



UNITING FOR LAND RIGHTS IN

CAMEROON

HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CHANGE

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION



The **NES CAMEROON** works towards the realisation of the following ILC commitments for People-Centred Land Governance:



» **Commitment 4:** Equal land rights for women



» **Commitment 5:** Locally managed eco-systems



» **Commitment 8:** Transparent and accessible Information



» **Commitment 9:** Effective actions against land grabbing



A CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS SUMMARY

The **NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (NES)** on Land Governance **IN CAMEROON** is composed of 25 organisations united by their vision and strategy to advance people-centered land governance, with a special focus on women, indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, migrants, and the youth. The platform is led by a steering committee of six ILC national members and incorporates civil society actors, community-based and women's organisations, research institutions, traditional authorities, and a parliamentarian's caucus. By working together, these actors and their partners have strengthened efforts to secure land tenure and property rights by supporting the land reform process at the local and national levels.

This report details the contribution of the NES Cameroon platform to changes in policies and practices to enable the protection of community land rights against dispossession, expropriation and eviction. The report seeks to demonstrate the impact of ILC's theory of change at the country-level by outlining the work of NES members in conducting stakeholder mobilisations, capacity building activities, and by establishing land observatories. The report also outlines linkages with ILC's and other partners' initiatives, namely the Global Land Governance Index, LandMatrix, LandRights Now!, the Rangelands Initiative, and the Community Land Protection Co-Learning Initiative. The report has been validated through a platform reflection workshop in order to incorporate a learning aspect to guide future initiatives.



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At the national level, NES Cameroon platform members and partners contributed to the formulation and adoption of three progressive laws and frameworks- namely the **2018 Code of Transparency; Law No.2019/024 of 24 December 2019** Bill to Institute the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities; as well as the **2020-2030 National Development Strategy for Structural Transformation and Inclusive Development**. The legislative developments provide a roadmap for the improvement of land tenure security, transparency and accountability, as well as the decentralisation of natural resource management in Cameroon.

The platform's advocacy work also contributed to changes in practices, namely the **suspension of a Government-mandated logging concession in the Ebo forest**, and the **suspension of a land concession in the Ntem valley** attributed to a cocoa manufacturing firm. Further changes in practices include an increased awareness by all stakeholders of the shortcomings of national land policies and governance frameworks, and a greater motivation amongst CSOs and government actors to engage in the reform process in a participatory and coordinated manner. At the local level, **the platform's common support mechanism has provided financial and legal support** to refugees, families, and Indigenous Peoples facing land-related emergencies.

LAND GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Land is crucial to Cameroon's development, as half the population live in rural areas and are highly dependent on land for their livelihoods and subsistence. Most land in Cameroon is unregistered and classified as national land¹, most of which is found in rural areas governed by customary rights. Land governed solely by customary rights is particularly vulnerable however, as they are neither recognised nor afforded specific protection. In cases where land applications are made on customary land, land can be sold without compensation to customary right holders, which often contributes to its dispossession and constitutes a key source of tension. Recent increases in infrastructure projects, investments, as well as land grabs are driving dispossessed communities to resettle, which can spark intra-community conflicts over land. Cameroon is furthermore experiencing a security crisis that exacerbates tenure disparities and injustices, as well as the criminalization of human rights defenders. Other key land-related issues include the inadequacy of land titles in securing land rights, especially for disadvantaged groups; the lack of a zoning plan that considers the interests of all users; the lack of fragmentation in land ownership; and the scope of land disputes, which account for over half of all lawsuits brought before a judge.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON LAND

In 1974, a reform process was introduced in order to unify the legal systems regarding land in Cameroon². The regulatory framework on land management consisted of the Land tenure Ordinances No. 74/1 and 74/2 (1974) and their amendments³, as well as Law No. 85/09 (1985) on land expropriation for public purposes and the conditions for its compensation. In 2011, a further land policy reform process was initiated in order to meet the demand for second-generation agriculture. The process revealed the need to overhaul Law No.85/09, and a variety of new topics were introduced in the reform agenda.

Since its establishment in 2014, the NES platform and its partners have consistently stressed the need to complete the land reform process, as well as the opportunity it presents to foster coherence in land access, tenure security, and natural resource management.

