Europe, Middle East, and North Africa

Annual Report 2019
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**Introduction**

The ILC Europe Middle East and North Africa region (EMENA) has developed considerably since its inception in 2015-2016. Previously part of the wider ILC Global CSO group, a set of seven member-organisations decided to become a separate regional hub, following their realisation that the scope of their work was national in character rather than global. Following their mutual agreement to self-identify as a region with a shared focus and complementary strengths, the EMENA region was born.

Being part of the ILC EMENA region empowers ILC members in their local and national struggles, whether lobbying national governments to push for land reform, posing resistance to land confiscation, developing methods from ancient local know-how for environmental conservation, or acquiring rights for communities in accessing natural resources and water. Platform members give special emphasis to addressing inequality, in particular gender inequality, ensuring that women’s land rights and gender justice are part of all areas of work.

While the ILC EMENA region covers three continents and its members span from diverse geographic, climatic social and political regions of the world, the group identified a larger purpose in uniting under one ILC regional umbrella: mainly that of working together and benefiting from each other’s experience and expertise. In each country, land governance takes on a different form, based on the different pre-existing challenges connected to environmental conservation, land titling, access to forests and natural resources or recognition of communities’ rights to the lands. 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, to injustices unique in each context.

The EMENA platform represents 7% of the total ILC membership and is composed today of 18 organisations across nine countries.

| 1 | Arab Center for Agricultural Development | ACAD | Palestine |
| 2 | Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc / Rabat | ADFM | Morocco |
| 3 | Asociación Forestal de Soria | ASFOSO | Spain |
| 4 | Azul | AZUL | Morocco |
| 5 | NGO Bios | BIOS | Moldova |
| 6 | Community Land Scotland | CLS | Scotland |
| 7 | Connecting Natural Values and People | CNVP | Netherlands |
| 8 | Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative | DQLCC | Jordan |
| 9 | Initiativa Comunales | ICOMUNALES | Spain |
| 10 | Lentamente Societa Cooperativa Agricola | Lentamente | Italy |
| 11 | Association of Private Forest Owners "Pyjet e Kosoves" | NAPFO | Kosovo |
| 12 | National Association of Communal Forests and Pastures | NFCFPA | Albania |
| 13 | The Agricultural Development Association | PARC | Palestine |
| 14 | Réseau Arabe des Communautés Pastorales | PAST-ARABIC | Jordan |
| 15 | Seeds | SEEDS | Jordan |
| 16 | Voluntary Initiative for the Preservation of Traditional Agriculture | SHARAKA | Palestine |
| 17 | Transhumancia y naturaleza | T&N | Spain |
| 18 | Transborder Wildlife Association | TWA | Albania |
Commitment Based Initiatives

1. Commons CBI

Goal: Influencing policies and practices related to Common Agricultural Policy, and depending on the national context, pressure will be made to influence the recognition and support of commons.

Strategic priorities are:
1. Enhance and consolidate the communication and networking on the EMENA working group on Commons and Common Land Rights (Connect)
2. CBI members and partners with adequate tools and capacities (Mobilise)
3. CBI members have a representative (sectorial & geographical) demonstrative cases of commons in EMENA, focusing on their values (Mobilise)
4. CBI Commons activities are based on a yearly updated and participative common strategy at EMENA level (Mobilise)
5. Influence EU Common Agricultural Policy as the main policy affecting commons at EU level (Influence)
6. Support common vision baseline and tools for the support of common land rights for influencing policies at EMENA level (Influence)
7. Coordinate and stabilish synergies for the CBI communication activities at EMENA level (Influence)

Focal point for EMENA CBI Commons: Sergio Couto (IComunales): sergiocouto@icomunales.org

2. Women’s Land Rights CBI

Goal: To promote equal land rights for women in the EMENA region; to empower rural women in the EMENA region and to address some of the socio-economic disadvantages faced by these women.

Strategic achievements will be:
1. Women’s Empowerment - To socially and economically empower women, and women’s organisations and networks, for sustainable natural resource governance.
2. Accountability - To achieve and strengthen accountability for women who are dependent on the land and its natural resources, and to achieve and strengthen accountability for their organisations also.
3. Campaigning and Advocacy - To socially and economically empower women, and women’s organisations and networks, for sustainable natural resource governance / To use lobbying, advocacy and campaigning to empower women’s decision making; mobilise women for land rights; denounce and stop abuses; and support rural women to conserve biodiversity and traditions.

