

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

ASIA

ILC ASIA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

REALISING PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE IN ASIA



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Acronyms

AFA	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development	IGO	International Organisation
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	LAHRIN	Land and Housing Rights Network
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development	LANDex	Global Land Governance Index
ALF	Asia Land Forum	LWA	Land Watch Asia
ALRD	Association for Land Reform and Development	MARAG	Maldhari Rural Action Group
ASC	Asia Steering Committee	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
BHR	Business and Human Rights	NES	National Engagement Strategy
CAPA	Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
CBI	Commitment-Based Initiative	NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
CBO	Community-Based Organisation	NLC	National Land Coalition
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	PUA	Pastureland Use Agreement
CHRC	Cambodian Human Rights Committee	RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research	S4HL	Stand 4 Her Land
CLPI	Community Land Protection Initiative	SAPA	South Asia Pastoralist Alliance
CSO	Civil Society Organisations	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
EU	European Union	UN	United Nations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UNDDFF	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
GLF	Global Land Forum	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GLFY	Global Land Forum Youth	UNGP-BHR	United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
KPA	Consortium for Agrarian Reform	USD	United States Dollar
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	VNR	Voluntary National Reviews

Foreword

2021 marked the end period of implementing ILC Asia Strategy 2019-2021, which was adopted by members during the 2019 Asia Regional Assembly in Udaipur, India. This strategy highlighted six priorities; (i) land reform agenda in Asia; (ii) indigenous peoples' and pastoralists' right to land; (iii) land rights for women and youth; (iv) protecting land and environmental rights defenders; (v) data generation and consolidation on land, and; (vi) strategic regional alliance-building on land issues. These priorities were successfully implemented through ILC Asia's national and regional platforms in 2021.

At the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit in July 2021, ILC Asia members co-convened an Independent Dialogue with the involvement of member organisations that worked on promoting family farming and sustainable food production. They were a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

The Land Governance Working Group (LGWG), an ILC-supported multi-stakeholder platform in Nepal, successfully advocated and influenced the government to pass the historic and progressive legal framework and established the Land Issue Resolution Committees—now replaced with the National Land Commission, in August 2021. It was expected that the Act would secure tenurial security for millions of landless, informal settlers and smallholders in Nepal in the years to come.

In Central Asia, members of the Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance (CAPA) and the National Engagement Strategies (NES) in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia played an important role in the formulation and approval of rangelands-related policies in the two countries. The efforts contributed to the recognition of community land rights for some 80,000 pastoralist and herder households through contractual agreements between Pasture User Groups (PUGs) and local governments, and helped secure over 39 million hectares of pasturelands in the region.

Our membership has expanded to three new countries in the ASEAN region - Vietnam, Myanmar, and Timor Leste - making us a strong coalition of 59 civil society organisations in 14 countries. We have also elected new Asia Steering Committee (ASC) members to guide us in the next triennial until 2024 and support the implementation of the new ILC Strategy 2022-2030 in Asia. If you have not met them, please do so by [visiting this page](#).

We are happy to see our committed family in Asia. Let us continue our collaboration to advocate for our shared goals of improving the livelihoods of people on the ground and making their voices heard. We thank you for your continuous effort in promoting people-centred land governance and securing land rights for all.

Mirgul Amanalieva
ILC Asia Regional Coordinator



GLOBAL INITIATIVES - OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL EFFORTS OF THE ILC



UN Food Systems Summit - Independent Dialogue

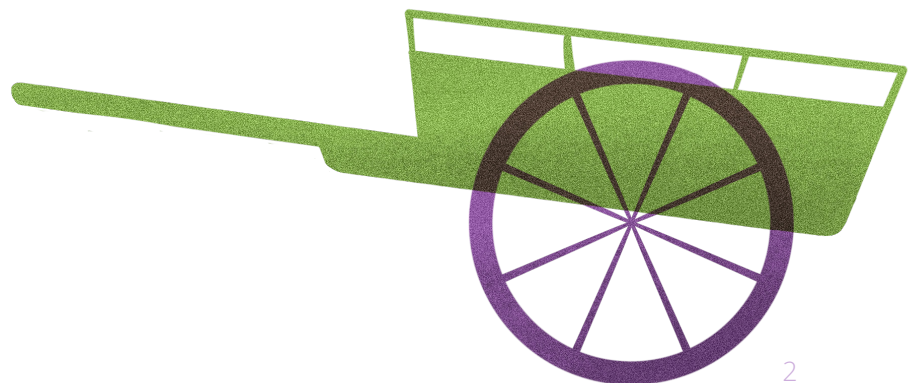
The outcomes from the Food Systems Pre-Summit Dialogue were used in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place.

