

# RURAL WOMAN AND LAND RIGHT

Working on land governance  
with a gender-justice focus



Mujer Rural y  
Derecho a la Tierra  
AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

INTERNATIONAL  
**LAND**  
COALITION

AMÉRICA  
LATINA Y  
EL CARIBE

# ABOUT US

We are a platform of 28 women’s, indigenous, peasant and rural organisations, NGOs and research centres from 13 Latin American countries working for rural women’s land and territorial rights, a key factor in addressing gender inequality in the rural world.

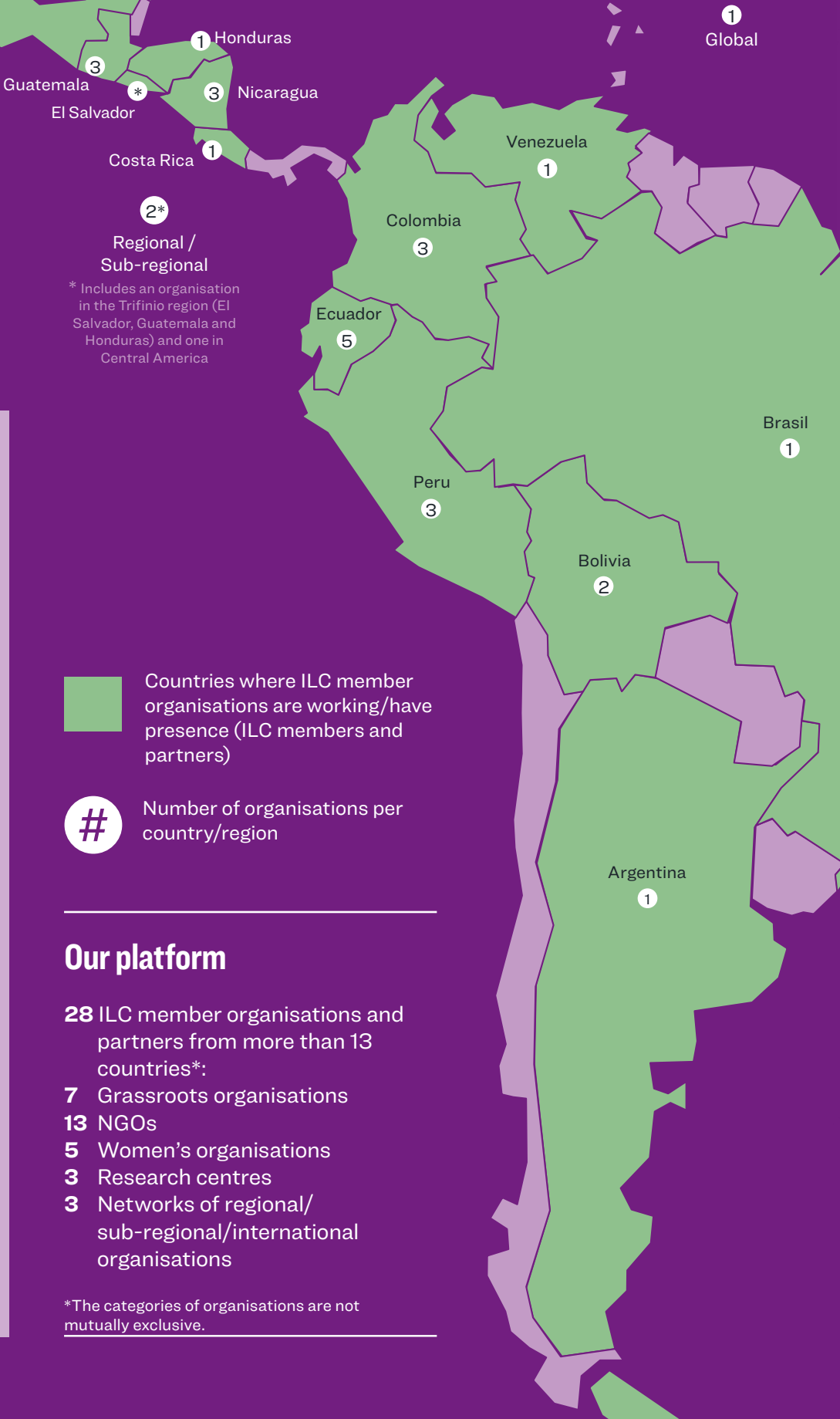
## The Power of our Network: Regional Initiatives and National Engagement Strategies (NES)

Rural Woman and Land Right is one of the 6 Regional Initiatives promoted by the International Land Coalition LAC in partnership with other actors to promote changes around critical issues or processes to achieve inclusive land governance based on ILC ‘s 10 Commitments.

These initiatives are linked to 8 National Engagement Strategies (NES) currently promoted by ILC LAC.

- The platforms driving the Initiatives and NESs are composed of 205 organisations (ILC members and non-members) and 44 partners
- Initiatives and the NESs work together to strengthen their work (through alternative reports and joint advocacy)
- They are linked to and contribute to the tools and global political processes promoted by ILC, which allows for strategic work at different levels.

# WHERE WE WORK



## Our platform

- 28** ILC member organisations and partners from more than 13 countries\*:
- 7** Grassroots organisations
  - 13** NGOs
  - 5** Women’s organisations
  - 3** Research centres
  - 3** Networks of regional/sub-regional/international organisations

\*The categories of organisations are not mutually exclusive.

