

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

AFRICA
AFRIQUE

Annual Report 2022

*Leveraging our networks to address global
challenges through local solutions*



Photo by Michael Benanev



Photo by: ILC

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a patterned headscarf is using a machete to harvest a cassava root in a field. The person's hands are visible, holding the machete and the root. The background shows green foliage and purple flowers.

Acknowledgement

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated members and esteemed partners who have played an instrumental role in our remarkable achievements showcased in this annual report. Their invaluable expertise and unwavering collaborative efforts have enabled us to deliver tangible and significant results. It is a testament to the power of a network, where the collective strength of its membership and partners drives meaningful progress. We are truly grateful for their invaluable contributions and unwavering support.

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Acronyms

ACPHR	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
AU	African Union
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ER	Expect Result
FMNR	Farmer-managed Natural Regeneration
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
GTA	Gender-transformative Approaches
ILC	International Land Coalition
IP	Indigenous Peoples
KWCA	Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
LLA	Liberia Land Authority
LRA	Land Rights Act
NLC	National Land Coalition
PO	People's Organisations
PRM	Participatory Rangelands Management
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
RP	Regional Platform
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SO	Strategic Objective
S4HL	Stand For Her Land
WLR	Women's Land Rights



Photo by: ILC

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Message from the Regional Coordinator



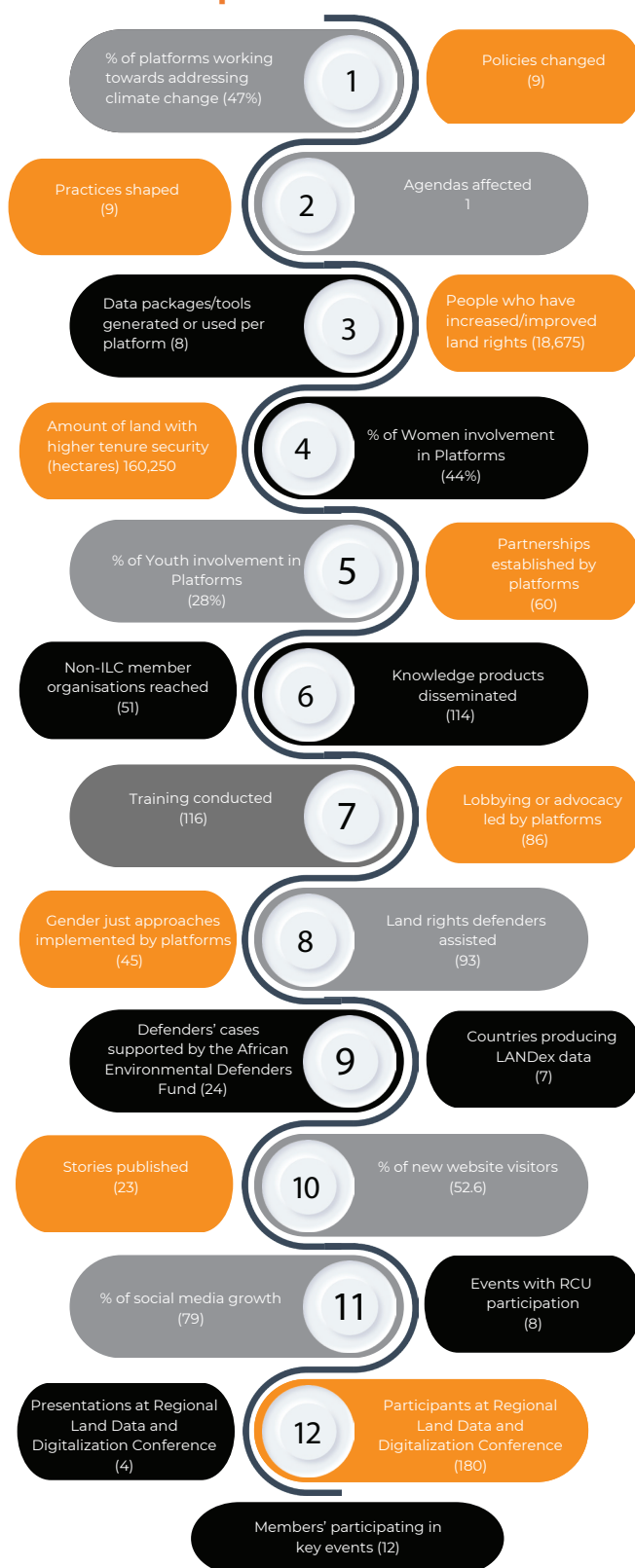
Last year, as we finalised our guiding strategy for the next nine years, a vital and urgent call for action emerged. The world was recognizing the significance of land rights as a pathway out of the pressing challenges, particularly with regard to climate change, at COP26. This convergence of events has shaped the transformative year we had as we set out to address the four global challenges, with climate change taking the centre stage.

