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## **Land Governance Responses to Climate Change, Desertification and Land Degradation**

### **Opportunities LAND Partnerships for Action and Informed Dialogues**

- Part I . The International Land Coalition
- Part II. Climate Change, Desertification and Land Degradation
- Part III. Land Governance Response Options
- Part IV. Update on LAND Partnerships



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## Part 1

# The International Land Coalition

# A Global alliance for improved pro-poor land governance

- A **global alliance** of international organisations, farmers' organisations, research institutes, NGOs and INGOs
- **83** institutional members
- **Mission:** *Promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men*
- **Approach:**
  - *Advocacy*
  - *Dialogue*
  - *Capacity building*
- **Strategic focus:**
  - Improving **land governance** (access to land, tenure security)
  - The **rural poor** (men and women)

# Poverty in the ILC agenda

- ILC was established as a result of the 1995 Conference on **Hunger** and **Poverty**: the **Popular Coalition to *Eradicate Hunger and Poverty***
- The PCEHP became the **International Land Coalition** in 2003
- → The **Linkage** between **Land governance** (secure access to land) and **poverty** at the root of the establishment of the ILC

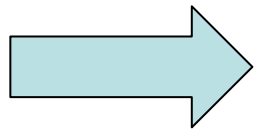
## **Why Poverty? *A predominantly rural phenomenon***

- It is estimated that 75% of the poor, hungry people live in rural areas (2008 WRR)
- Incidence of poverty in rural areas:
  - In **Sub-Saharan Africa** 51% of the rural population are poor
  - In **South-East Asia** 40% of the rural population is poor

# Why poverty? *Close linkages between land access, tenure security and poverty*

## Profile of rural the poor:

- 62% **smallholders**
- 25% **landless**
- 13% **pastoralists, forest dwellers and fisherfolk**



Securing land rights for the poor men and women helps combat poverty in rural areas and globally



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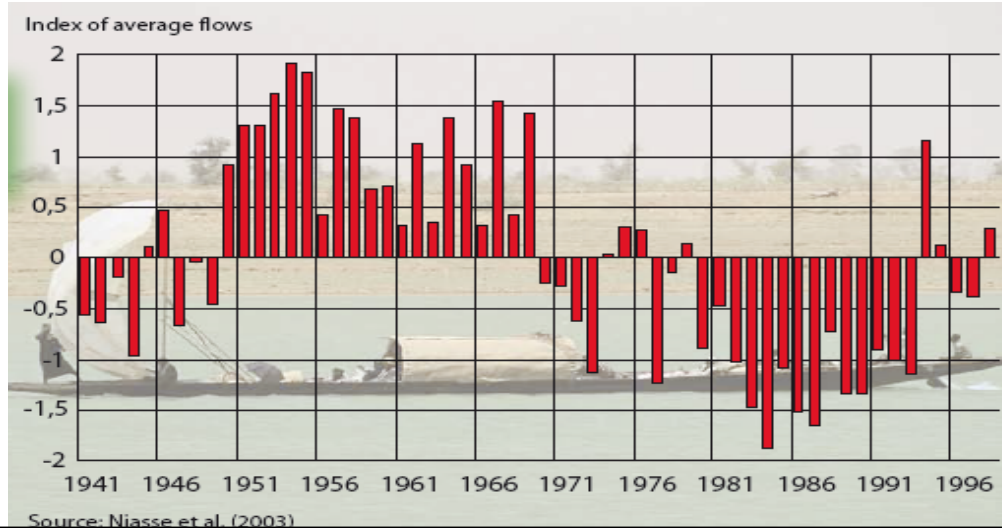
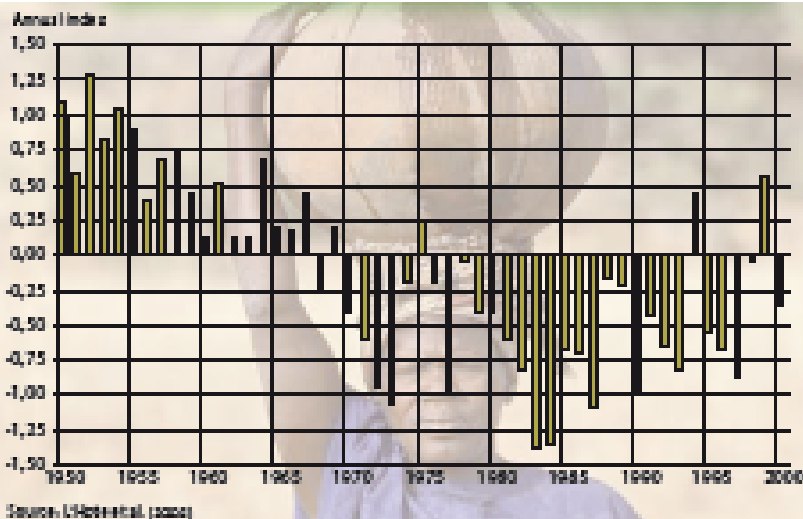
# Part 2

