



NEPAL

A SUMMARY OF ILC'S CONTRIBUTIONS

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION



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

- » **Commitment 4: Equal Land Rights for Women**
- » **Commitment 6: Secure Territorial Rights for Indigenous People**
- » **Commitment 7: Inclusive Decision-Making**
- » **Commitment 8: Transparent and Accountable Information**
- » **Commitment 9: Effective Actions Against Land Grabbing**



THE NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (NES) ON LAND GOVERNANCE IN NEPAL

refers to a multi-stakeholder platform working to enhance the socio-economic conditions of smallholders and the landless by promoting policy dialogue at the community, provincial and national levels. Formulated in 2012 as one of the International Land Coalition's first National Engagement Strategies, *it supports the formulation and implementation of pro-poor and gender sensitive land policies in order to improve the tenure security of rural populations in Nepal.*

The platform and its member organisations- in tandem with other key national and international organisations, have contributed to numerous significant results at the policy-level, including the inclusion of land rights provisions in *the 2015 Constitution, the Land*

Use Policy 2012, 6th-8th Amendments to the Land Act, as well as the landmark Land Policy and Land Use Act of 2019.

The NES prompted the set-up of the Land Governance Working Group (LGWG), a formal national platform on land governance led by the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation. As a member of the NES, the LGWG further solidifies avenues for engagement between government ministries and stakeholders by providing a unified space to formulate and amend responses to land issues- from policy solutions to joint action-plans.

The platform's advocacy efforts and participatory processes have fostered people-centred land governance policies and practices in Nepal, including the development and *implementation of*

evidence-based model land laws in three municipalities. The NES' land, agrarian, and tenancy rights campaigns further provide crucial support to marginalised communities, and have led to the issuing of land ownership certificates to over 4540 village-block households, 2190 landless households, and 955 tenants in Nepal.

Women's land rights and livelihoods constitute a major focus of the NES and its member organisations, which play a catalytic role in advocating for gender justice in Nepal. From building a female grassroots network for strengthened leadership and knowledge generation regarding land rights, to implementing Joint Land Ownership programmes - *the NES has contributed to the securing of over 9490 joint land ownership certificates, spanning more than 2755 hectares of land.*

NOTABLE OUTCOMES

NES NEPAL’S INFLUENCE ON NATIONAL LAND POLICY FORMULATION AND ENACTMENT

The NES Platform contributes to the realisation of pro-poor policies and legislations since 2012. Its national members have actively engaged with communities and government agencies in this endeavour.

The NES prompted the set-up of the Land Governance Working Group (LGWG), a formal national platform on land governance. Headed by the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation (MOLMCPA), the LGWG’s Coordination Committee comprises the Nepalese Government, civil society organisations, United Nations Agencies, International Non-Governmental Organisations, in addition to organisations working to secure the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and women in Nepal.

The joint and complimentary efforts of civil society organisations, development partners, the NES and other ILC members ¹ in the formulation, amendment and implementation of key land-related policies have led to the inclusion of people-centred provisions in the 2015 constitution, the 2019 Land Policy, and 2019 Land Use Act, among others.

- 60% OF PARTICIPANTS in our Contribution Analysis validation survey strongly or absolutely agree that the most significant change in the Nepalese land sector influenced by the NES was the *support to policy formulation, amendments, and implementation.*
- 65% strongly or absolutely agree the *support of its members to Land Rights Forums*, which bring together landless people to strengthen their pleas against forced evictions and land grabs, was a major outcome of the NES.
- 55% further strongly or absolutely agree that the *assistance to Joint-Land ownership* was a major outcome of the NES.

