



BUILDING SHARED PROSPERITY AND A HEALTHY PLANET THROUGH SECURE LAND RIGHTS

**LANDESA STRATEGIC PLAN
2025-2027**



Landesa's Strategic Journey

Landesa was founded by a handful of Seattle-based lawyers seeking opportunities to help governments reform their land laws in the interest of impoverished rural communities. In the decades since, Landesa has worked in more than 65 countries and has expanded its footprint to include offices across Africa and Asia. Its growth is a reflection of its vital mission: securing land rights for those who live off the land provides a critical foundation for human development and economic prosperity. Over the course of three decades, Landesa has helped strengthen the land rights of over 750 million women and men.

With time have come important lessons. Early in its journey, Landesa recognized that women suffered systemic discrimination under land law regimes and through cultural norms. We dedicated increasing resources to research and advocacy for women's land rights and now apply a gender-transformative and intersectional approach to our work. We know



that when women have stronger land rights, they invest in their families and communities, leading to a host of positive development gains. We have also learned that stronger territorial rights for forest communities is the best way to protect those forests. And we have learned that partnering with local organizations is the only way to make land reforms sustainable and meaningful.

As we have adapted to take on those learnings, we have faced many changes to the field of land rights and the broader environment for international NGOs. Climate change, the rise of authoritarian governments, conflicts, displacement, new technologies and more affect our priorities and the way we do our work. These changes have come at an increasingly rapid pace and have required us to adjust our work in real time.

This Strategic Plan sets an ambitious course to guide Landesa amidst this uncertainty. It will help us prioritize certain areas of work, while enabling us to make the difficult choices to turn down opportunities. Running across the Plan is the commitment to ensuring that all our work aims at outcome-oriented systemic change. The Plan also highlights the need to continue to devolve more authority to country office staff and to do more of our work through partnerships and collective efforts. We firmly believe this Plan positions Landesa to become an even stronger, more focused, and more impactful organization than ever before.

Landesa's Evolution

Over the years, Landesa growth and evolution has been marked by five distinct changes:

Local Presence

As it begins to focus on certain vital geographies, Landesa establishes country offices staffed and led by local experts. In recent years, Landesa has committed to devolving more authority and resources to these local offices.

Women's Rights

Establishing through its research that women suffer systemic discrimination in land rights, Landesa launches a women's land rights program and integrates women's rights and empowerment across all its work.

Global Advocacy

Landesa works to influence global and regional commitments to land rights among multilateral actors, including in the SDGs and various UN declarations. Landesa also begins to work more closely with global actors invested in land rights and more responsible land investments.

Broader Focus

Recognizing the interconnectedness of land to other development priorities, Landesa partners with organizations working in adjacent fields, including housing, conservation, climate change, private sector engagement, youth, farmer livelihoods, and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Building the Field

To ensure that the reforms it supports are systems-wide and enduring, Landesa has sought to strengthen the field of land rights advocacy through collective efforts, support for local partners, and by building the evidence base.

Aspiration

Building shared prosperity and a healthy planet through secure land rights

Our aspiration with this Strategic Plan embodies Landesa's long-standing commitment to **securing land rights** for rural populations as a foundation for human well-being and a healthy planet. Stronger land tenure rights, especially when women are afforded the same rights as men, bring benefits to the family and wider community, creating **shared prosperity**. Stronger land and territorial rights also provide incentives and legal authority for smallholder farmers and local communities to protect and restore their land and forests, contributing to a **healthy planet**.

Over the course of the next three years, Landesa plans to contribute to achieve the following goals:

Help reform **20** laws and policies

200 communities have legally recognized land and resource rights

Formalize land rights for **225,000** people

132,000,000 hectares of land stand to be more sustainably managed

625,000,000 people stand to benefit from stronger legal frameworks



Mission

Landesa champions and works to secure land rights for millions of the world's poorest, rural women and men, to provide opportunity and promote social justice.

Vision

We envision a world free of poverty. We are committed to a future in which all women and men who depend on land for their livelihoods have secure, legal land rights – one of the most powerful tools for lifting oneself, one's family and one's community out of poverty.