# Climate Change, Desertification and Land Degradation

# Impacts on CC-CV on land – experience of the Sahel

*10 à 30% decrease in avg annual rainfall since 1970s*

*40 à 60% decrease in avg discharge of major rivers*



Trends in rainfall in the Sahel (1950-2000)

Trends in annual river discharge – Niger River at Niamey (1950-2000)

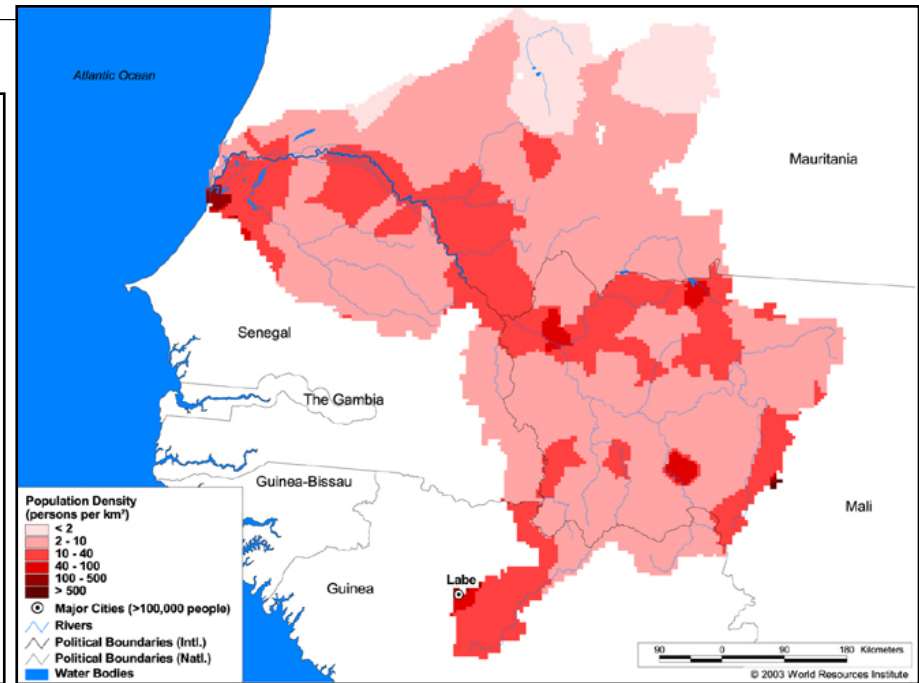
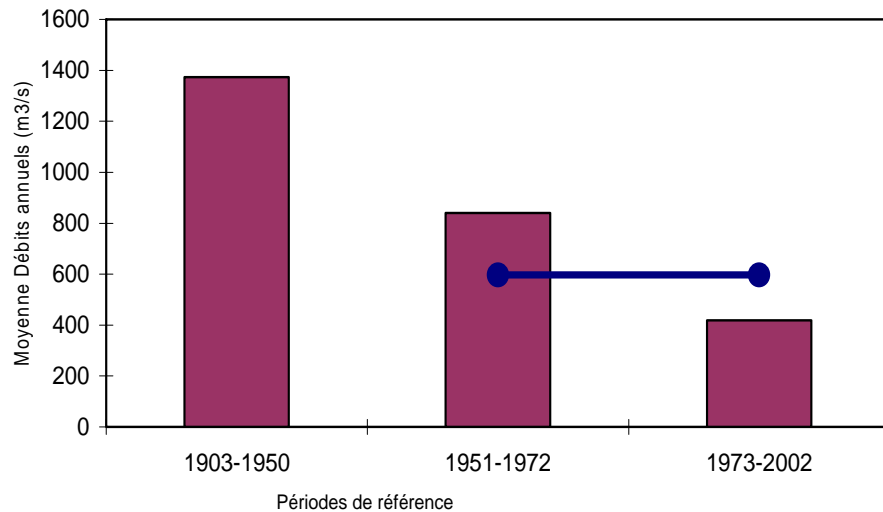
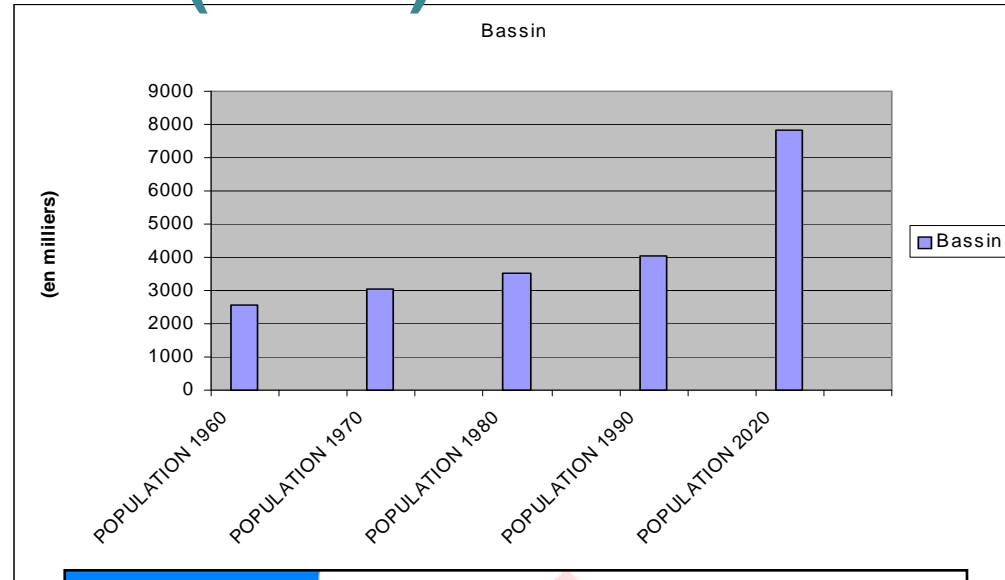


