

INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION IN AFRICA

ILC Africa is a Regional Platform of the International Land Coalition (ILC), a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men. The shared goal of ILC's over 250 members is to realise land governance for and with people at national and regional levels, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities who live on and from the land.

ILC Africa plays a powerful role in this global coalition as it hosts almost two-thirds of ILC's total membership! Most members are grassroots organisations affiliated to a larger NGO, or NGOs, while others are coalitions or networks. ILC Africa also engages regularly with regional partners that have headquarters in Africa, such as the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and various United Nations agencies.



*ILC Africa brings together
76+ members
across **26+ countries** in
Sub-Saharan Africa.*

WHY LAND RIGHTS?

Secure land rights have the potential to directly shape the quality of life for the millions of people whose livelihoods, nutrition, income and employment depend on land and other natural resources. Beyond that, land rights are a part of culture and identity. This importance is demonstrated in secure land rights for women and men, indigenous peoples, family farmers and pastoralists being key to achieving 13 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including ending hunger and tackling the climate crisis.

In Africa, with its complex and overlapping tenure systems, millions are facing financial instability and declining livelihoods because of insecure land rights. This is especially true in rural areas where approximately 10 percent of land is registered with the remaining 90 percent undocumented and informally administered. Though some African governments have made progress in recent years to establish frameworks and legal instruments to protect people's land rights, implementation and enforcement often falls short. The disparity between policy and practice leaves individuals and local communities vulnerable to threats such as displacement, eviction, and violence.



**GLOBAL
LAND
GOVERNANCE
INDEX**

Built in consultation with members and strategic partners of ILC, LANDex is a global land governance index that measures progress towards people-centred land governance based on common indicators and ILC's 10 Commitments. ILC Africa members throughout the continent use this monitoring tool to assess the status of land governance on three levels: legal framework, implementation, and impact.

“**WE CONNECT STAKEHOLDERS
AND LAND ACTORS IN AN EFFORT TO
MOBILISE THEIR CAPACITIES AND
INFLUENCE LAND REFORMS AND
GOVERNANCE PROCESSES.**”

STRATEGIC PARTNERS & CORE DONORS



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**Promote secure and equitable access
to and control over land for
poor women and men**



**INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION** | **AFRICA
AFRIQUE**

HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER?

To contribute to securing land rights in Africa, our work is structured around the following three pillars:

We **CONNECT** stakeholders and land actors in an effort to **MOBILIZE** their capacities and **INFLUENCE** land reforms and governance processes.