Focal point for EMENA CBI WLR (to be altered during 2019 EMENA Regional Assembly): Albora Kacani (NFCFPA): alborakacani@hotmail.com

3. Youth CBI

Goal: improving the situation of youth in the region.

1. Generation of a pool of information on condition of rural youth in EMENA region.
2. Sharing models of supporting youth in engaging with land.
4. Dissemination of the Strategy and 3-year Action Plan to gain support for its implementation.

Focal point for EMENA Youth CBI: Thaer Fakhoury (ACAD): thaer@acad.ps
Commons and CAP CBI
The Common Agricultural Policy is the most powerful policy of the EU, and the first import-export market in the world, that puts a lot of pressure on biodiversity in Europe. Members are hopeful that “if civil society comes together, we can really influence the future of CAP.” Discussion on a Commitment Based Initiative on the Commons and the Common Agricultural Policy began in Granada, Spain, in 2017. EMENA Commons members met in Segovia this year in order to establish a Common Strategy for the support and recognition of common governance of natural resources in Europe. The goal of the Strategy meeting was to identify key threats and opportunities for the commons in Europe and the Middle East; to prioritize and tackle the identified threats and respond to the identified opportunities at supranational level and to share tools, responsibilities, approaches and means for the implementation of a triennial Strategic Plan.

The main objective of the CBI is to influence the policies and practices of the CAP; and to push for the recognition and support of the commons. Main activities include countering the invisibility of the commons, creating a digital platform directory of everyone working in the commons in the region, and a repository of case studies for commons, news, and events related to commons; lobbying so that the CAP fosters resilient agriculture; contributes to climate objectives of the EU; fosters local and healthy food, multifunctional territories and cultural landscapes, etc.

This past year, members published a report ‘Por Otra PAC’ explaining what the CAP is and how it works, and outlining in what direction it should go.

Travel in 2019:

CBI 3 EMENA COMMONS
SPAIN
12/03/2019 - 12/03/2019
EMENA Members involved: NGO Bios, CLS, IComunales, TyN, DQLCC, TWA, Asociación forestal de Soria, NFCFPA
Other Members: Centro De Estudios Rurales y Agricultura Internacional (CERAI), Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche pour le Développement (CIRAD), Sheffield Institute for International Development – University of Sheffield (SSID), ICCA Consortium

Women’s Land Rights CBI
Discussion on the Women’s Land Rights CBI started in Dana, Jordan, in 2017. A group worked on a first draft in June 2018, and at the regional assembly that year in Bandung, more members joined the platform.

In January 2019, those members came together for a meeting on Women’s Land Rights in the EMENA region in order to discuss challenges and common priorities for collective action. Platform governance is still under discussion, and a temporary rotating organising committee was established in order to write the strategy and develop future activities. Albora Kacani (NFCFPA), Amina Amharech (Azul), Lorraine Walker (DQLCC), and Sead Gashi (NAPFO) volunteered to make up the first committee. The first draft of the strategy is available, and the participants would like to proceed towards realizing it.

Travel in 2019:

EMENA WLR CBI-4 planning meeting and EMENA WLR CBI workshop
ALBANIA
28/01/2019 - 31/01/2019
EMENA Members involved: NFCFPA, TWA, CNVP, NAPFO, NGO Bios, TyN, IComunales, ACAD, PARC, DQLCC, Seeds, Azul
Youth CBI

In 2018, during the Bandung Conference, ACAD offered to be the lead for a CBI on Youth. Member engagement was limited however, and no workshop took place. ACAD learned that “we need, (1) a common vision; (2) to look regionally, not only nationally; (3) and to deal with the issue of borders that limit movement in the region.”

National Engagement Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NES Moldova -2017-2021</th>
<th>2. NES Albania 2015-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal:</strong> Conflict resolution of land issues and sustainable management of land and natural resources for the benefit of rural people</td>
<td><strong>Goal:</strong> Securing access to forests for forest users and particularly working with women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic priorities are:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strategic achievements will be:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Improving the legal framework and conflict resolution around land ownership;</td>
<td>1. Legal framework toward forest and pasture decentralization: re-drafting and approval of People centered Forest Law and Pastures Law, recognizing use and ownership rights and implementing acts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Integration of environmental protection principles into local development plans and their implementation;</td>
<td>2. Municipalities have capacities to manage forests and develop usership agreements with local users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Governance of commons, such as grasslands, communal forests, water resources etc.;</td>
<td>3. Increase women involvement in the implementation of plans and projects as well as their participation in decision making processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Supporting small and medium-sized farmers;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Transparency and public involvement in the decision-making process.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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NES Moldova focal point: Maria Bivol (NGO Bios): maria.bivol21@yahoo.com