# Impacts on CC-CV on land – experience of the Senegal basin (Sahel)

## Decreased water availability, increased population pressure

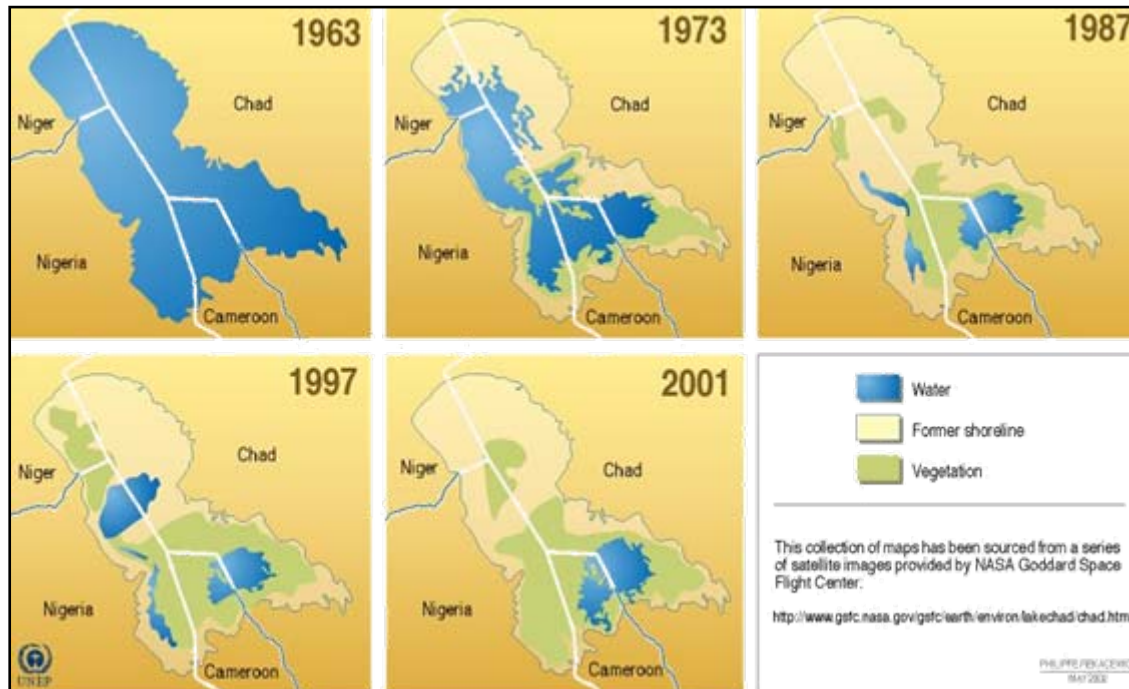
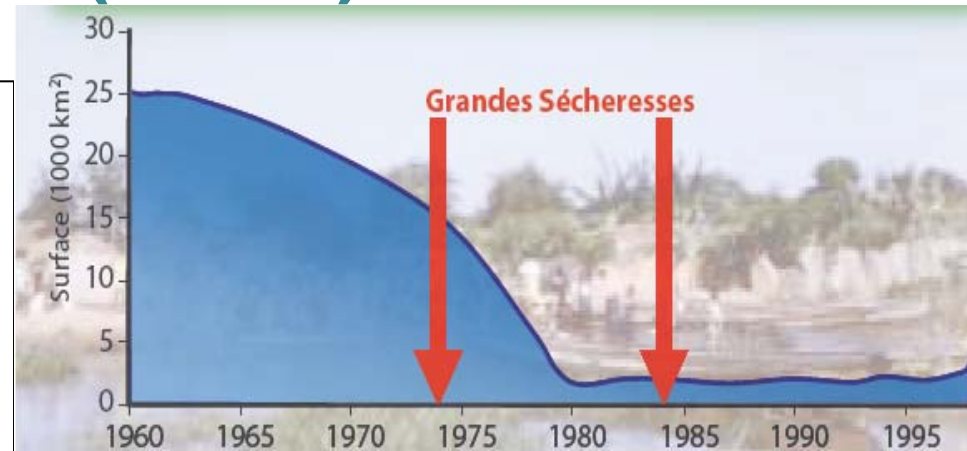
Mean river discharge decreased 50% betwen: 1900-1950 and 1951-2002 and 50% again between 1972 – 2002 and 1951-71

Avg annual discharge in 1972-2002 : **25%** of the 1900-1950 ag!



