepal, Peru and Senegal.

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.

LANDEX IN NEPAL

Interview with Mr Hem Raj Regmi, Deputy Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics

“The statistical system in Nepal is very decentralised,” says Mr Hem Raj Regmi, Deputy Director of Nepal’s Central Bureau of Statistics. “Due to limited resources and finance we are not always able to produce all the data that are required by the government, by civil society and international organisations. This is particularly the case with meeting our obligations to report the SDGs (UN Sustainable Development Goals). So we have formed partnerships with government ministries, the Central Bank, the UN, and international NGOs wherever we could, to source specific data.”

ILC’s land index tool, LANDEX, has been a key component in that strategy, helping the Central Bureau of Statistics identify where they have weak or insufficient data. When it comes to land rights and how this affects stakeholders — whether male, female, poor people, or landless — this is very limited data for us. How many are landless? How many have less than one acre, how many farmers are raising livestock, poultry etc? These are the sort of questions LANDEX can answer.”
“LANDex is different to other agencies,” explains Mr Regmi. “The Ministries of Health or Land Management, for example, produce data from official statistics, sourced from their own information management system. Universities and academic researchers tend to produce small scale, qualitative research. LANDex is a mixed model approach: they do quantitative and qualitative research. This mixed model brings data from the community and official national statistics, alongside data from groups like the Landless Peoples’ Association, combining them in a meaningful way to help inform policy.”

LANDex is already having an impact on how land is used and managed in Nepal (see the Human Rights section for more). And Mr Regmi sees more potential for the data LANDex provides creating more transformational change.

“Land is a very important issue here in Nepal,” he says. “It is the main source of income, and how people consider themselves secure. Recently the ministry has completed the digitisation of land records, which can tell us how much land is owned by women, for example. The LANDex partners are also advocating land rights and that gives us possibilities to distribute the land and make a proper distribution.”

LANDex is now working with the Central Bureau of Statistics on the rollout of the 2021 Nepal Agriculture Census, delayed because of COVID. This 10-yearly assessment collects information on land, crops, forestry and livestock, and supplies essential information about tenure, land use, and climatic events. All of this will go on to inform long-term policy decisions about economic, social and infrastructure investment.

LANDex in Senegal
Measuring progress toward the SDGs

In Senegal, LANDex was used by NES Senegal to collate and analyse data in measuring the country’s progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. While the report card showed that in many areas, more needed to be done, this was one of the first times that land and land governance have been included in global monitoring frameworks. The LANDex data confirms important advancements towards Agenda 2030 in Senegal, noting relatively high levels of perceived tenure security and gains in the legal and institutional frameworks providing for secure land tenure. Women’s control over land in Senegal remains limited, as does their effective enjoyment of the laws that provide for their equal rights. State support for family farmers is deemed insufficient, affecting their ability to contribute to a resilient food system.

Access to land information is relatively good, but corruption in the land sector persists. Existing platforms for dialogue on land provide an important space for the achievement of the SDGs but could benefit from more meaningful participation from women and other target groups.

LANDMARK
THE GLOBAL PLATFORM OF INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY LANDS

LandMark, of which ILC is a leading partner, is the first online, interactive global platform to provide maps and other critical information on lands that are collectively held and used by indigenous peoples and local communities. LandMark is designed to make their land, territories, and claims visible. This subsequently protects their land rights and secures tenure over their lands. It displays georeferenced information on collectively-held and used lands worldwide. It provides several categories of data to show the land tenure situation, as well as potential pressures on indigenous peoples and communities lands, changes in land cover over time, and their contributions to protecting the environment.

LandMark lead researcher Ward Anseeuw explains the unique LandMark platform.

As of today, indigenous and community land maps on LandMark cover 12.4% of the world’s land, out of an estimated 50% or more that is held by indigenous peoples and communities globally.

READ THE REPORT HERE

WATCH VIDEO

VISIT THE MAP AND EXPERIENCE LANDMARK

82 https://d3o3cb4w253x5q.cloudfront.net/media/documents/landex_country_progress_report_senegal_stripped.pdf
83 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0Zi_4gnRfY
84 http://www.landmarkmap.org
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. Over the past three years, ILC has made big strides in building strategic global partnerships to widen action on key areas in which we seek to make a difference.

SDG LAND MOMENTUM GROUP

ILC is the secretariat to the SDG Land Momentum Group. This is a partnership of 13 international organisations that monitors progress made towards the land targets of the SDGs, and advocates for their effective implementation. The group has worked to ensure that land rights are in focus in the SDG accountability mechanisms, such as the High Level Political Forum.

In 2020 the group conducted research on the 2020 SDG reporting countries to examine to what extent countries report on the land targets. The research exposed that only seven out of 47 countries reported on SDG land-related targets at the 2020 High Level Political Forum.

This is a spin off from the work the group implemented to encourage both state and non-state parties to report on progress on the land targets based on a methodology developed by the group. It conducted a number of training programmes for both government and non-governmental organisations to encourage reporting. Out of this training, four parallel national reports to measure progress have been compiled in 2020 (Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras, Peru) and an additional seven in 2021 (Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Colombia, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone).

LAND COLLABORATIVE

Land Collaborative is a partnership that brings together supporters of National Engagement Strategies. It brings together land governance change makers in a global community of practice that stimulates innovation and aspires to equip national coalitions with the tools, capacities and processes to drive real systems changes for people-centred land governance.

The partners—including Welthungerhilfe, FAO, and the Mekong Region Land Governance Program—together support over 40 national coalitions. Land Collaborative facilitates exchange and learning across these countries to equip national coalitions to be transformative.

Glad to know that there are international organisations collaborating and working together in a common goal.

Community leaders should be put at the forefront as lobbyists - both directly and indirectly. We can use our structures and the powers that we have to bring our community's issues to the global stage.

Berins Komba Lebbie, National Coordinator of the Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP) Land for Life Sierra Leone, participated in Land Collaborative’s first learning cycle on private sector engagement for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI):

“This cycle has enabled me now to actually come closer this negotiation context with private sector investments than ever before; also, what is notable is learning that the private sector is motivated by some factors and indicators that other actors, especially those in CSO, need to learn about”.

By the end of the learning cycle, which is facilitated by The Natural Resources Institute of Greenwich University, multi-stakeholder and multi-actor platforms in 12 countries (6 in Africa and 6 in Asia) were equipped to effectively engage with the private sector to promote Responsible Agricultural Investment.

ILC relies on a number of core donors funding its strategy. On top ILC receives resources for initiatives that are particularly successful, in case those funds cannot go to its members directly. The donor community behind ILC got stable over the current 2016-21 strategy, though COVID outbreak has changed priorities globally and for some ILC donors.

WHO FUNDED ILC IN 2019-21?

The past triennium came with THREE BIG ASKS on ILC. We were requested to:

- Support regionalization but stay agile by keeping indirect costs low.
  Indirect costs remained consistent between this triennium and the last, at 5%

- Increase core funding over earmarked funding
  Core funding reached 82%, up from 63% in the previous triennium

- Act as catalyst for leveraged funds mobilized directly by ILC partnerships
  Leveraged funding reached 83%, up from 32% in the previous triennium
TARGET VS ACTUAL (MILLION USD)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Leverage</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
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<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.4</td>
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</table>

* Targets revised downwards (original targets at 33 million USD) in May 2020 by Special Council session. Leveraged funding accounts both for funding raised at level of platform or via Secretariat with 100% earmarking to a specific platform. Figures based on data available as of Oct 2021.