

# Undeterred by COVID-19

In the defense of people-centred land governance in Africa

Annual Report 2020

INTERNATIONAL  
**LAND**  
COALITION | AFRICA  
AFRIQUE

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# Acronyms

<b>ANC</b>	African National Congress	<b>ILC Africa</b>	International Land Coalition in Africa
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission	<b>KLA</b>	Kenya Land Alliance
<b>AU</b>	African Union	<b>KWCA</b>	Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
<b>CBI</b>	Commitment Based Initiative	<b>LANDex</b>	Global Land Governance Index
<b>CED</b>	Centre for Development and the Environment	<b>LED</b>	Land and Environmental Defenders
<b>COMAID</b>	Community Assistance in Development	<b>LRA</b>	Land Rights Act
<b>COMINSUD</b>	Community Initiative for Sustainable Development	<b>MAP</b>	Multi-stakeholder Platform
<b>CONAREF</b>	National Commission for Tenure Reform	<b>MINDCAF</b>	Ministry of State Property and Land Tenure of Cameroon
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona virus Disease 2019	<b>NES</b>	National Engagement Strategies
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation	<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organisation
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>PRM</b>	Participatory Rangelands Management
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States	<b>RECONCILE</b>	Research Conflict Institute
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States	<b>RECs</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>GLTN</b>	Global Land Tool Network	<b>RCU</b>	Regional Coordination Unit
<b>ICRAF</b>	World Agroforestry	<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	<b>SIF</b>	Solidarity of Stakeholders on Land
<b>ILC</b>	International Land Coalition	<b>SRMP</b>	Science, Research and Monitoring Program
		<b>TNRF</b>	Tanzania Natural Resource Forum
		<b>VGGT</b>	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security





# Introduction

In 2020, despite COVID-19 lockdowns and the regression of land rights due to social distancing, ILC Africa's members displayed courage in advancing laws and adjusting policies to reinstate people at the centre of land governance. The National Engagement Strategies (NES) and Commitment Based Initiatives (CBIs) used digital platforms to voice concerns about women's land rights before loss of financial autonomy; they advanced laws and adjusted policies in different – and difficult – parts of the continent; and they gave a louder voice to youth about land governance, opening doors to new opportunities for land-related employment.

Before the Ogiek, Sengwer and Pygmy indigenous communities in East and Central Africa were evicted from their homes in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, ILC Africa mobilized its members and liaised with land rights defenders to advocate in favour of these vulnerable communities. In doing so, some ILC Africa members have put their lives at risk protecting indigenous populations.

Defying the fluctuating rate of COVID-19 infection in Africa's urban areas, ILC Africa strengthened

the capacity of its members in various countries by using LANDex, a global monitoring system dedicated to democratizing land data, to document COVID-related repression, violence and potential reprisals against land defenders.

Amidst the lockdown, ILC Africa members found time to pilot Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) initiative and pursued landscape mapping of grazing areas, refining the PRM approach in each local context. ILC Africa members trained government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and communities on rangeland rehabilitation, established communal registration of associations, and undertook multi-stakeholder dialogues.

As the continent learns to live with COVID-19 post-2020, ILC Africa members continue to push for a more inclusive path to re-building Africa's economies – one that emphasizes responsible investments, using land rights to address climate change, sustainable use of natural resources, respect for human rights, and redress of systemic inequality.





# The regional coordinator's message

Despite the plague of COVID-19, ILC Africa influenced policies and practices in African countries as governments imposed lockdown measures that impacted the advancement of land tenure rights and policies for economic recovery in the time of the pandemic.

Through an innovative Africa Land Forum 2020, which engaged over 500 direct participants and over 1,000 live streaming on Facebook, ILC Africa mobilized the AUC and IGAD to reflect on how to strengthen the implementation of AU's Agenda 2063 with effective land governance. The Forum brought together the RECs (IGAD, ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC) to assess how the continent can better undertake land reforms at national and community levels, and prioritise the allocation of resources to land policy development and implementation. ILC Africa's members hope that these initiatives and processes, supported and driven with a multi-stakeholder approach, can create further opportunities to connect, mobilise and influence the peoples of the continent toward secure and equal land tenure rights, for a prosperous Africa.

In the year 2020, ILC Africa also adopted a digital approach towards supporting land rights in Africa. Having witnessed lockdowns and remote work, like the rest of the globe, ILC Africa used digital platforms to execute excellent runs of regional



and country-specific programs. These consistently brought together many important NES members and partners, including governments and IGOS. This is a demonstration of the growing convening power of the region, and of its adaptation capacity.

To protect the rights of land and environmental defenders in emergencies, ILC Africa continued to support its Land and Environmental Defenders' Fund in 2020. This report discusses how the Fund has been beneficial to individual and group defenders, and other measures the platform has put in place to support land rights.

Finally, find in this report how ILC Africa promoted family farming and advanced the rights of Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists. It equally shares how ILC Africa has helped the poor secure grabbed lands and the strategies it has put in place to build partnerships and fundraise for transformative actions in the continent.



# ILC Africa in Numbers

## Maximizing our Contribution to the SDGs

ILC Africa's work with poor rural people thriving on weak or inexistent tenure system in sub-Saharan Africa is indispensable for ending poverty and achieving zero hunger (SDGs 1 and 2).

Our work cuts across other key issues that advance the SDGs – such as women's access to land and gender equality (SDGs 1, 2 & 5), addressing land grabbing and reduced inequalities (SDGs 1, 2 & 10), land and climate action (SDG 13), environmental sustainability (SDG 15) and land governance and partnerships (SDG 17). We are reaching more rural women and youth in our daily struggles for people-centred land governance.

## Outreach of ILC Africa activities



**3** Practices shaped



**9** Policies changed



**1** Regulation affected



**46.6%**  
of the people reached are women



**32.2%**  
Increase on youth involvement facilitated



**151** Non-ILC member organisations reached



**58** Knowledge products disseminated



**45** Trainings conducted



**30** Lobbying/Advocacy succeeded



**100,000**  
People reached (est.)



**10,049**  
Households impacted



# Showing the impact of ILC Africa's work

In 2020, ILC Africa pursued its goal on eight Commitments—through which its members jointly realise the goal of people-centred land governance—showing significant impact on ILC Africa platforms and project beneficiaries in terms of legal frameworks, gender equality, resilience, and responsible investments.