# Impacts on CC-CV on land – experience of Lake Chad (Sahel)

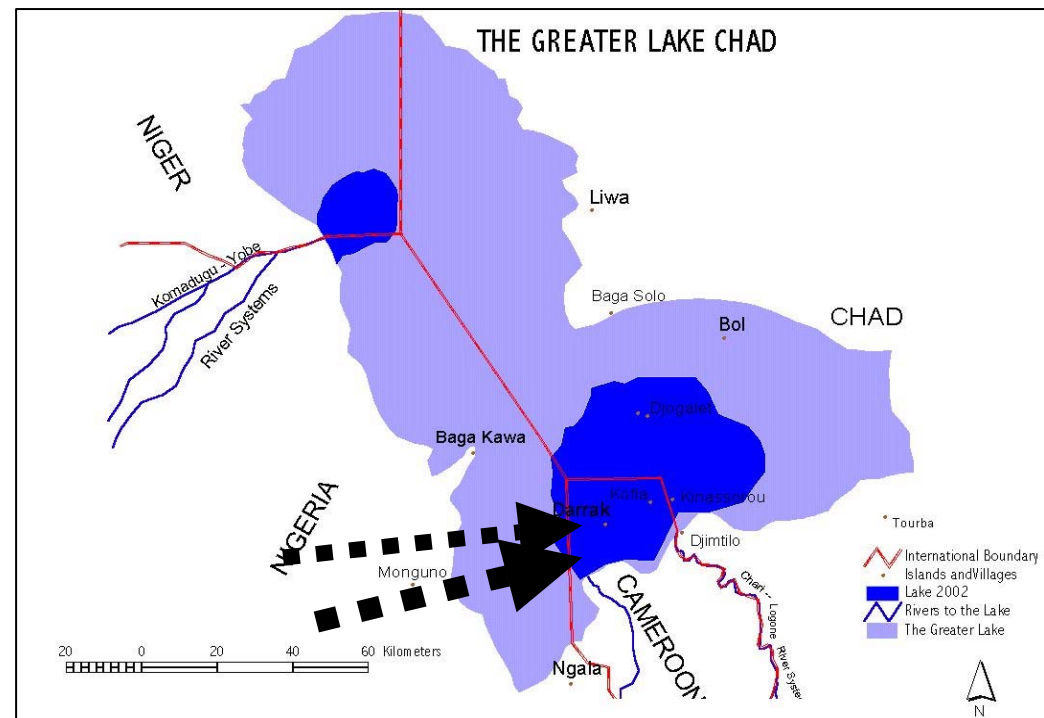
- Avg max flooded area of Lake Chad decreased from 37,000 Km<sup>2</sup> to 25,000 in 1960 and then to 2000 Km<sup>2</sup> today
- Splitting of the Lac Chad; with only southern part now perennial



# Impacts on CC-CV on land – experience of Lake Chad (Sahel)

*Irrigation scheme in **Maiduguri** : The **67,000 ha** Southern Chad Irrigation Project (SCIP) now abandoned. Land Rights?*

**Fisher people:** Since the mid-1980s, fishermen from Nigeria following the receding lake. Ended up settling in the Cameroon territory → Border dispute Cameroon-Nigeria.



Migrations of Nigerian fishermen to Cameroon

# Extent of land degradation

- Land degradation (soil erosion, nutrient depletion, water scarcity, salinity and disruption of biological cycles) a **fundamental problem** affecting:
  - Productivity
  - Biodiversity and other ecosystem services
  - Contributes to climate change
  - Mutually reinforcing with poverty

**GLADA (2008): Land degradation affects 24% of the global land area**

**UNCCD estimates that 70% of dryland ecosystems are degraded (3.6 billion ha)**



# Degradation arable land

Between **20%** (GLADA, 2008) and **40%** (IIASA, 2002) of the world's arable land degraded to some degree (IIASA, 2002). Many of the most degraded soils are in poor countries (IIASA, op. cit)

- Each year more than **20 million ha** are degraded to the point that crop production becomes uneconomic
- Each year **6 million** ha of land irreversibly lost for food production (UNEP, 2006)
- Land degradation have severe poverty implications.



# Implications for land governance and ILC

-- Compare with current global concerns on other pressures on land like biofuels and Direct Foreign Investments on Land (with large-scale land acquisitions):

DAEWO/Madagascar: 1.3 million ha (25% of land irreversibly lost annually)

Estimates of current deals: 20 million ha (IFPRI): amount of land becoming uneconomically viable for crop prod each year!

***CC-CV/LD: world's major but often unnoticed “land grabber”***

- Efforts to promote land access/tenure security cannot ignore the **rapid deterioration of the ecological functions and productive capacity of the land**





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# **Part 3**

## **Land Governance response options to the challenges of CC, DLDD**

# Linking land governance & Land degradation – from discourse to action?

- Today **broad recognition of the need to improve land governance** (land access, tenure security) in efforts to respond to climate change, DLDD and poverty (e.g. in list of CSD17 “Key messages and agreed actions” reference is explicitly made to Land tenure 7-10 times).
- Typically LG & Tenure de-linked from actual efforts to address CC, DLDD (including SLM)
- Why?
  - Land governance **benefits** in terms of sustainable management of NR, productivity gains, equity and poverty reduction are assumed, stated but **rarely clearly verified, documented.**
  - **Complexity of the relationship LG vs sustainable land management** (many other factors affect the relations)
  - **Politically sensitive** issue
  - **Lack of knowledge** on what can concretely be done (good practices where they exist tend to be context-specific)



# Opportunities for Action – Access to secure land rights as incentive for SLM

## Underlying rationale :

Land tenure security → investments in long term land/soil improvements → increased production → decreased poverty (common sense paradigm).

