LEARN, SHARE AND BE INSPIRED

LEARNING FROM ILC DATABASE OF GOOD PRACTICES

INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING
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ILC's **Commitment 7** seeks to ensure that processes of decision-making over land are inclusive; so that policies, laws, procedures and decisions concerning land adequately reflect the rights, needs and aspirations of individuals and communities who will be affected by them. **ILC's Database of Good Practices** provides concrete examples and guidance to Coalition members and partners on how to achieve this commitment.

What processes, tools, and methods have ILC members successfully used to overcome some of the challenges they face in ensuring that processes of decision-making over land are inclusive? Learn about:

**ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING**  
How ILC members have fostered collaboration and engagement between multiple stakeholders through the formation of land governance coalitions and the adoption of a human rights based land policy.

**LAND POLICY AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE**  
How ILC members have formed a national land commission and how they capacitated farmers' organisations to participate in dialogue about large scale land acquisitions.

**PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**  
How ILC members have encouraged and participated in inter-sectoral project design and implementation.

**ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS**  
How ILC members and partners have conducted capacity building and community engagement workshops to strengthen newly elected leaders' capacity to design inclusive land dispute resolution mechanisms.
ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING

- The formation of land governance coalitions can facilitate civil society engagement in national policy reform processes. In Vietnam (C0093), communal land rights were not recognised, resulting in a legal vacuum that gave the government unfettered power to acquire community land for economic development purposes under the banner of public interest, although it was at the expense of local communities. Furthermore, ineffective forest use planning, illegal encroachment, unproductive forest businesses, and mismanagement of state owned lands resulted in a clear need for policy reform. As a result, Oxfam International and its partners worked with all stakeholders to form a land governance coalition composed of NGOs, state agencies, universities, research institutes, private sector and media. The coalition facilitated consultation processes with 13,000 community members and 300 government officials in 22 communities. The findings of the consultation processes were consolidated into a report, and a team of legal experts drafted policy recommendations based on the report. The Land Law Bill was opened up for two rounds of public comments, and the government incorporated them into the gazetted land law. As a result of the new law, 2000 hectares of land have been returned to the Thua Thien-Hue and Quang Bin people for community ownership, and 3000 hectares returned to the government for the benefit of villagers. 1533 people have been allocated former state farms and forest enterprises land.

- A human rights based land policy statement that protects community land rights can strengthen inclusive decision-making. In Scotland, CLS (C0126) worked with rural communities and the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) to challenge the private property rights oriented system and advocate for a human rights-based land governance system. CLS worked with the SHRC and Global Witness to advocate for the balancing of private ownership rights and community land rights. Based on the data that CLS generated through its partnerships, research, and community interviews, they were able to convince the government’s Land Reform Review Group to include a land policy statement as part of their recommendations report on land reform in Scotland. CLS also used their conference as a platform to convince parliamentarians of the importance of a Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS). Based on their work, the government agreed to incorporate a human rights approach into the LRRS. CLS then provided the civil servants with information needed to draft the LRRS. As a result, all stakeholders support better protection of land rights through the human rights based LRRS.
COMMITMENT 7  INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING

The coalition representing the people was successful in the legal battle, and the government was ordered to establish the commission. As a result, a decentralised and independent commission was established. The commission is conducting public consultations on land tenure, and forums with land sector professionals. The commission is transparent, accountable, free of political interference and corruption, and is more efficient in resolving long standing land disputes. Furthermore, they have verified and streamlined all land records in the country, and addressed land related complaints in the country.