ILC Asia participated in the UN Food Systems (UNFSS) Pre-Summit and organised an Independent Dialogue in May 2021 with the involvement of member organisations that worked on promoting family farming and sustainable food production. They were a valuable contribution to the national pathways and

also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

The Asia Dialogue was convened by ILC and the Asian Farmers' Association (AFA), an ILC member based in the Philippines. The

results of the Dialogue [*can be accessed in this report*](#). About 82 participants from across ILC Asia membership and beyond participated in the Dialogue, with the majority of them coming from civil society and/or the farmers constituency.



UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The priority of the next ten years will be healing our damaged planet and its fragile ecosystem and biodiversity, by establishing a close, yet sustainable, relationship with it.

ILC Asia has adhered to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which was launched during the commemoration of World Environment Day, on June 5th, 2021. The priority of the next ten years will be healing our damaged planet and its fragile ecosystem and biodiversity, by establishing a close, yet sustainable, relationship with it. To show its commitment to the UN Decade on Ecosystem

Restoration, ILC organised a global session titled “Join the Global Movement to Restore the World’s Ecosystems by Securing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities”. The meeting focused on the critical role of indigenous peoples and local communities in defending and restoring the environment and the need for them to be empowered to continue doing so. Representing ILC Asia as

part of the movement, Kuluipa Akmatova, from RDF, spoke about the mountain areas of Kyrgyzstan, which are characterised by significant biodiversity loss and exploitative approaches to its ecosystems. ILC Asia is working to reach the objectives of the UN Decade especially through its cooperation with a cross regional initiative: ILC Asia platform on Ecosystem Restoration.



LANDex

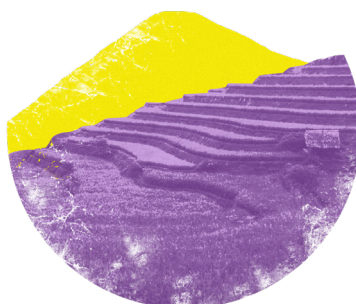
LANDex is a global land governance index that works to put people at the centre of land data, democratising land monitoring and creating a data ecosystem that represents the complex experience of land governance from different points of view. This programme revolves around ILC's 10 Commitments, and monitors the improvements in achieving people-centred land governance on three different

levels: the legal framework, implementation, and outcome or impact. LANDex comprises standardised indicators, which allow ILC members to create universally comparable data, and influence the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Voluntary Guidelines for Tenure (VGGTs). In Nepal - one of the project's pilot countries - the government decided to explore the use of

LANDex's indexes for formal data collection. Throughout the reporting period, Nepal published a report called *"Monitoring Progress Towards Land Rights in The SDGs"*, using LANDex indicators. Bangladesh is currently being subject to a study, which has the goal of evaluating its land governance status, according to 33 indicators under the 10 ILC commitments for People Centred Land Governance (PCLG).



Assess tenure rights security of the people;



Assess diversity of tenure systems



Assess land rights equality for women



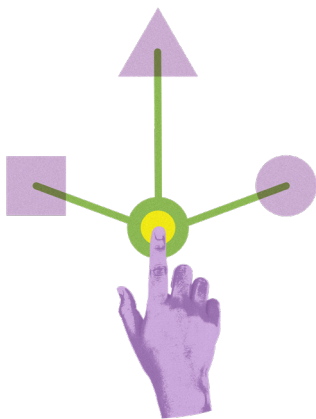
Assess the strength of small-scale farming systems



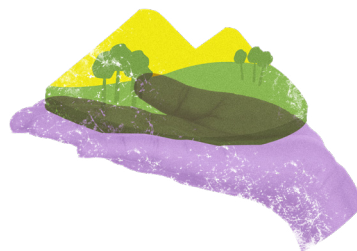
Assess territorial rights security for indigenous people



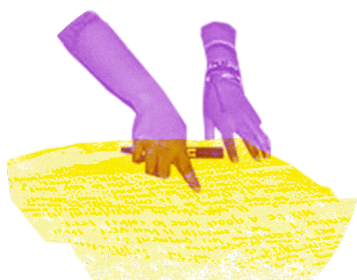
Assess locally managed ecosystems



Assess transparency and accessibility of information



Assess effectiveness of actions against land grabbing



Assess inclusiveness of decision making



Assess protection of land rights defenders



Global Rangelands Initiative

This global Platform aims at sharing its experience and lessons learned with different players, with the ultimate objective of securing rangeland resources for local users.

The ILC Global Rangelands Initiative is a network, operating to make rangelands more secure for global rangelands users. Indeed, this Platform works to improve and expand collaborations between ILC members and partners, and consolidate a shared vision of strengthening tenure security of rangeland users. It additionally identifies and formulates innovative processes, which can complement and support governments and key actors in implementing policies related to rangelands. The ILC Global Rangelands Initiative operates at the country, regional, and global level. In Asia, it comprises sixteen organisations, operating in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and India.