*People are more likely to invest in good management of their resources if they have clear use rights and security against eviction*

## Possible actions:

- Ensuring land access for landless farmers (through redistributive reforms and others), while :
  - Promoting sustainable land use practices among new land owners
  - Documenting the impacts of changes in land access and tenure security
  - ILC's advocacy work has helped hundreds, thousands of farmers have access to land, but impacts of land access typically not documented (exception of CSRC Nepal)



# Opportunities for Action – Investing in SML to achieve tenure security

- Underlying rationale: Observed cases where Land tenure insecurity → investments aimed at long term improvements of the land (tree planting, wells, windbreaks.) → de facto recognition of land tenure ownership → tenure security (Sjaastad & Bromley. 1997; Lund. Nd)
- Relationship between **ownership** and **investment** rather **interactive** (Berry, 2009)

## Possible actions

- Promote sustainable investments on land as a means of achieving land tenure security, especially in contexts where the tenure security is not provided under statutory law. (experience gained in forestry – tree planting)

# Opportunities for Action – Promoting land access for the poor in reclaimed degraded land

## Underlying rationale:

Land degradation → weakening of tenure rights → allocation of the land to the poor and landless (including women) → investments aimed at land reclamation → tenure security → sustained investments and increased productivity (

## Possible actions:

- Scale up environmentally and socio-economically appropriate approaches to land reclamation (e.g. ICRISAT bio-reclamation experiences)
- Ensure equitable access to reclaimed land (esp. land-less and traditionally marginalised groups)
- As complementary measures: Support to new land owners in adoption of SLM practices
- **In Indonesia**, DFID helped poor people access unused and deteriorated state land for agro-forestry activities, which helped reverse both poverty and environmental decline (DFID, 2007)

# Benefits of suggested response options

- **Contribute to reversal of land degradation/soil erosion**
- **Contribute to food security**
- **More equity in land access and in distribution of wealth**
- **Tenure security**
- **Reduction of rural poverty**
- **Greater resilience in context of CC-CV, Desertification**
- **Climate mitigation**
- **For Africa:**
  - **Sustainable Green Revolution**
  - **Sustainable agr production**
  - **Protection of the land rights of communities and especially the rural**
  - **Promotes women's access to land**

# Implications for ILC?

- While pursuing its advocacy work on the need for land reform, improved land governance, there is need to consider “land access/tenure security” as means to and end: combating poverty through SLM
- **Complexity of actions** requires:
  - ILC to mobilise optimally its **members active in the field** and **build partnerships with organisations with complementary interests, expertise, experience.**
  - **Plan pilot experiences** in various country and regional settings (link with **LAND Partnership**)
- **A Side Event at UNCCD- COP as starting point for building partnerships for action**
- **Implications for CSD – Fostering partnerships for action**



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# Part 4

# LAND Partnership Programme

# Land Alliance for National Development L.A.N.D.-Partnership Programme

A global initiative to reduce rural poverty by strengthening country-level collaboration between state, civil society, bilateral and international stakeholders. Collaboration needed to:

- a) Achieve participatory dialogue
- b) Improve policy formulation
- c) Establish joint action to secure resource tenure for households with user rights
- d) Increase access to land by the landless and the near landless

## EVOLUTION of the LAND PARTNERSHIP within ILC



## AFRICA

Benin  
DR Congo  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Niger  
South Africa  
Uganda  
Zambia

