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### **INTRODUCTION**

2019 was a transition year for ILC Africa. It moved its regional coordination unit from one host to another in the same country and started the implementation of a new operating model for its platforms. This report is a snapshot of what ILC members did in Africa to promote people centred land governance.

#### **SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS**



12
Private sector networks

#### **Connected with**



137
Local governments



263
Traditional authorities







56
Government ministries

#### Mobilised





100 maps that depicts pastoral routes

Created





#### Influenced/ reached and engaged







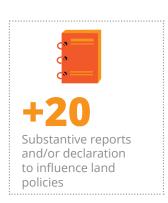












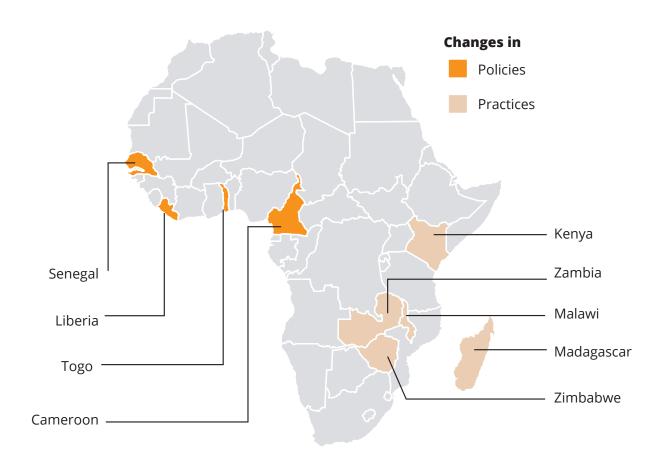








## **OUR IMPACT**



# CHANGES IN POLICIES

In 2019, ILC supported processes catalysed 4 land related laws passed in four countries; Cameroon, Liberia, Senegal and Togo, while efforts prevented bad policies to pass in Madagascar and enabled the retention of a progressive policy in Uganda.

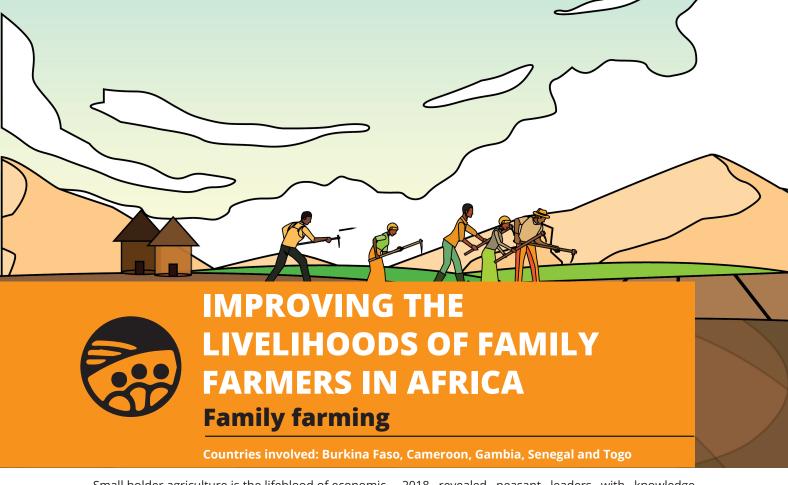
# CHANGES IN PRACTICES

Land policies and reforms cannot create any impact if they are not implemented properly. To transition from legislation to action requires real change of mentalities and approaches. In 2019, our actions softened the position of 25 national and local governments in at least 15 countries, especially Cameroon where the government is more and more open to discussion the issue of customary land rights. Efforts supported the commencement of implementation of 10 passed land related laws in Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



# HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITES

ILC's commitments in Africa

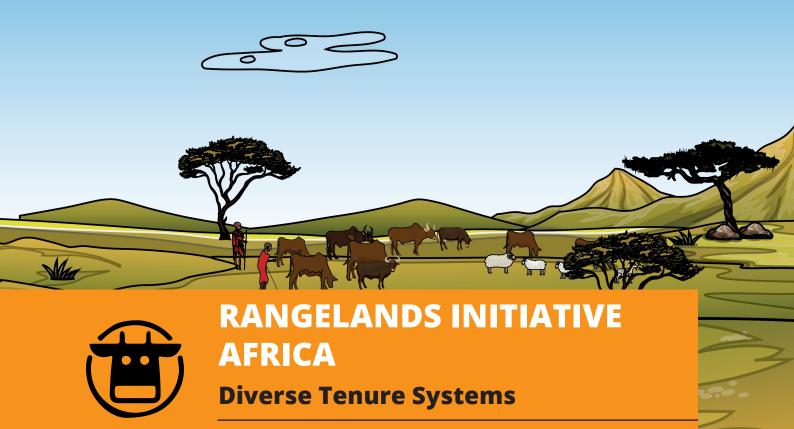


Small holder agriculture is the lifeblood of economic growth in Africa. It produces vast quantities of food annually and employs much of Africa's jobless, but not enough to chart many out of poverty. Though African governments are rallying technologies and funds to boost the agricultural sector, poor governance of land has heightened challenges farmers face, while tenure insecurity has made farming impossible for a growing number.

In 2018, ILC Africa members launched the Africa Family Farming Initiative, which targeted to solve this issue. Led by two farmers' organisations; (Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) ROPPA and (Plateforme Régionales des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale) PROPAC, which bring together cumulatively 24 farmer organisations from across 27 countries of West and Central Africa, the Initiative focused on supporting thousands of farmers facing difficulties to develop agriculture without tenure security. Early discussions among farmers at an inception workshop organicad in Papilla Cambia in December.

2018 revealed peasant leaders with knowledge about land reform processes are the key to solving governance challenges in the grassroots. In 2019, after a study the Initiative commissioned delivered ground-breaking lessons on how to take advantage of ongoing land reform processes happening in 15 countries across West and Central Africa, 50 farmer leaders were trained. The training focused on how to use dialogic techniques and advocacy to negotiate access to land for farmers. This enabled farmer unions in multi-stakeholder platforms across Cameroon and Togo to engage governments and local authorities to make the land rights case for family farmers. In December 2019, the results of the study informed the regional action plan on the United Nations Decade of Family Farming for Central Africa developed in collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).





Countries involved: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Tanzania

The Rangelands Initiative Africa coordinated by ILC's Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE) is the continental platform of the ILC Rangelands Initiative, a global programme connecting, facilitating learning and building the capacity of different actors who are working to make rangelands more tenure secure. Rangelands Initiative Africa made up of ILC members (national and international) and partners working across 8 countries associate with governments and local communities to build peace and improve livelihoods via secured rangelands. In 2019, it worked with stakeholders to improve land use planning, communication, learning and collaboration between civil society organisations, governments and rangeland communities to facilitate land governance processes in the continent.

As climate change turned the heat on pastoralists and livestock keepers, the Initiative worked to ensure tenure security and improve the resilience of Eastern, Western and Central African livestock value chains. It engaged 1729 pastoralists in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania and worked with respective governments to launch tools that provide frameworks and guidance on land use planning in pastoral areas amongst other. In Ethiopia, for example, a two-volume manual for woreda participatory land use planning in pastoral areas was launched by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. It resulted from a five-year long engagement between the Ethiopian Government, the Rangelands Initiative and other partners. Similarly, in Kenya the Rangelands Initiative played a key role in the development of an Annex for the County Spatial Planning Monitoring and Oversight Guidelines and an accompanying toolkit, launched by the National Land Commission. These government tools are designed to improve the land use planning processes in pastoral areas, whilst also contributing to clearer

and more secure right to land and good governance.

In Sudan, the Rangelands Initiative in partnership with Government of Sudan through the programme Livestock Marketing Resilience Project (LMRP) facilitated the up scaling of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN's) Social Tenure Domain Model tool. Partners for the intervention included, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Regional Centre For Mapping Resource For Development (RCMRD) and RECONCILE through its "Building the missing evidences around livestock mobility to foster inclusive landscape-level rangeland governance and crop production: new tools to strengthen adaptive climate resilient capacities for Sudan portfolio" action. The collaboration led to the production a toolkit manual for the programme and a mobile phone prototype conflict monitoring and reporting tool.