1 NLRf, ActionAid, Oxfam, CARE, DANIDA, LWF, ANGOC further provided significant support to this end.



NES INVOLVEMENT	POLICY	ACTION
Policy Formulation	Action Plan for Land Reform	NES contributions to 13-point action plan, 2012-13
	2015 Constitution	NES guidance as per the inclusion of land rights and land reform agendas in the constitution through its membership in intra and inter-ministerial platforms
	National land Policy	NES membership in the land-related policy drafting committee, 2015
	The Agriculture Development Strategy 2015-2035 (2014); 2015 Land	
	Acquisition Act and the Commission for Landless Problems Solving; 2016 Land Registration Guideline for Earthquake Victims	NES inputs and facilitation, through its host member, the Community Self-Reliance Centre
	2018 Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act	NES membership in civil society network involved in the relevant consultation and formulation processes
	2018 Right to Housing Act	NES recommendations for the inclusion of pro-poor provisions
	2019 Land Use Act ;2019 National Land Policy	NES feedback on draft bill to Government; NES members lobbying and advocacy efforts targeting political parties and members of parliament to endorse the act and policy
	Joint Land Ownership	NES guidelines for Joint Land Ownership policy document
Policy Amendments	Draft Guthi Bill (*withdrawn)	NES Feedback
	6-7th Amendment of the Land Reform Act 1964 (2016; 2018)	NES facilitation and lobbying of Council of Ministers to endorse guidelines and regulations, 2016; review of draft Bills; policy discussions and recommendations
	Land Use Policy 2012 (2015)	NES recommendations to government through a series of policy dialogues
Policy Implementation	8th amendment to the Land Reform Act 1964 (under National Assembly review)	NES review and recommendations on draft bill; stakeholder mobilization to review proposed policy provisions
	Land Use Policy	NES membership in policy drafting committee
	National Land Policy	NES host serves as secretariat for the formulation process
	Land Reform	Government approval of 13-point action plan for scientific land reform formulated by NES members, 2013
	Tenancy Land Right	Government formulation of Tenancy Problem Solving Unit within the Ministry of Land Management, 2018as a result of NES lobbying efforts; NES efforts to extend tenancy land rights claim application period
	Land Rights of Landless/homeless Dalits	Government commits to provide land to landless Dalits as a result of NES lobbying efforts.

2015 CONSTITUTION OF NEPAL

As the acting co-ordinator of both the NES and national-level discussions and workshops, the *Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC)*² is an integral figure in the Nepalese land sector. In light of the constitutional reform process, CSRC facilitated meetings between landless communities and members of the Constituent Assembly; co-ordinated periodic dialogues with major political parties; published and disseminated policy papers with concrete suggestions and expert inputs, and published relevant articles in the national newspapers.

The work of the NES to unify³ and conciliate various stakeholder perspectives has culminated in the inclusion of people-centred land governance perspectives in the new constitution, including the prohibition of gender-based discrimination, as well as the provision of equal inheritance and property rights for both women and men. The joint-lobbying efforts of NES members Abhiyan Nepal and the National Land Rights Forum to include land related issues in the Constitution further sparked widespread policy debates, engaging over 2000 policymakers.

NES members and other stakeholders⁴ consider these provisions and their implied contextual changes as a moment of historical significance in the Nepalese land sector.

2019 LAND USE ACT

Officially endorsed by the Nepalese Government in 2019, the Land Use Act prompted a historic change in the classification of land, which now includes typological categories (from residential to wetlands), as well as tenure types (informal, formal, non-formal). The policy paves a foundation to provide land for agriculture, housing for the landless, as well as joint land-ownership certificates, which are of particular importance for securing women's land rights.

2 CSRC is a non-governmental organization seeking to empower the land-poor to claim and exercise their rights to access land resources. It has led the NES Platform on Land Governance since its formulation in 2011-2012.

3 CSRC spearheaded a petition with over 50 thousand signatures targeting CA members.

4 Based on previous interviews conducted through an external evaluation.



In order to gather concrete feedback regarding the draft bill, NES members, together with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation actively engage in periodic dialogues with a variety of stakeholders working on land, and further compliment these processes by conducting policy research with other ILC members and partners⁵. The research, as well as various consultations with communities and government agencies, serve to provide evidence-based recommendations to further lobbying efforts to endorse the Act.