Over the past year, we have witnessed significant changes across the board. We have modified nine policies, practices, and one agenda in seven platforms, with 100% of them comprising at least one People's Organization. We have produced and used data, including LANDex data, in eight platforms, resulting in changes, particularly in countries such as Kenya, Cameroon, DRC, Liberia, Madagascar, Togo, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda. Regional advocacy has led to 77 platform-led campaigns, including the Stand For Her Land campaign. Furthermore, 45 gender-just approaches have been implemented across most of the platforms by members, and the African Environmental Defenders Fund has supported 24 cases of land and environmental defenders across six countries.

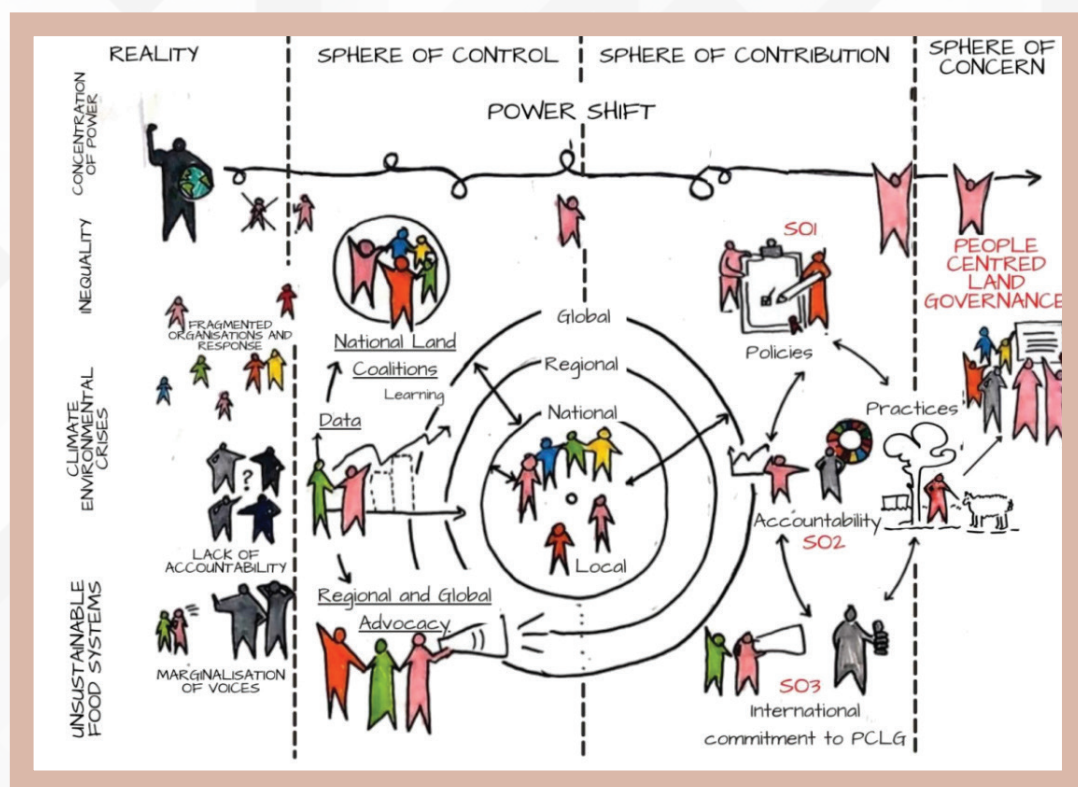
These accomplishments lay the foundation for our continued efforts to address pressing issues such as climate change, inequality, shrinking democracies, and unsustainable food systems. As per our ILC 2030 strategy, securing land rights for all who rely on it is fundamental to achieving sustainable solutions to these challenges. We remain committed to leveraging the strength and diversity of our networks to make a meaningful difference in the years to come.