Another approach used to tackle the question of climate change is bringing pastoral voices at the heart of global climate negotiations. At the 2019 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the global component of the Rangelands Initiative organised an event, which was an opportunity for ILC Africa member, Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA) to participate. The event put grassroots pastoral communities at centre stage to share experiences and discuss innovative approaches they are adopting to promote productivity, conserve landscapes and increase their resilience. It was the first time that rangelands had been given a panel at the GLF - an important platform for planning and engaging with the upcoming UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

A tactic the Initiative took to improve resilience of livestock keepers and pastoralists was to work with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to enhance cross border mobility. In Eastern Africa, ILC Africa joined the High-level Negotiation Meeting on the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Protocol on Transhumance in September, where it discussed specific country plans, reports and implementation of the IGAD protocol on transhumance, which works to facilitate formal livestock cross-border mobility in the region. In West Africa, the Africa Initiative members joined the Ministerial level meeting for a peaceful cross-border transhumance held in Ghana in October. It discussed how to strengthen the West Africa transhumance corridor, an interstate mobility pathway created to ease pastoralism in the region and to promote peace.

Though the market for livestock contribute immensely to food security and poverty reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa, the practice and its actors (pastoralists) have little recognition in the continent. Globally, governments, planners and multi-lateral donor agencies have not given enough thought on rangelands and pastoralists. At the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly, the Rangelands Initiative Global and Africa organised a side event with Mongolian delegates to bring attention to the Mongolian government's call for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists – a Year that is anticipated to be approved by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2020.

The Rangelands Initiative Africa jointly organised a side event during the Desertifaction 2019 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Desertifactions 2019 was a unique international summit which brought together over 200 organisations, representing local communities, NGO, science and academia, international institutions, public and private actors. It gave the platform in Africa the opportunity to showcase innovations and community level interventions addressing conflict and resource governance. It was also a space where the Initiative discussed the interconnectivity of rangelands to land degradation, biodiversity and climate change. This intervention was also an opening for the platform to strengthen the capacity of West African actors. Through renewed

and strengthened partnerships with the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF)-Belgium and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the hub is bringing more support to livestock kippers in the West African subregion.

One of the visible strengths of the Rangelands Initiative Africa is how it is able to facilitate two-way flow of knowledge sharing and uptake across communities. In 2019, it organised 10 dialogues, briefings and workshops, which enabled over 50 leaders from organisations working on livestock management and over 1 000 in pastoral communities from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Tanzania to learn conflict mitigation measures and how to secure their lands. For example, from the exchanges, leaders from countries such as Cameroon and Senegal, which are going through land reform processes drew learnings from countries such as Kenya and Tanzania on how to negotiate the inclusion of pastoral interests in national land frameworks and continental rangelands protection initiatives.

Pastoralism in Ethiopia was transformed when pastoralists and authorities knew how to use the Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) process to plan, develop and invest in rangelands. The PRM is a process that assists communities to better plan, use and manage rangeland resources and strengthen their governance structure. Learning from Ethiopia, the Piloting of Participatory Rangeland Management Project funded by the European Union is now testing the approach in Kenya and Tanzania through ILC members; RECONCILE and the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF), with technical and advocacy support from ILRI and the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP), respectively. In Tanzania, the Project works closely with the Tanzania National Engagement Strategy, that also supports the implementation of the IFAD funded Good governance project, including the Sustainable Rangeland Management Project led by ILRI and government partners, and an initiative on land-based investments led by TNRF. Both of these components have shown significant success in improving tenure security and good governance in their respective areas.

## CASE STUDY: TANZANIA

Securing rangelands tenure through participatory processes

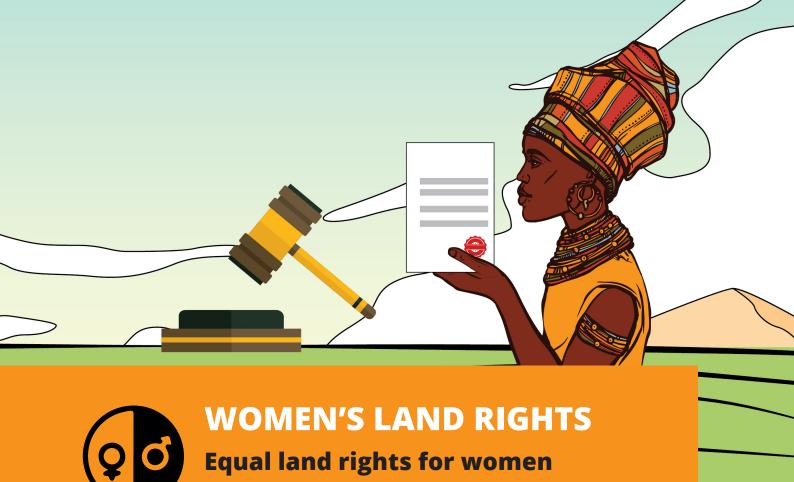
Districts reached: Kilombero, Kilwa and Kiteto