2019 LAND POLICY

After a seven-year review process, the government of Nepal formally endorsed the Land Use Policy in 2019. *Regarded as a landmark policy towards the sustainable regulation, management, use, and governance of land resources in Nepal, it formally recognises the duty of the state in guaranteeing equitable benefits in sharing land and its resources*, as well as the sustainable use of land resources for development purposes.

CSRC, together with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative, and Poverty Alleviation, jointly organised a series of dialogues, community interactions and consultations to position the needs of marginalised populations at the centre of the policy formulation process. As a result, *the policy also provides provisions to ensure tenure security and ease of land access for landless residents in unregistered lands*.

CHANGES IN
POLICY
NEW NATIONAL
POLICY DOCUMENT
INCLUDES FOREST
COMMUNITY
RIGHTS

STRANGER –
VOICE AND
PLATFORM –

5 including UNHabitat, DANIDA HUGOU, and the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

CHANGING PRACTICES: PRACTICAL INTERVENTIONS AND ACTIONS FOR SECURING LAND RIGHTS

DECENTRALISATION OF LAND POLICY DIALOGUE IN NEPAL

NES membership grew from six members in 2012, to 27 in 2019, and includes ministries and state actors, such as the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation; Central Bureau of Statistics; National Planning Commission; Inter-Governmental Organisations; Non-Governmental Organisations; Civil Society Organisations; and donor networks working on land and natural resources. The platform operates in all seven of Nepal's provinces together with provincial and local governments⁶.

ILC and LGWG members actively promote the multi-stakeholder approach at local, national, and international levels. In 2019, the NES, in close coordination with Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives supported four provincial level⁷ multi-stakeholder land dialogues around the theme of *Land Policy Related Problems and Possible Solutions* to facilitate policy-making by provincial and local governments.

In addition, the NES supports three local governments (Municipalities of Dangisharan, Bhajani and Ramdhuni) in mapping the context of land and natural resources. In the Udaypur district, these exercises were conducted using the *Social Tenure Domain Model* in order to facilitate the distribution of identity cards to poor and landless families.

A key focus for NES Nepal members is the generation of data and evidence to inform policy formulation and amendments regarding the rights of land deprived communities and female farmers in particular. Over the past eight years, NES members have periodically conducted impact studies on joint land ownership and women's access to land; analyses and case studies on policy gaps; Indigenous People's land tenure; as well as land research pertaining to the management of natural resources and the agricultural sector.

The context mapping processes in particular exemplify *a major change in land governance practices; numerous stakeholders engaged with the LGWG, from local to provincial governments, have begun to work jointly on action plans, outlining common priorities.*

DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTING MODEL LAND LAWS AND ACTION PLANS FOR LOCAL, PROVINCIAL, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

The NES member College of Development Studies supported two local governments⁸ in preparing a model local Land Act and Action Plan, fed by data generated through action research⁹, and in light of the 2017 Local Government Act¹⁰.

As of 2019, two municipal governments have approved and implemented the model laws and action plans.

⁶ The LGWG has not been established in all seven provinces as of yet.

⁷ The Sudurpaschim Province; Karnali Province; Province 1 from the Eastern region; and Province 2 from Central Tarai.

⁸ Bhajani municipality of Kailali; Dangisharan Rural Municipality of Dang

⁹ Action research topics spanned: agrarian reform, land and forest tenure security, Indigenous peoples' land tenure practices, common property rights, land use and food security, and land management.

¹⁰ The Local Government Act specifies the roles, responsibilities, and author of Local Governments.



PRODUCING NATIONAL LAND GOVERNANCE DATA THROUGH THE GLOBAL LAND GOVERNANCE INDEX

The **Global Land Governance Index (LANDex)** is a people-centred tool for land monitoring. It is built on 33 common indicators – organised according to the ILC's 10 Commitments that generate comparable data according to a combination of people-generated, third party, and official data.

LANDex was piloted in Nepal between 2018 and 2019, a process that was led by NES Nepal and the Community Self-Reliance Center in particular. CSRC sought out diverse participation from local civil society organisations, inter-governmental organisations, research organisations and representatives from the private sector in implementing the people-based assessments in LANDex.

