

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

AFRICA
AFRIQUE

TRIENNIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

(2019-2021)



REPORT FROM THE GROUND

AFRICA | AFRIQUE

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Cover photo shows a young school girl with a handful of fruits from her family farm in Kenya.

Photo by Jason Taylor/ILC

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

When the triennial period of 2019-2021 began, none of us could have envisioned the territory ahead of us. A global pandemic has changed the landscape in which we work and live, forcing us to look for other ways of creating change. ILC Africa's commitment to its seven strategic priority areas for Africa - family farming, diverse tenure, women's land rights, indigenous people, inclusive decision making, challenging land grabbing and protecting rights defenders - has remained steadfast.

ILC Africa members made significant advances in advocacy over the past three years, including the endorsement of the Kilimanjaro Initiative Charter of demands by AU States. Eighteen (18) policies were changed, including the passage of a law protecting the rights of the Batwa in DRC in 2021. ILC members in Senegal used data from LANDex, state statistics, and a review of official documents to highlight the central role land plays in social, economic and environmental objectives defined in Agenda 2030. Read about the fascinating results discussed in this report.

Adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic, ILC Africa members used the opportunities offered by digital platforms to support people-centred land governance.

Looking ahead, there is hope that initiatives will be upscaled and sustained, and land rights of vulnerable populations strengthened through the new ILC Strategy 2022-2030.



Audace Kubwimana





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Photo by Kevin Eze from a fruit seller's stall in Lome, Togo

ACRONYMS

AACJ - African Activists for Climate Justice
 AU - African Union
 ALF - Africa Land Forum
 CBI - Commitment Based Initiative
 COVID-19 - Coronavirus Disease 2019
 CSO - Civil Society Organisation
 FEMNET - African Women's Development and Communications Network
 F&G: Framework And Guidelines on Land Policy In Africa
 ICCA - Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas
 IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development
 IGAD - Intergovernmental Authority on Development
 ILC - International Land Coalition
 ILC Africa - International Land Coalition Africa
 ILRI - International Livestock Research Institute
 IPAR - Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale
 IPs - Indigenous Peoples
 LANDex - Global Land Governance Index
 LandNNES - Land Network National Engagement Strategy
 NES - National Engagement Strategies
 NELGA - Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa
 NGO - Non-governmental Organisation
 PACJA - Pan-African Climate Justice Activists
 PAFO - Pan-African Farmers Organization
 PRM - Participatory Rangelands Management
 PROPAC - Plateforme Régionales des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale
 RECs - Regional Economic Communities
 S4HL - Stand For Her Land
 SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals
 UCOBAC - Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare
 VGGT - Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
 WLR - Women's Land Rights



ACHIEVEMENTS

AT A GLANCE

Participants reached through learning activities

Over the triennial period, 20,609 individuals, including ILC members and partners, participated in various learning initiatives. An outstanding result is the development of an illustrated guide for the dissemination of the new land code and the VGGT in Togo. Of the participants who took part in these learning products, 49.1% were women while 32.2% were youth.

New members admitted

In 2019, ILC Africa had 73 members. This number grew to 95 in 2021 with the admission of 22 new members. The composition of these new members by region and type of association is shown below:

Region	Academic Institution	CBO	Network	NGO	Total
Central Africa	0	1	1	0	2
Eastern Africa	0	4	1	2	7
Southern Africa	0	2	0	1	3
Western Africa	1	5	1	3	10
Total	1	12	3	6	22

The expansion saw the addition of South Sudan, the Gambia, Ivory Coast and Somalia. Most of the newly admitted members were community-based organizations.

Reports published

Twelve (12) reports were published, of which three (3) contribution analyses, six (6) discussion papers and three (3) reports on topics ranging from rangelands management to women's land rights.

Website and social media growth

Based on a Social Media Analysis undertaken by ILC's Corporate Communications at the end of 2021, ILC Africa's social media following significantly grew over the triennial period. In 2019 ILC Africa's Twitter account had 200 followers, a figure that rose to 2437 by the end of the triennial period, representing a percentage growth of 1,118.5%. This upsurge can be attributed to a number of measures taken to boost engagement including doubling the frequency of tweets, widening the reach to a Francophone audience through French content, and enriching the content through, for example, mentioning strategic partners.

Participants at the Africa Land Forum

The Africa Land Forum attracted notable participants thanks to the virtual modality of the last two editions. Data from 2021 revealed that roughly 57% of participants were male and 42% female.

