

INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION IN AFRICA



ILC Africa brings together
76+ members
across **26+ countries** in
Sub-Saharan 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 the country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities who live on and from the land.

With almost two-thirds of ILC's total membership, ILC Africa brings together 76+ members across 26+ countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the shared goal of people centred land governance. Most members are grassroots-based, with an affiliation to a larger NGO. Some are stand-alone NGOs, while others are coalitions or networks. They all generally operate within a specific country. In addition to members from the region, there are also international organisations and intergovernmental bodies headquartered or working in Africa.

STAKEHOLDERS

The major allies for CBI 10 include national and international NGOs working on land issues and the protection of human rights. This includes:



UNITED NATIONS
ORGANIZATION
STABILIZATION MISSION IN
THE DR CONGO



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.

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

LOCAL PARTNERS

Coordinated by Aide et Action pour la Paix (AAP), this platform involves a wide range of members including: Institut Panafricain pour la Citoyenneté, les Consommateurs et le Développement (CICODEV), Fiantso, Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA), Centre pour l'Environnement et de Développement (CED), Union pour l'Émancipation de la Femme Autochtone (UEFA), Programme Intégré pour le Développement du Peuple Pygmée au Kivu (PIDP), Conseil pour la Défense Environnementale par la Légalité et la Traçabilité (CODELT), and Environnement, Ressources Naturelles et Développement (ERND).

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INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION

CBI 10

(LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN AFRICA)

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

AFRICA
AFRIQUE

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



LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN AFRICA

Despite the ratification of numerous international instruments for the promotion of human rights and the existence of the relevant domestic constitutional and legal provisions, examples of failure to respect human rights still exist in African countries today. For example, African Environmental Defenders play an important role in protecting lands and ecosystems from unsustainable industrial development, logging, and extractive projects. However, the nature of their work can expose them to significant risks due to the political and monetary power they are challenging. Land rights defenders regularly face violations of their human rights, including threats and intimidation, kidnappings, arbitrary detention, and judicial harassment that significantly reduce their ability to intervene on the ground.

LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS COMMITMENT-BASED INITIATIVE

Commitment-Based Initiatives (CBIs) are regional mechanisms through which ILC Africa members engage with each other to advance change at cross-country level, developing partnerships and common strategies on one or more of ILC's 10 Commitments, which focus on specific themes and aspects of land governance. These initiatives involve members across countries, and complement and link to existing ILC national platforms.

CBI 10 works to respect and protect the civil and political rights of human rights defenders working on land issues, combating the stigmatisation and criminalisation of peaceful protest and land rights activism, and ending impunity for human rights violations, including harassment, threats, political imprisonment, torture, and murder.

The initiative began in November 2016 through the work of several ILC Africa members in response to the persecution of land rights defenders in various African countries. Under the leadership of Aide et Action pour la Paix (AAP), the initiative aimed at promoting respect for the human rights of land rights defenders and preventing attempts made by governments and private investors to hinder defenders' efforts and achievements.

“ 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.

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE?

The purpose of the initiative is to promote the protection of land rights defenders by enabling them to advocate effectively for their rights and fundamental freedoms in order to improve their situation in the face of various abuses.



WHERE DO WE WORK?

Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Senegal, and Uganda



WHAT ACTIONS DO WE TAKE?

There are two processes via which CBI 10 members are strengthening ideas, support, and resources to help land defenders stay safe in the line of duty. The first is a platform led by both ILC and non-ILC members, working to strengthen the rights of land defenders in Africa. Its actions include:

- 1 Capacity-building activities for land rights and natural resource defenders to prepare them for the risks involved in their work and how to control their own protection;
- 2 Designing and harmonising data collection tools on violations of land rights defenders in Africa;
- 3 Forming observatories involving ILC and civil society organisations (CSOs) to monitor cases of violations and enable analysis of trends;
- 4 Producing advocacy tools for the protection and promotion of the rights of land rights defenders.

The second feature of CBI 10 is the Land and Environmental Defender's Fund. Natural Justice, a frontline land defenders organisation, launched the Fund in 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.

OUR IMPACT

The twofold approach taken by CBI 10 allows ILC Africa to both prevent and respond to threats to land rights defenders. By targeting legislations and practices of local and national administrative authorities, CBI 10 can advocate for increased protection and accountability of defenders in the first place and negotiate for their safety if those measures are violated.

In 2017, CBI 10 established land observatories to monitor cases of violations of the rights of land defenders in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Senegal, and Uganda. The observatories have been instrumental in highlighting and reporting land corruption and persecution of land defenders. For example, when seven indigenous Pigmy land defenders faced prosecution in DRC, the land observatory was quick to bring it to public attention and document the state of the violation.

In addition to raising awareness and documenting violations, representatives of CBI 10 negotiated the release of 25 land rights defenders arrested by the governments of the DRC, Madagascar, and Cameroon in 2019.