ILC Asia is the regional platform of the International Land Coalition (ILC), a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations, which contributes to placing people at the centre of land governance. We are a membership-driven network of 51 national and regional civil society organisations in 12 countries, whose vision is to achieve a just, equitable and inclusive world in which land rights are secure and poverty is eradicated.

In Asia

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LAND RIGHTS AND SDGs
Securing land rights is central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to, among others, eradicate poverty and hunger (Goal 1), build a world of justice where human rights are protected for all (Goal 16), and protect the environment and fight climate change (Goal 13).

Land Watch Asia, ILC Asia’s regional initiative on monitoring data on land governance, conducts studies on the capacity of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) across various countries in Asia to report on SDG 1.4.2 (proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land). The results of this will build on influencing land policy formulation and monitoring the implementation processes in countries involved, thus leading to increased tenurial security of rural farmers, women, and indigenous peoples.

ASIA LAND FORUM & REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
ILC Asia organises the Asia Land Forum (ALF) every year and participation in this event is open to ILC members and external stakeholders. The Forum is a unique occasion for grassroots organisations, NGOs, research institutions and government bodies to develop a common ground in a common ground in pursuing people-centred land governance. We also use this opportunity to convene with our members in the Regional Assembly, discussing the ways forward in defining our agreed 10 commitments and finding resources to realise land governance.

The Regional Assembly functions as the highest policy-making body in ILC Asia, while the Land Forum serves as a public forum to discuss the latest state of land governance in the region and as an arena for regional institutions and platforms to share experiences, strategies, resources and explore potential areas for collaboration.

GOVERNANCE
ILC Asia’s Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) is hosted by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in Bogor, Indonesia. The RCU provides technical support to NES and CBI platforms in strategy formulation, operations, communications, knowledge and learning, and administrative matters. Under the strategic supervision of the Asia Steering Committee (ASC), a governance body selected by the Regional Assembly that represents all subregions of Asia, the RCU serves as a bridge between the global and regional dimensions of ILC’s work.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS & CORE DONORS

International Land Coalition Asia

IN ASIA

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There is widespread recognition that land rights are a fundamental element to addressing major challenges facing humanity: advancing gender equality, overcoming rural poverty, building fair and sustainable food systems that recognise small-scale producers, peace-building, mitigating and adapting to climate change, managing ecosystems, and reversing land degradation.

In Asia there has been an increasing demand for large-scale land acquisitions pushed by corporations and extractive industries, leaving small-scale producers, peace-building, and sustainable food systems that recognise family farming, and women’s land rights, land rights, indigenous peoples, pastoralism, non-governmental organisations working on managing ecosystems, and reversing land degradation.

Although some governments in Asia have made progress in issuing progressive land laws, implementation at the ground level remains weak. Secure collective land rights shall contribute to reducing inequality and protect the rights of those who live on and from the land.

ILC’s strength is the diversity of its members and in Asia, most of our members are civil society, community-based and non-governmental organisations working on land rights, indigenous peoples, pastoralism, family farming, and women’s land rights, among others.

To guide our individual and collective efforts, ILC members agreed on 10 commitments in priority areas of action. These commitments are a compass for our work, and we hope that they also provide a useful focus to others with a transformative agenda on land rights.

To work towards the realisation of the 10 commitments, ILC Asia has set up national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms: National Engagement Strategies (NESs) and Commitment-Based Initiatives (CBIs). NESs operate at the country-level by influencing the formulation and implementation of land policies and programmes. Their platforms are led by national actors, including both ILC and non-ILC members, and have links to regional and global processes of the ILC.

The impact of our work, expressed through the achievements of our NESs and CBIs, has resulted in significant transformations in Asia. In working towards people-centred land governance, the efforts and commitments of our initiatives have often translated into changes in policy and practice at the local and national level.

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The Government of Nepal endorsed the amendment and put the law into effect in 2018, committing to provide land for housing purposes to the Dalit community purposes. The amendment represents a significant step towards addressing landlessness and poor urban planning that has disadvantaged marginalised communities.

CBIs are regional platforms through which ILC Asia members engage with each other to advance change at national and regional level, developing partnerships and common strategies on one or ILCS’ 10 Commitments. In Asia, our members jointly work on the following thematic areas:

- Secure Tenure Rights
- Strong Small Scale Farming Systems
- Diverse Tenure Systems
- Equal Land Rights for Women
- Secure Territorial Rights for IPs
- Locally Managed Ecosystems
- Inclusive Decision Making
- Transparent Information and Accountability
- Effective Actions Against Land Grabbing
- Protected Land Rights Defenders

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Asia Rangelands Initiative

The Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance (CAPA) members were highly involved in the drafting and implementation of six land-related policies, including amendments to pasture laws across Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia. These policy developments prompted the recognition of pastoralist and herder community land rights, securing more than 39 million hectares of pasturelands and affecting the livelihoods of over 80,000 households. The South Asia Pastoralist Alliance (SAPA) is working with various government agencies to improve the legislative framework on drylands and rangelands related policies. These include the formulation of the first National Land Policy in India, and the implementation of a novel rangelands policy plan in Afghanistan.

39 million hectares of pastureland across Central Asia secured

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CRI THEMATIC FOCUS COUNTRIES

- Family Farming
- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan

- Women’s Land Rights
- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal

- Territorial Rights for Indigenous Peoples
- India, Nepal, Philippines, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Taiwan

- Locally Managed Ecosystems
- Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines

- Youth and Land Rights
- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines

- Transparency and Accountability
- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Philippines

- Protected Land Rights Defenders
- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines

NEPAL

The 2018 Global Land Forum held in Bandung, Indonesia, and co-organised with ILC members in the country was a key moment for President Joko Widodo to issue a presidential regulation on the establishment of a special task force on agrarian issues (Perpres GTRA). The enactment of the presidential regulation was subsequently followed by the creation of smaller units of the task force at the district, provincial and national level, which included representatives of peasant organisations. In September 2019, ILC member the Consortium for Agrarian Reform (CPA) and its allies had the opportunity to sit down with the President to evaluate the implementation of the presidential regulation.

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INDONESIA

The joint and complementary efforts of the Land Governance Working Group (G-LGWG), which is chaired by the country’s Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation, ILC Nepal and civil society organisations and development partners have led to the 7th Amendment of the Land Act of 1964 in Nepal.

WHAT WE DO

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OUR IMPACT

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