

ILC'S RANGELANDS INITIATIVE

Established in 2010, the ILC's Rangelands Initiative facilitates learning between, and provides technical support to government and other actors working to make rangelands more tenure secure. Coordinated and supported globally by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the initiative works through ILC members in Africa, Asia and Latin America led by RECONCILE (Resource Conflict Institute) Kenya, JASIL Mongolia and MARAG (Maldahari Rural Action Group) India, and FUNDAPAZ (Foundation for Development in Justice and Peace) Argentina, respectively. A Steering Committee, comprising key experts and specialized organizations, guides the development of the Rangelands Initiative.

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WHY RANGELANDS?

Land and resource loss, and change and fragmentation in the rangelands have increased dramatically in recent years due to both 'external' and 'internal' influences, including a lack of recognition of land- and resource-ownership rights, poor land-use planning, and privatization processes. These influences are having extremely negative impacts on millions of rangeland users, including pastoralists and hunter-gatherers who depend upon rangelands for their food and livelihood security, as well as affecting national economies, peace and security. Predicted changes in climate highlight the importance of maintaining livelihoods, such as pastoralism that are able to adapt to and have a history of coping with aridity and unpredictable climatic events and stress. The comparative advantage that rangelands and rangeland peoples have in this regard is increasingly being compromised by their loss of access to resources and land.

Securing access to land and resources is therefore fundamental for sustainable development in these semi-arid and arid environments. How best this can be achieved is a matter of discussion and debate, and opinions and conclusions differ. Mixed-use landscapes—such as rangelands—present a particular challenge. Overlapping rights and the diverse ways in which different land users may access, use, control or manage land and resources require flexible and context-specific approaches to recognizing and formalizing customary tenure systems and the appropriate planning of resources.



WHAT DOES THE ILC RANGELANDS INITIATIVE DO?

The goal of the Rangelands Initiative is increased tenure security of local rangeland users through improved implementation of enabling policy and legislation.

By connecting, mobilising and influencing, the Initiative strengthens ILC members' activities in-country and across its continental platforms. The key focus areas help ILC members develop and strengthen partnerships with a common vision of tenure security for rangeland users; identify, develop and/or scale up innovative solutions to tenure challenges, assisting governments and other actors in implementing enabling policy and legislation; and through sharing experiences and lessons learned, influencing these actors in land tenure development and implementation.


The Rangelands Initiative supports governments, ILC members and partners to develop and/or influence enabling policy and legislation, and implement policy and legislation in a manner that best helps productive and sustainable rangeland use. This is achieved through the joint identification of solutions based on innovation and practice using the strengths of ILC members and partners working together.

The Rangelands Initiative also improves the understanding of rangelands and appropriate governance, planning and tenure systems through research and the documentation of good practice. Recognizing the value of rangelands and the livelihood systems supporting them, the Rangelands Initiative advocates with local rangeland users for their inclusion in decisions made about their lands.

AFRICA

In Africa, the Rangelands Initiative works closely with a number of national governments on the development of policy and legislation that will best support the planning and protection of rangeland assets. A key tool in this regard has been the organization of 'learning routes'—an interactive study tour undertaken by government, NGO and development agency representatives to host communities interested in sharing their experiences on making rangelands more secure.

In Kenya, RECONCILE provides technical support to the National Land Commission in the establishment of a county spatial planning process. Together with other ILC members, RECONCILE has participated in a taskforce influencing the development of the Community Land Bill.



In Tanzania, a national engagement strategy, developed by ILC members, prioritised rangelands as one of two key focus areas. This implementation of this strategy by the Tanzanian government is facilitated by the Sustainable Rangeland Management project (SMRP), funded by the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development, with the technical support of ILRI. SRMP is improving the application of national policy, legislation and guidelines on land and land-use planning in order to protect grazing areas and livestock routes as part of village land, including cross-village boundaries.

In Ethiopia, Rangelands Initiative members—the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), ILRI and Oxfam—support land-use planning by providing technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture in the development of a participatory planning process for woreda (district) level in pastoral areas. ILRI and the International Water Management Institute are also undertaking a joint study on livestock land use and movement in the Bale eco-region.

