Europe, Middle East & North Africa

Annual Report 2018

Regional Assembly, Global Land Forum

Bandung, Indonesia 23/09/18
Contents

Introduction ............................................................................................................ Page 3

Membership Update

Membership Expansion .......................................................................................... Page 4

National Engagement Strategies

NES Albania ........................................................................................................ Page 5
NES Moldova ....................................................................................................... Page 6
NES Jordan .......................................................................................................... Page 7
NES Kosovo ........................................................................................................ Page 8

Commitment Based Initiatives

CBI Commons in Europe ...................................................................................... Page 9
CBI Youth and Land ............................................................................................. Page 10
CBI Women’s Land Rights .................................................................................. Page 12
Dubai Arab Land Conference ............................................................................. Page 14
Introduction

The ILC Europe Middle East and North Africa region (EMENA) has developed considerably since its inception in 2016. Previously amalgamated within the wider ILC Global CSO group, a set of 7 member-organisations decided to become a separate regional hub, following the realisation that their scope was more national in character than regional or global, and following their mutual agreement in self-identifying as a region with shared focus and complementary strengths.

While the members that make up the ILC EMENA region span from countries with diverse geographical, climatic, political, economic and social male ups, the group identified a larger purpose in being united as one ILC region, namely working together and benefiting from each other’s experience and expertise.

The initial seven members in this group agreed at the Global CSO meeting in Bilbao in 2015, that they wanted to be a regional subgroup, and reaffirmed this decision more definitively at the Global CSO meeting in Edinburgh in 2016. Following the 2017 membership call, an additional 10 organisations working in the region applied and were successful in joining the ILC EMENA regional platform, bringing the regional platform to include 17 members.

Distinct in geography, climate, history, legal and political systems, the ILC EMENA region differs greatly in terms of land tenure issues and challenges in facing them. In each country, land tenure and land governance take on a different form, manifesting themselves in different popular struggles and embedding themselves in pre-existing social and political structures. In some cases, land rights become part of the way communities in these different countries fight pre-existing or emerging social battles – they become an instrument through which to achieve social justice, unique in each context.

However, this region also shares much in terms of its challenges in land rights. The 17 organisations are also working on overlapping areas, which permits them to work as a constituency as they move forward. Being part of the ILC EMENA region empowers their national struggles, be it lobbying national governments to push for land reform, posing resistance to land confiscation, sustaining farmers in registering land in their names, achieving the access to forest on behalf of forest users, or acquiring rights for communities in accessing natural resources and basic human necessities such as water.
The EMENA regional platform welcomed 10 new members in 2018, bringing 1 new country (Morocco) into the EMENA platform, and bringing the platform to a total of 17 members, covering 9 countries.

**Members in EMENA (New members highlighted in blue)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisations</th>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab Center for Agricultural Development</td>
<td>ACAD</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc</td>
<td>ADFM</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asociación Forestal de Soria</td>
<td>ASFOSO</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azul</td>
<td>AZUL</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO Bios</td>
<td>BIOS</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Moldova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Land Scotland</td>
<td>CLS</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative</td>
<td>DQLCC</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiativa Comunales</td>
<td>ICOMUNALES</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lentamente Societa Cooperativa Agricola</td>
<td>Lentamente Societa Cooperativa Agricola</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Private Forest Owners “Pyjet e Kosoves”</td>
<td>NAPFOK</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Kosovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Association of Communal Forests and Pastures</td>
<td>NFCFPA</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Albania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Engagement Strategies

NES Albania

Albania is a country characterized by limited agricultural land, although its geographical position, climate, and natural resources potential are favourable to agriculture and rural development. A legal framework comprised of several laws and bylaws has been guiding the transition from a centralized to a market-oriented sector as part of the decentralization and privatization process of the last twenty years. Despite this, land rights and registration remain hot topics, in many cases even causing armed intercommunity conflicts.