Audace Kubwimana,
ILC Africa Regional Coordinator

Our Impact In Numbers



ILC's 2030 Strategy Theory of Change



Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective

1

National Land Coalitions Advance People-Centred Land Governance

At a local and national level, ILC members, with people's organisations (POs) at the helm, build broad and diverse partnerships through National Land Coalitions to find solutions to defend, secure or regain land rights.



Strategic Objective

2

People's Data is Produced and Used to Hold Governments and Corporations Accountable
National Land Coalitions are then equipped to collect and use people's data to complement official government data, to track progress against national and international commitments and to hold governments and corporations accountable.

Strategic Objective

3

Regional Advocacy Builds Political Commitment to People-Centred Land Governance

Locally-generated people's data provides a powerful basis for evidence-based dialogue and subsequent action between governments and civil society. Advocacy in the region amplifies the voices of people's organisations and builds political will across countries for people-centred land governance. This in turn creates an enabling environment for our members' work in their own countries on the themes laid out by our ten commitments. Regional Platforms (RPs), formerly known as Commitment-based Initiatives (CBIs), are thematically-led platforms or initiatives that operate at cross-country level based on one or more of ILC's 10 Commitments. For instance, RP 2 operates across 8 countries, carrying out advocacy work based on the second of these 10 commitments; Strong Family Farming.



Progress Towards our Strategic Objectives

National Land Coalitions Advance People-Centred Land Governance

We need People's Organisations (POs) to work at the helm, on the ground and acting collectively to influence policy and practice at the local and national levels. It is now more apparent than ever that working in concert and adapting to new modes of operation and priorities is the way to go if we are to realise meaningful change across the region. ILC Africa's role in enabling this change has

been through a combination of capacity-building and strengthening, partnership-building, peer-learning, advocacy and resource mobilisation support to its member organisations, many of which are People's Organisations. Indeed, there is strength in numbers and diversity as the achievements of our national networks, largely constituted by POs, exemplify.

People's Organisations Capitalise on Political Will to Address Global Challenges

Cameroon, Malawi, South Africa, Togo

A wave of land reform measures swept over the region in recent years, signalling governments' political will to revamp the land governance scene in their respective countries. The governments in Cameroon, Malawi and Togo are no exception as they have undertaken policy changes and reviews in their land-related institutions and legislations, fostering collaborative and participatory processes that put the people in the drivers' seat of their own destinies, **shifting power back to them** as their voices are amplified by People's Organisations.

For instance, National Land Coalition members in **Cameroon** strengthened and mobilised communities and journalists in the defence of their rights, allowing important policy changes to be made. In 2022, the Cameroonian government passed two Circular Letters that would make it possible to limit illegal land transactions on the communities' lands, therefore protecting the land rights of communities in the face of the illegal land tenure processes and, by extension, providing incentive for sustainable **climate change** action to take place. It

goes without saying that protecting the rights of communities to control and own their land provides the much-needed impetus for longer term investments in sustainable land management practices and development of climate resilient infrastructure as their stake in the land is heightened.

In the same year, NLC **Togo** members contributed to the adoption of a draft decree by the Council of Ministers to set up a Land Advisory Council. The adoption of this decree bodes well for democratic land governance in Togo as it provides a consultative framework for all land stakeholders in Togo to exchange and consult on land policy issues and intervene, when called upon, in the execution of difficult court decisions, effectively fostering participatory and inclusive land governance that follows the rule of law, signs of a **thriving democracy**. This change comes on the heels of a raft of reforms made in the Togolese land sector to improve land legislation and tackle speculation and expropriation.

In **South Africa**, the NLC's work to build cross-sectoral partnerships, knowledge and advocacy around **climate change** bore fruit when a Climate Change Bill was introduced in Parliament in February 2022, over four years since a first draft Climate Change Bill was published for comment, and almost eleven years since the adoption of the Climate Change Response White Paper. The Bill is finally going to be undergoing extensive public hearings across the country in 2023, after approximately 13 200 written

submissions received by Parliament. Once the Bill becomes an Act, it will require all governmental departments to develop climate adaptation plans at both national and regional levels, including the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Finally, NLC **Malawi** members laid the groundwork for traditional leaders in Mzimba, a conservative region in northern Malawi whose culture is opposed to women's ownership of land, to participate in the ongoing review process of the Customary Land Act 2016. Platform members held consultative workshops to gain their input on the review of the Act. The leaders' input into the review process reflected more progressive views on gender equality and redistribution of decision-making powers as opposed to their initial stance. It is debatable whether the endorsement of this engendered policy would have been possible if the platform had not been approached by the leaders as a neutral interlocutor between them and the government. In doing so, NLC Malawi members tackled **gender inequality**, promoted inclusivity, and advanced people-centred land governance.