As a result of Africa's work through members, an estimated total of **100,000** direct beneficiaries were reached, resulting in:

1. **Increase** in women participation in ILC Africa processes from **32.6%** in 2019 to **46.6%** in 2020
2. **Increase** in youth voices in ILC Africa platforms from **10%** in 2019 to **32.2%** in 2020
3. **9** policies and 3 practices changed and 1 regulation influenced
4. **30** Lobbying and Advocacy initiatives succeeded

## Commitment distribution

This is how much our actions contributed to the various commitments



**20%**

SECURE TENURE RIGHTS



**18%**

INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING



**14%**

EQUAL LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN



**11%**

STRONG SMALL-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS



**9%**

TRANSPARENT AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION



**9%**

EFFECTIVE ACTIONS AGAINST LAND GRABBING



**7%**

SECURE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



**5%**

DIVERSE TENURE SYSTEMS



**5%**

LOCALLY-MANAGED ECOSYSTEMS



**2%**

PROTECTED LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS



## Country Strategies and Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs)

National Engagement Strategies (NES) are multi-year strategies at the country level. They are a collaboration between multiple land actors committed to fostering partnerships that shape land governance and advance stability and prosperity. NES processes and their platforms are led by national organisations, which include both ILC members and non-members. Through these platforms, land actors such as grassroots groups, civil society organisations (CSOs), intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), research centres, and the government come together to formulate country strategies and multi-year action plans to address that country's land-related priorities. The establishment of a national multi-stakeholder platform accelerates the likelihood of results, increases efficiency and efficacy of action, and provides a constructive space for action where diverse perspectives can be coordinated.

Country strategies are at the heart of ILC's work in Africa and this year all 10 ILC-supported NES in Africa became more diverse and integrated. For example, women make up about 35% of steering committees of national platforms, while the number of CSOs, government agencies and ministries joining national strategies have increased considerably in some countries. Community-based organisations are also incorporated, as the NES approach further decentralises to remote areas. A new frontier of diversity in 2020 was that of engaging the private sector. Over 100 companies were included across, Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa.



## HIGHLIGHTS

# Changing the Status Quo: Advancing Laws, Adjusting Policies

Countries: Liberia, Togo, South Africa, Cameroon, Kenya, DRC, Madagascar

As the distribution of land in Africa often remains trapped in social and customary systems, ILC Africa's members pushed the boundaries of laws and policies regulating access to land in their countries. They took steps to advance these laws and improve current policies for better land tenure security, mostly of the rural poor.

In Liberia, the Land Rights Act (LRA) of 2018 brought about a fundamental change to the land regime. In a dual land tenure system, land is under a customary system which has no secure tenure rights as well as under a statutory system which has secure tenure, granting rights to holders of land titles. Merging these two systems led to the delineation of different categories of land ownership such as government land, private land, customary land, and public land. NES members in Liberia working with the CSO "Working Group on Land Rights Reform", contributed to the development of two key regulations required to facilitate the implementation of the LRA: Customary Land Rights Regulation and the Regulations on Tribal Certificates.

In Togo, three decrees related to the Land Code were adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2020. The first regulates the illegal occupation of public areas of the State; the second specifies the modalities of development for rural agricultural land; and the third simplifies the formalities for obtaining a land title. The rest of the 15 decrees not adopted were submitted to an expert for amendment.

In South Africa the Cabinet adopted 60 out of 73 recommendations from the Presidential Panel Report on Land Reform and Agriculture, which was commissioned following the ANC resolution to expropriate land without compensation. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is now obliged to implement the recommendations and report to the Cabinet on the progress. Members of LandNNES (a national platform in South Africa) provided significant inputs during this process and influenced the Panel with many proposals in the final recommendations, including those on a new Land Administration Framework.

In the DRC and Madagascar, CSOs, including members of ILC's Commitment Based Initiative (CBI) 10, mobilized for the establishment of laws to protect human rights defenders. In the DRC, this led to the edict of 30 November 2019 protecting human rights defenders in the province of North Kivu. Another edict, specific to land rights defenders, is being prepared in the Equateur Province of the DRC. In Madagascar, members of CBI 10 helped mobilize civil society to ensure that the 2018 bill on the protection of human rights defenders will be passed by the National Assembly.

NES DRC and CONAREF were involved in consultations with members of the country's population to make sure the upcoming Land Policy – of which the validation is expected in early 2021 – responds to the real concerns of local communities and rural populations, as well as



providing innovations essential for rural land management involving the participation of local communities.

In 2019, NES Cameroon and MINDCAF adopted a roadmap aimed at advancing the recognition of customary and community tenures during reforms of land laws and policies in Africa. The roadmap also aimed at improving land governance in Cameroon in accordance with the AU Agenda 2063 and the Frameworks and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa. This resulted in increased information sharing on land grabbing hot spots and allowed the Cameroonian media to report land information in real time to several actors, making the NES Cameroon-MINDCAF collaboration a space for the dissemination of land data. Ultimately, this led to decisions taken by the Minister for State Property, Survey and Land Tenure (MINDCAF) between March and June 2020 to stop land-grabbing attempts through fraudulent registrations related to the government in the Departments of Lékié, Vina, Dja-et-Lobo.

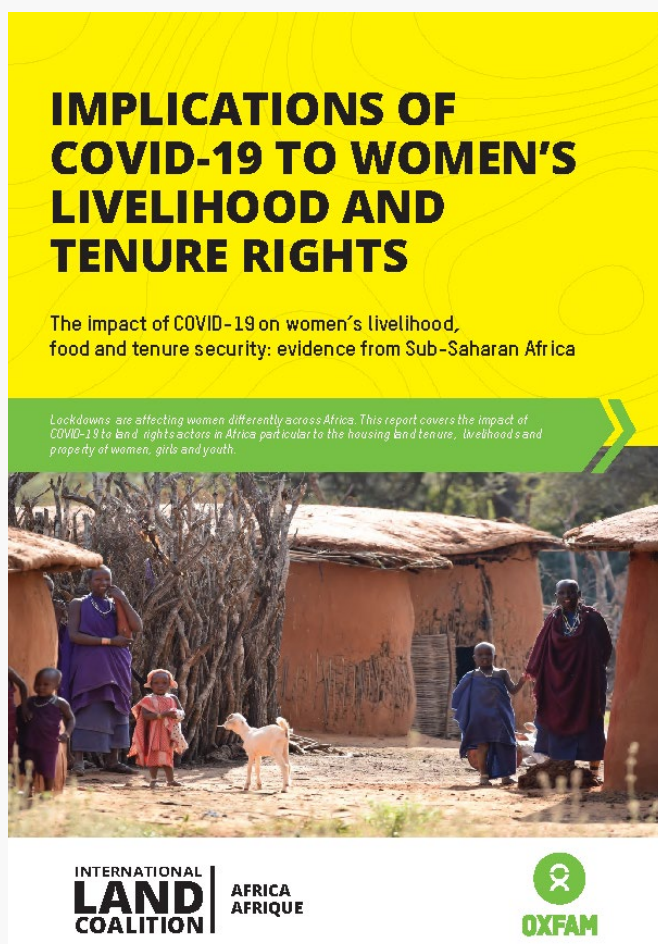
In East Africa, NES Kenya members were part of the Taskforce appointed by the Ministry of Lands to study and review the Land Registration Act 2012, the Land Registration (General) Regulations 2017 and other land sector-related laws, with a view to formulate guidelines for electronic registration of transactions and conveyancing systems. The Taskforce worked on draft guidelines and submitted its report.

These initiatives resulted in three practices changed in Togo, Liberia and the DRC, and 9 policies influenced in nine countries.