Changing World

Recent developments in the land rights space have created new opportunities and challenges for land rights advocacy. Above all, advocates are faced with growing competition for, and threats to, land in a context of weak and ill-enforced land governance. As challenges mount, the field is growing, and effective advocacy requires engaging with a wider array of stakeholders and issues.

Land Pressure & Climate Change

Population growth and industrial development have long put pressure on land. Climate change and unsustainable agricultural practices compound these pressures. Communities have in turn been displaced by the resulting land degradation and conflict, leading to ever larger flows of migrants and refugees and creating more tension around land.

New Technologies

New technologies offer great promise to the land rights sector. GPS mapping, drones, digitalization, AI, web platforms, and blockchain all offer new means to expedite surveying, documentation and management of land records. New technologies are also disrupting agriculture with the potential to change the nature of smallholder farming and rural livelihoods.

Expanding Field

Land pressures have generated greater urgency and awareness of the need to strengthen land and resource laws, along with new funding. More attention and resources have in turn brought new players to the field. Today, there are many more global organizations, social movements, and networks advocating for stronger land and resource rights for those living off the land, forests and coastal areas.

Closing Civic Space and Localization

As the field of land rights is evolving, the broader environment for NGO work is also changing. The rise of authoritarian governments and the closing of civic space have made it more difficult for international NGOs to operate. These trends have happened in tandem with calls from grassroots and national organizations to re-direct funds to local groups, raising important questions about the role of INGOs like Landesa.



Programmatic Priorities

Landesa seeks to benefit people who are living in poverty, whose identity and livelihoods depend on rural land, forests, or coastal areas, and who:

- ✓ Lack formalized land or relevant, related resource rights, or
- ✓ Are not able to exercise those rights, and/or
- ✓ Cannot fully benefit from those rights, and/or
- ✓ Are vulnerable to losing those rights

... by affecting systems-wide changes in settings with:

- ✓ A political environment ripe for change
- ✓ Government actors willing to adopt gender-transformative and inclusive approaches
- ✓ Suitable civil society and other partners
- ✓ Infrastructure to scale and implement relevant reforms
- ✓ Adequate resources for necessary interventions



Programmatic Priorities (continued)

Focus on outcome-oriented systemic change

All of Landesa's work is aimed at enduring, outcome-oriented, systemic change. Cultivating that kind of change requires Landesa to:

Approach all of its interventions with an understanding of the political and social factors, and the constellation of stakeholders and interventions, that will make outcome-oriented, systemic change possible.

Systems Mindset

Seize opportunities to affect change in laws, policies and cultural norms covering entire systems.

Systems Change

Help to catalyze collective efforts with public and private sector actors and civil society groups that will lead to effective implementation of positive reforms at scale.

Scalable Interventions

Mobilize and support relevant land rights advocates at global, national and local levels who will provide the long-term engagement around land and resource rights to ensure that changes endure.

Build the Field

Priority constituencies are:

- People and communities whose livelihoods depend on rural land, forest, or coastal areas, who are systemically marginalized. These includes indigenous peoples and their territorial rights.
- Women in these communities
- Youth from these communities who want to pursue livelihoods that depend on rural land, forest or coastal areas.

Actors include:

- Governments, local duty-bearers, corporations and industry groups, CSOs and networks, funders, and priority constituencies,
 - From the land, resource, and adjacent sectors
 - At the global, national and sub-national levels

Adjacent sectors are:

- Women's rights
- Indigenous peoples' rights
- Smallholder farmer agriculture
- Conservation and climate-related sectors
- Large scale land investments
- Land and forest governance



PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITY HIGHLIGHT

Climate Action

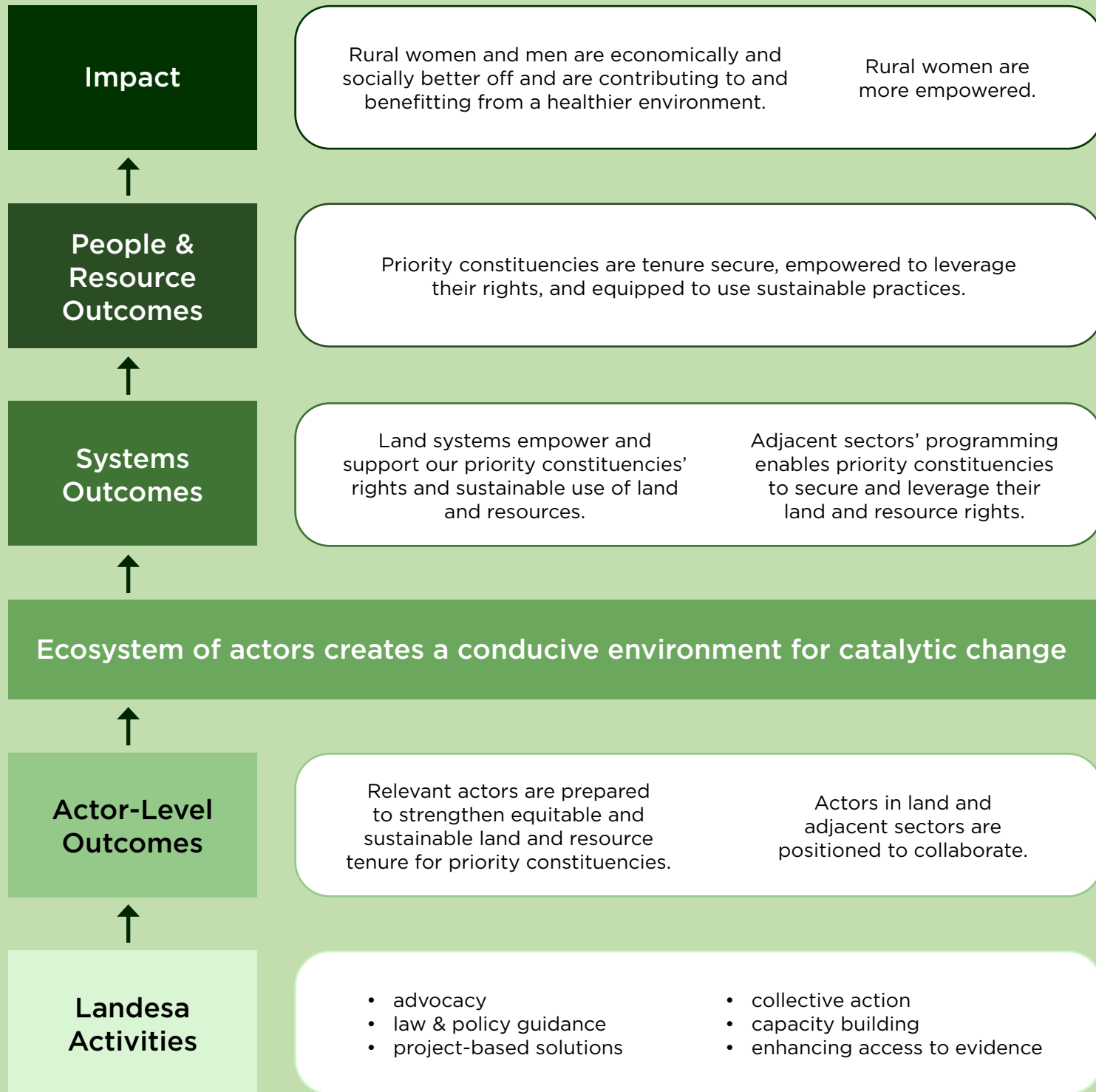
Climate action has become a central priority for Landesa. Secure land rights are foundational to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Landesa works with governments to reform laws and policies and partners with local NGOs to offer subgrants and technical support to secure land rights for communities stewarding critical carbon sinks and endangered biodiversity hotspots like mangroves, rainforests, and peatlands. By preserving and restoring these landscapes, we support positive outcomes for conservation, livelihoods, adaptation, and climate mitigation alike.

Addressing climate change requires a systemic approach. Our efforts integrate policy reform, community empowerment, and multi-stakeholder collaboration to drive impact across Asia, Africa, and Latin America at scale.

Our efforts are already making an impact. Through our mangrove restoration initiatives in countries like Indonesia, we are influencing key regulations to ensure gender equality and customary land rights protection, standing to benefit 65,601 people and 117,689 hectares of land, including 7,221 hectares of mangroves.