The Rangelands Initiative through the rangelands management and governance projects and the ILC introduced National Engagement Strategy (NES) Tanzania has contributed to securing over 44,720 hectares of land for pastoralist in the country and worked closely with the government to influence legislative frameworks that can enhance their rights and recognition. As land markets moved to the hinterlands, collective approaches worked to ensure that pastoral communities can secure their lands. 1 000 hectares of grabbed land was returned to pastoral communities in Kilwa while multi-stakeholder dialogues prevented pastoralists in 11 villages in Kilombero from being tricked off cumulatively 44 000 hectares of land.

The work ILC members do in Tanzania is supported through a cross section of approaches and initiatives. Efforts channelled through the ILC initiated

multi-stakeholder platform (National Engagement Strategy (NES) Tanzania) saw increased recognition of pastoralists and a better rapprochement between the civil society and the government. Via stakeholders of this platform, the government received contributions on its National Land Policy and the National Environmental Management Policy of 2019. It also organised with the national working group on rangelands a series of activities with government. One of them saw platform members informing the African Development Bank's Review on land tenure in Tanzania, while two others enabled pastoral and women groups to dialogue with government ministers. The Rangelands Initiative Piloting of PRM project has enabled the country to pilot the PRM approach in Kiteto, reaching thousands of pastoralists.





Countries involved: Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Zambia and

The momentum built around women's land rights in the last two years in Central, Eastern and Western Africa reached Southern Africa in 2019. While it softened the hearts of governments and traditional institutions towards the civil society and challenged state apparatus in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, its actions also led to policy implementation and adoption of new laws in Zambia and Zimbabwe, enabling women to have increased access to land. In Zimbabwe, for example, the Statutory Instrument 53 on co-registration of land, giving women increased access to land and protection saw a fast track of implementation. Another example is how it nudged local chiefs in South Africa and Zimbabwe to shift their hegemonic positions on land ownership in favour of gender justice. Advocacy actions with village authorities in Limpopo saw village leaders reviewing how they awarded lands to businesses and individuals.

**Zimbabwe** 

One obvious challenge in all the countries where ILC Africa members work to promote women's land rights in Africa is that the continent seems to have made the most legislative progress on women's rights in the developing world, yet political commitments and legal reforms have not translated into real changes for women and girls. So, in 2019, we

launched a massive campaign engaging 290 women and 162 men leaders in Southern Africa on women's land rights. Armed with over 3 000 print outs of the Rural Women's Charter of Demands on Land Rights, grassroots movements in the platform organised 37 workshops, briefings and advocacy dialogues, which reached over 100 private sector organisations, over 50 government ministries and UN agencies and around 29 traditional leaders in targeted countries.

In Senegal, the National Alliance for the Promotion of Women's Land Rights, which is a national translation of the Kilimanjaro Initiative organised engagements with over 500 people in Dakar and in the interior of the country. These national engagements targeted at women reached mainly rural women. In partnership with local authorities, forums on the economic empowerment of women were held in the Kaolack region, 400km from Dakar, where 32 villages were engaged on women's land rights. These forums enabled exchanges between women and the highest authorities in the country. Particularly, women engaged authorities from the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Women, the Family, Gender and Children as well as the Ministry of Local and Regional authorities, as well as traditional and religious authorities. To popularise the Rural Women's Charter of Demands on Land Rights, the National Alliance organised 10 awareness raising interactions with 1 000 grassroots women from different regions of Senegal.

At continental level, we supported 5 grassroots women to join the High-Level Meeting on the Initiative Empowering Women in Agriculture in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on February 09 2019 at the margins of the 32nd African Union Summit, where we shared with 25 (10 male, 15 female) participants some of our ground-breaking tools we launched in the year to

support women's land rights them. Among them featured the rural women's score card, a tool to monitor the implementation of rural women's land rights. Women to women leadership mentorship is another way ILC strengthened the capacity of women within the Women's Land Rights Platform. Following the development of a women's land rights strategy in the last quarter of 2019, a training held in December in Kenya supported 17 women from 6 countries: Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda to learn how to lead women to influence positive actions on land governance at grassroots level.