# Addressing Women's Land Rights Hindered by COVID-19

Countries: all of Sub-Saharan Africa



ILC Africa and Oxfam International Pan Africa Program undertook a rapid assessment survey to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on land rights actors in Africa, particularly to the housing, land tenure, livelihoods and property of women, girls and youths. The survey recorded 75 respondents across Sub-Saharan Africa, many of which were ILC Africa members, drawn from CSOs and community-based organizations working on land rights who frequently engage smallholder farmers, women, youth and land rights defenders. The results demonstrated how land rights actors are responding and adjusting to the effects of COVID-19 governmental regulations and features insights on women's land rights during the COVID-19 crisis. It discusses inclusive, progressive, and efficient approaches to address the pandemic that recognize food and nutrition security and women's rights. The report was presented at a webinar organized by ILC Africa on 15 July attended by 78 participants.

*“The report made concrete recommendations to governments, civil society and inter-governmental organizations.”*

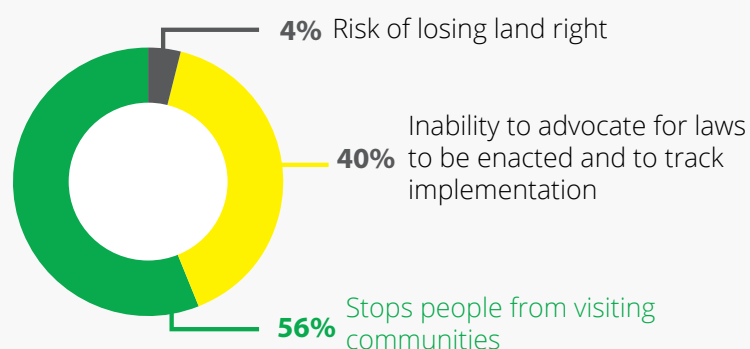


Figure 1. How COVID-19 impacts women's work in Africa.



### How COVID-19 affects livelihoods

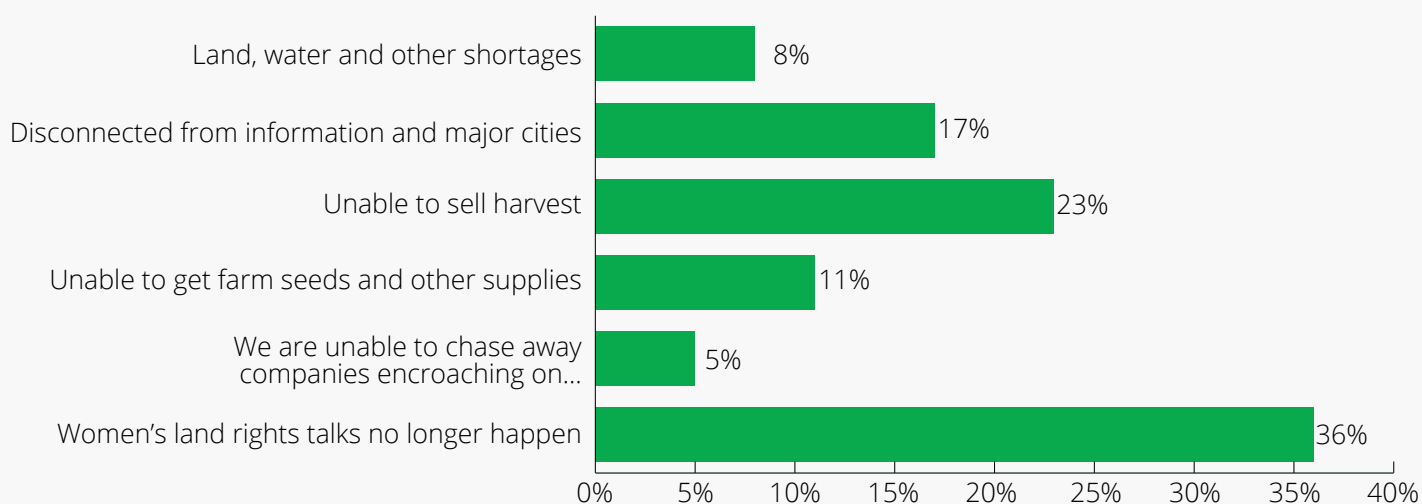


Figure 2 shows impact of COVID-19 on women's livelihoods

On the same topic, and in association with the Senegalese Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection, NES Senegal held a webinar on 23 July titled: "The Autonomy of Women in Agriculture in the Time of COVID-19". The event informed the Ministry that while women constitute 70% of the active rural population and 80% of food production capacity in Senegal (similar elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa), 13% of have access to land, 2.6% hold tenure rights, and 61.2% of women say that lack of resources deepens inequality on access to land.

The key outcomes of the webinar include: (i) the documentation of the impact of COVID-19 on women in Senegal in order to gather evidence that would influence policy decisions for greater inclusion and (ii) the commitment obtained from the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection for an inclusive approach in their pandemic response strategies.





# Mobilizing Digitally to Defend Land Tenure Security and Community Land Rights

Countries: Senegal, Liberia, DRC, Cameroon

In light of COVID-19 social distancing and lockdowns across most African countries, and the impact these measures had on land tenure security, various NES platforms used digital technologies to mobilise and voice concerns on land governance this year. This went beyond traditional communication and the search for information, to a lifeline for using data, research and digital dialogues to engage with governments, development actors, civil society and the general public.

NES Senegal held a webinar on 5 June in partnership with FAO titled: “Land Tenure Governance in the Context of COVID-19: Lessons and Perspectives for Multi-Actor Platforms”. The purpose of the webinar was to learn from the experiences and contributions of the platform to various reflection processes on land governance in Senegal and to position it as a leading actor in inclusive and participatory land governance in the country.

NES Liberia followed suit with a webinar titled: “Uncovering the Impact of the Implementation of Liberia’s Land Rights Act (LRA)”. It was held on Thursday 6 August, 2020, and was co-convened by the Liberia Land Authority and Rights and Rice Foundation, and co-hosted by Welthungerhilfe, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and ILC. The panel was composed of representatives from the Housing and Urban Development, UNWOMEN, the World Bank and NES Malawi (in place of the Malawian Ministry of Land). These panellists presented interventions on the LRA implementation and the response of civil society.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, NES DRC, GLTN, IFAD, VGNI and CONAREF held a webinar on Wednesday 12 August to explore “The Inclusiveness of Decision-Making Processes: The Case of Consultations on the National Land Policy”. The event was based on lessons from the NES, GLTN and CONAREF collaboration.

On Thursday 27 August, NES Cameroon, the Ministry for Lands and the Centre for Environment and Development organized a webinar to interrogate “Measures to Protect Cameroonian Land Assets and Customary Land Rights in a Context of Crises and Land Reform in Cameroon.” The discussion focused on the impact on community land rights of the land titling suspension decided by the Cameroonian government in 2020.