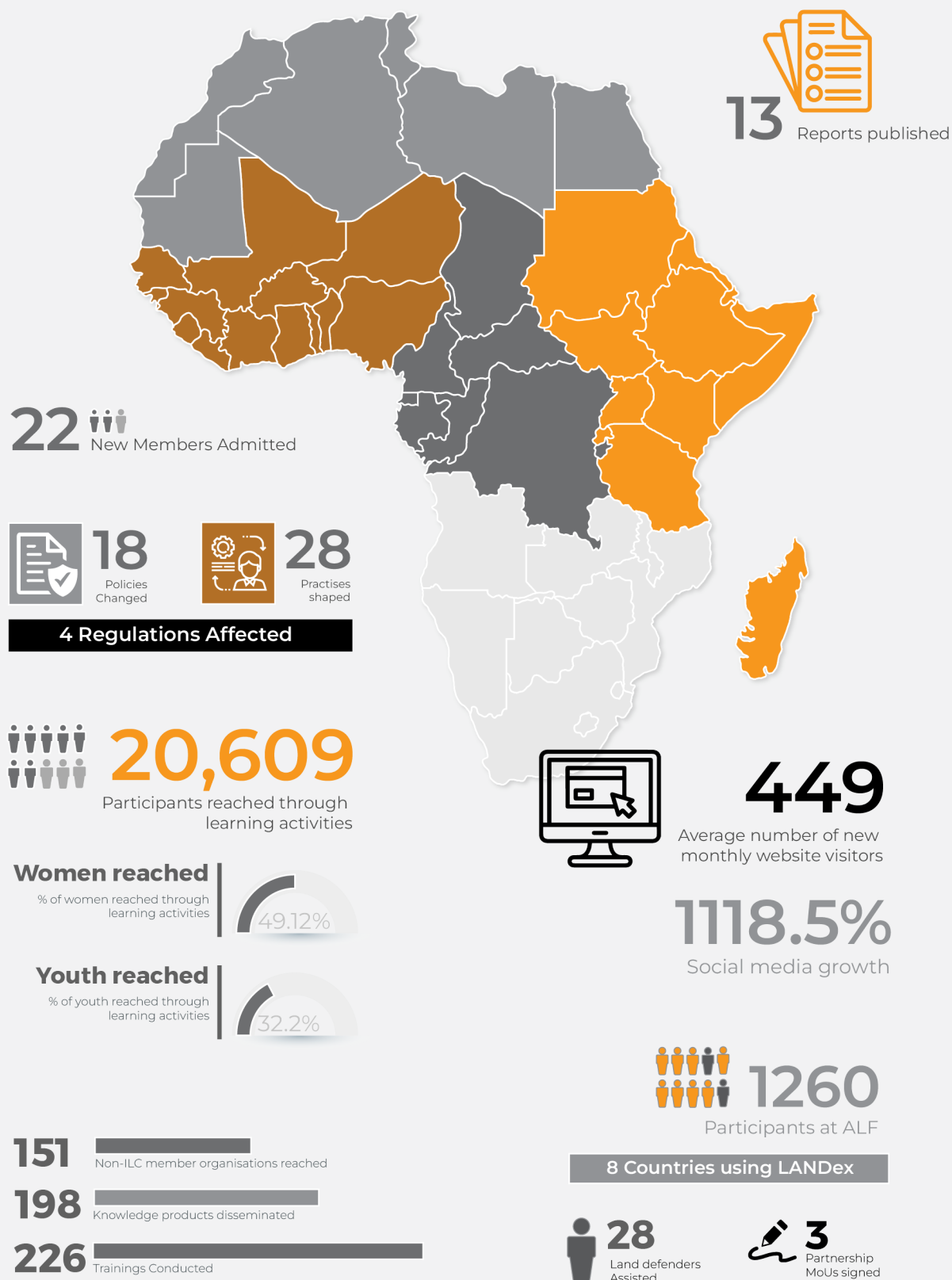
MoUs signed

During the reporting period, ILC Africa signed memoranda of understanding with three organisations, namely IGAD, NELGA West Africa and CADASTA.

ILC AFRICA

IN NUMBERS 2019-2021

Over the triennial period, 20,609 individuals, including ILC members and partners, participated in various learning initiatives. An outstanding result is the development of an illustrated guide for the dissemination of the new land code and the VGGT in Togo. Of the participants who took part in these learning products, 49.1% were women while 32.2% were youth.



“

ILC Africa Members' work resulted in...

**...the inclusion of women and
young people in decision-making
processes on community lands...**



1 TRIENNIAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN FULL

Changing practice

ILC Africa members' work resulted in (i) the cancellation or reversal of leases and other forms of transfers on land and natural resources; (ii) the allocation of land to victims of land evictions and displaced peoples; (iii) the inclusion of women and young people in decision-making processes on community lands; and, the compensation of certain communities according to international standards, offering more advantages to communities compared to national laws.



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Also, ILC Africa members obtained: (i) the design, development and roll-out of the National Land Information System in Kenya; (ii) the adoption of four regulations, including the National Guide for the Systematic Titling of Customary Land, in Liberia; (iii) the Solidarity Fund Input Voucher Programme in South Africa; (iv) the reversal of a land transfer process in Kilwa District, Tanzania; and (v) the suspension of issuance of land titles in areas with irregularities as in Cameroon. Furthermore, in Cameroon, a government-mandated logging concession of the Ebo forest was suspended contributing to preserving the country's menaced terrestrial biodiversity, as was a land concession in Ntem valley attributed to a cocoa manufacturing firm.



Expectations for the upcoming triennial period

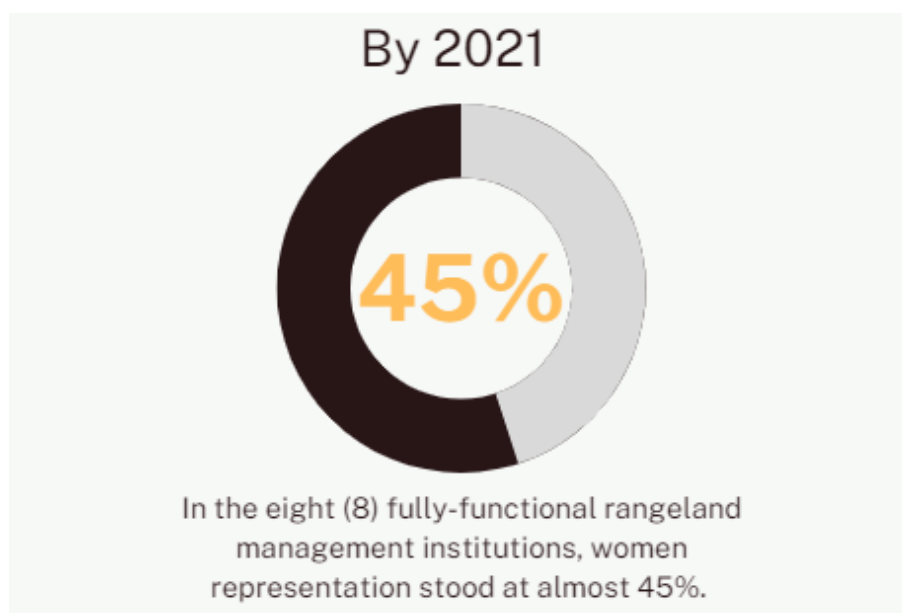
- Decrease in land evictions and large-scale land acquisitions, compared to the situation between 2019 and 2021
- Widespread inclusion of women and youth in land decision-making processes at the community level
- Improved dialogue with investors and transparency in the context of land transfer for reduced evictions of indigenous peoples from their customary lands; and
- Increase in requests from National Land Coalitions by social groups to face the factual challenges related to land governance.