Photo by: ILC

Case Study: People's Organisations Engage State Land Authorities to Protect Customary Land Rights and Improve Food Security

Liberia

The regulations needed to enact The Land Rights Law, also known as the Land Rights Act (LRA), which was passed by members of the National Legislature and signed into law by the President of Liberia in 2018, were finally approved four years later by the Liberia Land Authority Board of Commissioners. Despite the progressive provisions of this law to protect customary and Women's Land Rights (WLRs), its implementation was hampered by the slow progress in stakeholders' engagement for finalising the regulations to implement it.

National Land Coalition Liberia and the CSO Working Group members held several meetings with the LLA and other stakeholders, including two consultative meetings in August and September 2022. The NLC, in collaboration with the CSO Working Group, advocated for a nuanced definition of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the community management of natural resources to include the protection of marginalized groups/individuals by powerful and

influential personalities using undue influence. This, in addition to other key points, was taken on board by the LLA.

Finally, following nearly four years of debates, the regulations as outlined above were approved by the LLA Board of Commissioners and were gazetted at the end of 2022, with the exception of the Vetting of Tribal Certificates which is slated to be held in six months' time. It goes without saying that this is a major breakthrough for food security as the key provisions of the regulations will address the issue of customary land tenure security. These, in turn, will capacitate communities not only to own their land but to engage with stakeholders, including the private sector, to productively utilise their land for livelihood and economic benefits. This development will go a long way towards advancing food security and enhancing food systems, addressing one of the country's major challenges – **food and nutritional insecurity**.



People's Data is Produced and Used to Hold Governments and Corporations Accountable

As one of the pillars of ILC's 2030 Strategy, data is used to complement official government data, to track progress against national and international commitments, and to hold governments and corporations accountable. Several NLCs have been capacitated to generate and utilise a wide range of locally sourced data including LANDex, ILC's global land governance index.

LANDex data has increasingly gained recognition and relevance across the region as seven countries have now generated full LANDex datasets. In Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, and Uganda, members gained the confidence to

engage decision-makers in dialogue on topics related to land data, data gaps and the validity of people's data. Indeed, LANDex data was used by NLC Liberia members to engage the government in dialogue, leading to the endorsement of the Country Assessment Report by the Liberian Land Authority who called it "a guiding force" in their efforts to better understand and improve land governance in the country. Additionally, the Togo Country Profile, the Senegal Country Profile, Analytical Report, and SDG Shadow Report, as well as the Cameroon SDG Shadow Report, were utilised to measure progress toward land-related development goals.

Data for evidence-based decision-making

Liberia

Key land actors in Liberia welcomed the Country Assessment performed using LANDex data at its launch by members of NLC Liberia earlier this year, with the Liberia Land Authority describing it as "essential to the economic development of Liberia driven by equitable use of land,

especially one using land data." Indeed, the findings from this report arm decision-makers with evidence-based, land-related information to make informed decisions about the nation's land-driven economic development by providing a way to measure progress made towards people-centred land governance. For



instance, Liberia earned its highest score of 82.9 out of a possible score of 100 on Locally Managed Ecosystems and scored lowest on Strong Small-Scale family farming, another index based on ILC's 10 commitments. This demonstrates equally the government's commitment to land degradation neutrality and designation of land to local communities as it does the need for similar efforts in supporting small-scale farmers to access financial and technical assistance, and in

dedicating a more equitable portion of the agricultural budget to family farming.

Encouragingly, both platform members and government officials shared the thought that, "Members are comfortable with the data, especially the evidence that has influenced policy decisions", signalling a collaborative and evidence-based legislative environment for Liberia's land-related economic development.

Data-driven advocacy

Kenya

ILC member Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) generated data and used it to inform policymakers in Kenya for the review of the Wildlife ACT 2013. The ACT is harnessing the voice of conservancies to inform the wildlife ACT, considering that they are a constituent stakeholder in conserving most of Kenya's wildlife. The results of the assessment built the case for engaging conservancy membership and relevant partners in the review process. Data, as per the

LandDex indicators relating to legal and institutional frameworks in place at the national level promoting the local and sustainable management of ecosystems, were key to the internal assessment. The results of this assessment laid the foundation for the success of the data-driven advocacy effort as it objectively reported the effectiveness, gains, overlaps, gaps, inconsistencies, and weaknesses experienced in the previous 8 years of the Wildlife Act 2013.