¹ IED, 2015

² Namely the Land and Native Rights Ordinance (1916) in the Anglophone part of the country, and the land registration and titling system introduced in 1932 in the Francophone regions

³ Decree No 76-165 to establish the conditions for obtaining land certificates; Decree No 76-166 to establish the terms and conditions for the management of national lands; and Decree No 2005/481 of 16 December 2005 to amend and supplement some provisions of Decree No. 76/165 of 27 April 1976 to lay down conditions for obtaining land certificates.



TIMELINE AND THEORY OF CHANGE



UNIFYING CIVIL
LINKING WITH
STAKEHOLDERS

MOBILISE

DISSEMINATION
POLICIES, AWARE
MEETINGS, TRA
LEADERS

INFLUENCE

COMMUNITY RA
AND CAMPA

LAND
CONCESSION

2020

SUPPORT TO ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- to suspend the effects of a land concession granted to Neo Industry
- to suspend Government mandated reclassification of Ebo forest as forest management area

2020

**ADOPTION OF 2020-2030
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**
for Structural Transformation
and Inclusive Development

2019-20

Support to **CAMPAIGNS
AGAINST THE CRIMINALIZATION
OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

2019

Launch of the **LAND MATRIX**
and **LAND NATIONAL OBSERVATORY**

2019

Adoption of the **BILL TO
INSTITUTE THE GENERAL CODE**
of regional and local authorities

2019

Formulation and adaption
of a **NEW PLATFORM STRATEGY**

2018

Adoption of the
**NATIONAL CODE
OF TRANSPARENCY**

2018

**RESTRUCTURING OF NES PLATFORM
COMPOSITION:**

- 25 members confirmed and
- women's network (REFACOF) incorporated

2014

CREATION OF THE NES CAMEROON
Multi-Stakeholder Platform

2014 ONGOING

**SUPPORT TO NATIONAL POLICY
FORMULATION, AMENDMENTS,
AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION**

ILC'S THEORY OF CHANGE IN CAMEROON

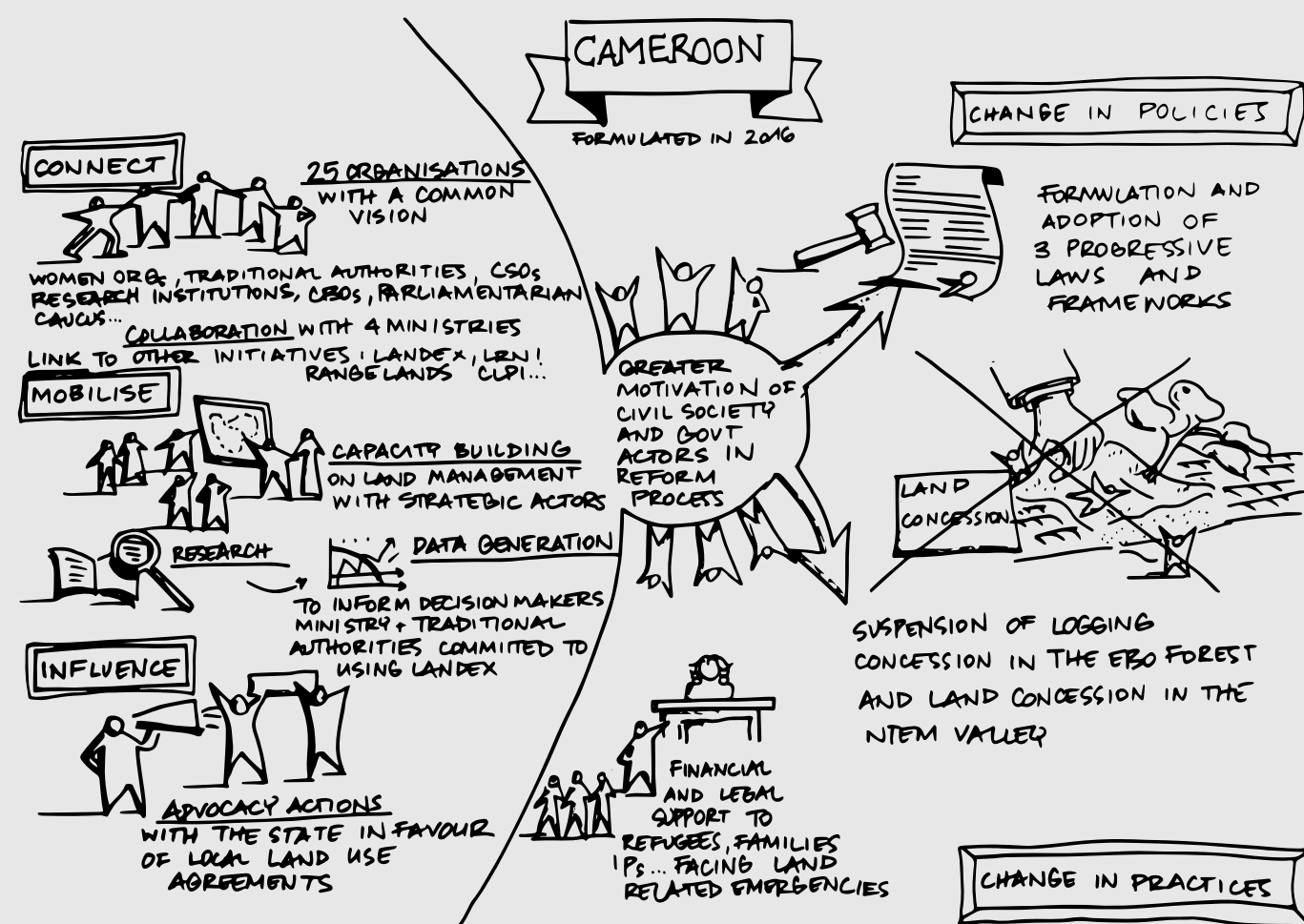
NES Cameroon aims to contribute to the improvement of land and natural resources governance through the adoption and implementation of laws and practices that ensure their equitable and sustainable management.