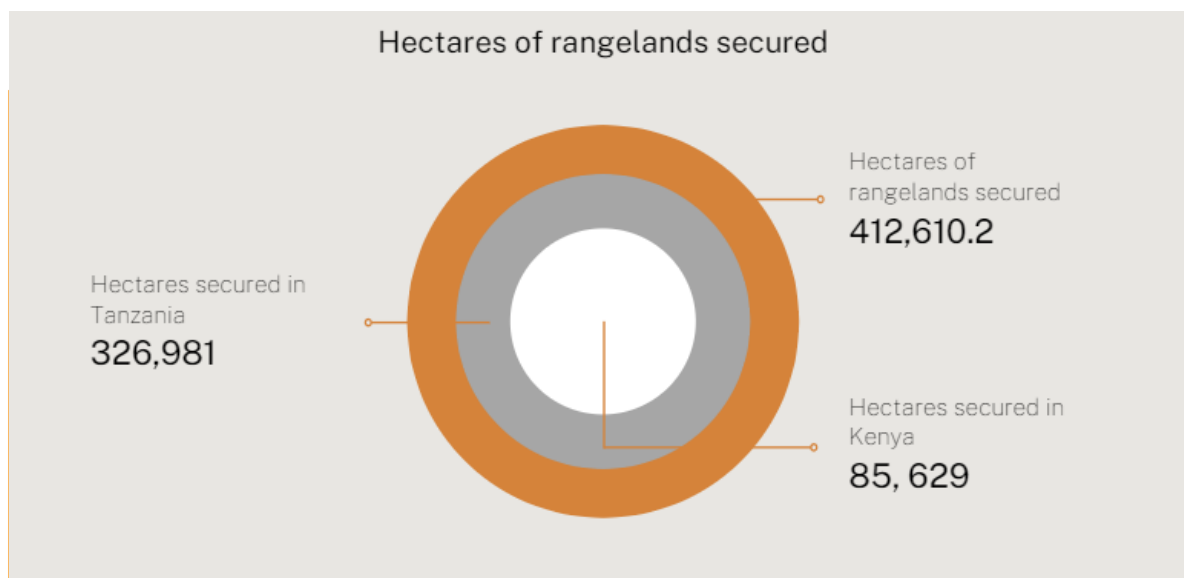
“The greatest challenges that confront pastoralists, as grassroots people and resource-dependent communities, are those of land and resource tenure, rights and insecurity.”

2 PARTICIPATORY RANGELANDS MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Piloted in Kenya and Tanzania between 2018 and 2021, PRM delivered the following results:

- **Tenure security** - PRM contributed to securing over 412,610.2 hectares of rangelands, with 85,629 ha in Kenya and 326,981 ha in Tanzania. Communities in Kenya, specifically those in Kabarion and Paka Hills, made strides towards the registration of their respective community lands. The training for rangeland communities helped equip them with knowledge and skills on rangelands protection, management and restoration. In Tanzania, all 15 villages that form the four clusters developed by-laws to govern the secured grazing management units. Through the participatory mapping of rangeland resources and production of rangeland maps, communities have come to appreciate their communal boundaries and resources, an important first step towards securing rangelands through community registration.
- **Conflict mitigation** - Intra-communal conflicts and conflicts among farmers and pastoralists were reduced in PRM intervention areas. In the Kabarion Community Conservancy, the displacement that occurred as a result of inter-communal conflict was mitigated. As membership increased six-fold over the 4 years between 2018 and 2021, a more peaceful co-existence between communities was reinstalled.
- **Inclusion** - Communities in Paka Hills Rangeland, Irong Community Conservancy, and Koitegan Community Forest Association have maintained or increased their women representation in leadership positions over the triennium. There are eight (8) fully-functional rangeland management institutions with almost 45% of women representation.





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- Impactful training - OLKA, the managing body for a shared grazing area that has been called OLENGAPA in Kiteto District, Manyara Region, is one of the success stories in Tanzania, showing that training had an impact. After undertaking two instances of training in the cluster that equipped the OLKA management with necessary skills on rangelands and livestock management practices, the interest of the members in the association has increased and their contributions have shot to over 10 million Tanzanian Shillings for the running of the association.

These advances were realised through training on leadership and strengthening of the structures with more defined roles and resource-mapping exercises. These achievements were also made possible through project-built partnerships. PRM brought together national government ministries, local governments, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to work collectively. With support from the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and ILC, the PRM approach was promoted and recognized as a standard participatory process by governments. This contributed to the successful implementation of community projects, including the community water project at Sukta Spring, Kenya.

Expectations for Upcoming Triennial Period

The next phase is expected to introduce stronger livelihoods and conflict management systems through business development partnerships. Specifically, there will be -

- Upscaling of the project and the community granting, and pilots in other countries; and
- Protection, recognition and registration of community land.

3 ADVANCING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

ILC Africa members elevated women's land rights by -

Increasing capacity and political will among state actors

Through National Land Coalitions, ILC members in Africa working to increase the capacity and political will of state actors to support and strengthen women's land rights, leading to increased access to land services and justice for women.

In South Africa, Cameroon, Senegal, Togo, Malawi and Uganda, ILC members organized training workshops for media, traditional leaders, government officials and parliamentarians to help them better understand [the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure \(VGGT\)](#) and, in particular, how the legal framework drew attention to gender equality.

In three years, the work of ILC members in DR Congo enriched the country's new national land policy document with the concerns of marginalized groups, especially women. Indigenous women, in particular, had the chance to express their views and concerns to Commission Nationale de la Réforme Concière (CONAREF) and have their voices heard.

[Justine's victory](#) and others were the result of a series of training and workshops organised by ILC's National Land Coalition of Cameroon to educate communities on equitable customary land management.

“In three years, the work of ILC members in DR Congo enriched the country's new national land policy document with the concerns of marginalized groups, especially women.”

In March 2020, NES Cameroon developed a Code of conduct for equitable customary land management for youth and women resulting from several community consultations. The code was distributed in several localities and has reached over 50 traditional authorities and 300 community members.

Putting women first with customary and communal land

Supported by NES Tanzania, [the Pastoral Women's Council of Tanzania](#), an ILC member, established 54 women's rights fora and supported over 1000 Maasai women to own pieces of land.

In Uganda, the Ugandan Community-Based Association for Women and Children Welfare (UCOBAC), [adapted and implemented pro-poor, fit-for-purpose and gender-responsive land tools and approaches](#) to secure tenure for women. This has led to community ownership



In recent years, advocacy for women's land rights using the Kilimanjaro Charter of demands led to women's empowerment and agency, change in attitude, norms and practices on land and increased food production.



of the land registration process and increased awareness of equal access to land rights for women, male vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.