Data for accountability

Senegal, DRC, Cameroon, Madagascar

Regional Platform 10 members employed case monitoring data on rights violations against land rights defenders and data on land allocation

and dispossession cases as the basis of advocacy actions to hold the main actors of change accountable with the following outcomes:



- The cancellation or revision of certain land contracts, mining contracts, forestry contracts signed in violation of the land rights of people living on the land;
- The release of certain land rights defenders arrested before courts and tribunals; and
- The reduction of threats against land rights defenders in difficult situations

While land rights defenders are deep in the trenches fighting for the rights of their communities, violations of their rights have gone unabated, signalling the need for duty bearers to uphold their responsibilities and obligations through their actions as well as words. By enriching the discussions with state authorities and national human rights

commissions with data, RP 10 members bridge the gap between rhetoric and reality as their advocacy is rooted in incontrovertible evidence.

Regional Advocacy Builds Political Commitment to People-Centred Land Governance

Built on a foundation of evidence-based and data-driven advocacy, regional platforms amplify the voices of people's organisations and build political will across countries for people-centred land governance. This in turn creates an enabling environment for ILC members' work in their own countries on the themes laid out by ILC's ten commitments as outlined in the subsequent sections.

Strong Small-Scale Family Farming

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Togo, Senegal, Uganda

In what was a transition year for the platform, RP 2 managed to contribute to the draft roadmap towards Pillar 3 of the United Nations Decade on Family Farming 2019-2028. This pillar aims to promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women. The contributions of members of the platform to ensure that women and youth farmers can have access to and control over land use were welcomed.

Equal Land Rights for Women

Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda

ILC's networks have and continue to play an important role in bringing the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) campaign to a national, regional and even global level as the campaign seeks to expand to spaces where ILC already has an established presence. The Stand for Her Land (S4HL) campaign, a global collaboration with a mission to advance secure and equitable land, housing and property rights for

women globally, works through collective country-led advocacy aimed at closing the implementation gap between law and practice in regards to Women's Land Rights (WLRs). It does so by removing social and structural barriers that prevent women from exercising their land rights, and ensuring that land tenure governance, reforms, and processes equitably include and benefit women.

The campaign was launched globally in Kenya, with separate in-country launches in Uganda, Ethiopia and Senegal in 2022. It brought together various national, regional, and international organisations, policy makers, indigenous and grassroots women coalitions and groups, and government representatives under the banner of "Stand for Her Land".

A learning exchange was also held in Tanzania in October 2022 which yielded insights on gender-transformative approaches (GTAs) to WLRs through a series of case study discussions, field visits and training. Equally important were the action plans developed by participants to put into practice the lessons learnt during this session.

Some recommendations emerging from these events were that:

- The S4HL campaign should engage the AU to champion WLRs and shift

the allocation of global resources as well as create global allies;

- The grassroots women should be put at the centre of the campaign since they have the capacity to change their status quo;
- Men should be included in the women's land ownership rights campaign;
- New land reforms should give an explicit place to WLRs
- Relevant government stakeholders should increase financing of movements that support women's land ownership rights; and
- Participants should be ambassadors of WLRs and continue to train communities and local authorities about GTA to bring change on the ground.
- Awareness raising, capacity-building, mobilisation of communities, and grassroots women in particular, and developing and facilitating a communication strategy to engage the media and change agents are just a few examples of how WLRs can be advanced.

As the campaign gains traction across the region, the reach of ILC's networks will play an even greater role in facilitating much-needed cross-learning between countries.



Securing Territorial Rights of Indigenous Peoples

DRC, Kenya

The Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo was adopted by the Senate in June 2022, as members of RP 10 carried out advocacy actions, periodic meetings with members of the protection mechanism, press conferences and radio broadcasts in support of the law. The adoption of this law means that the IPs of DRC who have been accustomed to evictions without prior consent or compensation will have a legal basis on which to defend their ancestral lands.