The platform works towards the following objectives:

- » The institutional framework in Cameroon recognises the occupancy and property rights of local communities and indigenous peoples and promotes transparency in land decisions.

- » Actors' practices guarantee inclusive, transparent, resilient and participatory management of land and natural resources.
- » Platform members and other stakeholders are better equipped to sustainably protect the land and land rights of the most vulnerable populations.

ILC's Theory of Change is founded on the three pillars of **CONNECT**, **MOBILISE**, and **INFLUENCE**. Their application in the NES Cameroon strategy is outlined next.



CONNECT

NES Cameroon seeks to reinforce collaborations with government stakeholders, such as the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development (MINADER), the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MINEPIA), the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). These collaborations, among others, are helping foster a greater awakening of Cameroonian society in land management; greater interest from donors in land governance issues; as well as the commitment of certain agro-industrial companies to review the limits and specifications of concessions.

MOBILISE

The platform's capacity-building efforts target its members and other strategic actors in land management, such as traditional authorities and decentralised services managing the national domain. The results of research and data generation carried out by the NES, its partners, and ILC's other initiatives are used to inform decision-makers as well as the general public. A key mechanism for this dissemination is through ILC's Global Land Governance Index, an open data platform that the MINDCAF and traditional authorities jointly committed to using as a means to gather and document data on land governance in January 2021.

INFLUENCE

The platform seeks to influence key decision-makers to recognise and engage with civil society actors as legitimate and necessary interlocutors in achieving people-centred land governance. Local initiatives to support in land use planning, management and conflict resolution provide a basis for carrying out advocacy actions with the State, and in favor of local land use agreements. Together with MINDCAF, NES members and partners have influenced policies and practices to both establish and implement measures to protect land heritage, prevent land grabs, and to overcome irregularities in large-scale land transfers and registrations.

NOTABLE OUTCOMES

CONTRIBUTED TO BY THE NES

A) CHANGES IN POLICIES

NES members contributed to the formulation and dissemination of civil society position papers addressed to policy makers (in **2016** and 2020) outlining the need for effective land tenure reform. The 2020 Civil Society Land Policy Note⁴ **Reforming land tenure in Cameroon: Avenues for Action** (formulated by NES and its partner LANDCAM) outlines improvement areas for the review of land registrations (outlined in *Figure 1*) guided by the principles of inclusive decision-making and towards an efficient justice system that protects the rights and interests of legitimate rights holders.