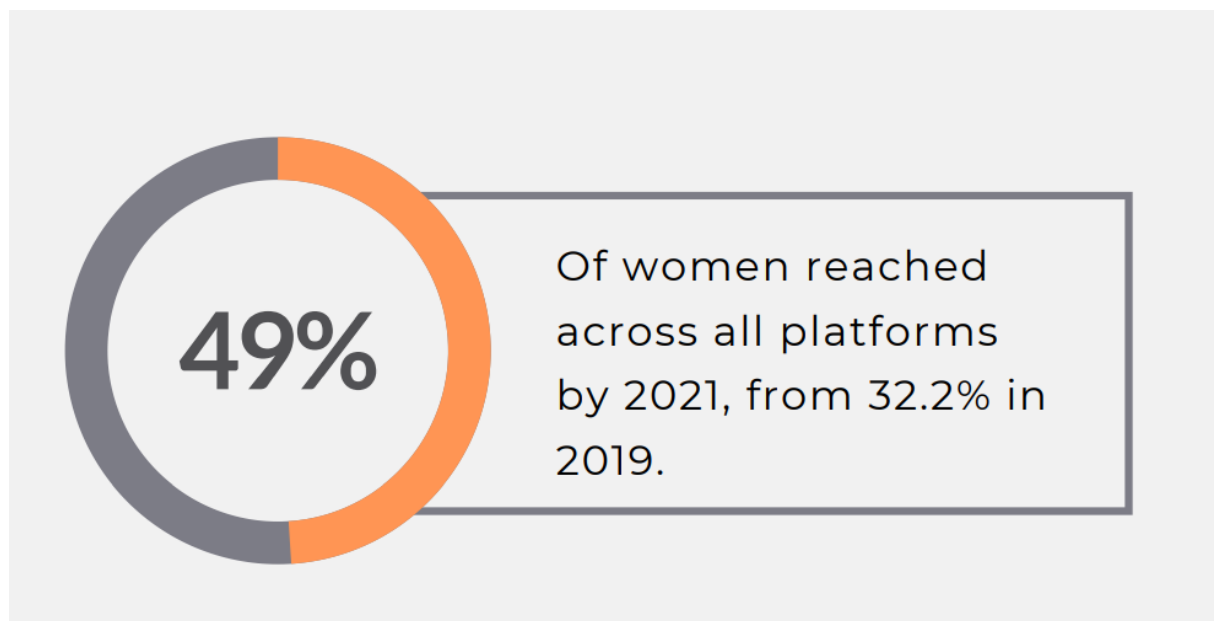
In Kenya, Community training and empowerment by members on substantive provisions of the Community Land Act including gender equality and the need for accountability and participation have led to an increase of over 30% of women in Community Land Management Committees resulting in inclusivity in decision making.

Tackling discriminatory social norms with gender-responsive programs

ILC Africa members played an active role in advancing [the Kilimanjaro initiative](#). In recent years, advocacy for women's land rights using the Kilimanjaro Charter of demands led to women's empowerment and agency, change in attitude, norms and practices on land and increased food production. ILC Africa did the same at the [Generation Equality Forum's](#) comeback – 25 years after the Beijing Conference – to reignite women and girls' empowerment to counteract both existing and new challenges. The Women's Rights for Inclusive Development and Growth in Africa (WIDGRA) project worked to promote women's land rights in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Togo and South Africa. It developed a scorecard that [tracks how policies and laws on women's land rights are being put into practice](#).

In Kenya and Tanzania, women's participation increased by 45% thanks to the [Participatory Rangelands Management](#) project.

Women's representation in the governance structures of NES and CBI [rose to 46.6% from 32.3% between 2019 and 2021](#).



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Increasing women's legal literacy and agency

NES Uganda, in conjunction with partners, organised community land fora to educate communities on land laws, gender and women's land rights, resulting in awareness creation on women's land rights.

In the DRC, ILC members contributed to the participation of many rural women in the "Workshop for presentation of the program document of the elaboration of the provincial land policy" in March 2021. Women themselves carried messages from Collectivities of other women and urged the government not to forget women's land rights.

Strengthening women's livelihoods and food security

LandNNES of South Africa reported that the mining company Mokopane agreed to a mediation process with the local communities that were displaced due to its mining operations. The mediation process, executed in February 2021, increased women's revenues from 10% to 26% and raised compensation for loss of ploughing fields from 5,250 to 65,250 South African Rand (that is 344 to 4,275 United States Dollars) per family, per annum.

Expectations for the upcoming triennial period

- Implementation of country-level women's land rights agenda priorities through Stand for Her Land Campaign (S4HL) to advocate for gender-responsive land laws and policies; and
- Strengthened women's land rights movement-building and resource mobilization for campaigns.

4 CASE STUDY I: DELIVERING CERTIFICATES OF CUSTOMARY OWNERSHIP TO UGANDA'S RURAL WOMEN

The National Land Policy (2013) acknowledged the limitation of Uganda's formal law in overcoming discriminatory practices regarding women's (land) rights.

NES Uganda, in partnership with UNHABITAT/GLTN and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development implemented initiatives for the issuance of Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCOs). These were given in two districts namely Butaleja, located in eastern Uganda, and Pader district, located in northern Uganda.

A male ally, Dauson Malingha Haperi, the chairperson of the Area Land Committee of Mazimasa sub-county in Uganda welcomed the initiative of promoting women's land rights, "I, myself, had not included my wife on my application for a registration of my customary land, but after sensitization by NES Uganda, I changed it."

Dorothy Awor, a 24-year-old youth volunteer narrated her experience, "Before I started working on this project, I only knew that customary land is that which is inherited from parents. [...] Working under this project has allowed me to learn all this. I have also gained the confidence to sit and mediate in land disputes. Despite my age and gender, the people see that I am knowledgeable, and they respect me".

In Pader and Butajela, 970 and 1200 CCOs were issued, respectively, representing 24662 and 2213 hectares secured. Community ownership of the land registration processes rose significantly as everyone was involved and understood the benefits of land registration for rural women. Because of this, community leaders at all levels have embraced efforts to advance women's land rights in their communities.



5 COVID-19 AND FARMERS' RESPONSE

To mitigate the hard lockdown in South Africa from March 2020, LandNNES collaborated with national movements, the South African government and non-governmental organisations to find markets for the 50% of farmers affected. LandNNES also successfully advocated for the participation of local producers in the Solidarity Fund, an independent support fund, and was taken on as the fund's official civil society partner in phase 2 of its work to supply input vouchers to support small-scale and household food production. The criteria to identify beneficiaries of this fund were drawn up to favour farmers who predominantly farmed vegetables, maize, beans or chicken on 0.25 hectares or less.

"Kenya's awareness campaign reached over 11,000 people."

Using radios and TV shows, but also mass and print media in local dialects, members in Kenya carried out series of awareness campaigns that reached over 11,000 people.