# WHY WOMEN AND LAND RIGHTS?

There are 58 million women living in the countryside in Latin America. Despite the crucial role they play in agriculture, food sovereignty and the preservation of biodiversity, they face a series of problems and inequalities.

In all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, women own and manage less land than men - only 30% of women own agricultural land - and, when they do have access to land, it is usually smaller and of poorer quality. They are particularly vulnerable to the effects of megaprojects and the extractivist model that prevails in the region (dispossession, displacement, etc.), which adds to multiple forms of violence, including patrimonial and economic violence in relation to land ownership and rights to land and territories. Women are also excluded from decision-making spaces linked to land and territory and other important resources and assets, which limits their possibilities for development.

## WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

We want women from peasant, indigenous, Afro-descendant and urban-rural communities in Latin America to be able to fully exercise their rights to land and territories, guaranteeing them protection against all forms of discrimination and violence. We seek change by developing rural policies and frameworks (change in policies) and in their implementation (change in practices). We also seek to contribute to the strengthening of organizational processes and the generation of work networks that show both the problems faced by women and the strategies they carry out in the different territories to overcome them.

Specifically, we seek to guarantee protection for women defenders of land and territory, access to land for rural women, and their participation in territorial decision-making spaces. We also contribute to the gender-just implementation of key global processes in the region, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land (VGGT), the UN Decade of Family Farming, and the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.

“IN ALL LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, WOMEN OWN AND MANAGE LESS LAND THAN MEN DESPITE THEIR CRUCIAL ROLE IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.”



# HOW DO WE DO IT?

- **Evidence-based advocacy:** alternative reports are produced to present the problems faced by women to central authorities such as CEDAW or CESC. We also produce reports on women's land rights in specific countries, systematising dispersed data, analysing official information available and producing recommendations to different actors.
- **Peer learning:** regional learning processes and tools are shared with women's organisations to position and defend their rights to own and access land.
- **Communication and solidarity:** We plan and carry out political campaigns to advocate for women fighting for their right to own and access land.

# SUCCESS FACTORS

- Collaboration among organisations and institutions - ILC members and partners - representing different sectors linked to regional land issues, including international and intergovernmental organisations.
- The multi-country and multi-stakeholder coordination allows for participation in important international advocacy spaces, achieving changes with a regional impact.
- The diversity of experiences allows for different strategies to be shared and replicated, effectively strengthening women's organisations.

## Strategic alliances

We work in partnership with intergovernmental bodies and international organisations - both members and non-members - concerned with gender justice.

We collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to promote regional campaigns on rural women's rights and learning processes on the Voluntary Guidelines.

We collaborated with Oxfam International in a campaign for women defenders of land, territory and the environment in Colombia.

We work with women's organisations in different countries to strengthen their learning on different topics including: patrimonial and economic violence, agroecology, the defence of water, the situation of rural women in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, care work in the rural world, international mechanisms for guaranteeing rights, and helping women defenders of land and territories protect themselves.

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We gave visibility and built a regional perspective on the situation of rural women by generating data and information that is being useful to inform different actors.
- Rural women's rights are successfully promoted in key national and international spaces through advocacy processes involving actors from local to global levels.
- Local processes have also been strengthened thanks to regional exchange programmes that have improved the capacities of women's organisations - and others that accompany them in their struggles - to address their proposals and demands before government institutions
- A common framework has been achieved on issues such as agroecology, patrimonial and economic violence, land and territory, women's rights.

# INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is an alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together with a common goal: to achieve people-centred land governance (PCLG).

Composed of more than 200 members of different profiles in more than 60 countries, in Latin America and the Caribbean it is made up of 50 organisations working together through multi-stakeholder platforms in more than 20 countries.

It also promotes articulated work with global members with a presence in the region and with multiple partners.

## RURAL WOMEN AND LAND RIGHT INITIATIVE PLATFORM\*

1. ARGENTINA: Fundación Plurales
2. BOLIVIA: Fundación Tierra, CERDET
3. BRASIL: Espaço Feminista
4. COLOMBIA: CINEP/PPP, CDS, Oxfam Colombia
5. COSTA RICA: CMA
6. ECUADOR: SIPAE, Ecolex, FEPP, IEE, Luna Creciente
7. GUATEMALA: CODECA, UVOC, CCDA
8. HONDURAS: UMCAH
9. MÉXICO: Ecomunnis
10. NICARAGUA: Nitlapan-UCA, Cadpi, Unión Cooperativa Las Brumas
11. PERÚ: ONAMIAP, SER, CEPES
12. VENEZUELA: Acción Campesina
13. SUBREGIONAL/REGIONAL: Recmuric (Central America), Red Hosagua (Trifinio region: El Salvador, Honduras y Guatemala)
14. GLOBAL: FIMI

\*The composition of the platform evolves over time.

“WE WORK TOGETHER TO IMPACT POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR THE GUARANTEE OF LAND AND TERRITORIAL RIGHTS OF RURAL WOMEN.

### Our commitments\*

\*The Rural Women and Land Rights initiative contributes directly to 3 of the 10 ILC Commitments to achieve the PCLG.



Equal land rights  
for women



Inclusive  
decision-making



Transparent  
information and  
accountability

## **RURAL WOMEN AND LAND RIGHT INITIATIVE**

Focal point

### **Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales – SER**

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Soundcloud

<https://soundcloud.com/mujeresporlatierra>

## **ILC Latin American and the Caribbean** Regional Coordination Unit

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