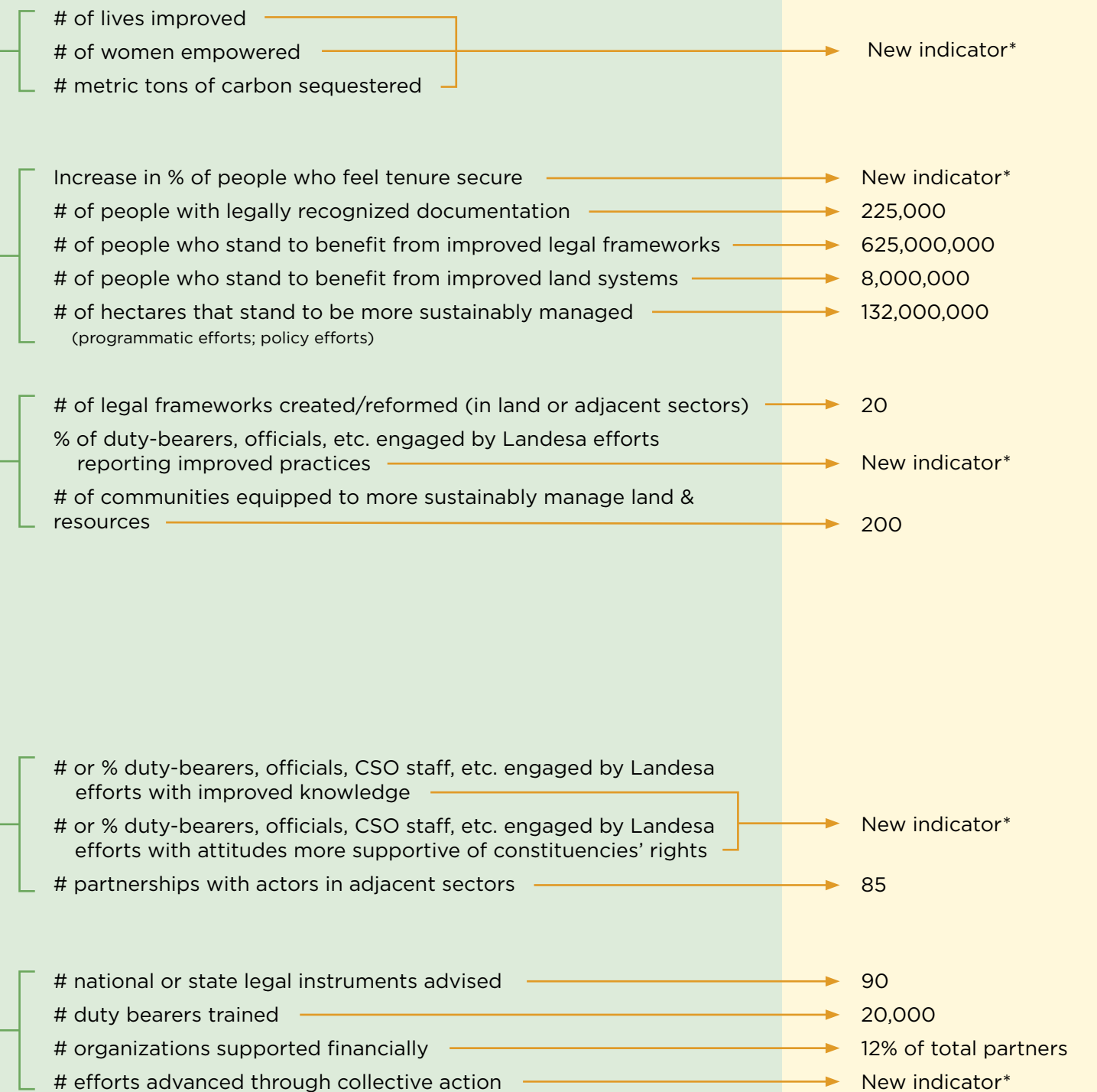


Theory of Change



Indicators of Progress

3-Year Targets



**Note on new indicators:* We are expanding the scope of what we measure to include a broader range of outcomes tied to our activities. This will require organization-wide discussions to decide what to measure and how. At this point, we do not have sufficient historical information or programmatic projections to meaningfully estimate targets for these indicators.



Landesa is an international non-governmental organization that fights rural poverty and provides opportunity and security for women and men through the power of land rights.



info@landesa.org | [+1 206-257-6143](tel:+12062576143) | www.landesa.org