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Other ILC Africa platforms took initiatives to respond to COVID-19:

- In DR Congo, especially in Goma and its surroundings, members of NES DRC helped reduce the spread by providing protection and prevention kits, drugs for the care of the sick and trained youth and local monitors in techniques for monitoring, documenting and re-sharing information on COVID-19 prevention. In Kenya, members carried out awareness creation using mass and print media. They conducted over 30 radio and TV shows (in local dialects where applicable) at both the national level and at least 35 counties, wrote over 15 newspaper articles, held Zoom meetings and documented communities' experiences with COVID, which helped to reduce the number of farmers affected.
- In Togo, members carried out awareness creation in 108 communities, helping to lower exposure to infection. NES Togo also utilised radio broadcasts. To provide alternative means of livelihood for farmers, NES Togo facilitated the training of women in soap making, distribution of 12,500 masks, manufacture and distribution of 141 handwashing devices and 9375 litres of liquid soap, and distribution of 730 food kits to vulnerable people in communities.

Expectations for the Upcoming Triennial Period

- Learning from the positive long-term changes initiated as emergency responses during COVID-19 that can be embedded for better overall support systems; and
- Learning from the forms of resilience that have emerged during COVID-19 that could be shared and disseminated, especially with regards to climate change impacts.



6 YOUTH ACCESS TO LAND

In Senegal, Togo, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Cameroon, Tanzania and Kenya, members led various initiatives to secure land tenure for the youth:

- Awareness creation in Kenya targeting both women and youth to enhance their capacity on land laws and policies
- Inclusion of youth in customary land tenure registers and community land management committees
- In Kenya, the land-sector gender policy has facilitated the appointment of gender and youth focal points in the Ministry of Lands for the purposes of mainstreaming and monitoring the inclusion of women and youth in the policy-making processes; and
- In Tanzania, the Ministry of Agriculture shared the draft National Youth Engagement in Agriculture Strategy 2021-2026.

Of these initiatives, one stands out: the Inclusion of youth in community land management committees and the willingness of the elders to embrace youth inclusion in the registration process that is currently being steered by the Government of Kenya.

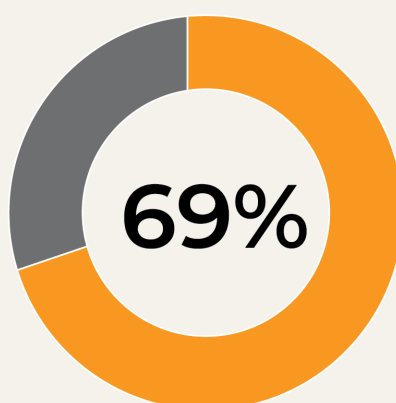
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A Multi-Actor Partnership Platform on Youth Land Governance is envisaged to bring together various land stakeholders in Africa to synergize their efforts in promoting youth access to and control over land, ownership and utilization.”



Youth engagement growth

Between 2019 and 2021



ILC Africa Members used the opportunities offered by digital communication to reach the youth

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Youth inspiring other youth at ILC Africa became a model. At Kenya Land Alliance, advocacy work where the programme officers implementing the different interventions targeting youth and women were led by youth was reported. This in turn has assisted in mainstreaming youth inclusion in the community land registration process. It has also enabled fruitful dialogue with the elders.

ILC Africa members in Kenya jointly created a learning and sharing platform for the youth and policymakers to ascertain challenges and ways of accelerating youth inclusion in the ongoing land-sector reforms like digitization, registration of customary lands and national titling programme. This has led to the development of a monitoring framework by the National Land Commission with youth inclusion as one of the parameters.

Finally, the Youth Fellowship Leadership programme at ILC trained seven youth fellows as land advocates who will help to form the ILC Africa Youth Movement.

Expectations for the upcoming triennial period

The rollout of the ILC Africa Youth Movement. There is goodwill from policy-makers and non-state actors that will enhance the effectiveness of the ILC Youth and Land Platform.

CASE STUDY II: YOUTH HELPING OTHER YOUTH IN MALAWI'S PATRIARCHAL COMMUNITIES

Considering the predominantly youthful population of the country, NES Malawi began engaging the youth in 2019 as a key segment of the population within Malawi. The engagement was in the form of a National Youth and Land Conference aimed at performing an in-depth analysis of the specific challenges that youth face in engaging with the land governance sector. The conference revealed an eagerness by the youth to engage in the land process, and the low levels of awareness among the youth on land and environmental policies.

In 2021, the platform worked with a youth-led member in one of the patriarchal strongholds of the country, Mzimba District, sensitizing and mobilizing the youth into youth networks. These networks advocated for better inclusion in land titling of customary land, equitable allocation among the youth regardless of gender or birthing order, protection of orphan's rights to land and substantial representation in community structures for land administration and dispute resolution. Three networks in 3 out of the 11 traditional authorities of the district have been set up, organised and pursued various activities in their locale raising awareness and interfacing with community leaders. These networks assisted 13 youths (5 females and 8 males) in their cases to recover land grabbed by their uncles; integrated land-related issues in partner-led organized forums, such as those organized by Save the Children, The CCAP Synod of Livingstonia, and the Centre for Social Concern; and have amplified youth land rights issues through weekly programmes on community radio from 5:30-6:00 pm every Monday.

The network now hopes to find the means to address other challenges, such as resistant cultural beliefs against youth owning land; lack of adequate capacity to advance deeper conversations connecting youth land rights to other developmental issues such as climate change and largescale land-based investments; and inadequate resources for further mobilization at district, regional and national levels.

“...networks advocated for better inclusion in land titling of customary land, equitable allocation among the youth regardless of gender or birthing order, protection of orphan's rights to land...”

SUPPORTING FAMILY FARMING

Family farming was advanced through (i) improving the working conditions and profitability of economic activities of people's organisations and their members; (ii) the promotion of gender issues; (iii) positioning current concerns of major importance, for example, resilience to climate change; and (iv) awareness campaigns around COVID-19.

In the face of COVID-19, ILC members engaged communities through projects aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of the pandemic on family farms. As mentioned previously, members in Kenya undertook communities' awareness creation through the use of mass and print media on the impacts of COVID-19 on communities' land use, livelihood and food security. Members in Cameroon also created awareness through campaigns for producers on health, food and nutritional hygiene.