Several national and government institutions, such as the National Planning Commission, the Central Bureau of Statistics, as well as the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation have committed to include LANDex in national data collection processes, including the 2021 National Population Census and Agricultural Census.

LANDex results in Nepal highlight a series of important issues:

- » *Limited data on tenure rights* impedes the accurate portrayal of those living on indigenous or community lands.
- » *A lack of gender-disaggregated data* presents a major hindrance in understanding the extent to which this framework is implemented. *However, the laws governing the accessibility of land data are well-defined*, and good portions of the land registry are available despite the limitations in disaggregated data.

¹¹ While additional work on women's land rights has been done by the NES, this data is not adequately reflected in official census data and is therefore not present in LANDex (4b)

The implementation of LANDex in Nepal highlights lessons drawn from the contribution analysis- namely the multi-sectorial engagement in topics of land governance; the important work on women's land rights; as well as efforts towards inclusive decision-making processes.

The LANDex data and scores reflect a number of NES achievements. In terms of women's land rights indicator 4A11 measures the extent to which the legal framework on land is gender sensitive; the favourable score of 65.8 in part reflects the aforementioned 2015 Constitution that prohibits gender-based discrimination and includes provisions for equal inheritance.

The LANDex score for indicator 7A reflects the extent to which national laws call for the inclusion of both men and women in local decision making; in Nepal, mechanisms for public participation in land governance and multi-stakeholder engagement are strong, as reflected by the score of 83.3. Likewise, LANDex 7C, which measures the perceived levels of diversity in multi-stakeholder platforms – including women, youth, and customary rights holders among others- scored well, at 63.3.

STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF THE LANDLESS THROUGH LAND RIGHTS FORUMS AND TENANCY LAND RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS

NES Nepal members, particularly NLRf, CSRC, and Abhiyan Nepal, support Land Rights Forums working to unite landless peoples and strengthen their pleas against forced evictions and land grabs. Over 100 thousand agricultural workers, bonded labourers, and marginalised communities (including Dalits and Indigenous Peoples) united under the NLRf's provincial, district, and village-level land rights forums to strengthen their call for secure land rights.

The *NES Tenancy Rights Campaign* held 20 consultations with local communities with insecure land tenure- including peasants, tenants, informal and Ailani settlers¹², as well as village-block residents¹³. Through the 21-day Campaign, *963 families residing in Village Blocks received land ownership certificates*, while over 50.000 applications for land tenancy separation were filed in District Land Reform Offices.

12 Ailani land refers to the land not registered and remained beyond the radar of current land administration system. Ailani Settlers refers to the residents and/or operators of the unregistered land.

13 Districts: Nawalpur, Parasi, Rupandehi, Kapilpastu, Sunsari, Morang and Jhapa



GENDER JUSTICE

Despite women accounting for approximately 70 percent of the agricultural labour force in Nepal, their land ownership lags at an estimated 19 percent, in part due to a lack of legal land entitlement and the influence of customary and religious laws.

The NES Nepal works to empower women by securing their access to land and livelihoods, and most prominently through the promotion of joint-land ownership certificates.

JOINT-LAND OWNERSHIP

NES activities both promote and implement Joint Land Ownership (JLO) programmes, which have led to the *issuing of over 9490 joint land ownership certificates*. The NES members CSRC and NLRF *successfully lobbied the Nepalese government to accept the provisions regarding Joint Land Ownership, as well as financial concessions* to women registering land in their name.

To date, *eight local governments have incorporated JLO provisions in their policies*. Impact studies assessing the effectiveness of JLO policies and Women’s Land Entitlement conducted by the NES member College of Development Studies have further helped identify major shortcomings and implementation gaps.

NES members further work to strengthen the agency of landless and land poor women through leadership trainings and knowledge sharing. The NLRF and CSRC conduct joint trainings and capacity-building efforts on women’s empowerment- reinforcing women’s leadership roles in Nepal.