Throughout the past years, International Support Group, ILC Rangelands Initiative Global partners, UN Environment, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organised a call for a United Nations' designated International

Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026. This proposal has been led by the Government of Mongolia, which identifies this commemoration as the recognition of the key role played by pastoralists and rangelands in its national economy. Eighteen governments and 264 organisations formally support the IYRP proposal. During the 42nd session of the FAO Conference held from 14th to 18th June 2021, FAO endorsed the proposal IYRP and adopted the Resolution. FAO Director-General, Dr. Qu Dongyu, will convey the adopted Resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General for consideration at the General Assembly of the United Nations, declaring 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

ILC Asia's progress towards people - centred land governance





1

Secure Tenure Rights

On ILC's Commitment 1 - Secure Tenure Rights, ILC Asia's member-led platforms have generated significant progress throughout the reporting period.

Nepal

In Nepal, The Land Governance Working Group (LGWG) has contributed to the adoption of the Amendment 8th on Land Act 1964 and the government-established land Issues Resolution Committees, that would help improve the socioeconomic conditions of the landless, tenants, and smallholder farmers. LGWG members gathered to share the annual progress on Land Issues Resolution Committees (LIRC) in a meeting with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation. ILC-supported National

Land Coalition (NLC) Nepal, now transformed into the Land Governance Working Group, successfully advocated and influenced the government to pass the historic and progressive legal framework and established the Land Issue Resolution Committees—now replaced with the National Land Commission, on 13 August 2021. It's expected that the Act will secure tenurial security for millions of landless, informal settlers and smallholders in the years to come.

Mongolia

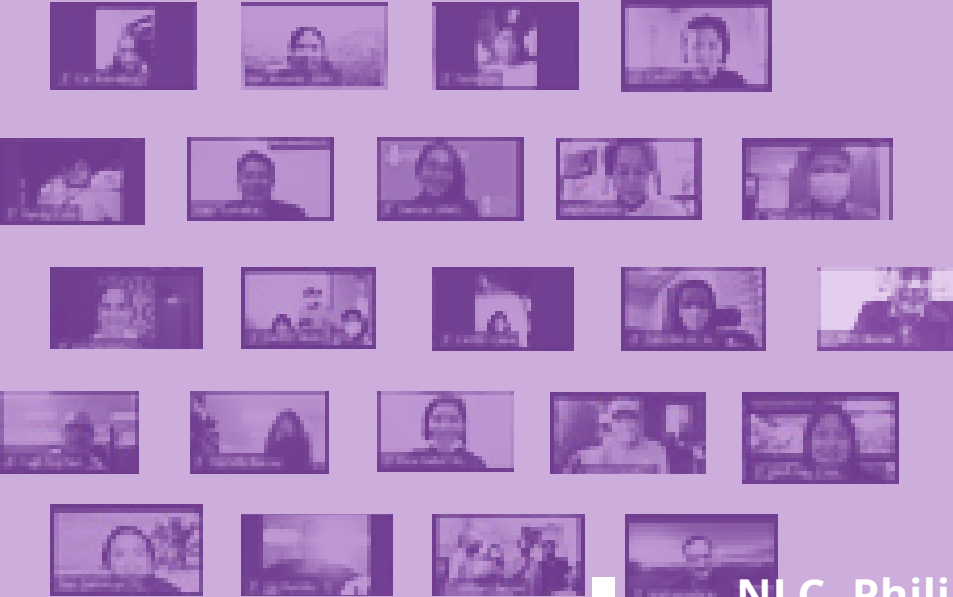
An additional great achievement in working towards secure tenure rights has been acknowledged by NLC Mongolia, which intensively worked for the adoption of a new Law on Livestock Head Tax and its approval at the Parliament of Mongolia in November 2020,

India

Until that date, unsustainable taxation of herders was considered necessary to overcome the challenges of budget shortages in the country, also linked to the global pandemic of Covid-19. Moreover, it was a means to tackle problems related to the traditional livestock industry in Mongolia, including chronic oversizing and reduced animal productivity, that contributed to the climate crisis in the country. Despite this law already representing a step towards the resolution of a long-standing political issue of taxing herders, NLC Mongolia prepared a series of recommendations to improve its implementation. These include similar rates of taxations to animals generating similar levels of revenues, tax concession/stimulus to overcome overgrazing problems and the promotion of inclusive and participatory ways of government spending of tax revenues

Throughout the reporting period, the National Platform - Land Forum India has completed its strategy development. It was done with a broader consultation process including Oxfam-India, Action Aid-India, WHH, Habitat for Humanity India, Omidyar and Womanity Foundation, among others. The latter will pose as its main objective the achievement of the SDGs, through the facilitation of land tenureship, restoration of ecosystem, countering climate change and ensuring governance of marginalised groups and on common property resources, with a special attention on women, youth, dalits, tribals, landless, minorities and pastoralists. Particularly, the Platform will commit to the creation and adoption by the national government of a law on commons land, which is currently missing both at the state and national level. Moreover, it will focus on monitoring and encouraging the implementation of existing policies, such as The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA), securing land rights of marginalised communities and land defenders.