In a context where legal acts and sub-acts often contradict each other, property recognition issues and conflicts continue to occur regularly. In addition, one of the very problematic issues is that of legal implementation, often caused by the lack of proper knowledge on legal frameworks, policies and strategies by the vast majority of farmers, a lack of political will to implement the legal base, and differences in legal implementation, which take into account geographical and social diversities.

As land is such a key factor for development and prosperity, the National Engagement Strategy (NES) for Albania has created a consultative space for broad-based dialogue, allowing for the identification of problems and solutions related to issues of land ownership and management. This includes the country’s land governance framework, the formulation of laws in support of beneficiaries such as the draft Law on Forests and Pasture, and the implementation of existing laws. The NES also highlights the need to support beneficiaries and to identify potential areas for joint intervention and support.

As of 2015, NES Albania achievements include:

- Unifying a successful multi-stakeholder platform for policy dialogue which was initiated in collaboration with national and international actors as well as national parliament representatives;
- Spearheading national and regional consultations on the Draft Law of Forests and Pastures, with policy recommendations submitted to the Minister of Environment;
- Developing a unified cadastre in Fier (southwest) where maps and a digital database were created;
- Creating exchanges on good practices and challenges promoted in the region, including the first Balkan regional meeting on Forestry and Pasture rights;
- Raising awareness through campaigns on women’s land entitlement that resulted in all forest and pasture user associations of NFCFPA committing to at least 30% of women included in decision-making bodies of each regional federations and association.

As of 2016, NES Albania has been in the Implementation Stage, and it is now its 3rd year. Its objectives include:
Strategic Objective 1: Ensure that the legal framework is improved toward forest and pasture decentralization: including re-drafting and approval of People centred Forest Law and Pasture Law, recognizing use and ownership rights, and subsequent 5 implementing acts (once laws are approved). This includes the following activities:

Activity 1.1: Country assessment

Activity 1.2: Multi-stakeholder Coordination and Consultative Committee meetings

Activity 1.3: Concrete proposals on the new forestry draft law and sub laws

Activity 1.4: Balkan level meeting

Strategic Objective 2: Ensure that Municipalities have capacities to manage forests and develop usership agreements with local users (men and women) including the following activities:

Activity 2.1: Multi-stakeholder meetings at local level

Activity 2.2: Annual planning at municipal level (one pilot municipality) and capacity building meetings for other municipalities

Activity 2.3: Develop and document forestry model within the pilot municipality

**NES Moldova**

In June 2017 NGO BIOS from the Republic of Moldova expressed its interest in developing and implementing a NES. This issue was discussed and agreed with relevant stakeholders in 2016 during the National Stakeholders Forum, a gathering organised to enhance protection of pro-poor land tenure systems and to disseminate case study findings in framework of “Soil and People” Project funded by ILC.

Moldova is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, among the most densely populated in the region, with about 3.6 million people, of whom 58.4 % live in rural areas. The country is located at the intersection of three bio-geographic zones: Central-European, oak forests; Euro-Asiatic, semi-arid steppe; and Mediterranean, Black Sea, which results in high levels of genetic diversity in plants and animals. However, Moldova has the lowest forest cover (13.3%) in Europe. About 42% of the rural population is affected by poverty, and many of them rely upon the use of natural resources for their livelihoods.

The agriculture sector in Moldova is of vital importance in terms of employment, rural livelihoods, food security, rural growth and exports. However, the income levels remain depressed, while the gaps between efficient farms and subsistence-oriented peasants’ households, is further widening. The most detrimental problems of agriculture are the environmental degradation and reduced productivity caused by improper management practices, overgrazing, and significant loss of the forest belts.

Moldova has a functioning but limited framework for land governance: ownership and security of tenure is guaranteed for most of the population, the land reform (privatization) has been completed, a land and property taxation system is in place, and the state offers reliable and transparent cadastre and registry services that are cost-effective. However, this functioning system needs to be expanded to cover types of tenure that currently do not enjoy the same level of security as most private lands and some of its elements need to become more integrated, efficient, and transparent in order to better contribute to the country’s development.