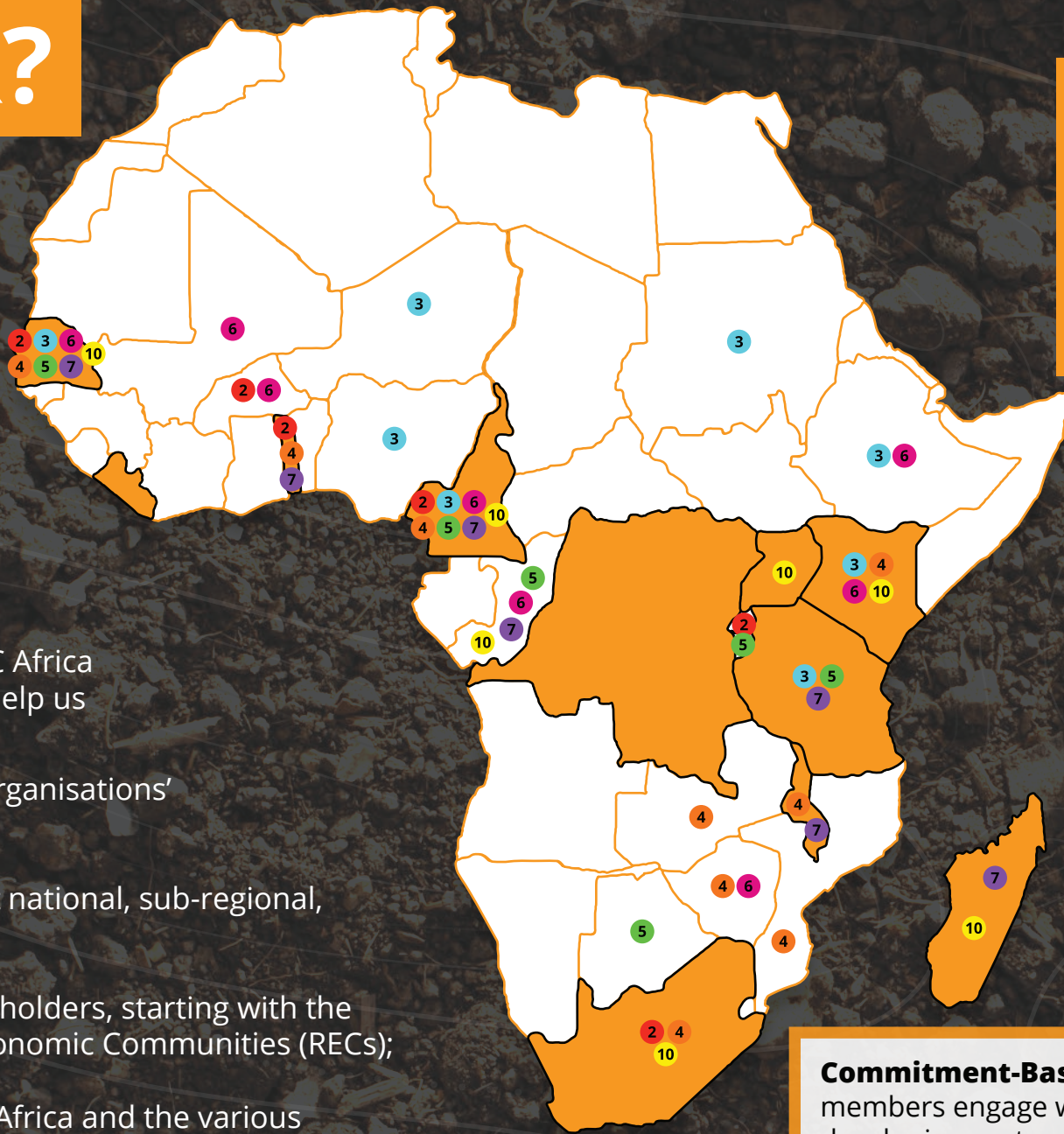
In our 2016-2021 Regional Strategy, ILC Africa committed to four main objectives to help us **Connect, Mobilise, and Influence**:

- 1 Strengthen and develop member organisations' competencies;
- 2 Push for pro-people land policies at national, sub-regional, and regional levels;
- 3 Engage with relevant regional stakeholders, starting with the African Union (AU) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- 4 Showcase the work of members in Africa and the various commitment-based initiatives to policy makers, practitioners, and other associated groups.

“To achieve these four main objectives, ILC Africa has set up national and continental multi-stakeholder platforms that reach beyond the membership. Each of these platforms is hosted by an ILC member and assigned a facilitator in charge of administrative, operational, and public relations roles for the implementation of the platform's strategy and work plan.

Land and Environmental Defender's Fund

ILC member **Natural Justice**, a frontline land defenders organisation, has managed the ILC Africa Land and Environmental Defender's Fund since December 2019, with a website which enables defenders in emergency situations to reach out and request direct support. The Fund has a rapid response process, utilising a review committee to respond to requests quickly and effectively.