Elsewhere in the region, the following achievements were recorded:

- In Cameroon, members provided agricultural cooperatives with development funds, health and food kits.
- In Togo, members have worked to influence the Ministry of Agriculture to improve the *Loi d'Orientation Agricole (LOA)* to ensure that the law's orientations do not tend towards agribusiness at the expense of family farming.
- In Kenya, members have worked in collaboration with small-scale farmers in the promotion of effective county governance and participation.
- In South Africa, members worked to support women farmers to produce food for family and end users' consumption, to access government and other entities, to produce on pieces of land that the women have access to use, to enhance participation of women in legislation, policy formulation and decision-making processes, and finally, supported sustainable farming mechanisms; and
- In Benin, members employed alternative approaches to facilitate access to land for women in rural communities. Three mutuels in the communes of Ouinhi and Toffo benefited from a new secure site for gardening activities with a reduced rental cost ranging from 33 percent to 50 percent.

Expectations for the upcoming triennial period

- Ensure family farming plays a greater role in contributing to a future with food that is sustainable, equitable and secure; and
- Ensure women continue to be supported in the vital role that they play through technology, finance, training, legal rights awareness creation and facilitation of their access to markets.

9

FOSTERING CLIMATE JUSTICE

Members worked to support actions toward climate justice as the importance of tenure security, and particularly of community lands rights, to lower deforestation rates, higher carbon storage, and higher biodiversity becomes more apparent through the results of recent research.

In Niger, members contributed to a change of laws for farmers to manage naturally-regenerated trees on their respective farms. Thus, a Farmers' Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) decree was adopted, allowing village committees and traditional laws to be enforced in order to protect the environment. Notably, the biodiversity on more than 6 million hectares of land was conserved.

Through the Regreening Africa program, ILC members in Mali increased tree planting and restored degraded lands, contributing to improved food security, and reduced poverty. It also led to an increased potential to sequester carbon. Remarkably, more than 500,000 hectares of degraded land were restored.

In DRC, members contributed to advocacy for change in land rights and forest concessions for indigenous peoples. This law was adopted by the parliament in late 2020. This is significant to climate change justice as 91% of indigenous peoples and local communities' lands and territories are in good or moderate ecological condition, providing further evidence that their custodianship is consistent with the conservation and restoration of ecosystems.



In Kenya, members collaborated with the forestry agency leading to the adoption, rehabilitation and protection of over 50,000 hectares of the Mau Forest. Additionally, indigenous peoples in Kenya have been involved in climate financing preparation for the country under the REDD+ programme led by UNDP. This was made possible through the documentation of indigenous knowledge in weather and climate and climate monitoring by indigenous communities.

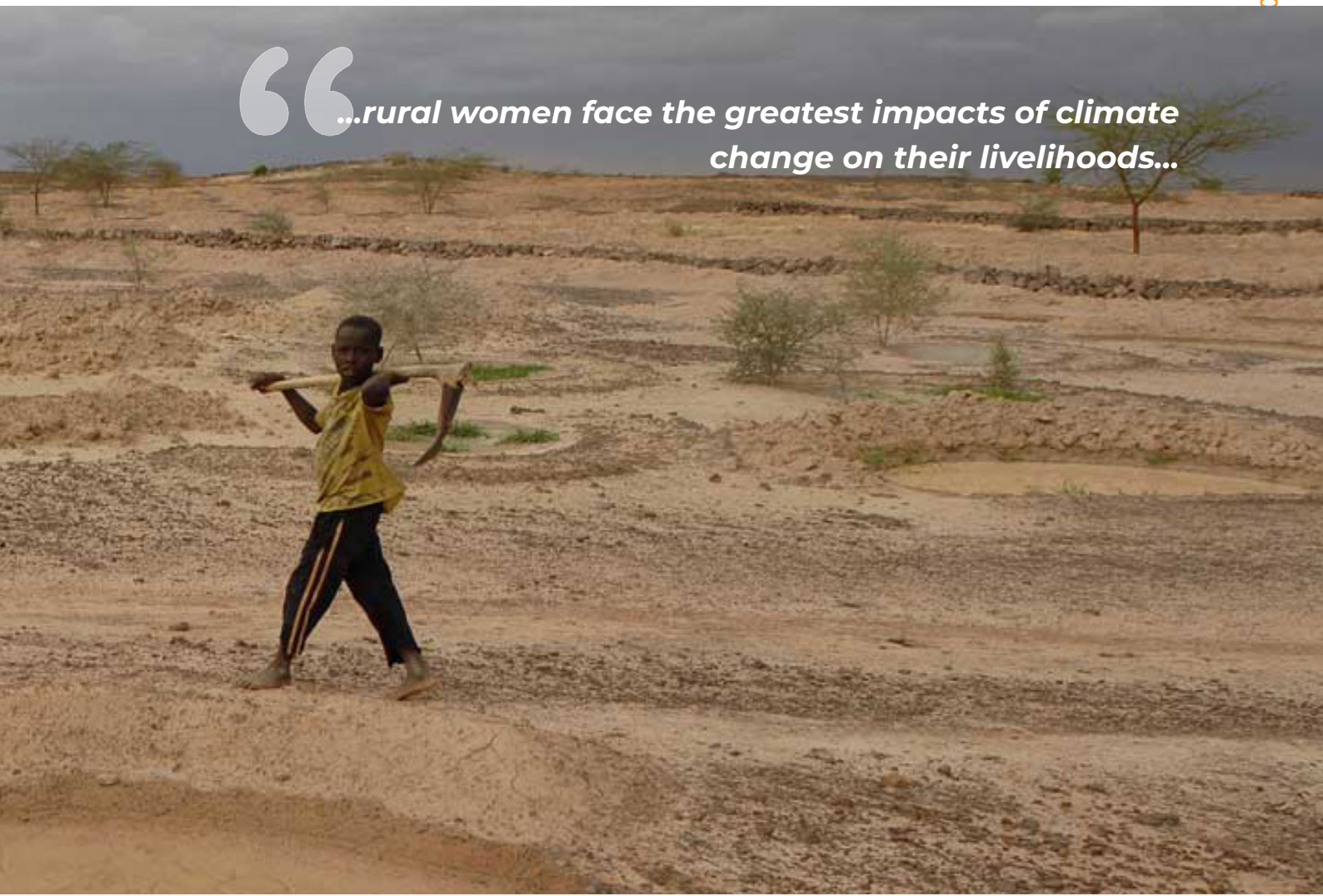
Expectations for the upcoming triennial period

Establish a community of practice informed by existing best practices to restore degraded lands and conservation of biodiversity in various ecosystems

Influence countries' policy and regulatory frameworks through advocacy to be more conducive to the scaling-up of the best practices for the restoration and conservation of target ecosystems; and

Empower rural communities, mostly women, youth and Indigenous Peoples in sustainable land management practices.