As of 2018 NES Moldova has been in the Implementation Stage and is now its 1st year. Its objectives include:

Strategic priorities of NES in the Republic of Moldova
1. improving the legal framework and conflict resolution around land ownership;
2. integration of environmental protection principles into local development plans and their implementation;
3. governance of commons, such as grasslands, communal forests, water resources etc.;
4. supporting small and medium-sized farmers;
5. transparency and public involvement in the decision-making process.

Goal of NES:

Conflict resolution of land issues and sustainable management of land and natural resources for the benefit of rural people.

Strategic objectives:
II. Government and local public authorities consult civil society and apply international and national legal provisions in the activities related to land governance.
III. Improvement of existing policies and adoption of new policies, laws or regulations related to land governance catalysed by NES.

NES Jordan

Jordan has achieved a great deal in terms of environmental protection and the promotion of local ecosystems as a resource for the country, however local communities have had limited input only into the decision-making processes. The 2025 Vision promoted by the Government of Jordan underlines the opportunity “to give citizens the chance to have their voice heard on major policy issues”. The Vision seeks to empower active citizenship and participation from civil society organisations and the private sector. Local communities have the opportunity to strengthen their traditional customary systems and to embrace the new political and administrative decentralisation process by actively engaging with the governance of their land and territories.

The objectives of a national land dialogue are aimed at identifying other initiatives, committees, workforces, and multi-stakeholders working on issues related to land use, land management and land governance and then working together to:

- Strengthen people governance of customary land through their institutions
- Secure land use rights for local communities for inclusiveness and effective conservation of natural resources
- Renew the collective vision of the territories to avoid land fragmentation
- Document cases and revert land grabbing
- Learn by exchange of experiences and build capacities of local actors
- Minimizing current and to erupt land based conflicts among local communities and tribes.
- Facilitate the effective inclusion of women into the decision making of local communities
- Promote youth leadership in the governance of land and territories.

As of 2017, NES Jordan has been in the Formulation Stage:

Steps with gradual engagement of actors:
1. Setting up an informal Land Governance (NES) reference group comprising the Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative, SEEDs, IUCN, the Minister of Agriculture (Rangelands) and the Minister of Environment (Biodiversity).

2. Commissioning a Country Assessment as a starting point for informed consultation and strategic decision making. The final expected output is a short paper (approx. 15 pages) in a narrative form.

3. Co-ordinating and facilitating a one-day NES workshop (28 September 2017) in Dana, during which the outcomes of the country assessment will be discussed, actors and ongoing programmes mapped out, priorities for action identified and an agreement for a future strategy achieved.

4. Establishing a Land Governance (NES) steering committee/coordinating mechanism and a wider platform, including the RSCN, RSS, UNDP ICCAs, GEF IFAD, FAO, Zarqa River Basin Community, WANA, ICARDA, GIZ, Directorate Land and Survey, University of Tafila, Tribes Council, High Council of Youth, Governorate and municipal land development units’ committees

5. Finalising a country strategy and multi-year action plan.

**NES Kosovo**

Our newest NES in the EMENA region is NES Kosovo, lead by ILC member NAPFO. The primary steps have started for NES Kosovo, with the submission and approval of the Expression of Interest, which will lead to the Formulation phase.

Kosovo is located in South-Eastern Europe at the centre of the Balkan Peninsula. The total land area is 10.908 km². Kosovo has 37 municipalities and 1.467 villages. Farmers cannot produce enough surpluses for commercialization because of the small farm sizes; a significant proportion of the production is used for home consumption, while only small amounts of agricultural produce are brought to the market usually without long term contractual arrangements. As regarding forestry, the forest area in Kosovo covers 481.000 ha (equivalent to 44,7% of the total land area) according to the national forest inventory of 2012. 62% of all forests are public and state owned, while 38% of the forest is privately owned. The forests have good potential to produce forest products in a sustainable manner and to contribute to Kosovo’s national economy. However, forest degradation and associated loss of ecosystem services represent one of the major environmental challenges facing Kosovo. Continued unsustainable forest harvesting, results in damaging and destruction of the forest resource base.