NES Albania focal point: Albora Kacani (NFCFPA): alborakacani@hotmail.com

3. NES Kosovo - Formulation

**Goal:** Establishment of the Multi-stakeholder Platform with engaged actors and long term strategy for transformation

NES Kosovo focal point: Sebiha Ahmeti: sebiahmeti@yahoo.com

4. NOC Jordan

The National Organising Committee will be established for the Global Land Forum in 2021, composed of diverse actors and co-chaired by The Minister of Environment and Minister of Agriculture.

**Strategic areas are:**
1. Youth, mobility and food systems - movement of youth anchored in responsible land governance and creation of land-based opportunities
2. Customary versus State systems – land, water, forestry and rangeland conservation - in a context of climate change.
3. Preventing or resolving conflicts through secure access to land, including occupation, refugee settlements, returning refugees,
4. Women and Inheritance land rights - Recognition of women's land and inheritance rights, including customary systems and legal reform
5. Land corruption and transparency - Trends of land inequality, grabbing and corruption and transparency for fighting corruption.

NOC focal point: Raed Gharib: raed.gharib@gmail.com
Moldova NES
First implemented in 2017, the Moldova NES Platform met in February 2019 to review the progress made during the first year of NES implementation, and affirmed the strategic priorities for 2019. Discussion involved lessons learned and future-focused projections centred around the NES’s ability to mobilise partners around mechanisms to redress land rights infringement and associated environmental problems.

Over the course of the past year, members were surprised to learn how common it was in Moldova to have issues of access to land and land rights infringement. They comprised a report collecting all cases, brought together previously uncommunicating actors, developed petitions from the platform; the government then called for a meeting and eventually adopted a resolution.

What is being learned: “NES platforms are becoming a space for democracy from below, and to link the local to the national.”

Travel in 2019:
- Participation in the NES Platform Meeting Workshop in Moldova

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
25/02/2019 - 01/03/2019
EMENA Members involved: NGO Bios
Other Members: FAO, IFAD, ILC Secretariat, SIDA, World Bank

Albania NES
NES Albania is focused on forestry and government lobbying to secure forest users’ rights, and is in its fifth year of implementation. The NES platform is composed of members of parliament, donors, academia, civil society organization members. It has a national as well as local focus in that it supports the regional network of forestry organizations. A large focus of the platform is the agency and participation of women.

In June 2019, NES Albania entered into a strategy review and reformulation process, based on the ILC new operating model. A two-day workshop took place in Tirana on 17-18 June combining the undertaking of a Contribution Analysis (CA) led by Dunia Mennella and the NES formulation process. The Contribution Analysis took stock of the achievements and work done so far by the NES, setting the stage for defining the new strategic priorities of the platform for the next triennium. Members from Kosovo also participated in discussions to assist them towards the finalisation of their strategy and related documents.

NES Albania is now on the way to developing a new strategy. The achievement of NES Albania over the past 5 years has been to consolidate a multi-stakeholder platform to influence policy-formulation. A draft law was rejected thanks to the influence of the NES platform, and a national forestry policy document was approved.

Travel in 2019:
- Albania Contribution Analysis Workshop and Interviews, NES A...

ALBANIA
16/06/2019 - 20/06/2019
EMENA Members involved: NFCFPA, NAPFO Kosovo
Other Members involved: SIDA, SDC, SP, all NES Albania Platform members
Kosovo NES
The final workshop of the formulation phase with all stakeholders involved during consultation process was held in Prishtina on 29th of May, 2019. During the workshop the draft strategy prepared as a result of consultation meetings was reviewed and it was agreed that the plan is still in the formulation phase. It has received help in being shaped and promoted by NES Albania. The ambition is to launch the platform in November.

Jordan NOC for GLF 2021
Following the 2018 Global Land Forum in Indonesia, the choice of the ILC was to localize the next GLF in the Middle East, Europe, or North Africa. Annalisa Mauro, Mike Taylor, and Christopher Wedeman from the ILC Secretariat travelled to Jordan to assess conditions for hosting the GLF 2021. ILC Secretariat and Seeds met with relevant actors including the Minister of Agriculture and the Department on Rangelands, the Minister of Environment, IUCN, Oxfam, FAO, WB, the Hasmite Fund for Development, included a field visit to the Hima test site as well as to possible venues for the GLF in 2021. Following the trip, Seeds and the ILC Secretariat made a formal proposal to the ILC Council for Jordan to host the GLF in 2021, and the proposal was accepted under conditions of state patronage.