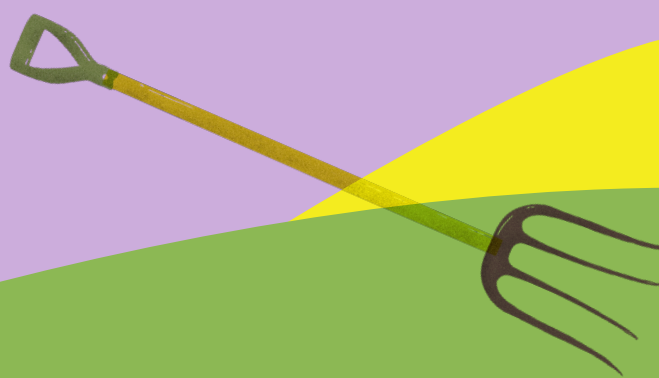


NLC Philippines was able to contribute to the progression of land rights claiming of 11,000 farmers in the Negros Island Region and Leyte.

Indonesia

Similarly to NLC India, throughout the course of the reporting period, NLC Indonesia has been working on finalising its strategy. In collaboration with ILC Asia and with the support of the ILC Secretariat, NLC Indonesia has identified its work areas and strategic objectives, around which its operations will revolve. These are Institutionalisation of Partnership among Actors for Agrarian Reform. The first strategic priority aimed at building collective action, serving as a pilot initiative where all actors especially among ILC members work together in the framework of

agrarian reform. These are, firstly, the establishment of corporations and platforms with national actors, which aim at promoting Agrarian Reform. Secondly, the promotion and implementation of advocacy action to address agrarian conflicts. This involves a process of participatory mapping as one of official cadastral data, to tackle agrarian and natural resources disputes. Thirdly, NLC Indonesia will work towards achieving the aforementioned goals, through the strengthening of the civil society organisations' network within the Platform.



Philippines

NLC Philippines was able to contribute to the progression of land rights claiming of 11,000 farmers in the Negros Island Region and Leyte. This outcome was enabled by the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed between the DAR Negros Region Officials AR Now! and KAISAHAN in relation to the resolution of erroneous Notice of Coverage (NOC) cases in the Negros Region. Moreover, through its campaign on the revocation of an unfair agriculture ventures arrangement, the NLC is ensuring the implementation of agrarian reforms through its support of land rights claims at the community level. The campaign has helped 1,756 agrarian reform beneficiaries in the country to claim their right to land.

In its effort to secure tenure rights in the country, NLC Philippines prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on the implementation of the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project, financed by the Government of the Philippines and the World Bank. This initiative poses as its core objective the improvement of land tenure security and the sensitisation and securitisation of property rights of agrarian reform beneficiaries. Through the MoU, it is expected to establish a formal mechanism for feedback among agrarian reform beneficiary organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations, and ILC-NLC members in the Philippines on the project's implementation.



2 Strong Small-Scale/ Family-Farming System

The Family Farming Initiative offered technical support to the formulation of the Action Plan of UNdff for South Asia.



The regional Family Farming Initiative, led by AFA & AR-NOW, provided technical assistance to implement the Global Action Plan of UNdff. In the Philippines, working closely with the Agriculture and Rural Development Knowledge and Policy Platform

(ARDKPP), led by PAKISAMA, the NLC had advocated to the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines to adopt the NAP, National Action Plan of Family Farming in 2021.

The Family Farming Initiative offered technical support to the formulation of the Action Plan of UNdff for South Asia.

3 Diverse Tenure Rights

Over the reporting period, the Asia Rangelands Initiative has adhered to and been actively involved in gaining support for a United Nations designated the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists by 2026. Throughout the year, the platform took part in a series of online events, and information exchange activities with its constituent countries - Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Both the events and information-sharing initiatives were focusing on different themes affecting the relevant countries. These include policy reforms in Kyrgyzstan - following the election of a new President, the methodology and functioning of pasture land monitoring in Mongolia, agroforestry in the region, mobility of pasture, rangelands degradation, and the ecological balance between rangeland capacity and animal husbandry based food production.

Over the course of the year, NLC Mongolia facilitated the adoption of Pastureland Use Agreement (PUA) by the government of Mongolia, which has allowed herder families and local governments to discuss and agree

upon mutual responsibilities on improving rangeland health. PUAs are a legal means to ensure herders' user rights to traditional pastureland, to build herders formal commitment to reconcile animal numbers with pasture carrying capacities and undertake other sustainable management practices.

NLC Kyrgyzstan has been advocating for the adoption Decree "On Measures for The Development of The Agro-Industrial Complex of The Kyrgyz Republic" which was eventually signed in 2021, to promote a sustainable use of undeveloped and unproductive agricultural land and pastures, to consider the possibility of developing agroforestry, horticulture and viticulture on these land plots.