" So, in 2019, we launched a massive campaign engaging 290 women and 162 Title Deed men leaders in Southern Africa on women's land rights. Photo: Israel Bionyi/ILC Africa





# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Securing territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples

Countries involved: Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, DRC, Senegal and Tanzania

Indigenous groups secured

400 000 HECTARES of land in Kenya

Solidarity engagements and forums reached

300 000 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Indigenous groups secured 400 000 hectares of land in Kenya, while solidarity engagements and forums reached 300 000 indigenous people, across Eastern, Western and Southern Africa.

Often when the media beams on the San People of Botswana it shows their indigenous knowledge and traditional lifestyle. What stays under the radar is a story of years of marginalisation and shrinking of their lands and means of livelihood. In March 2019, an experience sharing workshop organised in Botswana brought the Ogieks, a historically marginalised Indigenous group in Kenya to share wining strategies with peers from, Eastern Central Africa and Western. Here, the Ogiek Indigenous Peoples gave tips on how to use legal and advocacy tools to make a case for land rights. It drew inspiration from its 2017 landmark victory over the government of Kenya at the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Though the Ogiek won their case two years ago, they have still not returned to their ancestral lands. When the government designated taskforce, the organ set to implement the decisions of the African Court issued a notice of a public hearing, ILC sent its solidarity message to them and joined them during their cultural day in an event which acted as a further reminder to the government to implement the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights' judgment in the Ogiek case. While the government is taking long to settle the Ogieks in their ancestral land, ILC Africa members are mobilising support for them and encouraging learning across Indigenous groups. Engaged groups include pastoral communities in Cameroon and Tanzania and Indigenous Minorities in Burundi and DRC. In December, members of the Initiative formed the African Youth Leaders for Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems as part of the Slow Food Community. The youth network led by young people is committed to preserving food culture and indigenous people's knowledge via advocacy and network strengthening.

One discussion often missing in debates about indigenous land rights is how important tenure security could be for Indigenous Women. The Programme Intégré pour le Développement du peuple Pygmée (PIDP) completed a shadow report on Indigenous Women's land rights in DRC when the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) announced an alternative review on violations of women's rights in DRC. The report reveals that Indigenous Women often take the lead on building shelters and providing food for families, however, tenure insecurity makes it difficult for them to perform this role.





# SPACES AND ENGAGEMENT ON LAND

**Inclusive decision-making** 

Countries involved: Cameroon, DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo

The evaluation study we commissioned in 2018 on tools for Land Governance Monitoring in Africa was completed this reporting year. The tool provides deeper insights into land governance monitoring tools that exists in the continent and how to use them. At different exchange forums we held in the last two years, often figured the question of how the civil society could use existing monitoring and evaluation tools to track progress in the implementation of the African Union Declaration on land. The main objective sought through this study is to help develop understanding and mastery of the different tools for monitoring land governance and strengthening the capacity of CSOs working on land. To this end, the study maps the main existing tools, sets out the objectives for each, analyses their strengths and weaknesses linked to the needs of civil society, showcases possible complementarities and specifies how civil society can use them for monitoring and evaluation to empower state actors and promote the participation of civil society in governance processes.

Members continued engaging the Civil Society (CSO) Platform on land policy in Africa, a network of civil

society actors introduced by the Africa Land Policy Centre (ALPC) in 2014. It has established six working groups on land rights, land tenure security and customary tenure, land governance for natural resource management, large scale land-based investments (LSLBIs), transparency and accountability, and monitoring and evaluation. It serves as a liaison between the civil society and African Union Member States. Members of the Initiative held two side events at the 3rd Conference on Land Policy in Africa where they discussed the contribution of multi-stakeholders platforms to land governance and how the inclusion of youth and women in the governance process of land can promote transparency.

Besides continental actions, ILC Africa also had sub regional engagements, which enabled the platform to advocate for civil society inclusion in two RECs. Apart from bringing civil society voices in the IGAD land governance space, it equally engaged the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to gauge how to use the space to bring more civil society voices in the decision-making processes.





# DEFENDING LAND DEFENDERS

**Protected land rights defenders** 

Countries involved: Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Senegal and Uganda

When 112 land defenders faced criminalisation, threatened and marginalised, members' efforts reached 77 and supported 38 across DRC, Madagascar and Senegal. In 2018, 14 land defenders were killed in Africa, with DRC recording the highest number. The work ILC did in 2019 is going beyond the stimulus response approach, which requires for it to act only when defenders are in serious danger. ILC is working to make advocacy safe for land defenders. It targets legislations, local and national administrative authorities to negotiate the safety of land defenders. Thanks to this approach we negotiated the release of 25 people including 21 men and 4 women. Another approach is that it is providing land defenders hands-on latest tools to stay safe as they defend their natural habitats.