These 4 NES country-led webinars registered the participation of 333 participants documented as follows:

NES Country	Date	Number of participants
Senegal	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	90
Senegal	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	77
Liberia	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	37
DRC	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	78
Cameroon	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	51

*“ We used digital technologies to mobilise and voice concerns on land governance in 2020. ”*

Each webinar had wide-ranging impact in each of the hosting countries:

In **Cameroon**, it led to the co-hosting of a special dialogue with the Ministry of Cadastre and Land Affairs on the transitional measures taken by the government to overcome constraints on land registration process, as required by the law.

In **The DRC**, it enabled the alignment of activities with FAO, VNGI and IFAD, while affording CONAREF & GLTN more stakeholders in the reform process.

In **Liberia**, it provided a space for a multi-sector exchange on the Liberia's reform by bringing together donors, international partners, CSOs, private sector and the academia for the first time in a decade. It also created an opportunity and a consensus for further engagements toward the hosting of the National Land Conference to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the LRA and the MAP Annual Forum in June 2021.

And in **Senegal**, it strengthened the platform's standing as a strategic national opinion leader on land governance, conferring it a new status as a unifier of divergent voices at a time of crisis.





# More voice to youth on land governance, and capacity building

Countries: Senegal, Liberia, DRC, Cameroon

To give youth greater voice in land governance and beat long-standing stereotypes, LandNNES established opportunities for their young members to dialogue with the Minister and supported youth to attend Country Learning Exchanges with senior Government officials. However, youth cannot play an effective role in land governance without certain skills. In order to respond, LandNNES provided trainings to increase the research capacity of youth in three member organizations so they could shape and undertake action research on local food systems during COVID-19. Additional training included capacity building for young people to draft policy briefs and summaries.

In order to build members' capacity to engage with land administration policy and processes, LandNNES developed curriculum for a series of online YouTube lectures on land administration. The course was equally open to government officials, other ILC members, educational institutions and the general public looking to increase their knowledge on the topic.

At the Lekgotla annual meeting in February 2020, it was clear that promotion of youth, women and black people was necessary to fulfil the LandNNES agenda. As a result, a young person was elected as the Deputy Chairperson of LandNNES and a young person was nominated to attend the country learning exchange to observe how other countries have managed the role of traditional leaders in land administration. LandNNES delegated a youth to Botswana for the first exchange and a land administration expert to Malawi for the second. The South African government has now accepted that gender and youth are cross-cutting issues and should be addressed in every dialogue, in addition to a singular theme on women and land reform in the dialogues programme.

In Cameroon, following knowledge production and dissemination about equitable customary land management, training was provided to 200 people, many of them youth, and eight inclusive customary land management dialogue frameworks were established in the region. Some communities, such as Apouh and Koukoué, have restructured the council of notables within the traditional chiefdoms to make them more equitable, thus including two notable young people and two notable women, within a formerly male-dominated body.

At the regional level, a working paper "Mainstreaming Youth Agenda in Land Governance" was presented at the youth session of Africa Land Forum 2020 on 17 September. ILC Africa members have increased youths' voice in land governance from 10% in 2019 to 32.2% in 2020, and co-hosted the Youth and Land Conference with IGAD. ILC Africa has been networking with organisations such as IFAD, FAO, LANDESA, and CADASTA on the question of youth access to and governance of land — one of the key priorities of ILC in the near future.



# Protecting family farming and the environment

Countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Togo, Senegal, the Gambia, South Africa, Tanzania

In response to the exclusion of many small farmers in the South Africa government's disaster grant, aimed at addressing food production constraints created by COVID-19 lockdowns, LandNNES initiated a COVID-19 Disaster Relief Submission. The submission argued that the criteria for disaster relief were too exclusionary; that Government policy already has a more inclusive working definition of small producers (Comprehensive Producer Support Policy); and that the primary beneficiaries of the grant had been commercial farmers, thus neglecting subsistence and semi-subsistence farmers and their critical contributions to household and community food security. The submission also acknowledged that many small producers are urban based and are not necessarily food producers (such as buchu farmers) but who also need relief. As a result, in May 2020, the Minister and Department agreed to consider a second window of relief targeting those who were excluded in the first and requested LandNNES and its civil society allies to help design a more appropriate application form and process, as well as playing a role in monitoring and evaluating the disaster relief implementation process.

In 2018, ILC Africa members launched the Africa Family Farming Initiative. Led by Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA) and Plateforme Régionales des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC), 24 farmer organisations from across 27 countries of West and Central Africa were brought together to focus on supporting thousands of family farmers struggling to develop agriculture without tenure security.

The Initiative has revealed that peasant leaders with knowledge on land reform processes are the key to solving governance challenges at the grassroots. Based on the results of a 2019 study, 50 farmer leaders were trained on how to use dialogic techniques and advocacy

to negotiate access to land for farmers. This has enabled farmer unions in multi-stakeholder platforms across Cameroon and Togo to engage with governments and local authorities in defence of family farmers' land rights. The results of the study also informed the regional action plan on the United Nations Decade of Family Farming for Central Africa, developed in collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).

In Tanzania, the NES platform was active in tracking the redistribution of land held by failed agricultural investments to farmers in villages in various parts of the country, identifying malpractices in the process. Following further research studies in 2018 and 2019, the NES launched a series of lobbying activities through members of the Land Based Investment working group. As a result of NES Tanzania's interventions, the titles of 14 big farms with 15,567.6 acres in Mvomero and Kilosa districts in Morogoro region were revoked, as well as three big farms in Mkinga district in Tanga Region equating to 15,738 acres. The platform is currently mobilising members to ensure the redistribution exercise will benefit community members, smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

Since late 2019, NES Tanzania members have also engaged with the Ministry of Lands, Settlement and Housing to help shape the key documents and roadmap that will guide the implementation of the upcoming World Bank Land Tenure Improvement Program. Though mobilization was stalled by COVID-19, the platform submitted recommendations on the involvement of Indigenous People, pastoralists, women, smallholder farmers and other marginalized populations in focus groups.



The image features a large, weathered tree stump in the foreground, showing the texture of the wood and the jagged edges of the cut. The background is a blurred forest scene with green foliage and a hint of a mountain range under a soft sky. The overall tone is somber, reflecting the theme of deforestation.

## FOCUS

# Halting deforestation in Cameroon

In Cameroon, following the concession of 150,000 hectares of forest, COMAID mobilized alongside other members of NES Cameroon to stop the destruction of the EBO forest in the coastal region of the Nkam department. COMINSUD, for its part, raised awareness among communities, mayors and local governments about good practices in customary land management and, on the recommendations of NES Cameroon, about the recognition of customary land rights as part of the land reform underway in the Northwest region.

Key results of these actions included the establishment of four frameworks for dialogue on the prevention and management of land conflicts in the Northwest Region. Regarding the mobilization against the criminalization of land and environmental defenders, a declaration was issued in December 2019. COMAID and the secretariat of the NES have also joined the petition against the destruction of the forest, launched by Ebo Forest Project Research (EFPR).