The bones of a National Organizing Committee have been set up. This GLF is intended to bring a new approach including a GLF Youth, and field visits to connect people to realities throughout the region; “without you all, it wouldn’t be possible”. The Jordanian government has officially accepted to host. Foreseen topics include Youth, migration, and mobility, resource conservation, land use and climate change, pastoralism, rangelands and the commons, the role of land in preventing or resolving conflicts, women's land and inheritance rights, land concentration, and transparency.

Travel in 2019:
2021 GLF Jordan Feasibility Assessment
JORDAN
14/04/2019 - 19/04/2019
EMENA Members involved: Seeds, DQLCC, ILC Secretariat

Other Activities

Torrecuso Regional Assembly
Representatives from 15 out of the 18 organizations of ILC EMENA attended the Regional Assembly in Torrecuso, Italy, from 10-12 October 2019. Lentamente Societa Cooperativa Agricola hosted the assembly with local governmental patronage. Member organizations and participants from the ILC Secretariat were invited to give brief updates on the variety of activities and platforms that were active, in development, or completed over the past year. ILC Secretariat presented to the assembly the draft of a strategic paper based on previous conversations and proposed activities. Members agreed that the drafted paper was not sufficient as a strategy, and that further discussion was necessary to develop a regional strategy. The group visited several centres, projects, and enterprises led by local organisations, and parts of networks for social inclusion. On the last day, members engaged in a regional context, vision, and action activity in order to develop into a strategic perspective for the region. The Torrecuso Declaration was written and agreed upon; the first
unifying document of ILC EMENA, and future plans for the platform were agreed upon and elaborated.

**Travel:**

**EMENA Regional Assembly**  
ITALY  
10/10/2019 - 12/10/2019  
EMENA Members involved: ACAD, ADFM, NGO Bios, Community Land Scotland, CNVP, Icomunales, Lentamente, NAPFOK, NFCFP, PARC, Pasto-Arabic, Seeds, Sharaka, Transhumancia y naturaleza, Transborder Wildlife Association  
Other members: SONIA, Slow Food Italy

**Global Women’s Platform**

Several EMENA member representatives participated in a workshop for the creation of a regional-representative ILC women land rights platform. A medium-term and cohesive strategy and work plan was discussed and elaborated during the workshop, which was facilitated by Cristina Cambiaghi and Ángela Arévalo.

**Travel in 2019:**

**Participation to LANDac conference ;Global women's platform...**  
NETHERLANDS  
30/06/2019 - 06/07/2019  
EMENA Members involved: Azul, Transhumancia y Naturaleza  
Other members: Espaço Feminista, Fundación Plurales de Córdoba, Luna Creciente, Pastoral Women’s Council, PWESCR International, Groots Kenya, LANDac, OXFAM, GLTN, IFAD, PAKISAMA

**Workshop on Land and Inequality**

Members of Community Land Scotland travelled to Italy in March in order to participate in a reflection workshop on land and inequality. Scotland has one of the highest levels of land inequality in the documented world.

**Travel in 2019:**

**Reflection workshop on land and inequality**  
ITALY  
11/03/2019 - 14/04/2019  
EMENA Members involved: CLS  
Other Members involved: Association pour l’Amélioration de la Gouvernance De La Terre, De l’Eau et des Ressources Naturelles (AGTER), Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), IFAD, OXFAM International, Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA)

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Christopher Wedeman from the ILC Secretariat travelled to Geneva to support Amina Amharech from Azul as she testified in front of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People, and presented recommendations on actions by the EMRIP for the protection of the Amazigh people of Morocco.

**Travel in 2019:**
Secretariat Travel to EMRIP Geneva
SWITZERLAND
15/07/2019 - 19/07/2019
EMENA Members involved: Azul
Other members: ILC Secretariat

GLTN Call on Arab Region Programme on Good Land Governance

In response to UN Habitat & GLTN call on Arab Region Programme on Good Land Governance in Support to Inclusive Development, the ILC secretariat encouraged and supported several member organizations’ applications to areas of collaboration. Rasheed-TI Jordan in collaboration with UN-ESCWA (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) made a successful application for a project on land monitoring in the Arab Region that would last 18 months, with $75,000 in project funds.