The land observatories ILC help set in Cameroon, DRC, Senegal and Uganda are helping to report land corruption and denounce land malpractices. For example, when 7 indigenous pigmy land defenders faced prosecution in DRC, the land observatory was quick to bring it to public attention and document the state of violation. These platforms have become a veritable tool to combat land grabbing and to stand for land defenders. In Senegal, the advocacy work of the platform let to the release of 1,000 hectares of land that had been allocated to a private investor.

The ILC Land Defender's Fund has been supporting land defenders in the continent since its set up in 2015. We reformed the Fund in 2019. Natural Justice, a frontline land defenders organisation is leading the reform process. It launched the ILC Land and Environmental Defenders' Fund in December 2019, with a website which enables defenders in difficulties to reach out and request for help directly. It also set up a quick response process with a review committee to respond to emergencies.

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#### COUNTRY STRATEGIES AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS (MSPs)

National Engagement Strategies (NES) are threeyear strategies at the country level, a collaboration between multiple land actors committed to foster partnership to shape land governance and advance stability and prosperity.

Country strategies are at the heart of ILC's business in Africa. In 2019, ILC transformed the way it developed country strategies to make it more inclusive and integrated. All 10 ILC supported national engagement strategies (NES) in Africa have become more diverse and integrated. For example, women make roughly 35% of steering committees of national platforms, while the number of CSOs, government agencies and ministries joining national strategies have increased substantially in some countries. Community based organisations are also incorporated as the NES approach further decentralises to remote areas. A new frontier of diversity is that of engaging the private sector. Over 200 companies were engaged across, Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa.

In 2019, ILC completed the process to establish a multi-stakeholder national platform in Liberia. The process is important because it is built on the advo-

cacy work of the civil society and other actors in 2018, which led to the passing of a progressive law in the country, the Land Rights Bill (LRB) adopted into law in 2019. The Bill recognises community customary land rights and provides clear steps for communities to obtain a collective title for communal lands.

Community land rights was a big part of our work in 2019. At the close of the National Land Institutions Regional Workshop to Secure Community Land Rights in Africa, we organised in Madagascar on May 21-23, national land institutions from 13 countries created the African Land Institutions Network for Community Rights (ALIN). The platform of land agencies is committed to promoting community land rights as a means to reach critical development targets and complement the efforts of other institutions dedicated to advancing tenure reforms in the region. The platform will work to drive implementation of AU frameworks and guidelines on land governance in Africa. Country strategies work at country levels to change lives via the promotion of land governance and collaboration with a range of actors was a big part of their work.

#### **CASE STUDY:**

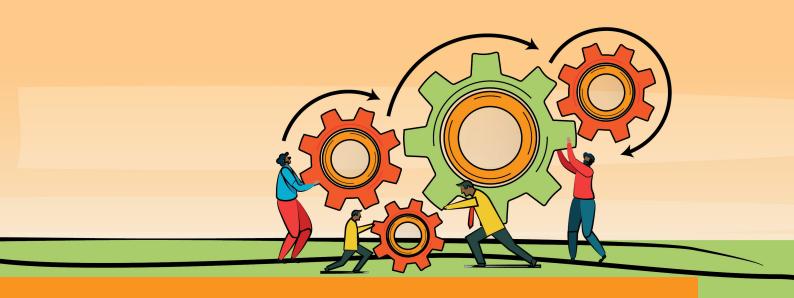
# CAMEROON AND SOUTH AFRICA COLLABORATING TO TRANSFORM LIVES VIA LAND GOVERNANCE IN COUNTRIES

National Engagement Strategies(NES) in Cameroon and South Africa are unique when it comes to building synergies and developing networks for change. These platforms became networks par excellence in garnering support to promote the land rights of women, youth and Indigenous groups.