# Leading by example building gender justice, from within

Countries: all of Sub-Saharan Africa

With the recruitment of a woman as NES facilitator in Uganda, the total number of NES female facilitators grew to seven (Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda) out of 10 active platforms.

In addition to the extraordinary progress in hiring more female facilitators, three ILC member organisations were supported to conduct gender audits in 2020: KWCA (Kenya), CED (Cameroon), and SIF (Madagascar). In 2021, two organisations, GROOTS and KLA, will be supported to conduct their own audits.

Furthermore, ILC Africa's Gender Justice Charter from 2014 is now being repurposed to conform with ILC's 2016-2021 strategy as Gender Justice is identified as a core value. ILC members are also being supported to implement the charter within their organisations.

Finally, this year, ILC Africa continued to run "Women for Women", a women-only network inside ILC that facilitates interaction among women looking for advice, solidarity and support on a diverse range of topics. The objectives of the program include promoting women's leadership, supporting women to play more significant roles in ILC member organisations and their platforms, and reinforcing connections among women within the ILC network. In 2020, 21 mentees were on-boarded for training.

At the national platform level, a good example of gender justice was observed in LandNNES' 2020 leadership ranks. The LandNNES Steering Committee now has equal representation of women and men. Additionally, women are specifically identified and targeted for contract work including facilitating, moderating and writing the report for the launch of the MSP dialogues. The policy briefs and summaries all asked for a specific focus on women as small farmers, their access to land and their tenure security. LandNNES members now debate and hold each other accountable to ensure that gender justice is actively promoted and included in all activities, policy positions and holders of portfolios.







# Advancing the pilot phase of Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM)

Countries: Kenya and Tanzania

RECONCILE and the TNRF have pursued their work on the EU-funded four-year pilot PRM project in Kenya and Tanzania. The pilot project has been implemented in four rangeland conservancies (Irong, Kaborion, Koitegan and Paka Hills), and in six clusters of villages in Tanzania. The project has been anchored on (i) piloting PRM in the shared grazing areas of six clusters of villages in Tanzania and in four sub-counties in Baringo County, Kenya; (ii) strengthening the capacities of local and national governments, CSOs and communities to implement PRM, and (iii) the documentation and development of guidelines on PRM.

The principle of participatory management depends on an understanding of the different stakeholders and the institutions that they represent. Therefore, RECONCILE and the TNRF undertook context and stakeholders' mapping and analysis of the project target sites. These two organisations have worked to identify how people perceive their own rights and responsibilities, as well as those of others, as a crucial starting point for discussions on who should have which rights and responsibilities in the management system.

The objectives achieved through the context and stakeholder mapping and analysis are to: (i) determine the socio-economic, cultural and political dimensions of the rangelands and provide detailed analysis in relation to their governance systems, resource management and other strategic priorities and (ii) establish an understanding of the different stakeholders and resource user groups who should be involved in rangeland management by identifying and analysing them in terms of direct and indirect resource use.

A mid-term evaluation conducted by an external consultant revealed the following immediate outcome: Pastoral communities are securely and sustainably using rangelands in Kenya and Tanzania.

The project has made sound progress in ensuring the communities are able to sustainably use, secure and manage their rangelands in the eight communities within the two countries.

Immediate outcome 1 was that Pastoral communities have secure rangelands that are inclusively managed for higher productivity and reduced conflicts.

The achievement of this outcome is on track within the project duration. Achievement of this outcome is mainly contributed to internal factors, with only one external factor (synergies with existing projects) identified. The four major internal factors include: well-established and functional management committees/associations for management and governance of rangelands; efforts that are built on previous' projects achievements (especially SRMP in Tanzania); integration of conflict management in rangelands management; and by-laws jointly developed to ensure representation and guide management of rangelands. These had a contribution score of 12 out of the maximum 16. Three other factors that scored above 8 were: increased awareness and knowledge of PRM by communities; involvement, support and buy-in from government (national and local); and legal demarcation of grazing and farming lands in Tanzania.

Immediate outcome 2 meant that governments (national and local) have strengthened capacity to govern implementation of PRM. Achievement of this outcome is on track before the completion of the project. Three key factors – one external and two internal – had significant contribution to this outcome. They include existence of legal and policy frameworks that support the implementation of PMR in Kenya and Tanzania, facilitation and organisation of national multi-stakeholder meetings on land and PRM related issues in both countries, and the project's cultivation of strong partnerships and collaborations with local and national governments.

Immediate outcome 3 is that national and international partners are supporting dissemination, implementation and upscaling of PRM practices and processes. Achievement of this outcome is on track even though the critical output results are yet to be fully achieved. As a result, there was limited evidence to support progress towards the uptake and upscaling of PRM practices and processes by other national and international partners. Two factors had significant contribution to this outcome: the involvement and engagement of the project in national and international forums or events for the dissemination of knowledge on PRM practices and processes, and the production and dissemination of knowledge products at local, national, and international levels.







# Advocating for indigenous communities: The Ogieks and Sengwer communities

Countries: Kenya and Tanzania

On Wednesday 8 July 2020, members of the Ogiek community reported that the Kenyan police and the Kenyan Forest Service had started evicting people from the Mau Forest. By 9 July, 100 Ogiek families (approximately 600 people) had been displaced; their houses destroyed, leaving them without shelter, vulnerable to COVID-19, and unable to access their ancestral lands - their source of food and livelihood. According to a 2017 African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights ('African Court') judgment, the Ogiek Community has the right to live in the Mau Forest. For these reasons, in a letter dated 20 July, ILC Africa joined civil society and international organizations to urge Mr. Keriako Tobiko (Cabinet Secretary of the Kenyan Ministry of Environment & Forestry) to stop these evictions immediately.

Prior to this, the NES Kenya members had submitted a letter on 22 May to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry petitioning for the release of a March 2020 report prepared by the Taskforce on the implementation of the African Court's decision. Until that point, the Ministry had been silent on the report's findings and recommendations. The ruling was issued against the Government of Kenya, in respect of the Ogiek Community of Mau and enhancing the participation of indigenous communities in the sustainable management of forests.

Natural Justice managed ILC Africa LED emergency fund. It provided support by developing a press statement condemning the forced eviction of the Ogiek and Sengwer indigenous communities from their lands despite a presidential moratorium prohibiting evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a wave of digital advocacy, "Restoring Ogiek Land Rights. A Story of Unity and Resilience" (recipient of the ILC Award in 2018) was disseminated on ILC Africa's Facebook page reaching 9,538 people, attracting 1,460 engagements and 67 shares. The dissemination brought the advocacy to a new audience of supporters, as a Kenyan court in December 2020 suspended titling in the Mau Forest.

# Protecting Land Defenders

Countries: all Sub-Saharan Africa

Threats to environment and land defenders have a negative impact on the struggles of communities to secure their rights to land and natural resources. Ordinarily, land and environmental defenders face myriads of threats from political and monetary powers who intimidate them in an effort to disarm, silence or detract them from their cause. Unfortunately, however, land and environmental defenders often do not have access to various types of support systems in these difficult situations. Supported by ILC Africa, the LED Fund boosted the capacity of ILC member organisations to assert their community land rights and increase their resiliency through the provision of emergency support to defenders facing an imminent threat that violates their human rights. Support provided through this Fund has enhanced the capacity of defenders to conduct their work safely and avoid unnecessary destruction which may be detrimental to a community's greater struggle.