The position papers have influenced the formulation of three policies, namely the 2018 Code of Transparency, the 2019 Bill to institute the general code of regional and local authorities, and the 2030 National Development Strategy. The uptake of specific recommendations in the aforementioned policies are outlined below.

2018 Code of Transparency and Good Governance in Public Finance Management

Several inputs from the aforementioned policy paper were incorporated in the 2018 Code of Transparency (Law N° 2018/011 of 11 July 2018). The law represents an advancement towards sustainable land and natural resources management, and states that all contracts between natural resource administrators and public or private companies should be made publicly available. It also represents the government's recognition of the role of civil society in gathering and sharing data on land contracts, and authorises the media and civil society to disseminate information.

FIGURE 1: THE URGENT NEED TO PROTECT COLLECTIVE TENURES FOR NES AND ITS PARTNERS

Based on the findings on the legitimacy of customary land rights, their negation by modern law, and the challenges posed by the question of the sustainable security of collective land, the NES and its allies during its meeting of July 31, 2019 recommended:

- » The fragmentation of land with different legal regimes (urban land and rural land);
- » The recognition of a dual customary property (individual and collective);
- » The attribution of legal personality to customary collective entities;
- » The simplification of access to customary collective property by simple registration in land registers opened in land conservatories;
- » Simplifying access to individual customary property through mechanisms built in a participatory manner with rural populations aimed at improving the socio-economic, cultural and spiritual situation of populations in urban and rural areas;
- » Consolidation of the positive work done by traditional chiefdoms;
- » Strengthening the powers of traditional authorities in the protection and good governance of customary properties;
- » Greater morality on the part of the traditional authorities who guarantee traditions;
- » The need to specify and disseminate the customs that apply to the management of customary lands so that all actors in the event of infringements are submitted to the competent courts in the matter;
- » The prohibition of access to individual property in collective spaces;
- » The consecration of the inviolability and the non-accessibility of collective and / or sacred spaces in the land reform;
- » The consecration of zoning and development in the land reform underway;
- » The precision of the rules for changing land from rural to urban (compensation, relocation, etc.).

4 CED, IIED and RELUFA: Reforming Land Tenure in Cameroon: Avenues for Action, 2020. Accessible here [Reforming land tenure in Cameroon: Avenues for action - Civil society land policy note \(short version\) | landcam](#)

2019 Bill to institute the general code of regional and local authorities (Law No.2019/024 of 24 December 2019)

Several inputs from the policy paper were incorporated in the Bill, including a) the recognition of decentralisation in the management of natural resources including land, b) the right of the Decentralised Territorial Communities to collect revenues from the exploitation of natural resources including land, c) the land and natural resource needs of Decentralised Territorial Communities for their economic and social development.

2020-2030 National Development Strategy for Structural Transformation and Inclusive Development

Several inputs and recommendations from the policy notes were also incorporated in the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (NDS30). Among the most pertinent of these is the issue of expropriation, which the NDS30 addressed by committing to review the legal framework from a public interest perspective by addressing free rights-of-way, compensation for displaced populations, and procedures to enable citizens to take advantage of the opportunities in land and state property legislation.

As local communities battle with the effects of major land use changes and pressures exacerbated by the construction of hydroelectric dams, the intensification of mining, and large commercial plantation- the NDS30 also commits to a major structural legal and regulatory reform on land to align with the needs of industrialization, the modernisation of agriculture, and urban development. The NDS30 intends to modernise the cadastral and land management systems by setting up a digital network between land registries with the aim of securing land transactions—which are of interest and relevance to the work of NES members.

As requested by all stakeholders- including NES members and parliamentarians- civil society organisations will play a key role in the implementation and monitoring of the NDS30. CSOs will be part of the National Council (chaired by the Prime Minister) and tasked with monitoring its implementation. To this end, platforms between State structures and CSOs will be reinforced, including the NES.