Another successful advocacy effort culminated in the African Court on Human

and Peoples' Rights (ACPHR) delivering a ruling on the Ogiek land rights case over their ancestral lands of Mau forest in Kenya on June 23rd, 2022. The Ogiek, through their networks, including RP 5 and NLC Kenya, lobbied the government on the need to respect and implement court rulings and finally, their efforts to turn the scales that had previously disadvantaged them were not in vain as the Court determined that the Ogiek have a right to their ancestral claims and directed that the government issue the Ogiek with collective title to their land.

Locally Managed Ecosystems

Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, DRC, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia and Zimbabwe

Advocacy campaigns by Regional Platform 6 members addressing land degradation and biodiversity depletion resulted in intensive tree growing with native tree species, enrichment plantings, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) practices, and protection of current forest lands. The platform's action by the coalition led to the restoration of more than 600,000 hectares of degraded lands and the conservation of more than 7 million hectares during the 2021-2022 period in Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, DRC,

Senegal, Somalia and Zimbabwe. The restored lands and conserved landscapes are contributing to the sustainability of target ecosystems, the livelihoods of local communities and IPs, and to the sequestration of carbon for **climate change**. The increased tree planting by SahelEco, through the Regreening Africa program, contributed to improving food and nutritional security in Mali where thousands of people were at risk of food insecurity.

Inclusive decision-making

Burkina Faso, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Cameroon, DRC, South Africa, Zambia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

The timely assessment of the [Implementation process of AU Agenda on land](#) provided a crucial perspective to the progress made by member states, civil society and strategic partners in the implementation of this groundbreaking agenda. The lessons gleaned from the study initiated by the African Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Platform on Land and supported by RP 7 among other partners highlighted the need for inclusiveness and participation in land policy development and implementation in the region.

Approximately 10 years ago, the AU Agenda on Land, an umbrella term encompassing important policy instruments and guidelines including the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and the “Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges” in Africa, heralded a new era that recognized the role of effective land governance in the development of the continent. However, despite the progress made towards effective governance in the decade since its adoption, it has become increasingly apparent that this progress is built on uneven ground. Three dimensions of land rights inequality that continue to plague the continent - women’s land rights, youth rights and access to land,

and customary and communal land rights - were highlighted as areas for future and urgent action by the study. Among the recommendations made by the study were to:


- Support the implementation and monitoring of gender-balanced customary land administration systems that give an equal voice to women in land-related decision-making;
- Mobilize youth movements; and
- Share and support further development of effective communal land governance and administration that balances customary practices with equity and inclusion.

Translating these recommendations from paper to practice will call for the deliberate and concerted efforts of relevant stakeholders to ensure people-centred land governance.

Protection of land rights defenders

Cameroon, DRC, Madagascar, Senegal

Authorities put an end to the legal proceedings against some land rights defenders, freed others, and reduced the threats to others as a result of the efforts made by the Regional Platform 10’s members between 2020 to 2022 in the commitment of political-administrative and judicial authorities to improving the working environment of land rights defenders across the region.



This environment, created by the renewed commitment by authorities, allowed land rights defenders to realise the fruits of their labour; some decisions granting investors the land of local communities or Indigenous Peoples without prior consultation of the latter and without payment of fair compensation were either cancelled or suspended as was the case in Senegal and DRC.

Further to this, the African Environmental Defenders Fund continues to support cases across the region, with 24 cases addressed and 78 defenders supported in 2022.

Other Forms of Advocacy

ILC also assisted in the creation of campaigns and petitions in direct response to real-time events across the region. These included the unlawful evictions of indigenous peoples from their land in Uganda and Tanzania. In Tanzania, the NLC provided advocacy and visibility support to communities to amplify their voices, leading to the halting of the plan to evict Maasai and other pastoral communities in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). However, since then, the Ministry of Natural Resources has resumed the eviction process. This calls for further concerted efforts to seek alternative solutions to the impasse. In Madagascar, ILC and its members petitioned the President of the Republic of Madagascar to protect the rights of Malagasy farmers and local communities who were facing

eviction because of the new contentious land law. Joint advocacy efforts resulted in the president suspending the law.

In addition to these advocacy efforts, ILC Africa, its members, and its partners brought to the fore the significance of the security of land tenure and land rights in a variety of forums for national and global discourse. 2022 saw ILC Africa leverage its platform and partnerships to advocate for and amplify the voices of POs at a record number of events including COP 15, COP 27, Africa Climate Week, and Stockholm+50, just to name a few.