The National Association of Private Forest Owners in Kosovo (NAPFO) operates based on the laws in force for all natural resources such as forests, pastures, water etc., relying on a Forestry Development Strategy for the period 2010-2020, according to which policy documents, the Kosovo government:

- Recognizes the importance of forest resources as an integral part of society in the economic, cultural and social aspect;
- Points out the importance of forest protection for stable and sound maintenance of the ecosystem;
- Is aware of unsatisfactory condition of forest resources, which is characterized by unsustainable use, with a low intensity of forest management, with insufficient protection and sub-optimal use of forest resources;
- Verifies that forest resources are not used to their full potential due to their limited availability of technology and trained personnel, weaknesses in organizational structures and in implementation of legislation that regulate forest protection and management of forest resources;
- Points out that private forest sector is characterized by small forest areas (fragmentation), resulting in low productivity and inefficient use of forest lands;
- Addresses the current threats to sustainable forest management that result from limited capacity to invest to the forest management, illegal cuttings, forest fires, threatening of biodiversity in productive forests;
• Assesses the meaning of the importance of international cooperation for the development of the forestry sector;
• Points out the need to strengthen the political dialogue between the forest sector and other parts of society;

With the NES as a first step of an approach being promoted by the International Land Coalition at country level, these initiatives and others related to land and property rights will be complemented through multi-stakeholder platform established to implement the NES and make necessary adjustments on the basis of lessons learned for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Through these processes, opportunities are increasing and made available for national civil society actors to collaborate among themselves and with international actors, both governmental and non-govermental, and to engage with local and national governments. The NAPFO in Kosovo has an established reputation of active engagement and delivery of results at an international, national, and local level, and has identified the following possible interlocking stakeholders for the development of the NES through:

- CNVP (Connecting Natural Values and People)
- Nacional Federation of Communal Forest and Pastures of Albania
- Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development
- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
- Municipalities

Commitment Based Initiatives

CBI Commons in Europe

ILC Commitment 3, ‘Diverse Tenure Systems’ sees to: “Recognize and protect the diverse tenure and production systems upon which people’s livelihoods depend”, including the communal and customary tenure systems of smallholders, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, fisher folks, and holders of overlapping, shifting and periodic rights to land and other natural resources, even when these are not recognized by law, and whilst also acknowledging that the well-being of resource-users may be affected by changes beyond the boundaries of the land to which they have tenure rights”.

Based on this, a group within the ILC Global CSOs and EME members (comprised of NFCFPA, SIID, Dana Coop, TWA, CLS, Ngo BIOS and ICCA) whose work is related to the objectives set out by Commitment 3, naturally formed at the 2016 Global CSO meeting in Edinburgh, with the aim of becoming a working group with larger representation.

The goals of this group are to support and recognise common governance of land (including ownership, but also other common rights), by sharing knowledge, experience and promoting networking. After the creation of the group in Bilbao in October 2015 the first meeting of the Reference Group on Commons was held on 10th May 2016, in Bern. One of the conclusions was the need for data at a European level on figures and current legislation on common governance, including a preliminary common approach to the socio-economic value of common governance at European level. The need to identify contact point organisations and persons working or representing communities governing commons was also pointed out.

As per the agreements of the Edinburgh meeting, a mapping exercise of organisations working on Commons was planned to take place, as well as a meeting with interested parties, through which a strategy would be developed. Currently, this initiative is being spearheaded by ICCA, who have organised an event which took place in Granada, Spain, at the end of October 2017, and are working on the Strategy to emerge from that.

Project Summary:

Most organizations and other entities working specifically on supporting and recognizing common management of natural resources in Europe and the Middle East are working on a very local scale,
national at best. Furthermore, there is an important atomization on the support of the commons by sectors (pastoralism, forestry, irrigation systems, etc.) that cause an additional lack of common support, exchange and networking on common governance issues. This situation causes severe problems to these governance systems, among which:

- These systems are perceived to be very scarce, anecdotal, out-dated and un-useful.
- Being isolated, these systems are too weak to achieve relevant policy improvements, or oppose detrimental policies, especially at national, global or EU scale (e.g. the Common Agricultural Policy).
- Lack of common support and networking makes more difficult for these governance systems to share of successful tools, resources, experiences and methodologies to face current challenges and take advantage of current opportunities.

