



GLOBAL LAND GOVERNANCE INDEX

Info Note

LANDex: Global Land Governance Index

May 2019

1. What is LANDex?

LANDex is a tool for people-centred land governance monitoring, developed in consultation with International Land Coalition (ILC) members and strategic partners.

People-Centred Data: Using common indicators and methodologies, LANDex promotes the inclusion of data from diverse sources, highlighting the people, communities and concerns often underrepresented in official numbers. While contributing to the growth and acceptance of a land data ecosystem, LANDex allows all stakeholders to contribute to land governance monitoring.

Contributing to Global Goals: LANDex tool evaluates how ILC is contributing to the realization of people-centred land governance while allowing members to contribute directly to the implementation and monitoring of global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs).

Data for Advocacy: LANDex is a visually attractive and accessible online tool, displaying fully searchable and downloadable data that can be displayed by indicator, commitment, or country. It will be made available to policy and change makers, the media and the general with the goal of generating narratives and powerful evidence-based advocacy based on people-centred data.

LANDex platform is slated for launch in March 2019.

2. What is the Rationale behind LANDex?

The ILC Roadmap for Implementation of the ILC Strategy 2016-2021 clearly stated the need for a tool that would enable country platforms to capture the shifting status of land governance with respect to the 10 Commitments of People-Centred Land Governance (PCLG).

Overcoming Fragmentation: The concept of such a tool was launched in 2016, during the “Land and the Data Revolution” event at the CIVICUS International Civil Society Week (ICSW) in Bogotá. Discussions centred on the important role of civil society in land monitoring and related advocacy efforts and resulted in a scoping paper.¹ A fundamental question emerged from these events: What could ILC do to

¹ Scoping Paper: Monitoring the Status of People-Centred Land Governance at Country Level, draft for workshop purposes, April 2016. Available from ILC Secretariat.

consolidate land monitoring efforts on the country level, particularly those addressing member commitments to PCLG?

The result was a proposal for a dashboard for People-Centred Land Governance Monitoring, the concept and development of which are described herein and in greater depth in the Concept Note. In formulating the proposal, a number of considerations were made.

Local Monitoring, Global Initiatives: First, that ILC has long worked to support a number of land governance of rights-oriented frameworks: the SDGs and VGGTs, but also those related to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII). LANDex would allow members to directly contribute to these frameworks, promoting additional indicators and an ecosystem of data sources.

Elevate Ongoing Member Work: In addition, ILC members are already engaged in diverse land monitoring initiatives. A preliminary survey identified more than 250 existing indicators within the network. Using the 10 Commitments to frame indicators and methodologies, LANDex would be able to draw on and amplify existing initiatives undertaken by ILC members. In turn, supporting tools and best practices could be replicated among the Coalition membership.

Leveraging People's Data: Finally, LANDex was designed to empower members to collect and use people-centred data. Indicators were defined in a consultative process and serve as a reflection of member priorities while data is collected in a participatory manner and rooted in existing multi-stakeholder platforms such as the National Engagement Strategy (NES). LANDex creates a platform for people-centred data that members can leverage for evidence-based advocacy.

3. LANDex Development and Design Process

LANDex was developed and designed based on an inclusive consultation process. An original indicator survey distributed to members – that identified more than 250 indicators within the network – became the basis for a long-list of indicators considered in the first global expert meeting held in Washington D.C. in March of 2017 (report [online](#)). Using a shortened list of indicators organized by ILC Commitment, regional consultations were launched.

Regional Consultations: The first consultation was held among Latin American and Caribbean experts in Lima in May 2017. A similar consultation among Asian experts took place in Bogor in August, while the Africa consultation was held in Addis Ababa in November, during the Conference on Land Policy in Africa. LANDex was presented at each of the ILC Regional Assemblies in Cameroon, Brazil and Kyrgyzstan that September in order to get feedback from the wider membership on the concept and preliminary indicators.

A bottom-up land monitoring tool: The consultative process resulted in a tool reflecting the inputs of all, grasping effective land governance issues from the bottom-up, as well as creating ownership of the tool and the indicators.

4. LANDex indicators, methodologies and data sources

LANDex uses ILC's 10 Commitments to frame indicators and methodologies.

Indicators – Three Levels: In consultations, indicators tended towards three categories per commitment for an approximate total of 30. In general, the indicators were as follows: A) legal indicators measuring presence or lack of a legal and institutional framework surrounding a land issue, B) implementation indicators measuring to what degree policies or programs established in such frameworks had been

implemented, and C) outcome, impact or perception-based indicators that measured the results of implemented projects or policies. Besides these core, standardised indicators, LANDex allows for a flexible approach by facilitating the integration of country specific indicators.

