International Land Coalition in Africa

ILC Africa is a Regional Platform of the International Land Coalition (ILC), a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men. The shared goal of ILC’s over 250 members is to realise land governance for and with people at the country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities with ties to and from the land.

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

Local Partners

Built in consultation with members and strategic partners of ILC, LANDex is a global land governance index that measures progress towards people-centred land governance based on common indicators and ILC’s 10 Commitments. ILC Africa members throughout the continent use this monitoring tool to assess the status of land governance on three levels: legal framework, implementation, and impact.

Stakeholders

The major stakeholders and actors advocating for IP land rights include:

- **ILC Africa - CBI 5**
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We connect stakeholders and land actors in an effort to mobilise their capacities and influence land reforms and governance processes.

Promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men.
The traditional ways of life for indigenous peoples (IP) across the African continent can range from hunting and gathering to nomadic herding to fishing; all of which require equitable access to land for survival. Struggles for IP's land rights have heightened over recent years with continued dispossession and forced eviction of IP from their ancestral land as a result of nature conservation projects; agro-industrial development; mineral, oil, and gas explorations; and other activities which target large areas of land with diverse natural resources. The tension between IP, government, and industry over disruptions to livelihoods and human rights violations have often led to conflicts and sometimes violence.

In most African countries, there are no policies or laws that set clear benefit sharing guidelines and rules of engagement between IP, governments, and investors. This leads to inequality and exploitation. Low awareness levels among indigenous communities on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles also limit IPs’ capacity to enter into meaningful dialogue and negotiations with external actors. In order to effectively push for land reform throughout the continent, clear advocacy strategies must be developed and implemented by IP and their partners.

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

**CBI 5** works to respect and protect the inherent land and territorial rights of indigenous peoples, as set out in ILC Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by recognising that respect for indigenous knowledge and culture contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.

Ogiek Peoples’ Development Program (OPDP), in collaboration with other ILC members and partners, organised the first Indigenous Peoples Conference on Land Policy in Africa, held in August 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference brought together more than 50 representatives of IP from 12 countries in Africa with the hope of strengthening IP involvement in land policy advocacy and participation in critical land reform processes. The conference affirmed the need for IP organisations to be strategic and tactful in engaging with their governments, sub-regional, and regional mechanisms on the on-going land reform agenda. In order to strengthen such engagements and benefit from joint action and shared learning, the Africa CBI 5 platform was established.

**WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE?**

The overarching goal of this regional initiative is to improve land tenure security of IP in Africa. The initiative connects members and partners, including IP groups, with each other and policymakers to advocate for realise land rights for IP.

**WHAT ACTIONS DO WE TAKE?**

This initiative will:

1. Strengthen the capacity of youth, women, and IP organizations to advocate for their land rights;
2. Encourage research on land grabbing, displacement, and IP land rights in order to produce advocacy papers for engaging with relevant stakeholders at the national and regional level;
3. Lobby for IP rights through dialogues and meetings with national governments and relevant stakeholders at all levels;
4. Build alliances with the UN and other human rights mechanisms, especially the UN Special Rapporteur for IP.

In March 2019, an experience-sharing workshop organised in Botswana brought the Ogieks, a historically marginalised indigenous group in Kenya, to share winning strategies with peers from Central, Eastern and Western Africa. Here, the Ogiek Indigenous Peoples, who’ve over a century battle to preserve their community lands ended in 2017 with the landmark victory over the government of Kenya at the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, shared recommendations and best practices on how to use legal and advocacy tools to make a case for land rights.