



# #LandRightsNow

## The Global Call to Action on Indigenous & Community Land Rights

### How to get involved in the Global Call to Action and help safeguard Indigenous Peoples and local communities' land rights

One way or another, you may have heard about the Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights. Here you can learn more about the Call, as well as how and why to get involved.

#### What is the Global Call to Action?

The Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights is a **worldwide campaign** with the aim to double the global area of land legally recognized as owned or controlled by Indigenous Peoples and local communities by 2020.

The Global Call is **a response to** the global crisis and momentum around the issue of securing land rights. Building on the efforts of existing networks and organizations, it aims to draw attention to collective actions around the world and seeks to **make Indigenous Peoples and local communities land rights a global priority by uniting and adding value to amplify those efforts.**

The Global Call to Action offers participants an opportunity to build and expand collaborations, commitments and investments for strengthening land rights from local to global in order to meet the Call's goal.

## The Goal

The overall goal of the Global Call to Action is to secure all Indigenous and community land rights everywhere.

Our first target is **'to double the global area of land legally recognized as owned or controlled by Indigenous Peoples and local communities by 2020'**.

A baseline is set for measuring and tracking progress made by governments towards the target set per country.<sup>1</sup> Progress is measured at national levels through the website [www.landrightsnow.org](http://www.landrightsnow.org). Actions in support of this goal can also be monitored, shared and measured through the website.

To achieve its Goal, the campaign aims to mobilize organizations, communities, movements and individuals towards policy change and implementation by governments, multilateral institutions and the private sector (the change we want: <http://landrightsnow.org/policy-asks/>). We will give visibility to actions, and aim to highlight progress made as a result, supporting where we can, and raising awareness when things go wrong.

## Why a Global Call to Action

**To eradicate poverty and hunger.** At least 1.5 billion people, including 370 million Indigenous people, depend on lands and natural resources that are held, used or managed collectively. Their rights to those resources are under threat, with only an estimated 18% formally recognized as owned or controlled by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This leaves 1/5 of the world's population vulnerable to pressures from more powerful actors. More broadly, societies that have insecure land rights have fewer opportunities to enjoy prosperity and achieve sustainable development.

**To protect the environment and fight climate change.** The forests, rangelands, mountains, wetlands, and lakes governed as collective resources by Indigenous Peoples and local communities are biodiversity hotspots that regulate water flows, sequester carbon and maintain the ecological balance of our planet. Because we all benefit, we should all protect and defend those peoples and customary institutions that have preserved these ecosystems for centuries.

**To build a world of justice where human rights are protected for all.** Collective land rights are an essential condition for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to enjoy human rights, and uphold cultural diversity. The reality is that even just speaking out to defend land and environmental rights puts people in danger of being forced from their homes, threatened and even killed. We envision a world where all women and men, peoples and communities have the right to shape their own destiny without fear or intimidation.

## Why Now

The widespread and enduring lack of clarity and recognition of the collective land and resource rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities has become a global crisis, sparking social conflict and undermining international plans to curb poverty, hunger and climate change.

The recently adopted Global Goals include a commitment, in the first goal, to end poverty, of ensuring that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to

ownership and control over land by 2030. This includes also Indigenous Peoples and local communities that enjoy collective rights.

## Why get involved in the Call

The Global Call to Action supports those participating in the Call by:

- 1) Offering platforms for **dialogue and collaboration** to work towards global, regional and national policy changes;
- 2) Sharing **communications and information** to show the wider benefits of recognizing and securing community land rights;
- 3) Providing **technical tools, data and documentation** to, for instance, show the status of community land rights or convey best practices in tenure recognition;
- 4) Enabling global **mobilization and coordination**, such as through communications and activities organized by the co-conveners and Steering Group; and
- 5) Supporting country-level mobilization to target specific policy and legal contexts.

The time to mobilise is now – let's build a global movement to call for the recognition of and respect for indigenous and community land rights now!

## How to get involved in the Call

The Campaign creates space for all committed organisations, governments, and individuals to promote Indigenous Peoples and community land rights.