B) CHANGES IN PRACTICES

Suspension of the Ebo Forest Management Unit

Cameroon’s primary forests have lost between 40 000 to 80 000 hectares per year between 2015 and 2018 (EUREDD, 2021). Poaching, wildlife trafficking, as well as illegal deforestation and the development of large palm oil plantations are major threats to the forests’ biodiversity. The Ebo forest spans 200,000 hectares and is home to the indigenous Banen community who depend on the forest for food, water, medicines, as well as cultural heritage and identity. In 2007, the government set out to classify the area as a national park; in March 2020 however, two government concessions were announced in order to classify the area as a forest management unit to ultimately allow for major logging operations. In response, NES members joined a group of civil society actors, environmentalists, researchers, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other actors working to reverse the concession. In April 2020, the group addressed **a letter to the Prime Minister of Cameroon** calling for the suspension of the concessions, along with the recommendation that all stakeholders, including local communities, be involved in the development of an inclusive land use plan. The NES also capitalised on the individual efforts of its member organisations, including COMAID and CED that supported the **STOP destruction of EBO forest campaign** led by Greenpeace; COMAID’s collaboration with the IUCN-led project “promotion of participatory and inclusive management of the Ebo

Proposed National Park”; and COMINSUD’s sensitisation activities on customary land management and rights. In August 2020, the Prime Minister announced the halting of the concessions. Current efforts seek to ensure that the Government adheres to this commitment, as well as to encourage participatory mapping and land-use planning.

Common mechanism to support communities facing land-related emergencies

The NES has played a leading role in identifying community needs related to land across Cameroon. In 2016, the platform established a common mechanism to provide financial assistance and legal support to individuals, families, Indigenous Peoples, and refugees facing land-related emergencies. In 2017-18, the mechanism supported 5000 Mbororo refugees from Taraba State, Nigeria who faced land grabs and violent conflicts with farmers in the Bandja community, which culminated in their resettlement in the North West region.

In 2019, further assistance was provided to 150 families expelled from their lands in Nakong (North) and 90 Bandja community members in Makouré 1 (South) facing land grabs. Due to the anglophone crisis (an on-going civil conflict in the southern region), the common mechanism also helped 65 internally displaced women in Bamenda and Kumbo to temporarily access lands and seeds; and judicial assistance was provided to land and environmental defenders⁵ in the South and North West of Cameroon.

5 Such as Emmanuel Mbuonzuondi (South)

SUSPENSION OF LOGGING
CONCESSION IN THE EBO FOREST
AND LAND CONCESSION IN THE
NTEM VALLEY

Suspension of Neo-industry land concessions in the Ntem valley for monoculture

In March 2020, the Government suspended a land tenure contract signed with a cocoa processing company, Neo Industry Ltd, spanning 26,000 hectares in the Ntem valley. The decision followed protests by traditional chiefs in Ntoundou and Mvae that called for the Ministry of Public Property, Surveys and Land Tenure to annul the contract. The protests and land rights assertions of local communities were supported by NES Cameroon's host organisation, CED, which reviewed the legality of the constitution of the land reserve allocated to the company to identify legal deficiencies. On May 5th, 2021, the government cancelled all land titles issued in the locality.⁶

6 See also https://d3o3cb4w253x5q.cloudfront.net/media/documents/FR-2020-land_inequality_solution_paper_2021_1_ced_cameroon_respect_de_lenviron_DbNWbhp.pdf

C) STRENGTHENED CAPACITY FOR TRANSFORMATION

Capacity building is one of the NES' priority areas and is perceived by members as the prerequisite for change. NES processes have strengthened the government's ability to identify the shortfalls of the land governance framework, as well as the benefits of an effective land management system.

Strengthened Demand for Women's and Youth Land Rights: A Code of Conduct for Equitable Customary Land Management

The NES aims to change perceptions from the bottom-up in order to render customary and practices representative of marginalised populations (youth, indigenous peoples, and women) and to ensure gender and intergenerational justice in land management and governance. 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 has been distributed in several localities, and has reached over 50 traditional authorities and 300 community members⁷. As part of the individual activities of NES members, funds have been mobilised⁸ to strengthen the capacities of members in participatory mapping and on aspects related to gender and land. In terms of the composition of the NES, the platform incorporated a women's network (REFACOF) and two youth organisations (ADC and JVE Cameroon) in 2018, while a further seven new member organisations have elected female leaders⁹.