4 Equal Land Rights for Women



The status of the Women's Land Rights Initiative in Asia is at the moment inactive due to the limited resources ILC had in 2020 to continue the cycle of activities. However, since late 2020 members of the CBI 4 have convened as the Asia Working Group on Women's Land Rights, inspired by the Beijing+25 review process.

The Working Group aims to mainstream land rights in a five-year action plan to ensure that the 2030 Agenda fulfils the aspirations of gender equality, women's empowerment as well as related promises made through CEDAW. It has produced an information leaflet that can be accessed [here](#). In addition, the Working Group successfully organised a parallel event at the virtual 65th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) in March 2021, attracting more than 50 participants from across the globe. The event information is accessible [here](#).

In 2021, ILC joined the Stand For Her Land Campaign (S4HL) as a member of the Steering Committee working to launch country-level campaigns with ILC members Landesa, HUAIROU Commission, and the World Bank. In Asia, the campaign is in the process of being implemented at the national level in Bangladesh, with the potential to further strengthen the work of NLC India/Land Forum India in advocating for women's land rights.

ILC member Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) has been accepted as a recipient of the women's land rights grant issued by the US Department of State. The funding proposal was developed by Landesa with the support of ILC and ALRD, and the grant will support national implementation of the S4HL campaign.

5

Secure Territorial Rights for Indigenous Peoples



Influenced by the work of Land and Housing Rights Network (LAHRIN-Cambodia), the Government of Cambodia included and adopted 90% of NGOs' inputs into the final version of Environment and Social Risk Management Framework of Land Allocation for Social and Economic Development-III (LASED III). The realisation of this significant macroeconomic document in Cambodia relies on the support of the World Bank for over USD 93 million, and represents a policy opportunity to secure land rights for IPs, landless individuals and local community members.

Members of NLC Cambodia contributed to the dissemination of the newly adopted and updated version of the internal rule and by-law for indigenous peoples' communal land titles, in October 2020. The Indigenous Community Support Organization (ICSO) including NLC Cambodia, led by NGOF, organised a series of technical meetings with indigenous peoples, relevant government ministries to revisit this rule and revise it to address the entity of the new challenges faced in the field.



In Cambodia, ILC member the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact (AIPP) is building capacity for an indigenous youth-led initiative to access communal land title (CLT), the government program on land tenure, land allocation for social and economic development project (LASED III) which is supported by the World Bank.

The capacity building is focusing on equipping indigenous communities with lobbying skills, campaign organising, conducting mapping and preparing documents for self-declaration as an Indigenous Peoples community. The initiative aims at recognising the critical roles they play as change maker in the area of conservation and land rights of their respective community.

In Thailand, AIPP supported the Indigenous Peoples Network Movement and submitted a specific Law to promote and protect the Indigenous Peoples' rights and livelihoods to the President of Parliament of Thailand.



The Bangladesh Land Rights Network (BLRN), or ILC's National Land Coalition in Bangladesh, helped influence the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Commission's verdict against the confiscation of Indigenous Peoples' land for

the construction of a 5-star resort. A private company had grabbed the ancestral land at the Bandarban Chimbuk Hills, belonging to the Mro Indigenous Community of Bangladesh, with the aim of building the resort and an amusement park. Through the support of civil society and indigenous organisations that belong to BLRN, members of the International CHT Commission expressed solidarity with the Mro community and urged the government to repeal this plan.

6

Locally-Managed Ecosystems

Working on locally-managed ecosystems, the ILC Asia Platform on Ecosystem Restoration comprises organisations from eight different countries - Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Philippines and Thailand. The platform's main objective is to ensure tenure security of local communities, thereby strengthening their ecosystem management. This represents a significant response to increasing economic pressures and climate change. Throughout the reporting period, the platform has been working to remove legislative barriers in its respective countries. For instance, in Kyrgyzstan, members are involved in a project on restoration of floodplain forest ecosystems, and to generate and amend the national-level policies in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Supported by NLC Kyrgyzstan, national authorities advanced the registration of a community-based forest management and the development of the Forest Management Plan. The Kogoy forest users community now have a community-based forest management plan, in agreement with the specialised state authority (Kyzyk Ungkur Forest Unit) and community members. The plan includes the analysis and demarcation of the external and internal borders of the forest, description of forest types, scope of work for forest improvement, mapping of critical sites and infrastructure, implementing fire protection measures, as well as mapping of the exploitation and restoration zones.

Over the course of 2021, NLC Kyrgyzstan, along with the staff of the forest units, pasture committees and local government bodies, took part in the development and approval of the "Management Plan for Cattle Grazing on the Territory of the State Forest Fund of the Leilek Forestry Enterprise". The plan was aimed at developing joint forest management; preserving forest ecosystems; promoting a rational use of State Forest Fund lands; improving inter-sectoral collaboration; and regulating conflicts between representatives of the Pasture Committee, forest units and pasture users.