Visit the website [www.landrightsnow.org](http://www.landrightsnow.org), where you can:

- Sign up for regular updates
- Have your organisation, movement or community publicly support the Call (listing on webpage)
- As a government representative, express a commitment towards supporting the Call and contributing to the target with concrete actions
- Be part of the global launch (planned for March 2016)
- Be inspired by the actions of others under the Call
- Learn about and join actions or events at national level organized under the banner of the Call
- Share information about events or actions you wish to be associated with the Call (for instance, if your organisation holds an event, or releases a statement, they can be submitted for publishing on the website)
- Read stories about the issues and some of the leaders involved in the Call
- Contact the coordinators of the call with specific questions

Your help is needed to build a global movement and solidarity across continents!

Be a social media champion

- Use the hashtag “#LandRightsNow”. It will be automatically included in the website's newsfeed, and contribute to the digital Campaign. We will use this hashtag particularly leading up to and during big events.

## Strategy and Theory of Change

The overall strategy and Theory of Change for the Global Call to Action is to bring about **changes that enable and support the recognition, implementation, and upholding of Indigenous and local communities' land rights at the national level which is where such rights and tenure governance institutions are determined**. All the strategies of the Global Call to Action are based on **adding value to the activities already being undertaken by different organizations at all scales, and using these to pressure and mobilize for real change on the ground**. Ultimately, the Global Call to Action seeks to provide a platform for enhancing collaboration, communication, and mobilization in ways that build on the ongoing efforts of a wide variety of actors around the world.

### How will the Call turn words into action?

**Solidarity and support:** The aim of the campaign is to stimulate and generate solidarity and support for national movements that work on advancing community land rights at national and community levels.

**Pre-launch:** to mobilize early support for the Call to Action, **a public website** has been launched to invite organisations, governments, individuals and others to signal their interest in being part of, or (publicly) supporting, the Call to Action. Early mobilization in combination with ongoing recruitment to – and promotion of – the Call to Action are prerequisite to a successful campaign launch. Participation in the Call is promoted by **a guide to involvement**, as well as a strategic communications campaign to stimulate recruitment – online, on key dates and during relevant events.

**Launch:** The Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights will start with the **launch of a flagship report** by ILC, RRI and Oxfam in early 2016. The **report** will make a persuasive case for a global strengthening of Indigenous and community land rights, and will accompany the launch of the call for a significant increase of land under Indigenous and/or community tenure by 2020. It is expected that the launch will be supported by events in several countries where the struggle to strengthen Indigenous and community land rights is a priority. A toolkit to support activities around the launch, and containing additional materials about the Call, will be developed prior to launch.

**After the launch:** Following the launch, efforts will be made to link the campaign to specific national-level efforts and opportunities that have been identified over the course of the pre-launching phase, based on the inputs of the Steering Group and the feedback and enthusiastic responses received from signatories to the Call. The exact nature of this national-level reach will be determined through discussions with relevant partners.

**Steering the Call:** The Steering Group of the Call, which brings together organisations and experts deeply involved in the struggle to strengthen Indigenous and community land rights, will guide the plans around the call in terms of global level activities (including communications and work to monitor progress toward the target), and efforts to highlight and, where appropriate, support national and community level efforts linked to the Call.

## Type of Participation in the Call to Action

1) Participants in the Call - organizations, communities, movements and individuals that support the call, join in carrying out actions which are associated with the broad goals of the Call and participate in events designed to strengthen global solidarity, coordination, and joint action. Organizations can learn about getting involved in the Call to Action and signing up via the Call's website: [www.landrightsnow.org](http://www.landrightsnow.org);

2) Steering Group brings together key constituencies - such as Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women - with land tenure experts, practitioners and policy makers to guide the Call to Action. Members include the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), The Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba), Instituto del Bien Común (IBC), Centre for Environment and Development (CED), Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN), Global Alliance for Community Forestry (GCAF), Namati, and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Land and Equity Movement in Uganda (LEMU).

3) Co-Conveners - Rights and Resources Initiative, International Land Coalition, and Oxfam, have taken on the responsibility for facilitating the development of the Call to Action.

## Online presence and Contact details

Website: [www.landrightsnow.org](http://www.landrightsnow.org)

Follow us on twitter: @Global\_Call\_

Hashtag: #landrightsnow

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<sup>1</sup> Rights and Resources Institute has set a baseline to measure results for the Global Call to Action, September 2015, and is available through: [http://www.rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Global-Baseline\\_web.pdf](http://www.rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Global-Baseline_web.pdf)