## ASIA

Bangladesh  
Cambodia  
India  
Indonesia  
Nepal  
Philippines

## LATIN AMERICA

Bolivia  
Guatemala  
Honduras  
Peru

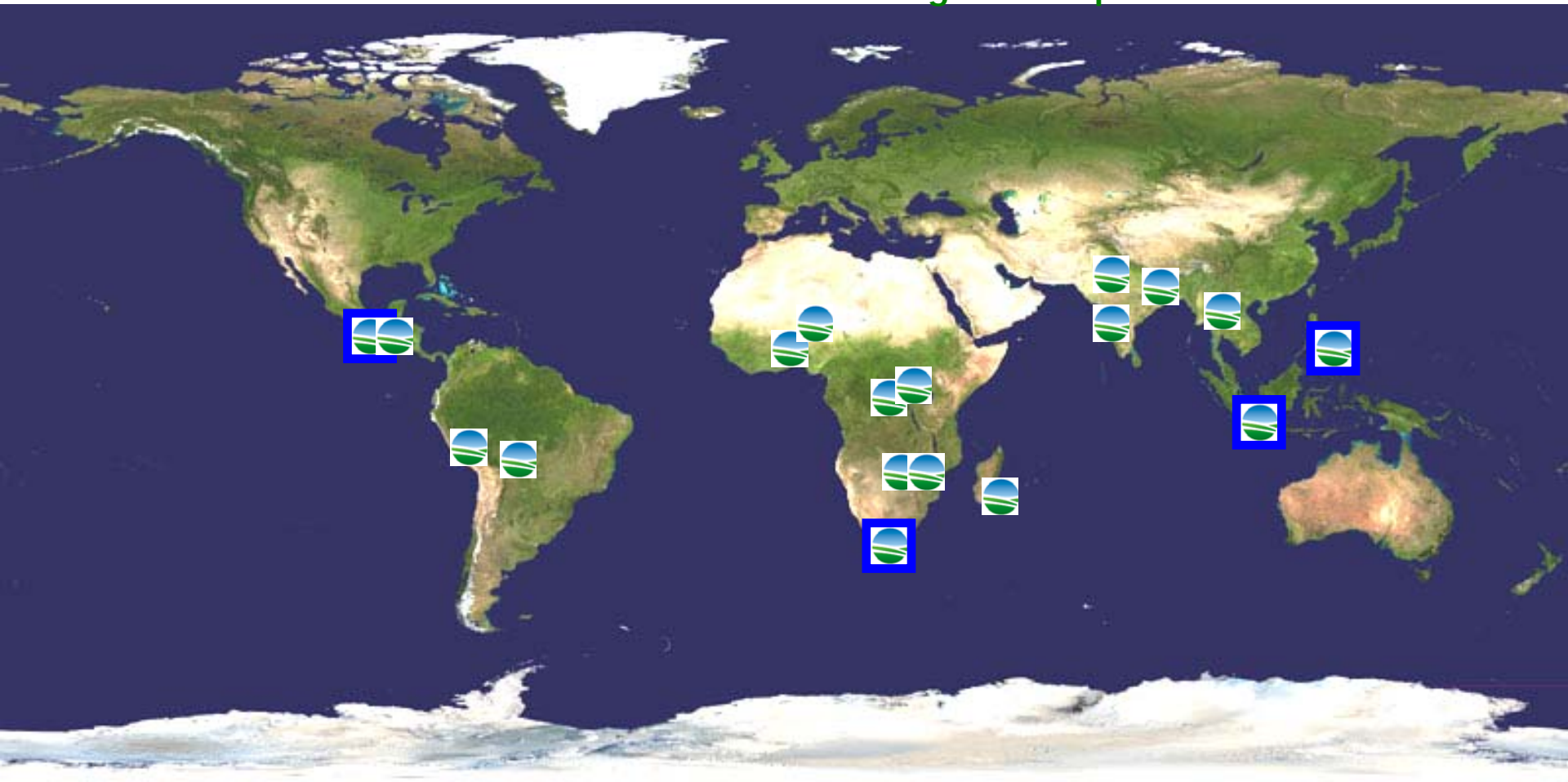
**Tot amount: 1.215.500 USD**

**Funders:** Gov of the Netherlands, Belgian Survival Fund, Swiss Development Cooperation

**N. of Countries: 18**

**N. of grant recipient CSO: 19**

**N. of grant recipient IGO: 1**







From  
**LAND**  
Partnership  
to  
**LAND**  
**WATCH**

National chapter

An ILC case study of support to  
National policy dialogue in

**THE PHILIPPINES**

# Philippines LAND Partnership

## Action/Issues

## ACHIEVEMENTS

## Relevant Processes

2003/2004

- **JOINT MAPPING STUDY** of Land Policy Issues
- NATIONAL MEETINGS and roundtable discussions (on findings)
- Inter-sectoral and Multistakeholder discussions