Four Methodologies: The aim of LANDex was not to reinvent the wheel but to collaborate with as many local, national, regional and global initiatives as possible. This allowed LANDex to align itself and upscale existing land monitoring initiatives. In general, LANDex employs four types of methodologies, which were dictated by the indicators themselves. They are i) a sample of expert-based assessments, drawing responses from a diversity of sectors, ii) calculation-based assessments, using official or best available data, iii) survey-based data, disaggregated from national survey data collected by partners such as PRIndex and Transparency International, iv) one LANDex indicator (10C) employs the crowd-sourced reporting of violations against land and environment defenders (LEDs), coordinated through the Defend the Defenders Coalition.

Diverse Data Sources: LANDex indicators contemplate diverse sources of data, which include but are not limited to administrative data, such as that found in official statistical publications, household surveys, expert assessments, and participatory, community-generated data. Broadening the sources of data used to fulfil the indicators, LANDex is able to offer a more nuanced understanding of the issues and prioritized people-centred data.

The final indicators and methodologies can be found online in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

4. Promoting Broad-Based Contribution

LANDex is a tool, to be used by all stakeholders in the land sector.

Implementation via Existing Platforms: The tool will be progressively made available to all ILC members through National Engagement Strategies (NES), which is the natural point of entry for LANDex. In countries where other multistakeholder platforms exist or have already merged with the NES, these can be used as a means to organize data collection.

Methodologies Available to All: LANDex methodologies have been made publicly available to organizations and initiatives eager to test and use the tool for the purpose of their own land monitoring exercises. In its first year of operation, several Commitment-Based Initiatives (CBIs), regional organizations (IPDRS – Bolivia) and regional initiatives (multi-country Caribbean Strategy) have requested trainings to begin implementing the tool.

Building Capacity for Expansion: Currently, ILC is in the process of developing a training package and implementation guide that will facilitate the uptake and up scaling of LANDex across the ILC membership and to any non-member who wishes to use LANDex as a land governance monitoring tool.

5. Products and Use of the LANDex – The development of a Global Land Governance Index

Data for Advocacy: LANDex will be a visually attractive and accessible online tool, displaying fully searchable and downloadable data that can be displayed by indicator, commitment, or country. It will be made available to policy and change makers, the media and the general with the goal of generating narratives and powerful evidence-based advocacy based on people-centred data.

Land Governance Indices: The data will be used to produce a Land Governance Indices at national global as well as at Commitment level. These indices will allow to monitor progress over time and/or compare evolutions between countries.

6. Global and Strategic Links

Aside from measuring Coalition progress towards the 10 Commitments of people-centred land governance, LANDex is uniquely positioned to forge connections across local, regional and global land monitoring initiatives, aggregating locally-generated data that is comparable on a global scale.

Local to Global Partnerships for Data Generation: As several of the methodologies used in LANDex are derived from ongoing global initiatives, data collected locally by ILC members will gain visibility as part of a global dataset; methodologies developed in coordination with Transparency International, ActionAid, and LandMark are such examples. Likewise, these global partners will be able to glean context-specific, people-centred insights from data collected by members on the ground.

Links to Development Frameworks: In addition to being used to evaluate how ILC is contributing to the realization of people-centred land governance, several LANDex indicators are aligned with global land frameworks and related monitoring initiatives: the SDGs, VGGTs, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII), among others. LANDex is ILC's main contribution to the implementation of global land monitoring frameworks.

Alignment with Global Indicators: Of the 33 LANDex indicators, 20 correspond to an SDG target or indicator, 20 correspond to principles of the VGGTs, 14 correspond to the F&G and MELA indicators, 8 correspond to GLII indicators, 7 correspond to Land Matrix variables, 4 correspond to UNDRIP and CBD indicators.

7. 2018 Pilots and Next Steps

The full LANDex tool has been piloted in Senegal, Nepal and Colombia, with full expansion to all NES countries anticipated for 2021.

Technical Training and Political Launch: In each of the 2018 pilot countries, a multi-day technical training was held for LANDex lead organizations coordinating in-country implementation – IPAR in Senegal, CSRC in Nepal, and Javeriana University in Colombia. In each scenario, NES facilitators played a central role. On the heels of these training sessions, broader political launches were organized in Dakar, Kathmandu and Bogotá. These events, which included diverse participation from government offices, civil society organizations, research institutes and representatives from the private sector, were intended to familiarize key actors with LANDex, engaging them while building buy-in from all sectors.

Preliminary Data: By March 2019, preliminary data had already been collected for most of LANDex indicators in each country. A full set of pilot data expected to be ready for a soft launch and analysis in March 2019, when the online LANDex platform will go live.

Global Ambitions, 2019-2021: In the coming triennial, LANDex has big ambitions. After a period of reflection with pilot teams in Nepal, Senegal and Colombia in 2019, the global LANDex team will integrate suggested improvements and modifications to the tool before expanding to additional countries. The 2019 expansion phase will roll out in step with the NES cycle. Thirteen countries that are either renewing or initiating their National Engagement Strategy in 2019 will fully implement LANDex, while trainings for all ILC members will be held in all major ILC regions. In 2020, the same process will be repeated. By 2021, all 35 NES countries will have implemented the full set of LANDex indicators, populating a global land index that will measure progress towards people-centred land governance in all countries where ILC works.