Strengthened Civil Society Voices and Government Engagement on Land Issues

Prior to the NES process, local CSOs and platforms approached the challenge of land reform in isolation and without adequate consultations amongst them as well as with decision-makers. The NES has worked to unite and consolidate these efforts in a coordinated and inclusive manner, allowing for greater recognition from various government ministries and stakeholders. NES Cameroon has particularly worked to improve collaboration between the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure and the civil society regarding the recognition of customary land rights, compensations, and large-scale land transfers.

Since 2017, the national government has demonstrated its commitment to collaborate with the NES by co-organising and actively participating in various advocacy activities. These efforts have created spaces for members and partners to convey key messages to Government representatives, particularly on the following issues: the need to recognise collective land rights for communities in rural areas; elements of a land policy centred on the most vulnerable; compensation for communities affected by expropriation; as well as the need to increase gender sensitivity in land-related decisions. As part of this partnership, the NES and the MINDCAF co-organised a webinar in August 2020 to discuss new measures to secure the State's public and private domains, and to present the civil society policy note¹⁰. In January 2021, the NES, LANDCAM, and MINDCAF organised the 3rd edition of the Land Tenure Week under the theme "Local Land Management: Challenges and Lessons"¹¹. Through such partnerships, the NES platform has also been actively involved in the revision and implementation of new land legislations.

7 of which 30% are women and youth

8 By COMAID, CED, MBOSCUA, AJESH, PROPAC, CDJP, and ADC

9 APIFED, REFACOF, CAMECO, JVE-Cameroon, COOPSEDEM, COLAT, RELUFA

10 The webinar was followed by a closed-door meeting on customary and community land rights.

11 <https://www.landcam.org/en/press-release-2021-land-tenure-week>

LINKAGES WITH ILC AND PARTNERS' INITIATIVES



LAND RIGHTS NOW!

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CRIMINALISATION OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

NES Cameroon participates in the **Land Rights Now Campaign**- a movement coordinated by ILC, the Right and Resources Initiative (RRI) and Oxfam that mobilises citizens, the media, communities and organisations worldwide to promote and secure the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and communities. The platform and its partners released a **statement on the criminalisation of land rights defenders in Cameroon** that *influenced the Ministry of Justice and the Cameroon Human Rights Commission to halt criminalisation procedures against 12 land rights defenders* in the country.

The partnership also supported community mobilisations against the criminalisation of land rights defenders. In 2017, a workshop calling for the recognition and protection of community land rights was conducted together with rural radio stations¹², national ¹³ and international newspapers¹⁴, and television stations¹⁵. As part of the campaign, NES member CED mobilised over thirty network members between August 2019 and July 2020.

COMMUNITY LAND PROTECTION CO-LEARNING INITIATIVE

Together with Namati and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), ILC's Community Land Protection Initiative (CLPI) works to equip members with skills to support communities in documenting and protecting their indigenous and customary lands through a year-long peer-to-peer learning journey. In 2018, NES member COMAID was part of the first cohort of selected members, along with ILC members from Indonesia, Peru, and Tanzania. The members exchanged knowledge on topics such as the drafting and implementation of by-laws, land and natural resource rights defense, and land boundary harmonisations. Equipped with this knowledge, COMAID representatives trained communities in two villages in Cameroon (Ngom and Nyurong), leading to the resolution of a land boundary dispute through the land boundary harmonisation method; as well as the inclusive revision and implementation of local laws and by-laws.



THE LAND MATRIX

The **Land Matrix** promotes transparency and accountability in decisions over large-scale land acquisitions by capturing data through an open access platform. The initiative runs a National Land Observatory (NLO) through NES Cameroon to promote inclusive participation in collecting, managing, and reviewing land data. The **Cameroon NLO** provides domestic and transnational deals over 50ha covering the agriculture, forestry, mining, ranching, and livestock sectors, and deals spanning 1,860,139 hectares of land. An analysis conducted by the Land Matrix has revealed that land allocations for investments, conservation, and communal forests amount to approximately the total size of the country- highlighting the magnitude of such allocations, as well as the need to rationalise national natural resource management.