**In 2003 LAND PARTNERSHIP Protocol (GOV/CSO)**

Farmers/ Indigenous Peoples  
**JOINT STATEMENT**

Draft memorandum order on establishing a **TASK FORCE** on conflicts (with the lead Of Gov agency NAPC)

Increased **understanding** nature of conflicts

**Broader alliance of CSOs**

Working environment on conflicts between IPs and farmers now used to tackle other five land issues originally identified

Mapping study process allowed for participating institutions to periodically review data

Generating Capacity of rural Constituencies allowed to use their Better understanding of their Respective claims as a basis for Building alliances

Joint declaration put element of pressure on gov in terms of seeking consensual solutions to land conflicts.

The idea of using sectoral expertise for Pushing intersectoral approach to land conflict based on dialogue was appreciated by local private foundations.

The LAND Partnership protocol used to Push national gov. to honour commitments and encouraged CSOs to commit to deliverables (appreciated by gov).

ISSUE SELECTED: **LAND CONFLICTS between IPs and Migrant FARMERS**

2005/2006

- Meetings between IPs and farmers group
- Service providers meeting, IPs org. roundtable
- Pilot concrete partnership initiatives in two areas
- **NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS**

# Philippines LAND WATCH

2008

Elaboration of a country study (as part of the LAND WATCH regional campaign)



Elaboration of Land Watch Philippines Strategy



*AR Now!*

2009

Joint National Campaigns for the Extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme and for an Effective National Land Use Act.



- 1) Members engagement in the lobby work and technical working group that consolidated the House and Senate versions
- 1) Acting as consultants and technical staff during the Bicameral Conference Meeting
- 1) Mobilisation support, co-leading and networking on the activities of the Sumilao-Banasi Calatagan farmers in their three phase campaigns to press for the CARPER
- 1) Participation in the Church-led initiatives to push for CARPER
- 1) Drafting of the position paper



## ACHIEVEMENTS

**In 2008** a country study is elaborated and used as coalition building and advocacy tool

**In 2008** 25 organisations sign the LAND WATCH Philippines strategy

**In 2009** the LAND WATCH Philippines Campaign contributed to the enactment of the bill for the extension of the land Reform programme (CARPER)

# Lessons learnt in action

- 1) Rather than creating mechanism for dialogue, the approach should be framed as “**strengthening existing opportunities for dialogue**”
- 2) Challenge for ILC to be a “**neutral broker**”, including in **instances of risks of human rights violation**
- 3) **CSO need to be empowered** to play a key role in dialogue processes (which led to LAND Watch processes)
- 4) Land Partnerships needs to be based on **evidence (increased role needed for academic and research institutions)**
- 5) **Government’s involvement** will depending on the extent to which dialogue processes are perceived to contribute to **solving priority development problems** (see presentation – from discourse to action)
- 6) Need to anchor the dialogues to structures instead of individuals
- 7) a more meaningful involvement of IGOs can improve the credibility of dialogue processes, and could help bring on board the private sector

# Implications for the future

- **Generating more evidence to support dialogues**
- **linking LAND Partnerships with pilot actions aimed at responding to poverty challenges through improved governance**
- **engaging with IGOs**
- **mobilising research academic institutions**
- **dialogues to be co-facilitated with other credible CSO, Government and IGO institutions**
- **Capacity building for CSO as an integral part of LAND partnerships**

## A Farmer 's views on policy dialogue

“A good indicator of progress in policy dialogue may not be in the number of meetings held or number of organisations participating, but whether trust is being built among participants such they can speak honestly with each other”

*Participant Indonesian Farmers'union*

**THANK YOU !**