A STRENGTHENED CAPACITY FOR TRANSFORMATION: CONSOLIDATION OF A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM AND SHARED VISION

The cultivation and growth of a strong platform, alongside the formulation of the LGWG prompted by the NES, has allowed it to directly influence the priorities and programs of the Nepalese government relevant to people-centered land governance (PCLG). Such collaborations further guarantee that the PCLG principles enshrined in the new Constitution, among other recent land policies, remain a priority for policy makers at all levels. The engagement of prominent actors such as the government, combined with the growing competences of its diverse membership, are allowing the platform to harness a robust capacity for transformation.

TIMELINE AND THEORY



ONGOING



EQUAL LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

Assisting Land Ownership certifications and Joint-Land Ownership processes

Institutionalisation and democratisation of People's Organisations: Strengthening Land Rights Forums



TRANSPARENT AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

Research and Model land laws

Tenancy Land Rights Campaigns

2018



DIVERSE TENURE SYSTEMS

Interaction program to discuss pastoralist and rangeland issues



SECURE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Support to the high-level policy dialogue on indigenous peoples



INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING

Expansion of NES Nepal and Creation of a Multi-stakeholder platform called Land Governance Working Group (LGWG)

2019



INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING

Platform membership grows to 27 members



SECURE TENURE RIGHTS

Facilitating the Haliya with Government Rehabilitation Grants

2015-20



SECURE TENURE RIGHTS

Supporting policy formulation, amendments, and implementation (2015 constitution; Land Use Policy; National Land Policy, Food Rights Act, Land Use Act, Housing Rights Act, Land Act)

2012



SECURE TENURE RIGHTS

Creation of NES Nepal Multi-Stakeholder Platform

A mid-term review conducted by MDF outlines key achievements of NES Nepal for the 2010-2015 timeframe. It is available for viewing [here](#).

THEORY OF CHANGE

Since its formulation in 2012, the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Land Governance in Nepal has fostered partnerships and collaborations at local, regional, national, and international levels- bringing together diverse but complementary efforts, particularly between community-based organisations, government ministries, actors, policy-makers, and civil society organisations (Connect).

The platform facilitates informed and effective actions through accessible and applicable knowledge and tools by creating opportunities for innovation, piloting, and scaling up (Mobilise); and influences key decision-makers

to engage with civil society actors as legitimate and necessary interlocutors in achieving people-centred land governance (Influence).

The Theory of Change of NES Nepal rests on the assumptions that enhanced socio-economic conditions of the landless, land-poor, tenants and marginal peasant communities can be achieved by:

- » *Prioritising Advocacy for People-Centred Land Governance among Policy Makers* by strengthening relations between the government, civil society, development partners, and the private sector.

- » *Expanding Land Access and Ownership to Target Communities* by formalising informal land tenure and distributing or leasing land to the land-poor (including Dalits, Kamaiyas, Haliyas and women in particular).
- » *Formulating and Implementing People-Centred, Gender-Sensitive Land and Natural Resource Policies, Laws and Plans.*

The NES Nepal Contribution Analysis outlines and corroborates evidence of how the platform has made significant progress towards its strategic objectives, which include:

- » *Expansion of the multi-stakeholder platform* to influence and promote effective formulation of policies on land and related topics.
- » *Reviewing the current land reform context*, and scaling-up the awarding of land titles and joint land ownership for the poor and marginalised.
- » *Development and promotion of a national action plan* to implement relevant pro-poor land laws and related policies.