The current workshop proposes, on the framework of the “ILC European Working Group of the Commons”, to bring together those organizations working directly with communities managing natural resources under common governance, to work common strategies and activities in order to improve the support and recognition of these governance systems and enhance their economic, environmental and social values.

The workshop focused on work on a common strategy on the commons to plan and develop networking and communication tools at European level on common management of natural resources.

**CBI Youth and Land**

With a fast-growing population in many parts of the EMENA region, there is high youth unemployment and there are limited opportunities for young people in terms of access and building a future. This creates a difficult situation both economically and socially for countries across EMENA. Engaging youth in land related activities does not only yield economic benefits for them and for the overall economy, it is also beneficial for young people socially, as it teaches them new skills and gives a sense of ownership and partnership in the prosperity of their communities. Specifically, in cases like Palestine, the involvement of young people in urban/rural agriculture or in projects of land rehabilitation work in tandem with a wider network of activities that serve to restore dignity and empowerment in the face of conflict. Through their engagement in land related activities, young people are empowered to be contributing members of the community, help to revive age-old practices that are fading, are detracted from more dangerous life situations resulting from unemployment, and are able to put to use their unique inventiveness and creativity to serve the interests of the wider world.

ILC members of the EMENA group have great experience in engaging youth in land related initiatives. This is the case with ACAD in Palestine, NGO Bios in Moldova, DQLCC and Seeds in Jordan and CLS in Scotland. Their different experiences consist in designing programs, internships, trainings, start-ups, business plans, land rental mechanisms, loans, access to market, etc. where young people are involved and sometimes even lead activities. The youth are the main agents of change, therefore investing in youth and their inclusion in decision making is key for long term land governance. This is something that will have impact on democratic processes, sustainability and growth.

What the members found through dealing and working with youth is that different activities are being conducted:

- Mobilizing the rural and urban youth to get reconnected with land issues
- Spreading ideas of the youth linked with land, as main educational material within the educational institutes and centers
- Conducting economic research and study on the results of youth in relation to land and its positive effect on development
- Raising awareness of youth and land through social media, environmental education, youth educational centers, youth agricultural cooperatives, microfinance institutions, youth clubs, agricultural universities etc.
- Providing alternative education for young generations on rural communities/youth field school (i.e. Capacity building for youth – facilitators’ training, leadership training, workshops on youth participation, capacity building on environmental knowledge and agrarian issues, organization, networking, journalism training)

Through the members’ work in relation to youth in EMENA, it was found that there is a willingness and enthusiasm between young people to create initiatives for people from different EMENA countries, and that these initiatives and methods will create job opportunities for youth by connecting them to the land in EMENA region. Moreover, EMENA members will conduct brainstorming session and data gathering based on the youth situation on the field. Secondly, the members will decide on the shared visions and mission to work with, and on, youth in relation with land issues, after the intensive session between EMENA members on identifying the opportunities for youth, there could be expected tasks and activities for youth in each ILC EMENA member country as a consequence. From all these sessions and suggestions, the ILC EMENA Members will develop a proposal to start involving the youth in land issues and make it as a program, not project in the countries that participate in this session. Moreover, the proposal will gather all ideas and norms which will be discovered from the youth of the EMENA region through the session and allocate it in the proposal as planned.