The Cameroon platform, for example, expanded its membership to 24, bringing in 3 youth organisations, 6 women organisations and 3 ministries. This enabled the platform to increase youth and women engagement in all its activities to 30%. Collaboration at the Cameroon platform was also reflected in the way the platform worked. After organising the Cameroon National Land Dialogue in January, an event, which enabled women and young people to dialogue with policy makers and traditional rulers on the future of land, the platform engaged the 2019 International Youth Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship Summit, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries of Cameroon (MINEPIA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Procasur Corporation from February 28th to March 3rd 2019, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The event explored how to improve rural youth access to land, water and other natural resources. Attended by over 3 000 delegates, the event showcased how Cameroon's youth, which the country counts on to develop agriculture and create jobs could do so with tenure security. The Cameroon platform also collaborated with the African Union supported Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) to develop advocacy tools for young people and women in the context of customary land management. Via the set up NELGA node in the University of Yaoundé, Cameroon, the network was able to develop debates and arguments about how to support forest peoples

whose mobile nature has made it hard to secure tenure. The network also joined efforts with the FAO in Cameroon to promote the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs).

If the big story in Cameroon was about youth and women, the highlight in South Africa was about engaging public and private authorities at the highest levels for people's land rights. LandNNES, South Africa's Land Network working to create a force that increases possibilities for People Centred Land Governance became fully operational in 2019. It was set in motion by ILC Africa. Launched in 2018, LandNNES plugs on an already existing multistakeholder platform on the VGGTS to develop support for land actors in South Africa. For example, LandNNES members supported communities around the country in different provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo, the Eastern Cape, and the Western Cape) to engage with the South African Government's public consultations on the possible amendment of its constitution to allow expropriation without compensation. LandNNES' crucial moment of 2019 came when it supported members to engage the public hearing on land redistribution. This was followed by increased support for members to engage the 2019 presidential elections, which made the acceleration of land redistribution a key issue and to contribute ideas to the debate about constitution change for land redistribution. On the private sector side, LandNNES engaged 100 Geomatics professionals at the AfricaGEO conference where it facilitated three workshop sessions on options for an integrated land administration system and supported capacity building workshops that trained Fisherfolk communities and leaders representing 33



# DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATIVE STRATEGIES

In 2019, ILC adopted a new operating model after approval by the 31st Council of ILC in June 2018. This was in response to recommendations from a Mid Term Review of the ILC Strategy 2016-2021, as well as the 2017 Gender Audit. The new operating model is a shift on planning and implementation of network processes where sustainability of platforms is key.

In response to this, some ILC Africa platforms embarked on triennial planning to develop strategies, work plans and budgets. Other platforms opted for further consultative planning to identify their priorities and work areas. Among the national processes, few platforms were able to participatorily complete their strategies. These include Cameroon, DRC, Kenya Malawi, South Africa and Togo. Other national processes including Madagascar and Uganda, are still developing their strategies. The Liberia national platform built to follow up the implementation of the new legislative gains in the land sector became mature in 2019. It has conducted its country assessment and is set to launch in 2020.

Cross country processes also transitioned into the new operating model. These include; CBI 2-small scale farming systems, CB 3-Rangelands Africa Initiative, CBI 4 - Women Land Rights in Africa, CBI 5- Secure Territorial rights of indigenous people, CBI 7-Inclusive decision making and CBI-10 Protection of

land and environmental defenders. Two cross country processes opted for further consultative planning workshops and are currently developing their strategies. These include; CBI 3-Range lands Initiative and CBI 6-Protection of parklands. One platform, CBI 9-effective actions against land grabbing is still refining its strategy under the new operating model.

The new operating model has energised platforms to develop impact oriented and inclusive strategies. For example, instead of consolidating the leadership of the implementation of platform activities to the host, it has distributed roles to members and in some cases, discussions focused on rotating hosting. Another example is how the process has increased the participation of young people and women in platform governance. With the new operating model, youth and women movement have more roles in the decision-making processes. This is a huge shift from before, when their participation could not reach 30%. Another important change has been the devolution of power to the hinterlands and the inclusion of grassroots networks. With this model, grassroots networks can easily track the health of land governance in their local areas and take positive actions.



Among the 4 responses to grant calls submitted in 2019, 500.000USD was successful.

Resource mobilisation has been given more focus this year than before. ILC Africa concentrated its energy in working with its members in identifying and applying for funds that supported directly members' work. Among the 4 responses to grant calls submitted in 2019, one sent in collaboration with GROOTS Kenya, a member who joined in 2018 to the African Women's Development Fund (500.000USD) was successful. Groots Kenya has started implementing the grant, which focuses on women's rights, in general and more specifically women's land rights.