THE NEPALESE CONTEXT

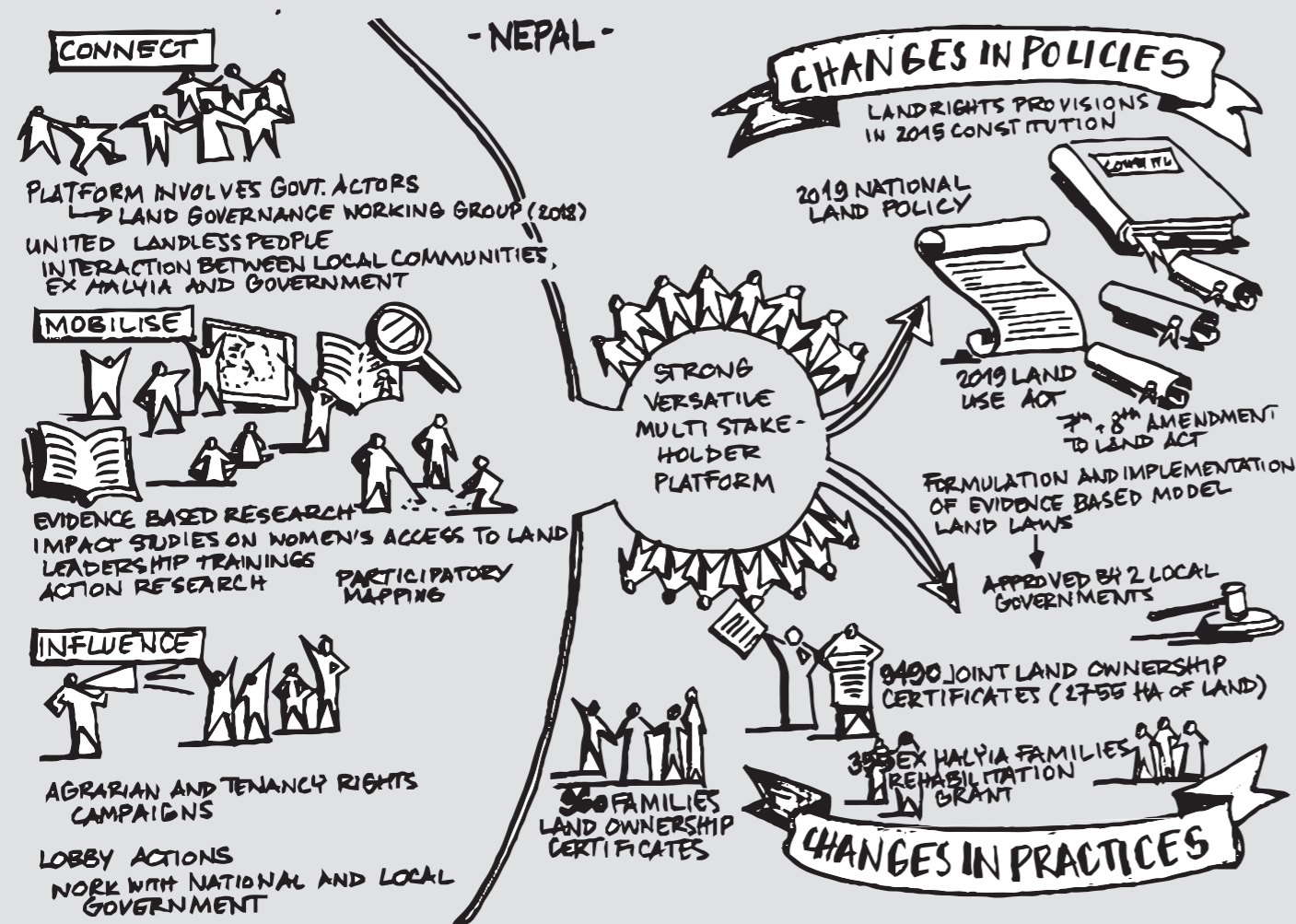
Land issues in Nepal are closely entwined with the country's social, economic, political, and cultural contexts. High levels of landlessness and inequality continue to prevail, and are largely attributed to the feudalistic land governance system. Unequal distribution and access to land and its resources (as well as their haphazard administration and utilization), combined with exploitative power structures and social injustices are heightening land tenure insecurity.

Populations residing in unregistered, public, and community lands lack legal land-titles and face the possibility of sudden forced eviction and land confiscation by the government or other powerful actors, such as political and business elites or local contractors.

Albeit control over productive resources such as land remains problematic and contributes to rising rural poverty rates, new laws are being formulated with pro-poor provisions and expected to resolve landless and informal settler issues.

