



**LAND RIGHTS MATTER**

**FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET**

Landesa is an international land rights organization, working at the **global, national, and local levels** to secure legal rights to land for the 2.5 billion people who depend on this vital resource for a living, with the goals of ending poverty, creating opportunity, and contributing to inclusion and empowerment.

Across the globe—and everywhere Landesa works—communities in rural areas are among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, like land and soil degradation and more frequent and intense floods and droughts. These environmental changes exacerbate ongoing social and economic issues like food scarcity, migration, and conflict.

**Climate change and poverty are now so intertwined that they can only be solved together.**

Recognizing this, Landesa advances win-win solutions that benefit local environments and livelihoods alike.

Landesa's efforts to strengthen land rights hold promise for **climate change adaptation and mitigation**, environmental conservation, and community wellbeing. We are uniquely placed to **catalyze gender equity within the climate justice movement** – we advocate with women farmers and support governments to apply a gender equity and social inclusion lens to land administration.



## Mitigation

Secure land rights can directly enhance carbon storage and sequestration by providing incentives for land stewards to invest in soil restoration, tree planting, and ecosystems conservation. In the Amazon region of Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia, average annual deforestation rates on tenure-secure indigenous lands are 2-3 times lower than in similar forests without secure tenure.<sup>i</sup>

When women in particular hold secure rights to land, efforts to protect biodiversity and address climate change are more successful.<sup>ii</sup>

Healthier ecosystems can more effectively support rural communities' livelihoods and sustenance, reducing poverty and migration in the long term.<sup>iii</sup>

## Adaptation

Secure land rights can directly enhance climate change adaptation by enabling the adoption of climate-smart agriculture and land management techniques. Farmers with secure land rights have higher rates of adopting practices that combat land degradation and restore soil health.<sup>iv</sup>

Increasing women's control over land increases their decision-making ability at the household and community levels and boosts their influence as changemakers to build climate resilience.<sup>v</sup>

Climate-induced migration often leads to conflict and land dispossession. Land banks, secure tenure, and other land-based approaches can make migration a viable adaptation strategy.

<sup>i</sup> [https://www.landrightsnow.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Factsheet\\_Indigenous\\_and\\_Community\\_Land\\_Rights\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](https://www.landrightsnow.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Factsheet_Indigenous_and_Community_Land_Rights_and_Climate_Change.pdf)

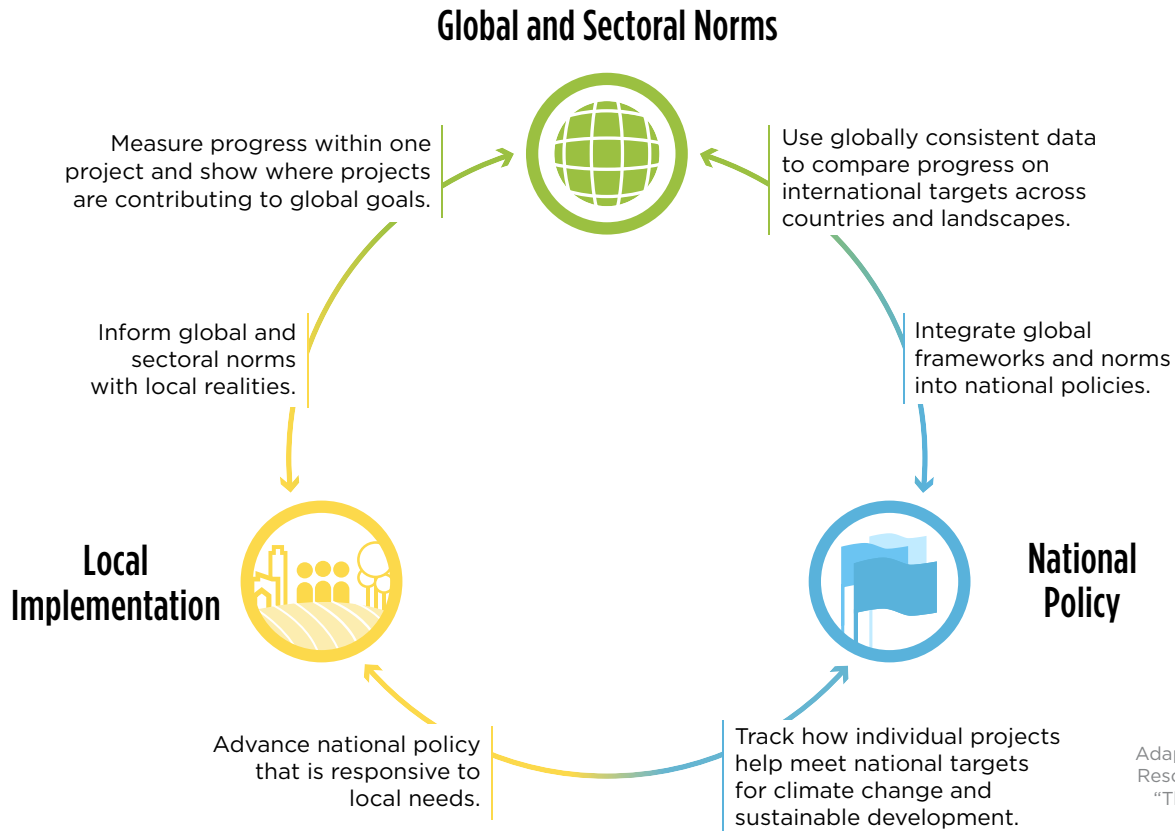
<sup>ii</sup> Glazebrook, T.; Noll, S.; Opoku, E. (2020). Gender Matters: Climate Change, Gender Bias, and Women's Farming in the Global South and North. *Agriculture*, 10, 267.

<sup>iii</sup> <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/67515/respect-for-indigenous-land-rights-key-in-fight-against-climate-change?fnl=en%20m>

<sup>iv</sup> Aryal, J. P., R. Dil Bahadur, S. Maharjan and O. Erenstein: 2018; Shittu, A. M., Mosisola Olanike K., M. Gbemisola Ogunnaike and P. Oyawole Funminiyi, 2018; Sklenicka, Petr; Kristina Molnarova; Miroslav Salek; Petra Simova; Josef Vlasak; Pavel Sekac and Vratislava Janovska, 2015; Kassie et al., 2010, 2013.

<sup>v</sup> Meinzen-Dick et al, (2017) Women's Land Rights as a Pathway to Poverty Reduction, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), at v, hereinafter "IFPRI," available at: <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/womens-land-rights-pathway-poverty-reduction-framework-and-review-available-evidence>

# LANDESA'S ACTIVITIES TO ADVANCE CLIMATE ACTION AT MULTIPLE LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE



## LAND & CLIMATE CHANGE: MYANMAR

Landesa has worked with thousands of families to protect and reforest hundreds of thousands of acres of degraded mangrove forests. Mangroves act as a buffer to protect coastal farmland from soil erosion, sequester four times as much carbon as rainforests, provide vital livelihoods to rural communities, and provide habitat for endangered wildlife like the Indochinese tiger.

In Lan Hman Village, Sagaing Region, Landesa's efforts supported 434 households receiving secure rights to their community forest. Families used to struggle to live on less than \$200 per month during harvest. Now, with their own land, they earn nearly \$500 per month.