Capacity building of farmers' organisations can strengthen their participation in land related decision-making processes. In Asia, AFA (0016), a coalition of members, worked with three member organisations from three countries: Cambodia, Philippines and Indonesia, to strengthen the capacities of grassroots farmers' organisations to engage in national, regional
and international dialogues on large scale land acquisitions (LSLAs). The farmers’ organisations in these countries needed to learn how to better articulate their land rights, and to negotiate and engage with their governments and land investors. As such, AFA first conducted project orientation meetings with three partner organisations. The three partner organisations selected three organisations that they would work with in their countries, totalling nine organisations. AFA and the partner organisations held multiple focus group discussions and national and regional consultations in which they analysed all national laws, taught national NGOs about the VGGTs and brainstormed about options for the inclusion of peoples organisations in LSLA decision-making processes. AFA is also working with the Land Matrix Initiative in Asia to collect data on LSLAs in the region. As a result of the work of AFA and its partner organisations, farmers’ organisations are better equipped to challenge LSLA.

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Intersectoral cooperation in designing and implementing water harvesting and management projects is essential for the provision of sustainable and safe drinking and farming water to communities living in dry areas. Drought in communities that are unable to withstand shock can lead to land loss; either through undervalued alienation or large-scale urban migration. Cooperation between private sector, government, academic and technical institutions, civil society and CSOs in designing and implementing a water harvesting project presents local communities with an opportunity to secure water; and consequently their ancestral lands. In **Argentina, Fundación Plurales (C0007)** collaborated with all interested stakeholders to implement the Unidos por el Agua project. First, the partners conducted a baseline assessment of the water shortage in the Gran Chaco region and designed a project for the installation of water cisterns, drip irrigation systems, and shallow wells for animals to drink within the communities. Through the project, 100 water cisterns with a holding capacity of 16,000 litres were installed in the communities and in schools, serving 97 families. Furthermore, the National Technical University produced manuals for repairing, maintaining and installing cisterns and delivered them to the communities as part of the training component of the project. As a result of this intersectoral collaboration, the communities in the Gran Chaco region have permanent and sustainable access to water, enabling them to remain on their land.
Commitment 7: Inclusive Decision-Making

Establishment and Strengthening of Local Institutions

- Community engagement workshops are essential for encouraging and facilitating the inclusion of community members in decision-making about their forest land and resource management. In Indonesia, the Kasepuhan community lost about 50% of their land when the Mount Halimun Salak National Conservation Park was established on their land in 1992. After the government acknowledged their traditional land rights in 2016, RMI (C0021) and the local community designed a 3-tier program aimed at enhancing collective forest management and promoting the inclusion of women in decision-making about the management of community natural resources. RMI held weekly workshops where women were taught basic skills, including how to read and write, and about their land rights. The creation of a women's forum has encouraged women to participate in community meetings, and to challenge gender roles and their negative impact on rural women's ability to get involved in decisions over natural resource management. RMI has held gender and natural resource management trainings for NGOs to assist them to draft gender-sensitive project proposals. RMI also represents marginalized women in local and national policy dialogues and decision-making processes. As a
result of RMI’s work, women have improved their participation in community decision-making about natural resource management. At a domestic level, they are able to negotiate with men and challenge gender roles.

- **Capacity building** of new leaders who prioritise participatory processes can strengthen multiple stakeholder dialogue on the management of community land. In Santa Catalina de Moza, Peru, CIPCA (C0098) worked with newly elected leaders to establish participatory methods of addressing intra-community land conflicts and misuse of the community's natural resources. With the technical and legal support of CIPCA, the community’s new Board of Directors devised a plan to formalise the community’s joint land ownership rights. Using participatory methods, CIPCA led a process of land mapping, geo-referencing and registering the land on the official land register. They also worked with the Board of Directors and the local community to draft Internal Regulations for the Use of Community Land, a Communal Statute of 121 articles and a community woodlands management plan, all of which were approved by the community assembly. As a result of the participatory registration project, 80% of the land under irrigation was registered, and a total of 1567 people from 23 of the 25 villages in the region were included on the community land register.

The ILC Database of Good Practices is organised around the 10 commitments for people-centred land governance. The case studies in the Database provide concrete examples and guidance to the members and partners of ILC on how to achieve each of these commitments.