The Nepalese government, together with international institutions and civil society organisations, have made sustained efforts to help resolve these problems. The newly formulated *National Land Policy* and the *Land Use Act of 2019* are setting the foundation for people-centred land governance in Nepal, while the 7th and 8th amendments to the Land Act seek to implement land ceilings; end dual land-ownership practiced as tenancy; provide land to landless and homeless Dalits; and to certify land titles to households residing on informal or non-formal land.

Yet despite the enactment of over 65 land-related policies and laws in the recent decades, the Nepalese land sector continues to face widespread issues. In order to realise people-centred land governance, numerous existing and novel legal provisions require immediate implementation.





ILC IN NEPAL

The International Land Coalition has six member organisations based in Nepal, all of which are active participants in the NES multi-stakeholder platform on land governance.

The Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC), a non-governmental organisation seeking to empower the land-poor to claim and exercise their rights to access land resources, has led the NES Platform on Land Governance since its formulation in 2011-2012. The ILC has endorsed CSRC's mandate for over since 2007, through the Land Rights and Livelihood Security Initiative.

Abhiyan Nepal works to empower impoverished, exploited, and discriminated individuals and communities through integrated development programs designed to create effective demands to claim land and resource rights.

College of Development Studies (CDS) builds the capacities of development workers for participatory development processes through skill-based education. CDS conducts research pertaining to the contemporary issues of development and sustainable livelihoods with a specific focus on land and natural resources.

Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP) conducts research to assist the landless and land-poor to gain access to and control over productive resources (including land) through participatory action research and policy analysis- uniting researchers, policy actors and practitioners in promoting evidence-based policies.

Community Self-Reliance Centre Nepal (CSRC) has facilitated land and agrarian rights campaigns in Nepal for over 27 years. CSRC educates, empowers, and organizes the landless, land poor, peasants, and marginalized communities by supporting community organisations and land defenders, improving livelihoods, and promoting land and agrarian rights to lead free, secure and dignified lives.

Mode Nepal is a non-political, non-profit, and non-governmental organisation dedicated to sustainable development fostering bottom-up planning, participatory approaches, and social equity.

National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) is a national association that unites, strengthens, and empowers the land-poor tenants, squatters, tillers, agricultural labourers, and small-holder farmers across Nepal. Through its provincial, district, and village land rights forums, NLRF seeks to enable the claiming and exercising of land rights to guarantee safe residence, social justice, and to ensure freedom from poverty and hunger.

KEY CHALLENGES

TRANSLATING COMMITMENT INTO PRACTICE

KEY CONSTRAINTS IN THE LAND GOVERNANCE SECTOR

Centralised land administration, a lack of legal knowledge, and powerful elites have blocked the implementation of the numerous approved policy and legal provisions, such as the implementation of land ceilings and Tenancy land separations (between tenants and land owners) as provisioned in the Land Act.

Furthermore, a lack of reliable and centralised data on land usage further complicates access to basic information on land use, typology, ownership, and transactions.

Other key issues include:

- » **Challenges in establishing a common understanding among related stakeholders regarding land use, management and governance:** the implementation of people-centred provisions for secure land tenure and rights depend on inter-and-intra ministerial coordination and cooperation. Whilst the Government endorses land and natural resource policies, key ministries and departments¹⁴ express conflicting views.
- » **Shortage of Financial and Human Resources:** The 761 newly established government units lack qualified employees and of financial resources needed to improve land management practices. This undermines the potential of the recent progressive constitutional provisions¹⁵.

14 Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC); Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI); Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD), Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT); Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) and Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA)

15 The recognition of land rights for informal settlers and indigenous communities; the categorization of land as per the Land Use Policy 2015, the National Land Policy 2019, and the Land Use Act 2019; the distribution of land to the landless, as per Article 40 (5,6) of the Constitution; the provision of secure and adequate housing for homeless people, as per Article 37.

LEARNED

FINDING A COMMON GROUND THROUGH DIALOGUE

As the NES unites numerous institutions and individuals with diverging views on land, it is important for members agree on common priorities. NES platform members identified a set of common priorities, which laid the foundation for a comprehensive and shared strategy.