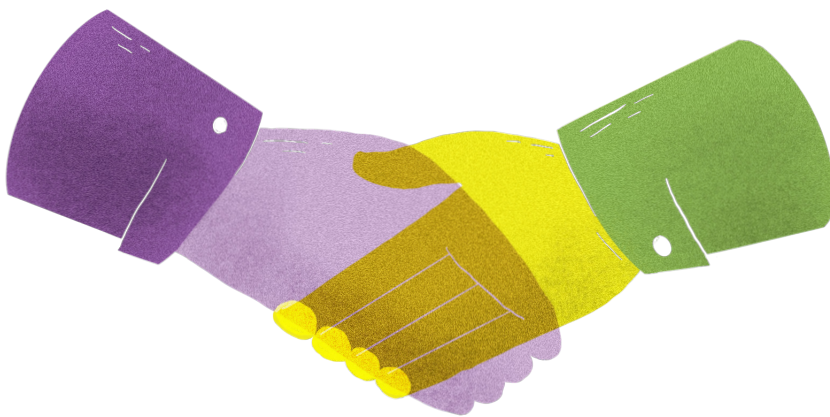
7

Inclusive Decision-Making: Youth and Land Rights

The ILC Youth Fellowship Programme provides the young members of ILC with tools and leadership skills to generate change within their communities

Members of the Youth and Land Asia, a cross-regional initiative led by ILC members, in 2021 convened to formulate national and regional position papers in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia and the Philippines. The publications will contain key data on the circumstances of youth in each country, as well as statements on challenges and demands of the youth with a highlight on rural-urban linkages. It will also investigate the different ways in which youth need to access and use land, including land frameworks, policies and programmes.

ILC Asia adhered to and joined the launch of the global ILC's Youth Fellowship Programme 2021-22. This one-year initiative is aimed at supporting young activists and change-makers in their work on land rights within peoples' organisations in the ILC network. To achieve this goal, the programme provides the youth with tools and leadership skills to generate change within their communities and to work towards the realisation of SDGs and people-centred land governance. Prior to the selection of the cohort, ILC Asia conducted a desk-based research on its member-led platforms, and on their different levels of engagement with youth-related initiatives.



The 2021-2022 cohort consists of 22 fellows from all over the globe - seven of which selected from the Asia region (India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Philippines). After attending a series of training and workshops, the fellows are currently working on developing an individual or collective action plan to be implemented in their community. Moreover, through their participation in the Youth Fellowship Programme, the cohort will be involved in the organisation of the ILC Global Land Forum Youth, which will take place in Jordan, in May 2022.

ILC is currently working on the organisation of the first Global Land Forum Youth (GLFY), which will take place in Jordan, in May 2022. Under the patronage of the Royal Court and the Government of Jordan, 100 young people will participate in this two day meeting, in which they will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and to create a global network. The event will aim at building together an agenda to tackle the main issues young people face in accessing land and protecting their territories around the world, with a special focus on Jordan.



8 Transparent and Accessible Information

SDG 1.4.2

“Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognised documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure”

The Land Watch Asia initiative, under the leadership of ILC member ANGOC, has equipped civil society partners from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and the Philippines, in monitoring the progress towards achieving Goal 1 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was done by producing civil society reports on the performance of their respective countries in relation to meeting Goal Indicator 1.4.2. It is expected that the report will be used by ILC’s civil society member organisations and beyond as an advocacy tool at the national level to inform governments in preparing for the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).



9

Effective Actions Against Land Grabbing and Protection for Land Rights Defenders

The Land Watch Asia Working Group on Land Rights as Human Rights comprises six countries - Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines - and focuses its work on land conflicts and resulting human rights violations. Over the past year, in the Philippines, the platform produced a report on land grabbing of ancestral land areas for palm oil plantations. The study has been shared and recognised by the Philippine Coconut Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry. Among other achievements, members of the Working Group in Cambodia

helped influence the government's (CHRC and Ministry of Council) decision to draft and adopt a Law on the Establishment of a National Human Rights Institution. In addition, the country's Land Law and Environment Law are being amended to incorporate independent research's findings on the ground. Over the course of the past two years, 179 non-ILC organisations/institutions (including 22 communities, 68 non-ILC CSOs, 18 NHRI offices, and 39 national government agencies) and 10 IGOs have been participating in the platform's activities.



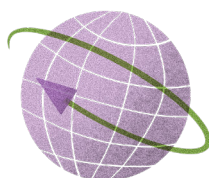
In August 2021, ANGOC and Land Watch Asia collaborated to organise a regional workshop aimed at mainstreaming land rights in the United Nations Business and Human Rights (UN-BHR) processes. The event, titled “Online Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Land Rights in the UN Guiding Principles in Asia”, explored opportunities for stakeholders to gain awareness of the significance of incorporating land rights in BHR agendas, especially in light of the fulfillment of UNGP. The event resulted in recommendations on cooperative actions to encourage BHR, land rights, and human rights to be promoted at the regional level.