“...rural women face the greatest impacts of climate change on their livelihoods...”



10

SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY

The development of a draft land governance strategy by the African Union, following the engagement of ILC members and other actors as part of the process of improving land policies that better meet the needs of equity, equality and inclusiveness of people who live on and from the land was realised. Meanwhile, at the country level, members' advocacy initiatives in favour of securing the land rights of local communities, the recognition of indigenous peoples over lands and resources and the prevention and fight against land dispossessions and land rights defenders gained prominence.

CBI 4 members have contributed to improved land policies and active support of women's initiatives in influencing decision-makers through the generation of knowledge on land policies in Africa and through the support of the Kilimanjaro Initiative and active participation in the Paris Forum on Generation and Equality.

ILC Africa members have catalysed changes in practice that include but are not limited to:

- Improving land policies and practices in land governance
- The development by the African Union of a draft land governance strategy in July 2021
- Making the Regional Economic Communities more responsive
- The involvement of CSOs in the activities of RECs and other African bodies regarding the implementation of the Agenda of heads of state on land
- The opening of African regional bodies such as the African Development Bank in favour of a structured partnership with CSOs that are members of ILC, which led to the formal request for the integration of the bank's Steering Committee. In addition, a request for observer status was approved for CICODEV by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, allowing ILC members to integrate the decision-making process and defend the human rights of local communities; and
- The input and validation of the Guidelines for Integrated and Participatory Village Land Use Planning Management and Administration in Tanzania, a document that sets out and guides users throughout the country in undertaking Land Use Plans.

NES Kenya saw an increase in policies adopted in various countries which consider customary and indigenous land. To this end, NES Kenya sought to quantify the progress towards actualising customary rights of communities and indigenous peoples through the direct and indirect input of members. More than 172,000 hectares of customary land have been or are in the process of being formalised in recent years.



...CBI 4 members have contributed to improved land policies and active support of women's initiatives in influencing decision-makers...

Table of registered customary lands

Private Only		
Platform	Area (hectares)	Area (% of total)
NES Uganda	10,876	3
NES Kenya	240,699	69
CBI 5	61,000	18
CBI 6	34,000	10
Total	346,575	100

Public Only		
Platform	Area (hectares)	Area (% of total)
NES Uganda	10,876	1
NES Kenya	1,351,037	93
CBI 5	61,000	4
CBI 6	34,000	2
Total	1,456,913	100

Both Public and Private		
Platform	Area (hectares)	Area (% of total)
NES Uganda	10,876	1
NES Kenya	1,464,395	93
CBI 5	61,000	4
CBI 6	34,000	2
Total	1,570,271	100

Key to the table:

Platform – The 5 NES and CBI for which data is available.

Area (Hectares) – Table 1 and 2 consist of the private and public lands, respectively, that were registered as customary land while Table 2 sums up the two.

Area (% of total) – This represents the proportion that each platform contributed to the total area of customary land that was registered.

This progress was in part thanks to the advocacy for change on land rights, forest concessions, laws accepting farmers to manage trees on their respective farms and awareness creation that members undertook. For example, in Kenya where progress was realised in the implementation of the Community Land Act 2016, communities gained awareness of the need to secure their tenure rights. This was done through community training and empowerment by members in collaboration with FAO, targeting 9 counties with community land. This resulted in 12 communities successfully registering their community land.

A bi-annual [newsletter](#) was launched in May and has had a wide reach in terms of ILC platforms, decision-makers, international organizations, and CSOs. It has helped mitigate the situation where many operated in silos, without real synergy and mutual information. It does this by mapping the experiences and achievements of other platforms and collecting advocacy messages for regional and continental authorities.

Expectations for Upcoming Triennial Period

- Consolidation of achievements in terms of strengthening the synergy between ILC members, the generation of knowledge, and the strengthening of technical capacities of ILC members
- Strengthening the partnership dynamic with members with regards to regional and continental bodies like the RECs, the African Development Bank and African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights; and
- Strengthening the capacity of members to access further resources beyond ILC's seed funding.





11 EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On April 7, 2021, DRC passed a law in favour of Indigenous Peoples including the Batwas (also known as Pygmies) and the NES DRC platform put in major efforts towards this historic moment:

- Provision of technical support in terms of tools and financial means for the analysis of issuance of land rights of indigenous pygmy peoples. This will help guarantee recognition of their identity based on securing their living spaces (land) and their means of subsistence; and
- Customary governance and local community management based on their way of life.

Preceding this historic day, the Batwas had no land to call their own, with [dire consequences](#).

Elsewhere in the region, the formation of Akiye Council, Umoja Wa Akiye Tanzania (UATA) in 2021 has significantly changed the progressive dynamics among the Akiye who are facing severe assimilation, land grab, land alienation and forced evictions. The Council leads in advocating the rights of the Akiye including the formulation of strategic plans for establishing cultural zones of hunting and gathering.

The Botswana Kwedom Council is also working with Botswana Climate Change Network to stop the fracking set to take place in Okavango Delta, a UNESCO protected area and where most San community dwell.

The land rights campaigns by indigenous peoples shaped policies in Kenya where the review of Kenya forest policy is referring to the Ogiek peoples as a community with close links to the forest. The National Climate Change Action Plan focused on marginalized communities specifically developing a framework of engagement with these communities.

Expectations for Upcoming Triennial Period

- Strengthen advocacy on the adoption and promulgation of the law on indigenous pygmies in the DRC.
- Popularize the law on indigenous pygmy peoples at the local level; and
- Monitor the reforms underway in the DRC with a view to considering the rights and interests of indigenous Pygmy peoples in the policies and laws under development.



12

PROTECTING LAND DEFENDERS AND THE EXPANSION OF THE AFRICA ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS FUND

The three biggest achievements in protecting land rights defenders are:

- Increase in the knowledge of land rights defenders on different matters relating to protection so that they can assert their rights and those of the communities living off the land
- Improvement of the working environment for land rights defenders by influencing state authorities to end legal proceedings against some, release others and reduce threats to others; and
- The connection of various actors including CSOs, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations (collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights) as well as state structures around the protection of land rights defenders in Africa.