In Cameroon, the Rangelands Initiative supports ILC member MBOSCUDA and others to undertake a good practice study on making rangelands secure. The findings will help inform the development of a pilot project to upscale the good practice. In Niger, the initiative also provides technical support to and helps facilitate the development of learning opportunities for an ILC-supported project working with the government Secrétariat du Code Rural.

ASIA

In Asia, ILC members in Mongolia (JASIL and Mongolia Land Management Association), in Kyrgyzstan (Rural Development Foundation, Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users, and Union of the Water Users' Associations) and in Kazakhstan (Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development and Farmers Foundation of Kazakhstan) have developed a learning and engagement process on rangelands so as to facilitate joint advocacy, monitoring and support for the respect at national and local levels of the legal rights and responsibilities of traditional pastureland users.

It is an opportune time for such work. In Mongolia, communities are awaiting the approval of the draft land law, under discussion in parliament since 2013. In Kyrgyzstan, the 2009 law on pastures has yet to be fully implemented. In Kazakhstan, no such law has yet been developed. Sharing experiences is valuable for strengthening interventions in individual countries and across the region. Over the next few years, ILC members in Asia intend to further develop the rangelands initiatives in order to influence the finalisation of policy and legislation, and its appropriate implementation.

ILC members in India are also working to make rangelands more secure. MARAG has been assisting the Maldhari in Gujarat State to establish a Pastoral Peoples' Parliament as a discussion forum by pastoralists and for pastoralists, held in a different region each year. MARAG has also been supporting the empowerment of Maldhari women through the facilitation of Pastoral Women's Alliances (of which there were over 25,000 members in 2015) and protesting against large-scale land acquisitions in pastoral areas. Another ILC member in India – Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) is working with the Rajasthan State government to develop a Pastoral Policy.





LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Launched in 2014 Plataforma Semiáridos de América Latina (ILC Latin America), has 14 members from six countries. The platform works on rangeland issues in the semi-arid lands of the Dry Corridor in Central America (found across Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras), the Chaco region (found across Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay), and northeastern Brazil

Established to promote partnerships and alliances between organizations, and raise awareness on the problems facing and solutions for the semi-arid region, the platform: generates and shares knowledge, including on good practice; and undertakes advocacy campaigns to promote the livestock welfare of indigenous peoples and peasant communities, and secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, water and forests.

Since its launch the Platform has developed a database of information, case studies and publications from its members. A 'learning route' was organized through Bolivia, Argentina and Paraguay in December to share experiences on land security, territorial development and livestock (and other) production systems. A number of meetings have also been organized on land, water development, access and management.

THE ADDED STRENGTH OF A GLOBAL PROGRAM

By **CONNECTING, MOBILIZING** and **INFLUENCING**, the global rangelands program strengthens ILC members' activities in-country and across its continental platforms.

The key focus areas help ILC members develop and strengthen partnerships with a common vision of tenure security for rangeland users; identify, develop and/or scale up innovative solutions to tenure challenges, assisting governments and other actors in implementing enabling policy and legislation; and through sharing experiences and lessons learned, influence these actors in land tenure development and implementation.

The global rangelands program is currently:

- » developing a **global statement on the Status of Pastoral Lands** (in reference to land tenure)
- » participating in the campaign to declare an **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**;
- » influencing the **inclusion of pastoralism as a priority intervention area within UN** programing;
- » implementing technical guidelines for the **implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Good Governance and Tenure in Pastoralism**;
- » **working with the Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights** to increase attention paid to pastoralists and rangelands;
- » **assisting members and partners** to share their work, e.g. presenting papers on rangelands at global conferences; and
- » **developing rangeland-land tenure flagship projects** with ILC members and partners.

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UNITED FOR LAND RIGHTS

ILC is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to put people at the centre of land governance. The shared goal of ILC's 207 members is to realise land governance for and with people at country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities who live on and from the land.

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