As alluded to in the opening message from the Regional Coordinator, unlike any other year in its history, ILC Africa overtly drew attention to the role of PCLG in climate change action, positioning locally-managed ecosystems as innovative community practices for transformative adaptation and long-term resilience, and emphasising the role of youth, IPLCs, LEDs, and PRM in advancing climate justice.

ILC Africa, its members, and partners were also vocal at the LANDac International Conference, RCMRD Conference, GLFX Digital Conference, and TMG-co-organized webinar where they shone the spotlight on youth and women's access to land and on land rights monitoring and reporting tools such as the LANDex and the Human Rights and Land Navigator tool.

Pledges

Norms in traditional systems of leadership

Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Gender justice is fundamental to achieving people-centred land governance and as such ILC is committed to promoting this principle within the network and beyond. To this end, 10 platforms implemented gender quotas and/or promoted the representation of women in governance; 14 platforms organised gender trainings or knowledge events; 3 platforms produced studies, learning product, research and/or guidelines; 7 platforms focused on the promotion of women's participation and; 11 platforms had specific activities related to women's rights and/or gender justice in land tenure. With this level of demonstrated commitment to gender equality within the network, it is encouraging to see progress also made at the grassroots levels.

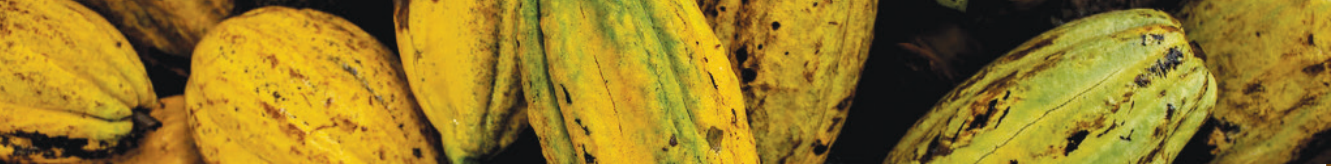
In Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe, platforms worked towards changes in terms of impact on traditional leaders, and successfully so. For example, in Malawi, the NLC and local Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) worked together to coordinate needs and demands from women and youth to influence traditional leaders; from being the

strongest opponents, traditional leaders eventually approached the NLC platform to act as an independent interlocutor between them and government in the review of the Customary Land Act 2016.

In other parts of Southern Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia specifically, local and traditional authorities were sensitised about gender issues, leading to gender-sensitive complaint systems and Gender-Guidelines for Traditional Leaders, respectively. Similarly, in parts of Western Africa, particularly in Senegal, Togo, and Cameroon, communities, with the support of platforms, put in place systems to ensure gender-responsive governance and promoted Women's Land Rights (WLRs) and gender-inclusive traditional leadership. Lastly, the Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) initiative in Kenya also increased the representation of women in rangeland institutions.

The upshot of these activities is that despite the prevailing gender norms that may restrict their inclusion in decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods, traditional systems of leadership are gradually cultivating systems that lay the groundwork for the realisation of gender-just societies.

Finally, ILC members helped finalise the Gender Justice Charter which was then shared with them for adoption. As of this report's publication, more t



Case Study: Promoting Democracy by Defending the Defenders

Uganda

Respect for human rights is one of the fundamental pillars of democracy and just as human rights flourish best in a democracy, a stable democracy without the respect, protection, and implementation of human rights is unthinkable. Civil society is uniquely placed to promote democracy by improving the working environment of land rights defenders as the [award-winning work](#) conducted by Witness Radio - Uganda demonstrates.

The victims of the illegal evictions of mostly women, children and the elderly from their lands in Kiryandongo district in western Uganda rose to 35,000 in 2022, awakening, in the affected communities, the call to defend their lands. Unsurprisingly, their actions triggered reprisals by law enforcement, heightening the need for legal protection and representation of community land rights defenders.

Fortunately for some, legal representation for community land rights defenders was

conducted by Witness Radio. Since the implementation of this activity started, 42 community land and environmental rights defenders received legal representation. All defenders have since been released on either police bonds or court bails which bolstered their security and got back their freedoms/liberties. Two brokers of the Kiryandongo land grab were arrested and arraigned before court and charged in Masindi Chief Magistrate Court, which has bolstered the security of land and environmental rights defenders in the area. Land and environmental defenders that received legal representation returned to the frontline to push back the illegal land evictions in their respective communities.