GLOBAL
LAND
GOVERNANCE
INDEX

ILC'S GLOBAL LAND GOVERNANCE INDEX

NES Cameroon utilises the ILC's Global **Land Governance Index (LANDex)**, a people-centred tool for land monitoring that generates data from people-generated, third party and official data to increase and improve transparency and accountability in land investments. In January 2021, LANDex held a workshop at the National Land Week in Yaoundé and called upon stakeholders- including government officials, traditional authorities, community representatives, and civil society organisations- to consider the suitability of LANDex to monitor land governance in Cameroon. At the end of the week, the MINDCAF announced their endorsement of LANDex, while the NES committed to formulating a national land governance baseline. The tool will also be made available to Traditional Authorities in order to further reinforce their participation in the management and monitoring of land.



RANGELANDS INITIATIVE (CBI3) FOR POLICY REFORM

In the framework of the ILC's Africa Rangelands Initiative, NES members COMAID, MBOSCUA, and COMINSUD urged the Cameroonian government to secure rangelands through a policy paper in 2017 that called for a national rangelands strategy, a revision of the status of rangelands tenure systems, and the development of a common framework for land conflict resolutions.

¹² CRTV Radio; Voice of America

¹³ Kribi and Lolodorf (South), Eseka and Yaounde (Center), Douala (Littoral), Garoua (North)

¹⁴ Mutations, Eden, La Quotidien de l'Economie, Le Messenger, The Post

¹⁵ Canal 2, Equinoxe, CRTV

KEY CHALLENGES

TRANSLATING COMMITMENT INTO PRACTICE

COVID-19

The global pandemic has increased attempts at land grabbing, exacerbated the situation of the poor and marginalised, decreased the budgets of certain member organisations, and blocked or delayed the implementation of NES activities

A MULTIETHNIC COUNTRY

The country is comprised of over 250 ethnicities, a context which requires sustained efforts in order to reach consensus on the implications of land tenure reform.

THE COMPLEXITY OF LAND ISSUES

The complexities of land issues are linked to the multiple roles and uses of land. The current legislations do not fully grasp this multifaceted role, and apply a greater weight to economic considerations. The ambivalence of land issues can also make it difficult to develop a coherent legal framework, and can cause misunderstandings between communities, investors, and Government authorities.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The poor coordination among the relevant public administrations working on land governance, and the poor management of relevant databases have significantly hindered progress and transparency efforts in the land reform process.



LESSONS LEARNT

The decentralisation of the NES in 2018 has proven useful in capitalising the expertise and experiences of participating organisations at national and regional level, and increased motivation amongst CSOs and Government actors to engage in the land reform process in a coordinated manner.

The inclusive bottom-up approach is likewise effective in garnering the involvement of land governance actors at all levels. The NES land reform position paper, for example, presented its recommendations as a common view of all platform stakeholders and beneficiaries, and has become the main tool used by stakeholders during formal and informal advocacy meetings with policy makers.

The involvement of influential groups, such as the National Council of Traditional Chiefs and REPAR (a parliamentarians' caucus committed to sustainable ecosystem management), provided further leverage to NES activities and made it possible for policy makers to engage with civil society proposals.

ILC'S MEMBERSHIP

IN CAMEROON 2020

The International Land Coalition has six member organisations based in Cameroon. They serve as the NES platform's Steering Committee.



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Centre Pour L'Environnement et le Développement (CED)

founded in response to the national forest management crisis and to mitigate the impacts of extractive industries, CED provides support to local NGOs and indigenous communities in the forest zone in Cameroon and other Congo Basin countries on the monitoring of illegal logging and participatory mapping since 1994.

Community Assistance in Development (COMAID)

Founded in 2007, COMAID's goal is to improve living standards through sustainable development in rural and urban areas. COMAID conducts research, capacity building, and advocacy activities to address development issues and enhance inclusive decision-making. COMAID's focus areas include land governance, natural resource management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), sustainable agriculture, and the promotion of gender equity.

Community Initiative for Sustainable Development (COMINSUD)

Founded in 1996, COMINSUD conducts trainings, sensitizations, advocacy and research to bring visibility to marginalised populations in Cameroon and to empower local communities to influence positive cultural changes.