Support Team: ILC Asia Regional Coordination Unit



Knowledge Management



ILC Asia worked on a new branding strategy, to strengthen its profile in the region as a leading network in land rights defence. This aims at increasing its resource mobilisation activities, and engaging with more partners and donor institutions. As part of this endeavour, it created a new corporate brochure of ILC Asia and five National Engagement Strategy (NES) brochures

- NES Bangladesh
- NES Cambodia
- NES Nepal
- NES Mongolia
- NES Kyrgyzstan

Members found the brochures useful to approach external partners and donor institutions, and promote their national-level work on people-centred land governance.

Due to the travel restrictions and limited mobility that most of ILC Asia members are experiencing since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, RCU Asia has continued to organise learning labs and knowledge sharing sessions online, throughout the entire reporting period. Overall, it organised five (5) learning labs. One of this year's greatest achievements was ILC members' participation in the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65), organised by UN Women, in March 2021.

Stories



Together with the ILC Global Communications team, ILC Asia committed to investing more in human-interest stories. Throughout the reporting period the Communications team produced two photo essay stories and videos on NLC Nepal and the Asia Rangelands Initiative.



**Claiming Freedom
in Nepal**



**Home on the Range
of Kyrgyzstan**

Communications

Global Campaigns

ILC Asia promoted and aligned with the broader international discourse on youth and sustainable food systems – especially by the United Nations, and incorporated these themes in its global campaigns.



Newsletters

Eighteen (18) newsletters were circulated in the reporting period. Apart from sharing with ILC Asia members the bi-monthly updates of our national and regional platforms, the newsletter became the medium to inform members about Learning Labs, new publications, and global campaigns such as during the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit.



Social Media



11.2%
engagement
surged

326
members
expansion

7.8%
growth

Compared to the previous reporting period, this year we acquired 139 new Twitter followers, reflecting a 7.8% growth. The total engagements on Twitter, or the total number of likes, replies, retweets, post link clicks, other post clicks, and other engagements, also surged by 11.2% this year. Our Facebook Group has expanded to include 326 members, and the number of engagement remains high

Resource Mobilisation

The Resource Mobilisation (RM) team have started implementing the feedback and preferences expressed by ILC Asia members in the Regional Assembly and the 2020 Asia Land Forum, creating connections between members and strategic partners. The main focus of our resource mobilisations efforts throughout the reporting period was connecting ILC's National Land Coalitions (NLCs), previously named as the NES, with EU Delegations at the national and regional levels. ILC has helped NLC facilitators to produce and update their platforms' brochure as a communication tool to approach the EU. While it is too early to see the result at this stage, ILC will keep bridging the partnership by identifying opportunities to invite the Delegations to NLC activities or events.

In preparation for the implementation of the new ILC Strategy 2022-2030, the Resource Mobilisations team organised a training session for NLC facilitators in September 2021. The session helped facilitators in gaining a better understanding of diverse funding schemes in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in building practical skills to develop and pitch funding proposals. The immediate expected output of this training was that all member-led platforms at the national and regional levels would produce a structured, targeted and systematic resource mobilisation action plan that aligns with ILC Asia's priorities in the land rights movement.



The following is the list of submitted funding to donors

No	Project Titles	Proposed Budget	Donors	Brief desc of proposal
1	<i>Equal Stake in the Soil: Building Women's Land Rights from the Ground Up</i>	<i>USD 3,000,000 in total for 5 countries</i>	<i>US Department of State</i>	<i>Approved. A joint proposal with ILC member Landesa on advancing women's land rights with the implementation of Landesa's Stand 4 Her Land (S4HL) Campaign. Among the five targeted countries, the project will be implemented in Bangladesh and led by ILC Asia member the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD).</i>
2	<i>Action Research to Close Justice Gap in Africa and Southeast Asia</i>	<i>CAD 900,000</i>	<i>International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</i>	<i>Unsuccessful. A joint proposal with CIFOR, RCU Africa, and four ILC members from the two regions.</i>
3	<i>Youth-Led Geospatial Mapping for Transparency and Accountability in Land Tenure and Natural Resources Governance</i>	<i>USD 110,000</i>	<i>National Democratic Institute, Taiwan</i>	<i>Expecting the result. The proposal was submitted by NLC Philippines. The project objectives include mobilising the meaningful participation of youth to demand transparency and accountability in land tenure and natural resource governance through evidence-based advocacy.</i>
4	<i>Broadening the Support to Mainstream Land Rights and the Protection of Land and Environmental Defenders in the UNGP-BHR National Action Plan</i>	<i>EUR 500,000</i>	<i>European Union Delegation to the Philippines</i>	<i>Unsuccessful. The proposal was submitted by NLC Philippines, with the objectives of using the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs-BHR) National Action Plan to protect land and environmental defenders from threats and criminalisation.</i>

Governance

ILC Strategy 2022-2030

ILC Asia reached its objective of including at least 30% of its member-led platforms in the consultation and formulation processes of the new ILC Strategy, to which it will transition from 2022.