In conclusion, youth are the main agents of change, therefore investing in youth and their inclusion in decision-making is key for long-term land governance. This is something that will have impact on the democratic process, sustainability and growth. The ILC EMENA CBI on Youth and Land, therefore, sets out the following objectives to fulfil the goal of the inclusion of Youth in land governance:

Objectives:

1- Increasing awareness about the importance of engaging youth in land related activities. This will give youth a sense of ownership and partnership in the prosperity of their communities
2- Empowering youth economically by giving them new professional skills in (SYOB). Youth will be more qualified for better job opportunities in the future
3- Targeting youth umbrella ” cooperatives “ in rural areas, as they execute economic methodologies to let youth access land
4- Exchange of experiences between EMENA countries about youth initiatives/activities which aim to link youth and land
5- Youth capable to implement viable activities on land and contribute to sustainable community development
6- To have final perspective of the EMENA members on youth and land
7- To prepare comprehensive and participatory plan on land and youth for 2019

Activities:

1- Conduct awareness campaign and workshops on the significance of linking youth in land related activities
2- Conduct startup your business training “SYOB” for the targeted 45 youth. Content of SYOB: project idea description, green business, sales plan, legal entity of the project, costs type, financial planning, development of business ideas and plans, understanding of markets, prices and competitors
3- Implementing saving and credit program within the target cooperatives to provide the liquidity for youth to execute the agribusiness activities
4- Bring together youth from each member country, working on land, so they can share experiences, discuss and learn from each other with regards to challenges in their respective countries. Each organization could bring 2-3 youth to hold the learning exchange together which will it take place Moldova.
5- Holding a Workshop in Moldova in 2018 where all the members of the Youth and Land CBI together with youth leaders in their countries will participate and discuss:
   o The practical scenarios of finding productive agribusiness projects to be implemented in the future
   o Searching and finding the best practices for preserving the land
Placing SAWT analysis shared by the EMENA members

- Each participant to expose the issues of land in their country and how it could be tied to the youth and finding exchange resolutions between the participants on saving land with the youth involvement
- Exposing the methodologies which could get the attention of the donors to address the youth and land issues
- Listening to the youth participants from ILC EMENA members in the meeting and sharing impediments and the difficulties which could face the members in allowing youth to access the land and resolving the impediments though discussions between the participants
- Significance of the social media
- Discussing the members youth regulation in their countries
- Enforcing the youth’s role within the cooperatives
- “Last day “ Members will discuss, among others, vision, approaches and activities to be conducted by the group in 2019 and prepare it in form of a proposal document.

Expected results:

1- Youth in EMENA will understand the importance of their accessing of land and its effects to the economic development of the region
2- Youth will understand the technical methodology of upgrading their capability in managing agribusiness after receiving START UP BUSSINESS to implement their agricultural project
3- Youth will create financial methodologies like savings and credit programs within the target cooperatives to fund their agribusiness
4- Cross –cutting countries (EMENA) – the youth participant in Moldova will realize many significant approaches:
   1- The participants will realize the methods which will assist the youth to access their land
   2- The participants will realize the roles of urban youth in the cities and their relation to the rural youth and their effect on the decision makers on land and youth issues
   3- The participants will resolve the impediments on land and youth issues
   4- The participants will unify their vision and mission to agree on a common proposal to represent the EMENA members to address the land and youth issues
   5- Effective actions that the rural youth can implement
   6- Feedback from the youth on their participation in the whole event, and especially on their participation in the planning process conducted by the adults

CBI Women’s Land Rights

Most of the EMENA countries part of this initiative face common challenges when it comes to Women Land Rights but also differ across countries and regions.

Several efforts have been made by the Albania, Morocco and Moldova governments to promote gender equality and empowerment of women, in particular at the international level by ratifying the CEDAW and various international Conventions. However, in practice the reality is different and women of these countries faces many difficulties.

The aspects of women’s rights in these countries (in particular aspects of women land rights in Albania, Moldova, Palestine and Morocco) include the following:

In Albania while an existing legal framework allows title for land to include the names of both husband and wife, land title and tenure tend to be vested in men. There is a difference between legal property rights and what really happens in practice. Traditional social attitudes and customs predominate especially in rural areas. Women themselves tend to accept and tolerate customary norms. Moreover, rural women have limited knowledge of what the law says about their rights over land. Women’s
participation in trainings and information sharing about agriculture, forest and rural development is very low. The situation becomes difficult for widows in Albania, who can manage land until their sons are adults. If she has no children, the property reverts to the husband's family/relatives. When it comes to forests which are key source of living in rural areas in Albania, both men and women have no legal rights over forest.