National Engagement Strategies (NES) are multi-stakeholder processes set in motion by the ILC to promote people-centred land governance in individual countries, by influencing the formulation and implementation of land policies and programmes. NES processes and their platforms are led by national actors, including both ILC and non-ILC members, and have links to regional and global processes of the ILC. NES are active in the following eleven countries:

Cameroon
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi

Senegal
South Africa
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda

Commitment-Based Initiatives (CBIs) are regional platforms through which ILC Africa members engage with each other to advance change at national and regional level, developing partnerships and common strategies on one of ILC's 10 Commitments. These initiatives involve members across countries, and complement and link to national platforms. In Africa, members jointly work on the following seven commitments:

CBI	NAME OF CBI	COUNTRIES
2	Small-Scale Family Farming	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Senegal, South Africa, Rwanda and Togo
3	Rangelands Initiative	Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Tanzania
4	Women's Land Rights	Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe
5	Territorial Rights for Indigenous Peoples	Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, DRC, Senegal and Tanzania
6	Locally Managed Ecosystems	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Togo and Zimbabwe
7	Inclusive Decision-Making	Cameroon, DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo
10	Protected Land Rights Defenders	Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Senegal and Uganda

WHAT IMPACT DO WE MAKE?

ILC Africa's work drives changes in policies and practices that cut across many countries of Africa. It influences international, regional, and local decision makers and governments to enhance and protect the content of land-related policies, laws, and regulations and to improve the practices and behaviours of those involved in land governance.

While these changes have a direct impact in the 26 countries where ILC Africa has members, our efforts can also be felt throughout the rest of the continent. Our work demonstrates to others how to promote women's rights, give a voice to youth, advocate for indigenous communities, defend the rights of land defenders, strengthen national and regional mechanisms, facilitate peer learning, manage ecosystems sustainably, use data for improved governance, and much more.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF CHANGES TO POLICY AND CHANGES TO PRACTICE ILC AFRICA BRINGS TO THE CONTINENT:

POLICY

Presidential candidates recognised the importance of land redistribution during the 2019 election period in South Africa, and committed to constitutional changes thanks to ILC members' engagement in the debate. This is the most significant commitment to land redistribution since democratic governance was established in South Africa in 1994.

The government of Tanzania redistributed over 44,720 hectares of land to pastoralists through legislative frameworks that enhanced their rights and recognition. Land represents a critical resource for pastoralists' livelihoods, allowing them to sustainably graze their livestock for sources of food, clothing, transport and more.

Local and national administrative authorities in Cameroon, DRC, and Madagascar released a total of 25 land defenders from detainment following ILC-supported negotiations and advocacy efforts. These releases align with international commitments such as the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

The Togolese government made improvements to the national Agricultural Guidance Law as a result of a workshop organised by NES Togo, and supported by the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

PRACTICE

ILC Africa supported the Kilimanjaro Charter of Demand that was developed and championed by rural women in Africa in 2016.

Following training from the ILC Family Farming Initiative, 50 farmer leaders from Togo and Cameroon now have the dialogue and advocacy techniques necessary to successfully negotiate with local authorities for increased access to land for farmers. Small-scale farming feeds and employs up to two-thirds of the African population, representing an integral part of local livelihoods.

Local chiefs in South Africa and Zimbabwe shifted their position on land ownership in favour of gender justice, giving women in the area an opportunity that they did not have before: secure rights to land.

The Participatory Rangelands Management project was piloted in four sub-counties of Kenya and six clusters of villages in Tanzania. The project developed guidelines on participatory rangelands management and enabled their implementation by strengthening the capacities of local and national governments, civil society organisations, and local communities.

In collaboration with FAO and the Ministry of Lands, NES Togo supported the implementation of thier country's 2018 Land Code. This included spearheading the translation of the code into images that local communities could understand, making the implementation process possible.

ILC Africa's Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) provides technical assistance to platforms for operations, communications, peer-to-peer learning, knowledge management, and administrative activities. It also contributes to political positioning, advocacy, and the establishment of strategic partnerships and alliances. ILC Africa is not a donor, but instead provides catalytic seed funding to our national and regional platforms and then supports them to mobilise additional funding directly from other donors and foundations.

HOW IS ILC AFRICA ORGANISED?