

The aim of the **National Engagement Strategy (NES)** for Albania is to build synergies amongst different actors to secure land rights in forest and pasture land for traditional users and to encourage positive changes for rural development.

A multi-stakeholder platform

ILC member the National Federation of Communal Forests and Pastures of Albania (NFCFPA) is a people's organisation comprising 600,000 users of communal forest and pasture areas. They are individuals, families, or groups of families who together tend about 30% of the country's forest land. NFCFPA is composed of 10 Regional Federations of Communal Forest and Pasture Users and 240 Associations of Forest and Pasture Users. In coordination with Transborder Wildlife Association (TWA), NFCFPA and members of the Albania NES coordination committee are spearheading the implementation of the NES action plan with a wide diversity of actors from the government, civil society, and international organisations with different capacities in forest, pasture, and land governance.



National Federation of Communal Forests and Pastures of Albania (NFCFPA)

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The International Land Coalition (ILC)

A global coalition of 152 intergovernmental and civil society organisations formed to promote secure access to land for the rural poor. ILC membership comprises some of the major UN agencies and financial institutions, renowned CGIAR centres and a number of major independent think tank organisations. The majority of ILC members are civil society and farmer organisations from the South.

Strategic Framework 2011-2015

www.landcoalition.org/publications/new-strategic-framework-2011-2015

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NES

ILC's National
Engagement
Strategy

ILC National Engagement Strategy ALBANIA



Context

Albania is a country with limited agricultural land, although its geographical position, climate, and natural resources offer great potential for agriculture and rural development. A legal framework has been guiding the country's transition from a centralised to a market-oriented economy over the past 20 years but a number of important land-related issues still impede rural development, as among them recognition of property rights, land fragmentation, farm size, illegal construction, land erosion and degradation, conservation of land and natural resources, lack of modern cultivation technologies, deforestation, and a lack of new plantations.

As land is such a key factor for development and prosperity, the National Engagement Strategy (NES) for Albania has created a consultative space for broad-based dialogue to identify problems and solutions related to issues of land ownership and management, the country's land governance framework, the formulation of laws in support of beneficiaries such as the draft Law on Forests and Pasture, and the implementation of existing laws. The NES also highlights the need to support beneficiaries and to identify potential areas for joint intervention and support.

Objectives

The ILC NES for Albania focuses on the following priority areas of action:

- » Establish a Coordination and Consultative Committee to influence the formulation of policies, decisions, and an institutional framework on land and natural resources for the benefit of rural people, and to disseminate the Albanian experience in the Balkan region;
- » Better manage land, forestry, and pasture by improving the capacity of Local Government Units (LGUs) and Forest User Associations (FUAs) and Federations, and increasing the number of women involved in decision-making processes;

- » Secure user rights for rural families and traditional users through participatory processes based on existing successful experiences and promote investment for collective benefits in forest and pasture areas.

Actions

The NES will be implemented by means of:

- » **Engagement with change-makers to secure traditional users' land and resource rights** ●●●●
Facilitate dialogue between different actors involved in land governance issues to build an enabling political, legal, and institutional environment to secure pasture and forest rights for traditional users.
- » **Awareness-raising campaigns and training courses to improve local management practices** ●●●●
Create awareness on women's land entitlement; promote co-ownership and women's participation in decision-making processes; and enhance the role of local users and authorities in the development of participatory forest management plans.
- » **Secure recognition of land users' rights and promote related investments** ●●●●
Support agreements between LGUs and traditional users that recognise tenure and use rights by providing tools and best practices for identifying, demarcating, and documenting land users' rights and areas.



- **Awareness raising (AR)** include informing rural women and men to realise their rights and dissemination of good and bad practices in land related issues to the public and policymakers; and media campaigns.
- **Capacity building/empowerment (CB)** activities include the establishment of self-help groups at village and community levels; training and capacity building for instance on land use mapping and follow-up. *Note: Capacity building can also occur for activities related to awareness raising, policy advocacy and knowledge generation.*
- **Knowledge generation (KG)** production of knowledge to inform decision makers such as through case studies, databases, assessments and reports, and alternative CSO reports to international conventions.
- **Policy advocacy (PA)** activities include community mobilisation campaigns and dialogues with policymakers