Witness Radio- Uganda's support of land defenders through representation in courts, securing police bonds and monitoring arrests in the country through newspapers has indeed promoted democracy in Uganda, but much remains to be done.





Strategic Partnerships and Joint Programming

The International Land Coalition in Africa has been at the forefront of building relationships with the strategic partner and development actors in the efforts of partnerships and collaboration towards effective synergies to secure funding through joint fundraising and programming.

In 2022, ILC Africa established relations and worked closely with various institutions as listed below:

Partnership established.

- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)

Ongoing Discussion for collaboration

- Global Landscape Forum
- Think Thank for Sustainability
- Slow Food International
- Coalition of Defenders
- National Land Commission of Kenya
- Kadaster Dutch International
- AUDA-NEPAD
- Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
- The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Global Land Alliance
- Africa Land Policy Centre (ALPC)

Governance

Membership and Budget

Twenty-two new members were officially onboarded into the ILC Africa network, bringing the total number of members to 95. A call for new membership is made every three years with the next call going out at the end of 2023. Interested organisations are expected to share an Expression of Interest which will then be followed by due diligence from ILC before welcoming new members.

The membership fee payment completion rate stood at 45% for the ILC Africa network by the end of the year. Twenty-six Institutional Contracts (ICs) amounting to \$1,342,320 were signed in 2022 to facilitate the formulation and implementation of initiatives' strategies in the regional network.

Regional Coordination Unit

Due to the growth of the platform, the RCU saw the need to strengthen its support to respond effectively to members' needs. This involved staffing where RCU staff expanded to include a Campaigns and Advocacy Manager, Network and Management Support and Program Associate, in addition to the rest of the team. This brought the number of staff at the RCU to 9. The work areas include: Regional Coordination, Programs, Communications, Advocacy and Campaigns, Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management and Learning, Resource Mobilization and Partnerships and Management and Network Support.



The RCU has a robust Internship scheme that has been growing over the years and continues to encourage applications all year round. Currently at least one intern operates in each work area to support the RCU, simultaneously creating land rights advocates in collaboration with the Youth Platform.

Regional assembly 2022

The Regional Assembly is the decision-making body of the platform, providing guidelines for the development of regional strategies, work plans, and budgets, while the Africa Steering Committee (ASC) ensures consistency between ILC Global and the implementation of regional work. Due to a very busy year agenda with several forums and conferences that involved most of the members, the steering committee has postponed the regional assembly to October 2023.

Global Land Forum 2022

The Global Land Forum 2022 was successfully held in Jordan and attended by a majority of ILC Africa members

who sought to position land rights as a pathway out of the current world challenges such as Climate Crisis, inequalities, unsustainable food systems, etc. The members unanimously adopted the Dead Sea Declaration while youth issued a powerful youth declaration at the end of the global youth land forum, a pre-event to the GLF.

Africa Steering Committee

The ASC represents members of ILC Africa. It ensures that decisions are taken by the Regional Assembly, the ultimate decision-making body of the regional platform in its annual meetings. It supervises RCU and makes sure that decisions taken by the Assembly are implemented. In the reporting period, it held a number of virtual meetings to decide on issues that concern the platform and members directly.



Photo by: ILC

Challenges and lessons Learnt



- The rising cost of food and fuel, a global challenge coming on the back of both COVID-19 value chain disruptions and the war in Ukraine, was felt deeply in most countries across the region. In South Africa, for example, national data showed that food price inflation hit a 14-year high at 13.4%, with impacting factors including a weakened local currency, persistent and escalating periods of widespread national-level rolling electricity blackouts, increased levels of animal diseases, hot and dry conditions in key imported staple food production areas like South America as the impacts of climate change begin to take a greater toll. This has necessitated strategy adaptations to include addressing the current and future impacts of unsustainable food systems, and the critical importance of supporting climate change adaptation.
- The challenges faced by ILC Africa's members in implementing their strategies have presented valuable lessons that will guide their continuous improvement. The network is committed to taking the necessary steps to address these challenges and improve its operations, ensuring that it remains effective in achieving its strategic objectives.



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CONTACT US:

Twitter: @ILCAfrique | Facebook: @ ILCAfrique

ILC Africa Regional Coordination Unit

<https://africalandcoalition.org>

c/o World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri

PO Box 30677

Nairobi, Kenya 00100