As of 30 July 2020, the Fund Committee had processed a total of 13 applications. Out of this number, 8 applications were approved for support in the form of a grant to cover costs associated with obtaining urgent legal advice and support, paying for bail and bond, as well as the cost of temporarily relocating to a safe place.

The increased number of threats, attacks and violence against land defenders during COVID-19 lockdowns has made it necessary to provide defenders with additional support as a complement to emergency support. This includes extending support to groups, not just individuals.

As a result of the lobbying and advocacy actions carried out in the countries covered by CBI 10 (DRC, Madagascar, Senegal and Cameroon), the following changes were recorded:

First, an increase in state actors' awareness of the extent of human rights violations against land rights defenders in their countries and the need to protect them. Attempts to hinder land rights defenders' work can vary in severity from intimidation to murder, for example. Unfortunately, the existing cases are often located in rural areas, with very little publicity and key decision-makers are often not informed of these cases of rights violations. Thankfully, following the lobbying and advocacy actions of CBI 10 members, state actors have realised the extent of the human rights violations on defenders and the need to protect them since their actions affect the economic interests of specific actors (multinational companies and political alliances).





Second, increases to the commitment of state actors in the protection of land rights defenders. Several state actors have undertaken work to better respect defenders' rights, including declaring themselves available to support land rights defenders in their daily activities and to assist them when their human rights are violated. For example, the politico-administrative and judicial authorities' recent interventions in the release of nine land rights defenders, including four in the DRC, two in Madagascar, one in Senegal and two in Cameroon.

Third, the establishment of a framework for consultation between civil society organizations who intervene in land cases and the provincial deputies of Equator in the DRC. This represents an additional illustration of the authorities' commitment to promoting the respect for the rights of human rights defenders.

Fourth, the establishment of observatories for human rights. The observatories, which include ILC member and non-member organizations and collaboration with state structures, regularly monitor cases of violations of defenders' rights and carry out lobbying and advocacy actions to prevent them. In Cameroon, as an example of state actor commitments, one of the participants in the National Land Observatory is the Regional Office of the National Human Rights Commission. This was a significant step that saw members of a government structure and members of CBI 10 discussing and exchanging together about respecting the rights of land rights defenders.



## LEARNING

# 5 Lessons from the NES/CBI facilitators' cross-platform experience sharing

On 3 December, the inaugural NES/CBI facilitators' experience sharing session brought to the fore these lessons on resource mobilisation and partnerships:

1

When we talk about resource mobilisation, we need to think about strategic partnerships. Focusing on the impact and reputation of the platform is key. We need to think of ourselves as a brand ambassador, recognizing the overarching goals of our platforms and the connections within our work. Writing a powerful funding proposal is important, but that's the last skill that you need. Large-scale funders are still looking at the impact that your members have made.



2

Building multi-actor partnerships involves reaching out to the private sector. We recognize that there have often been conflicts between communities and large investment communities, so establishing partnerships with clear outcomes is necessary.

3

Mutual learning among platforms is essential in cross-platform advocacy; it helps avoid working in silos. This is particularly important for the question of defending responsible investment on land.

4

Consolidating any new ILC platform today involves generation of knowledge for evidence-based advocacy, linkages between international processes and institutions, and distribution of leadership under various thematic areas.

5

International processes matter for ILC platforms because they make ILC's presence visible and add value to our work. They may look far-fetched from grassroots organisations, but global conventions and frameworks, such as Beijing +25, can create great allies and fora for knowledge development.



## INNOVATION

# Data for improved land governance

Countries: Togo, Kenya, South Africa

LANDex is a global land governance index that puts people at the centre of land data, democratizing land monitoring and building a data ecosystem where all voices can be heard. Built in consultation with members and strategic partners of ILC, LANDex is based on common people-centred indicators and methodologies, giving a platform to the individuals and communities often absent in official numbers.

Organized around ILC's 10 Commitments, the Global Land Governance Index measures progress towards people-centred land governance on three levels: the legal framework, implementation and outcome or impact. In addition, standardized LANDex indicators allow members to generate globally comparable data and contribute to the monitoring of the SDGs and the VGGTs.

In June 2020, amid COVID-19, ILC Africa convened 10 organizations, who are also part of non-state land actors' consortium in Kenya, to learn and explore LANDex. It gave the members an opportunity to learn, share and adopt new ways of mainstreaming data in their advocacy strategies for better land governance in the country. The training was timely as it came at a point when the use of data was increasingly adopted to drive land reform in Kenya.

NES Togo held LANDex training sessions and produced a video clip on the training that is now available on YouTube.

Finally, LandNNES hosted successful regional and South African training on LANDex in partnership with ILC. LandNNES members and stakeholders from a range of other institutions, including academic institutions, the government and an IFAD staff member were trained.

These training sessions came at a point when non-state actors were seeking to understand the direct implementation of land-related human rights mandates, through a specific focus on women's and girl's land rights. The right to land is provided under the following two major treaties: (i) Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) - rights to food, housing, and an adequate standard of living; and (ii) Convention to Eliminate All Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - women's rights to equal treatment with regard to land and agrarian reform, and to equal legal personhood. Other frameworks include the SDGs and VGGTs. Against this context, LANDex provides a platform to link ILC Africa's initiatives at the grassroots level to larger frameworks globally.

While this is a beginning for members in the region to embrace the platform in their different work areas and use data to give a voice to the poor, ILC Africa hopes that LANDex will not only empower its members but that its benefits will also be felt at the community level where better land governance will lift more people out of poverty.



# Strategic partnerships

In the course of 2020, ILC Africa established bold and formal partnerships, or initiated efforts towards them, for pooled results.

A dynamic partnership was formalized with IGAD through the implementation of the land governance component. An MoU has been signed and IGAD has already actively participated in multiple ILC Africa events, including co-organizing the Africa Land Forum in September 2020, co-organizing the IGAD land & youth conference, and having Esther Obaikol, lead of the land governance program, deliver the opening words at the data conference organized by ILC Africa, Global Land Alliance and IPAR. Under this program, ILC Africa was appointed to conduct a mapping of all land actors in the IGAD region.

An MoU was signed with NELGA West Africa Francophone to promote people-centered land governance in the West Africa region. For example, ILC Africa was invited to share land monitoring tools during a capacity building meeting organized for Senegalese's parliamentarians. An informal collaboration was also established with NELGA Central Africa, for the NES Cameroon strategy.

A formal collaboration with Global Land Alliance was pursued in an effort to promote evidence-based land policy and advocacy through land monitoring tools developed by ILC Africa, LANDex, GLA, Overseas Development Institute, and Global Property Index (Prindex). A joint action plan was adopted to ensure a proper roll out of two tools. Through that collaborative agreement, GLA also contributed some additional funds.