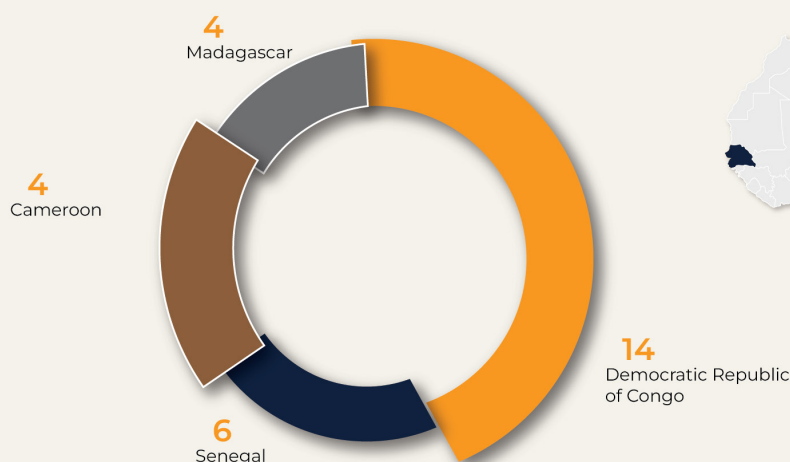
During this period, 28 land rights defenders were supported through the African Environmental Defenders Emergency Fund including 14 in DRC, 6 in Senegal, 4 in Cameroon, and 4 in Madagascar. Also, 45 cases of rights violations against land rights defenders were documented. These cases were documented by members of the national observatories of land rights defenders set up by the CBI platform 10.

ILC and partners managed to secure additional funding and as a result, the African Environmental Defenders fund can now provide emergency assistance to a wider array of environmental and land defenders across the continent. Natural Justice and its partners, through ongoing legal empowerment and capacity-building training (amongst other trainings), are also now providing proactive support to defenders.

ILC Africa was appalled and reacted to the murder of Joanna Stutchbury, an environmental defender, in Nairobi, Kenya



Land Environment defenders supported



This successful expansion of the fund was a result of collaborative efforts with different organizations that work with communities and identify as “defenders of defenders”. Besides the ILC, the fund has been contributed to by Voice Global under the Global Sudden Opportunity Grant and the Dutch Ministry under the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) project. The AACJ consortium members include the Pan-African Climate Justice Activists (PACJA), Oxfam Novib, FEMNET, and the African Youth Commission.

Appreciative of the shrinking civic space over time and the extent of threats and challenges faced by environmental human rights defenders across the African continent, all these partners share a common vision and goal as far as the importance of protecting and defending defenders is concerned. The deteriorating context in most African countries resulted in an increase in the number of applications submitted to the fund, including from organizations and defenders who were not part of the ILC network but were genuinely in need of assistance. This prompted the need to expand the scope of the fund and ensure that as many defenders as possible, particularly those at the grassroots level, including women, youth, and indigenous peoples, could get the support they require.

Before the unresolved killing of Joanna Stuchbury, Esther Mwikali, Esmond Bradley Martin, Jomo Nyanguti and Robert Kiroch, the fund was useful in reducing the danger faced by environmental activists by providing short-term and temporary assistance to ensure that defenders are removed from harm's way, creating space and time to secure longer-term support where the need arises, without exposing them to further danger.

Expectations for the upcoming triennial period

- In the coming three years, we look forward to ensuring that the AED fund is more accessible and benefits grassroots community defenders in the African continent whose stories are hardly told.
- Build the capacity of land and environmental rights advocates on human rights protection mechanism; and
- Strengthen the capacity of state and non-state actors to understand and operationalize the rights of land and environmental defender.

13 ENFORCING LANDEX AND USING LAND DATA

The LANDex implementation process has been characterized by inclusion and participation in all four countries with a LANDex score in Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Cameroon, and those where the process is being finalized. LANDex deserves credit for raising the question of the importance of evidence in land tenure.

In the first report of its kind, ILC members in Senegal used data from LANDex, state statistics, and a review of official documents to highlight the central role land plays in a number of social, economic and environmental objectives defined in Agenda 2030. The report focused on monitoring the three SDG indicators that have direct links to land, with a focus on the issue of women's access to and control over land. Indeed, the ANSD, as the national office to produce national statistics, has shown its interest in refining a methodology that can enable it to integrate the field of land among those addressed during institutional surveys. At this level, IPAR is in the process of signing an agreement with ANSD where one of the points is effectively the support of IPAR to ANSD for the integration of the land issue. The report that was produced was shared with the National Platform for Voluntary Directives and Land Governance. This sharing will continue on future occasions in connection with the issue of land governance.

Data collected via LANDex confirms significant progress towards Agenda 2030 in Senegal, noting relatively high levels of perceived security of tenure and gains in legal and institutional frameworks ensuring security of tenure. However, the following were also seen as limitations: Women's control over land in Senegal remains limited, as does their effective enjoyment of laws that provide for their equal rights; state support to family farmers is deemed insufficient, affecting their ability to contribute to a resilient food system; access to land information is relatively good, but corruption in the land sector persists; existing land-based dialogue platforms provide important space for the achievement of the SDGs but could benefit from more meaningful participation of women and other target groups

The impact of this data collection is worth mentioning. The acceptance by and sensitization of governments in Senegal and Cameroon through LANDex as a useful monitoring tool signals the building of partnerships and awareness creation. LANDex became recognized as a relevant tool for data-driven, people-centred land governance.

Expectations for the upcoming triennial period

- In Senegal, the report will be presented to the political authorities. After its presentation to parliamentarians, IPAR wishes to present the results to the High Council of Territorial Collectivities. Also, the objective is to support the ANSD for the refinement of the methodology and the collection of data about the three land indicators of the SDGs
- In Liberia, Uganda and Kenya, the rollout process remains to be finalized; and
- All the national platforms in Africa are expected to be using LANDEX by the end of the new triennium.

14

BUILDING ON THESE ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the past three years, our network in Africa has jointly achieved all the successes discussed in this report. ILC's goal of securing land rights for and with people, who live on land from the land – what we call people-centred land governance – has laid the foundation for community-led sustainable development and has built this first step in moving away from destructive and unsustainable approaches to land, water and natural resources.

Land connects everything. We are in a climate emergency.

We will now carry and build on all these achievements into the strategic objectives of the new ILC Strategy: (1) National Land Coalitions that advance people-centred land governance; (2) People data produced to hold governments and corporations accountable; and (3) Regional and global advocacy that builds political commitment people-centred land governance.



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