Another approach ILC Africa adopted was to build the capacity of members and supported platforms to fundraise. Via this approach, all platforms (national and cross-country) received advise on fundraising strategies. Additionally, the platform included in its newsletters and other exchanges with members grant opportunities that could support their work. ILC Africa has learnt from applying both approaches and would build on them to structure how to fundraise going forward.

Since 2017, we are on an alliance building mission to further strengthen our network. In 2019, we established relationships with important developmental institutions in Africa. They include; Regional Economic Communities (RECs), trade blocs and multilateral partners. We actively engage institutions such as the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), IGAD, the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA), the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and initiated discussions with regional bodies such as the CEMAC, CILSS, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), ECCAS and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

While a Partnership Agreement has been signed only with IGAD; ECOWAS and OSIEA did not finally sign the proposed draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) but restated their commitments to continue working with the ILC Africa network. ECOWAS, for example, expressed interest to join as a member while discussions with OSIEA and OSIWA are ongoing on how to develop collaboration on areas of common interest. UEMOA is still studying the proposed draft MoU. These efforts have overall strengthened the position of ILC Africa as a continental people centred land governance actor. The MoU it signed with IGAD, for example has provided a collaboration framework that allowed ILC Africa to contribute to important discussions on the trade bloc. For example, ILC contributes to the IGAD land governance dialogues, that takes place every year and the IGAD protocol on transhumance currently being finalised. The strengthened collaboration with the RECs and other key regional institutions will continue to define our advocacy and outreach efforts.

Leading network strengthening and partnership is ILC Africa's steering committee. Via its strategic engagement and leadership, ILC strengthened not only its position in the region but its network. The steering committee drives ILC's business and via its leadership, participation to ILC's governance meetings and financial contribution to the life of the platform reached record levels. The innovation it brought to the 2019 was that it made it open to partners and sister networks. The International Development Research Centre, IGAD, and Welthungerhilfe (WHH) are partner institutions that supported technically and financially ILC Africa's Regional Meetings this year. Attended by 156 participants from over 26 countries, the event provided members and other participants a space for learning and sharing on important themes such as women's land rights, gender justice, community land rights and multi-stakeholder platforms for land governance. The event took place just before the 2019 ALPC Conference on Land Policy in Africa, which allowed members and partners to take the message from the ILC Africa Meetings to the conference. Overall, ILC members and platforms organised cumulatively 23 side events and presentations, where results from ILC Africa's Meetings was shared with a larger audience of over 300 people from all over Africa.

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As Africans embrace new methods of data collection, analysis and management, we are finetuning tools that can help land actors better take advantage of the new advances in technology. After introducing LANDex, ILC's Global Land Governance Index in 2018, with a pilot in Senegal, we trained 34 support-

ed platform experts on how to use the tool for mon-

itoring.

While we continued to support better land governance, we equally ensured to showcase via the media the various potentials that are unlocked when effective governance systems are put in place. Via support channelled to different platforms, ILC's work featured in at least 10 Africa based media. In Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania, media reports touched on either burning land issues

or showcased solutions brought about by land governance processes initiated by the ILC. For example, because ILC focused its 2019 Regional Assembly on women's land rights, media organs across Ivory Coast, the host country, the Republic of Congo and Cameroon aired news pieces discussing the importance of the subject in the African society. Another example is how the media in Kenya and Tanzania featured what ILC's platforms are doing to promote peace and security and fight against gender inequality. Finally, the approach, ILC Africa is taking with the media is innovative. Instead of using press releases to reach African media, ILC supported platforms are engaging the media to become part of their work. Media organs are part of ILC supported initiatives in Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Togo.

#### **CONCLUSION**

2019 was a year where ILC transitioned 12 platforms to a new operating model that gave young people, women and grassroots actors increased say in ILC initiated processes. This is a huge transformation ILC Africa wants to build on to improve on its position and impact in the continent. While our work enabled policy gains across 4 countries, we are aware legislative outcomes can only lead to real impact if implemented. That is why we do not only target policies but behaviours that can enable these policies to

effect change on people's lives. Our continental and country strategies have a strong transformational capacity and are very ambitious. They have the potential to make land governance transparent, reduce insecurity, end poverty and migration, support gender equality and support climate mitigation efforts. That is why we would continue to build on these potentials to strengthen our network's delivery for the continent.