A dynamic collaboration with Africa Land Policy Center (ALPC) was pursued, although, due to their organizational restructuring, there is not yet a formal agreement signed. Still, ILC Africa and ALPC are very active in sharing activities, mainly the invitation of the ILC Regional Coordinator to attend a validation workshop of the AU land governance strategy in September 2019.

Regarding the Regional Economic Commissions, ILC Africa has been engaging with ECOWAS and UEMOA. Communication is progressing well and ECOWAS shows interest in joining the ILC membership. With regard to UEMOA, the collaborative agreement draft is still with them at the validation stage.

With Africa Development Bank (AFDB), the discussions began in November 2019 during the ALPC conference in Abidjan.

Other targeted regional bodies are the Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA NEPAD), CADASTA, the Africa Union Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AU-DREA) and NELGA headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The result of these partnerships has primarily been synergy of efforts and resources in defending people-centred land governance, for a more robust and sustainable impact.



#### 8 top stories from the opening day of Africa Land Forum 2020

*Africa Land Forum 2020 proved to be inclusive, attracting various organisations and hubs, answering critical questions on how to improve land governance in Africa*

##### 1. “Africa is showing a good example here.”

When the moderator, Dr Chiekh Ba, was given the floor to drive the proceedings of the Africa Land Forum 2020, he called the digital event a successful instance of how the continent is showing a good example: “We live in difficult times, driven by COVID-19, but we are not beaten down; we have not stopped our efforts to uplift our populations from poverty. The effort made to host this Forum, attracting a wide range of partners in so short a time, was a good example of what the continent can achieve if it can bring its resources together.”

With over 700 individual registrations, and thousands more following via digital platforms, Africa Land Forum 2020 reached more people than it could in “normal times”. The virtual online conversation, engaging many women and youth, was an inclusive experience. What Kafui Kuwonu in the opening speech described with a French proverb as “every cloud having a silver lining.”

##### 2. “In Africa, land is more than a resource: it is who we are.”

Linking land to the African personality was Dr. Janet Edeme, who said that land is a safety net in Africa; that it extends to the identity of the African people, to their culture. “Any development agenda needs to underscore good land governance. Land is essential to achieving regional goals, be it ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture, achieving gender equality and empowering all women, or in combatting desertification and reversing land degradation. Through the African Union Declaration of Land Challenges of 2009, our Heads of States and Government resolved to assure equitable land access for all land users and improve access and security for women as key priorities,” she said. A lot of initiatives are undertaken. The problem lies in synergizing efforts.

##### 3. “We need to listen to ourselves.”

Reflexivity is one of the ways to filling that synergy gaps, argued Shadrack Omondi. “We are just 3 years to the first 10 years of Agenda 2063’s realization. We need to sit down and ask ourselves: ‘What has worked? What needs to be fixed, as to achieve better land governance?’”

This reflection should not be a one-off call. It could be annual: on the progress institutions are making toward better land governance; on the role that national and regional blocs play, within existing mechanisms, in fostering the implementation of the African Union Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa.

#### **4. “ILC intergovernmental member organisations can achieve more through reinforced networking.”**

For ILC intergovernmental member organisations to further advance its role as a coalition, it needs to foster larger networks at the national and regional levels. Representatives from IFAD, FAO, GLTN/UNHABITAT, UNCCD/UNEP, ILRI gave powerful reality checks. Each of the organisations work differently. For example, the World Bank focuses on finance, while IFAD works on rural investment. Other intergovernmental member organisations work more directly with CSOs. “There is need for member organisations to get to know each other better and gain a deeper insight into each other’s work,” said Jimmy Gaudin of IFAD. “ILC can play a strong role in connecting these organisations to advance the land policy frameworks in Africa, and harmonize interventions.”

#### **5. “...And not sure we have a strong monitoring capacity in place.”**

There are many processes in place—the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in Context of National Food Security (VGGT), and the AU Guiding Principles on Large Scale Land Based Investments in Africa (LSLBI), to name a few. At the breakout session 2, Dr. Joan Cuka Kagwanja said, “We need to have strong monitoring capacity in place to check on these processes, and the resources to fund such monitoring.” Do we have them?

#### **6. “We want to be entrepreneurs,” African youth tell us**

One speaker shared his experience interacting with the youth in Africa. “We want to be entrepreneurs,” African youth tell us in all the countries. They see youth access to secure land as a means of entrepreneurship. “Everyone cannot be an entrepreneur; those who can succeed should be identified and assisted appropriately,” he said. Organisations working on youth access to land should share good practices for possible replication in other contexts.

#### **7. Breakout session 1 summarized in two sentences**

Shadrack Omondi, the rapporteur of the breakout session 1, echoed the discussions of the group in two sentences: First, there is need to strengthen the synergy between CSOs and RECs at the national and regional levels, and second, documents are good, but we need to move to action.

#### **8. “Did you notice how the two breakout sessions mirror each other?”**

“There is so much work going on, but we are still not able to pull them together and present them to the Heads of States.” “If these gaps on synergies are filled, better land governance in African will be advanced,” came the final word of the day from the African Union.

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## 7 top stories from day two of African Land Forum 2020

*Youth access to land, discussions on women's land rights and inclusion dominated Day 2 of Africa Land Forum 2020*

### 1. One area of exclusion is the rule of law

The first plea of the day came from Esther Obaikol's statement: "Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 takes us to the question of equality and how it will drive change on the continent. The aspiration is that 1 in every 5 women must have secure rights to land, and access and control to productive resources. But there are parts of my region where only 1% of women have this access. The highest we have on the continent is 23%, and so we are far from the target on strengthening women's rights to land."

"One area of exclusion is the rule of law. It is incumbent on us as a continent – at country, civil society, intergovernmental organisations, RECs and the African Union levels – to ensure that the rule of law is established towards inclusion and diversity. It will drive change on the continent."

### 2. Time to let in the youth?

The employment challenges youth in Africa face right now call for a diversity of approaches. Access to land can help create jobs. Innocent Houedji told participants why: "In Africa, the youth make up 70% of the population, and constitute the largest private sector group in Agriculture. They are tech savvy, and can take tech into Agriculture. One way to make improvements in this area may be to move from the regional level integration to the national and local levels."

Urbanization is increasingly becoming a challenge, with the rapid migration of youth settling in urban and peri-urban areas, in search of economic and educational opportunities. More access for youth in land and land governance would create opportunities in the agricultural sector. "Going back to the soil", for the youth who are willing, might deliver on jobs.

### 3. What we are talking about on gender justice

Sabine Pallas made herself very clear: "When we are talking about gender justice, we are talking about the balance of power. It is important for all countries, and ILC's approaches, initiatives and tools can assist countries in this regard."