FOSTERING TRUST AND SENSE OF OWNERSHIP FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & RECOGNITION OF NES CONTRIBUTIONS

The Nepalese government, local communities, and the civil society acknowledge the crucial role of the NES in the promotion of people-centred land governance in Nepal. Local and provincial governments are increasingly willing to work with the NES, while political parties are starting to join platform members in their advocacy for people-centred land governance.

WE COULDN'T DO IT ALONE!

The NES has consolidated linkages with other relevant actors and development partners working within the Nepalese land sector in order to promote complementary activities, knowledge sharing, and to avoid the duplication of efforts. The main actors involved in the Nepalese land sector include the following development partners: Oxfam, CARE Nepal, UNHABITAT, and the World Bank.

State Actors include
(* are NES platform members):

- » Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MOLMCPA)*
- » National Planning Commission (NPC) and Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)*
- » Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Cooperative and Natural Resources (PCACNR)
- » Provincial and local governments
- » Constitutional Commissions

Upon the invitation of national committees and bodies, NES members regularly participate in land-related debates, and serve as a key members of government commissions pertaining to the land sector.

The NES, through its member the *Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue*, partakes in the *Public Land Forum*, a district research and planning body. The Consortium also facilitates *Public Land Management Committees* in formulating guidelines for public land use and identification- further supporting multi-stakeholder dialogues between civil society organisations and government agencies. Similarly, NES members CDS and MODE Nepal jointly facilitate multi-stakeholder involvement through academic policy debates on land issues, while the NES host CSRC is a member of the *Right to Food Network and Programme on Women's Economic Social and Cultural Rights*.

MEET THE PLATFORM

NES Nepal brings together diverse but complementary efforts, particularly between the Nepalese government, IGOs, and civil society organisations. As of 2020, the platform comprises 27 members active across all seven of Nepal's provinces, with a particular focus on the Tarai Region.

Academia & Research

- » College of Development Studies (CDS)
- » Kathmandu University
- » Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP)

CSO/NGO

- » Centre for Social Development Research (CSDR)
- » Mahila Ekta Samaj
- » Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN)

Governmental

- » Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MOLMCPA)
- » Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)

ILC Member

- » MODE Nepal

Indigenous People's Organisation

- » Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)
- » Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP)

International NGO

- » CARE Nepal
- » Habitat for Humanity Nepal
- » Individuell Människohjälp Swedish Development Partner
- » Lutheran World Federation Nepal
- » Oxfam

Multilateral Organisation

- » World Bank

NGO

- » Abhiyan Nepal
- » ActionAid Nepal
- » Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC)

Peoples' Organisation

- » National Land Rights Forum (NLRf)

Think-tank

- » National Planning Commission (NPC)

UN Agency

- » Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- » International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- » International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- » UNHabitat

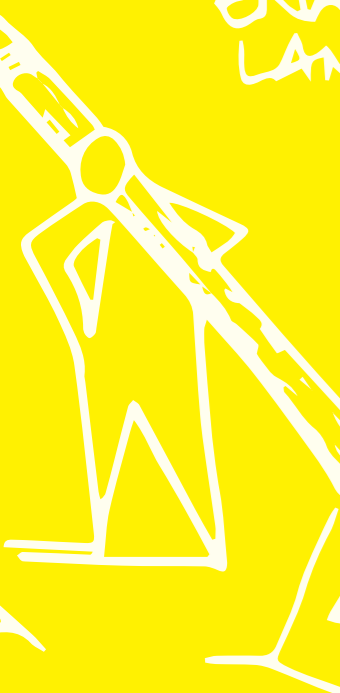


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STRATEGIC PARTERS AND CORE DONORS



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.

10 LAND BILLS
WITH GENDER
DIMENSION



ILC ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE c/o CIFOR

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MOBILISE



DISSEMINATION AND INTERPRETATION OF
POLICIES, AWARENESS RAISING, COMMUNITY
MEETINGS, TRAINING TRADITIONAL
LEADERS

INFLUENCE