Fondation Paul Ango Ela (FPAE)

FPAE is a research center promoting joint programmes in Central Africa between academic institutions and the private and public sectors to enrich studies, consultations and publications. Key topics include human rights, good governance, conflict prevention and management, and security.

Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA)

MBOSCUDA seeks to empower the Mbororo people to secure their human, social and economic rights. MBOSCUDA's expertise is based on pastoralism, conflict resolution, community livelihoods, land rights and the defending of environmental defenders.

Plateforme Régionale Des Organisations Paysannes D'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC)

Founded in 2005, PROPAC unites 10 farmers' organisations in the Economic Community of Central African States and works to harmonise their strategies to address issues in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies regarding agricultural and rural development.

WE COULDN'T DO IT ALONE

EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIONS WITH RELEVANT ACTORS

NES Cameroon has consolidated linkages and complementary activities with relevant actors in the national land sector, as well as with international development partners. Key partners include:

LandCam

LandCam is an EU-funded project to secure land rights and improve their governance in Cameroon. The International Institute for Environment and Development, CED and RELUFA are the project implementers, who work closely with NES Cameroon on research, legal and judicial assistance, the establishment of national land governance indicators, as well as lobbying and advocacy in connection with the land reform process.

Rural Development Support Program (GIZ-PADER)

The NES platform collaborates with the programme on the establishment of frameworks for dialogue, conflict prevention, climate change adaptation, and the sustainable management of watersheds in the northern region.

Network of Excellence for Land Governance in Central Africa (NELGA-Central Africa)

The complementarity between NELGA and NES is around knowledge mobilization and the development and dissemination of curricula on African land governance.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

NES members collaborate with IFAD's Program for the Promotion of Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship of Youth.

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

IISD has supported the NES platform in building the capacities of parliamentarians and in linking NES members with the sub-regional parliament.

OXFAM

OXFAM collaborates with NES members through the LandRights Now! Campaign against the criminalization of land rights defenders.

MEET THE CAMEROON NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY PLATFORM

The NES platform is composed of 25 organisations and institutions from all ten administrative regions of Cameroon. The platform engages civil society platforms and networks, traditional rulers associations, a parliamentarian's caucus, farmers', indigenous peoples, women and youth organisations and networks, as well as universities and research centers. Strong allies of the platform include the media, other local and traditional authorities, community leaders, and parliamentarians.

ACRONYMS	LOCATION/REGION
CSO MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE	
COMAID	North West
CED	Center
MBOSCUDA	North West
PROPAC	Center
COMINSUD	North West
FPAE	Center
CSOS LED BY YOUNG PEOPLE	
JVE-Cameroon	Littoral
ADC	North
CSOS LED BY WOMEN	
CAMECO	Littoral
INADES	Center
COOPSDem COOP-CA	Center
CSO	
RELUFA	Center
ASFH	Center
ACEEN	Far north
CEFAID	East
AJESH	South West
APEEFC	Far north
APED	South
CDJP-Garoua	North
CNOP-CAM	Center
INDIGENOUS FOREST PEOPLES ORGANISATION	
ABAWONI	South
NETWORKS	
REPAR	Center
ReCTrad	South
REFACOF-East/OCBB	East
RESEARCH	
University of Yaoundé 1: Department of Geography	Center



STRATEGIC PARTERS AND CORE DONORS



NES

NATIONAL
ENGAGEMENT
STRATEGY

National Engagement Strategies - often referred to as “NES” – are multi-stakeholder platforms set in motion by the International Land Coalition (ILC). They are led by national actors, and include ILC members and partners to promote the Coalition’s joint goal of people-centred land governance.

NES platforms are helping to simplify and unpack land governance complexities by setting priorities and suggesting solutions to some of the most difficult land-related issues in a country. NES platforms are promoting collaboration and bridging the gap between government, the private sector, civil society including grassroots organisations, international agencies, traditional authorities and academia.

All ILC members have the opportunity to set up national platforms with the technical and financial support of the ILC.

These platforms use ILC’s 10 commitments to people-centred land governance as their compass, while promoting the Voluntary Guidelines for Land Tenure (VGGTs) and the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa.

NES CAMEROON

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