In an engaging presentation in a breakout session, thereafter, Mino Ramaroson outlined some of these tools: from data tools for training of trainers, mentoring cycles, exchanging and learning from each other to alternative reporting, advocacy and awareness raising; and from the Kilimanjaro Initiative to community approaches to engage groups at community levels, discuss with local authorities, deploy community mapping, use gender evaluation criteria, social tenure model, and much more.

### 4. Beijing Conference: 25 years on

In both the plenary and breakout sessions, Esther Muiru vowed that "women's land rights will reduce Africa's economic troubles by 50%." It has delivered economic justice: women with strong land rights and inheritance earn up to 3.8 times more income. It will also help fight climate change: large-scale climate mitigation interventions are more effective when women's land rights are fully recognized.

"Securing women land rights could perhaps resolve over 50% of unequal gender power relations, economic injustice, gender-based violence, etc. among rural, urban and indigenous communities living in poverty," said Esther.

Adding to that, Fridah Githuku took the audience through the ILC Charter adding that reforming unwritten norms, difficult to change in most communities, must be part of the struggle. The ILC Charter, she said, is used to ensure that gender is mainstreamed, promoting the implementation of advanced policies.

### **5. Wetlands improve women's livelihoods too**

A study by Landesa in Liberia made a strong argument for wetlands as a resource for many women looking for means of protecting their livelihoods. 100% of all the people interviewed for the research said so. The speaker called for wetlands to be promoted—however, adding that users should be trained in a way that ensures sustainability and conserves the environment.

### **6. Any insight on the status of community land rights?**

Sharing insights on ILC approaches from research conducted in Kenya, Tanzania, Cameroon and Liberia, Dr Mwenda Makathimo struck an optimistic tone on most countries moving toward community land rights. “Barriers remain: cultural resistance, government unwillingness to change, or slow registrations processes,” he said. However, public awareness, advocating for budget allocation to the cause, action research and capacity building can help achieve further progress in the area.

### **7. And GROOTS Kenya women took the floor**

Mobilized together in a common room from where they were taking part at the Forum, a representative of GROOTS Kenya said toward the end of the day:

“As rural women, we believe that regular data from surveys on the number of women impacted, on the experience of women transformed, can also advance women's land rights.”

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## **7 top stories from day three of Africa Land Forum 2020**

*That was a wrap for this year's Africa Land Forum. From family farming and resilient food systems to rangelands management and data in land governance, it was another packed day of sessions. Here are some of the key moments of the closing day.*

### **1. How do we recalibrate through a crisis?**

COVID-19 is “a pandemic of hunger” said Laurel Oettle, and the immediate impact of the crisis revealed the fragility and limits of African food systems, laying bare worrying inequalities in food access. Almost half South Africa's population went hungry in April 2020, with 47% of households running out of food, and women going hungry in order to feed their children.

“But the pandemic offers us a critical opportunity to rethink and recalibrate our domestic food systems,” argues Oettle. This means drawing together two key issues that need to be included as central in the food system, in terms of enabling local production by smallholder farmers: (1) equitable access to suitable land, and (2) water access for family health, to boost production and ensure food safety.

In practical terms, LandNNES, an ILC member, is focusing on how to support small-scale and agroecological farmers to begin to establish the sustainable, localised, agile, short value-chain food systems that are largely absent in our commercialised, centralised food system, Oettle explained. “This is to enable greater access to affordable, nutritious food, not only during this immediate crisis, but beyond,” she said.



## **2. We must build resilient food systems now!**

Complementary to Oettle's presentation, Amy Coughenour Betancourt opened her session by revealing worrying statistics on food systems: "Before COVID-19, 690 million people suffered from hunger and undernourishment. One in every four people lacked access to nutritious food."

"Women and girls make up 60% of this population. COVID could increase this by 130 million. That means severe food insecurity could affect 270 million by year's end—an 82% increase. In West and Central Africa, food insecurity is up 90%. Before COVID, increasing prevalence of undernourishment was twice the world average." It could be worse now.

What to do? Land rights, climate-smart agriculture and women's empowerment will lead to a regenerative food system, which in turn will deliver increased tenure security, more economic opportunities and improved health and well-being.

## **3. Where is land in the SDGs, NUA and Agenda 2063?**

Here's a list from Clinton Omusola at breakout session 2, in answer to that question:

- **SDGs:**

Goals 1- Poverty Eradication, 2- Food Security and Nutrition, 5- Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls, 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities, 15- Life on Land and 16- Peace and Prosperity.

- **NUA:**

Land use and governance issues, especially tenure security, prominently feature in the NUA and are cited as critical building blocks in the attainment of sustainable urbanization and related development.

- **Agenda 2063 Envisions:**

(1) Eradication of poverty in the coming decades; (2) All Africans having decent and affordable housing in clean, secure and well-planned environments; (3) Consolidating the modernization of African agriculture and agro-businesses; (4) Supporting young people as drivers of Africa's renaissance.

## **4. Challenges before data for land governance**

Nearly all the presenters of the day spoke of the importance of data in land governance. Here is a summary of the challenges they see in achieving this:

First, the lack – or limitations – of data in many institutions on land tenure, especially on the perception of land tenure security; second, sensitivity and emotiveness on land governance issues that lead to slow buy-in on data collection initiatives from governments.

Also, different levels of technological advancement at country levels impeding admin data; fourth, the assumption that legal frameworks would guarantee land ownership and tenure security, therefore relegating data to second zone.

Finally, funding challenges and COVID-19 hindering primary data collection.

## **5. Beyond challenges, many opportunities**

The above challenges are not insurmountable, argue Forum participants. Opportunities abound for harnessing data for land governance in Africa.

Among these opportunities, the following: the availability of several relevant household surveys, for comparative analysis and the reliance of Africa's economy on agriculture and pastoralism.

In addition, the interest of African governments in technological advancement and data collection, opening a window of opportunity for land governance data, was mentioned.

Ibrahima Ka, moderator at breakout session 2, at the closing plenary declared, "the best advocacy is that based on data."

## **6. Any place for youth in rangelands management?**

The participants in breakout session 1 asked Daniel Ouma many questions after his presentation on rangelands management in Tanzania. "Is there any place for the youth in your project?" asked a participant. "The youth are at the centre of the project," said Daniel Ouma. "They ensure the security of the grazing land, they take care of the livestock, and even protect the environment from ecological degradation," Ouma said.

Ouma recalled that rangelands management is "ecologically specific", and requires "biological survey" especially on "what kind of investment the population wants."

He then gave a clearer view of the scenario: "Village land belongs to the local government. All we do is help the community secure their land. We do not entrust ownership to them."

"Much of the success depends on how the community is organized," Ouma said.

After Shadrack Omondi read the joint draft Declaration at the end of the Forum, and as Nsama Chikolwa of the African Union declared the three-day virtual event closed, a participant commented in the chat box: "I...really appreciate the [second] point of the Declaration which encourages 'sensitization' and 'awareness' on land law procedures for rural people, to better know and understand 'their laws.'"

"The [more] they know them, the [better] they will follow them and benefit from them. This... I think is an important responsibility [vested on organisations] and land law defenders."

**\*\*END\*\***





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