Asia Steering Committee

- 1** This year marked the end of the 2019-2021 Asia Steering Committee (ASC) term. In 2021, ILC Asia elected a new steering committee member from CIFOR, as representative of our host. The 2019-2021 Asia Steering Committee is composed as follows: Chet Charya (Star Kampuchea), Dewi Kartika (KPA), Dinesh Rabari (MARAG), Elvira Maratova (Kyrgyz Jayity), Pham Thu Thuy (CIFOR). They will remain in position until the Global Land Forum (GLF) in May 2022.
- 2** The Steering committee was involved in the Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) Working Group, the Membership Committee and the Strategy Committee.
- 3** During the 2021 Regional Assembly in November, the election of the new Steering Committee members took place.
- 4** Five Steering Committee meetings took place in the reporting period: April 6, June 14, July 8, September 6, October 4.



Asia Land Forum and Regional Assembly 2021

The 2021 Asia Land Forum took place from 26 to 29 October 2021 with the theme of **Securing Land Rights and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The event was organised by the RCU in collaboration with ILC Asia member the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact (AIPP). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event was organised virtually through Zoom.

Taking into account the accomplishments that the land community across the region had made, this year's Forum explored the challenges and opportunities to acknowledge the centrality of land rights in the 2030 Agenda.

Participation

The Forum successfully provided a dialogue space between civil society, grassroots organisations, and policy-makers, with 73% member participation level (43 out of 59 ILC Asia members participated in the event). The total number of participants at the event was 225 people.

Media

The Forum was able to gain approximately six news coverage by national and international media outlets. Our social media gained traction with 10 new Twitter followers and increased engagement by 187% during the event week.

Steering Committee Election

At the Regional Assembly in November 2021, ILC Asia organised the election of the new Asia Steering Committee members. The new ASC will assume its role for the next three years until 2024 and will support the implementation of the new ILC Strategy 2022-2030, identify key priorities, and support the drafting of ILC Asia annual work plans in line with the new Strategy objectives.

Two members of this Committee are also part of the ILC Global Council, where they are expected to carry the voice of ILC Asia as it is an important body responsible for the general governance of the Coalition that functions as a board of directors.

The following is the composition of the ILC Asia Steering Committee 2022-2024:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Pallab Chakma, Kapaeeng Foundation, Bangladesh (also ILC Council Representative) | 3 Beverly Longid, AIPP, Philippines |
| 2 Dewi Kartika, KPA, Indonesia (also ILC Council Representative) | 4 Batjargal Sukhbishrel, MNFPUG, Mongolia |

ILC Asia Host Organisation

ILC Asia is currently hosted by CIFOR. ILC has secured a new contract with CIFOR until December 2024

Membership – Recruitment and Termination

Throughout the reporting period, ILC membership in the Asian region expanded to include the following eight new members:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ● National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (Mongolia) | ● Agriculture and Farmers Federation of Myanmar (Myanmar) |
| ● Rede Ba Rai (Timor Leste) | ● Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh) |
| ● South Asia Pastoral Alliance (Regional: South Asia) | ● Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance (Cambodia) |
| ● Vietnam Land Alliance (Vietnam) | ● Indigenous Peoples Partnership (Myanmar) |

With these upcoming new members, ILC Asia has expanded to three new countries which are Myanmar, Timor Leste and Vietnam. By 2022, three ILC members from Asia will terminate their membership, as their priorities do not align with ILC's any more.





Collaboration with strategic partners

- ILC Asia is committed to building partnerships beyond the ILC membership. We have established close collaborations with IFAD, at both the national and regional level
- We collaborated with AIPP in a series of high-level events on indigenous peoples
- With AFA, ILC participated in the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit
- We established collaborations with UNDP Central Asia Office
- We are building a solid relationship with CIFOR



Budget

Regional Triennial Core Budget Support (2019-2021) in USD

Member-led platforms	Amounts (in USD)
National Engagement Strategy (NES)	1,067,950
Commitment-Based Initiatives (CBI)	663,050
Regional Advocacy	15,161
Global-based activities implemented at the regional level (Gender Audit, LANDex, CLPI, LMI, Generation Equality)	245,900
Total	2,242,978



RCU Team

The RCU Asia team has expanded to include two new staff members. The RCU is now composed as follows:



MIRGUL AMANALIEVA
Regional Coordinator



HARAFIK
Programme Manager



ANDITA LISTYARINI
Communications Officer



RAISA SUGIRI
Administrative Officer



SIMONA BORTOLOTTI
General Assistant for
M&E and Administration



KUNDUZ ADYLBKOVA
Resource Mobilisation &
Communications Assistant

ILC Asia Members





ILC ASIA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

REALISING PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE IN ASIA



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