Women in Moldova face specific education and labour market barriers. Persistent patriarchal attitudes limit their educational choices and employment options. Women also face discriminatory practices. These include significant wage disparities, segregation into lower-paying occupations, unequal sharing of work and family responsibilities and limited access to childcare. The 2015 Global Gender Gap report [1] says that, on average, a woman in Moldova earns 74% of a man’s salary. Women entrepreneurs face barriers getting access to bank loans and to state-funded business and entrepreneurship development programs.

ACAD in Palestine are looking to reinforce the role of the women to manage their lands as workers, which needs developed economic programs on land management. They are working toward:

- Finding economic development programs which could facilitate the women to invest in their land without impediments.
- Reinforcing women role in the formulation of land policy and land reforms through dialogue with governments and the decision makers.
- Advocating the creation of national or regional mechanisms to monitor the enforcement of policies, targets and laws on women’s right to land.
- Awareness campaign in the rural areas and education centers.

Collective land is one of the oldest land tenure systems in Morocco. The rights that apply to mixed tribal customs, Islamic law and modern positive law. These lands cover 15 million hectares of agro-sylvo-pastoral value, 4631 ethnic communities in 48 provinces and prefectures, and an estimated population of 10 million, half of whom are women (called Soulaliyates).

In Morocco there is an abysmal gap between theory and practice because in terms of women’s rights and human rights in general, a decline has been noted over the past decade. The Amazigh society is fundamentally matriarchal because the woman is the base and when this core is dismantled, the consequences are necessarily reflected on the rest of the family structure and in society more broadly.

Some examples of the rights lost for women in this context include:

- The right to schooling
- The right to health
- The right to work
- The right to justice

Objectives

- Build a movement of women in the EMENA region (3 sub-regional focal points) for on-going exchange of experiences and knowledge.
- Present and discuss good practices of women empowerment across EMENA region.
- Prepare of a participatory work plan on Women and Land Rights.

Goals
- Consolidate the work of EMENA members on women land rights by connecting members and implementing of a common work plan.

**Activities**

- Learning Exchange between local women from Morocco, Albania, Moldova, Palestine (countries of member organisations involved in this CBI)
- Awareness building through campaigns in rural areas on land governance institutions and land rights of women
- Peer-exchanges among organisations and cooperatives for sharing good experiences on women economic empowerment
- Strengthening organisations through mentoring among members
- Documentation of good practices (Moldova, Morocco)

**Outputs**

- Learning events organised jointly with EMENA members
- Awareness building campaigns
- Short communication products (videos documenting good practices, policy briefs)
- Good practice (Moldova)

**Dubai Arab Land Conference**

The 'First Arab Land Conference' which was organised by GLTN and partners, took place in Dubai from the 26-28 February 2018, and was the first conference of its kind gathering members from civil society, academia, media, government and the private sector in discussion about land in the Middle East region. Through a series of high level panels, plenaries, technical sessions and masterclasses, the conference was a chance for interested parties working on land in different spheres, to share experiences, outline the challenges faced, and develop common areas of work to bring forward solutions to these challenges, in a local and regional frame.

ILC sponsored the participation of various civil society organisations from the region, to include the perspective of people-centered land governance. Ghanimat Azhdari of Cenesta (Iran), Sofiane Khoukhi of Touiza Voluntary Association (Algeria), Raed Gharib of Seeds (Jordan), Saad Dagher of the Arab Agricultural Association (Palestine) and Wael Alrashdan (Rangeland Director of the Ministry of Agriculture (Jordan) were all sponsored to attend the event, and contributed to the debates and discussions.

ILC also organised a vibrant Masterclass on the role of local communities in land governance, where sponsored participants and other members, discussed the state of land rights in their communities including topics such as environmental protection, displacement and inclusive decision making. Other experiences from IFAD and ICARDA about their experiences in Tunisia and Sudan were also shared with the audience. Follow-up steps include the organisation of an event on Rangelands management to be led by ILC in collaboration with GLTN.