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This work was carried out as part of a 3-year collaborative project entitled 'Securing Women's Access to Land: Linking Research and Action', coordinated by the International Land Coalition (ILC - [www.landcoalition.org](http://www.landcoalition.org)), the Makerere Institute for Social Research (MISR) of Makerere University in Uganda and the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) of the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. It was funded by IDRC. Its overarching aim was to learn from women and respond to their needs through applied research. The purpose of research carried out under this project was not only to provide evidence but also to build a platform to advocate for a transformative agenda that supports rural poor women to improve their access to and control over land and other natural resources, including through building linkages with the wider advocacy relationships and programmes of ILC.

# International Land Coalition Advocacy Phase of WA Project in Africa

**FINAL REPORT, 29 SEPTEMBER 2010**



## INTRODUCTION

This final report for the advocacy phase of the women's access project in Africa has two sections. The first, is a report of the innovation plan advocacy support work that was undertaken during the initial phase of this engagement. The second section is a report of the meetings held with the ILC partners that were awarded grants during the Nairobi Symposium held in September 2010.

### 1. WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LAND INNOVATION PLAN ADVOCACY SUPPORT

#### 1.1. Introduction

The ILC together with Procasur led an action-orientated process with ILC partners in East and Southern Africa to develop innovation plans to take forward their research projects. Eight innovation plans were submitted to the ILC and Procasur for adjudication where four innovation plans were selected to receive a grant to implement the innovation plans.

The eight innovation plans that were submitted for adjudication included:

Organisation	Innovation Plan Title
<b>Forum Mulher</b>	Paralegals supporting women to secure the land through land title
<b>GAMWI and GROOTS</b>	Secure land tenure for grassroots women through information sharing and influencing practice
<b>HARDI and FVTM</b>	Enhancing women's agency in terms of access to and control over land in the central highlands of Madagascar
<b>URDT</b>	Rural men and women advocate for access and control of land
<b>WOLREC</b>	Awareness of Women's Land Rights and visioning
<b>YWAP</b>	Women's territorial marking and land occupation through integrated income generating activities
<b>AHURICA</b>	Strengthening community's capacity and promoting advocacy on women's rights to and control over land to implement the spouse consent clause of the Land Act of 1998 in Kayunga
<b>Women's Farmers Association</b>	Bridging the information gaps between statutory and customary laws in women's access to land.

The Innovation Plans were evaluated on three key areas, viz.

- a) Clearness and general quality which looked at the identified problem, the beneficiaries and stakeholders identified, the objectives of the IP, the methodology to be used and the coherence of the plan

- b) Innovation which included the strategies, approaches, methods and way of organisation, ability to replicate these strategies, feasibility of implementing the plan within the allocated timeframes and economic resources and the impact the plan will have in the external environment
- c) Sustainability of the plan in relation to its alignment with the organisation's strategy, integration into the organisation's own capacities,

The four highest scoring and therefore successful Innovation Plans that qualified for a grant were Forum Mulher, GAMWI and GROOTS, HARDI and FVTM and URDT.

The second phase of the project involves offering support to the ILC partners to enable them to implement their innovation plans. For those partners that did not qualify for the grant, support has been offered to assess the innovation plans in consultation with the partners to identify aspects of the plans that can still be implemented in the absence of funding. Partners that received the grant are to be offered ongoing support for the duration of the innovation plans to enable them to achieve their objectives.

This report outlines the possible areas for advocacy that have been identified in consultation with the ILC partners who have been granted funding for their innovation plans. It also outlines the assessment that was done in consultation with the partners who submitted innovation plans but didn't qualify for a grant to identify aspects of their plans that could still be implemented as part of their organisation's ongoing work.

## **1.2. Grant supported Innovation Plans**

Telephonic discussions were held with the ILC partners who had been successful in obtaining a grant to implement their innovation plans. The discussions centred on how they intended to implement their innovation plans, what support they required to achieve their objectives and what advocacy opportunities were present in their innovation plans.

### **1.2.1. Forum Muhler (Mozambique)**

The innovation plan seeks to train paralegals in communities to disseminate information about the legal procedure to gain access to land title and to provide technical assistance to women to follow the correct procedures and formalities to access land titles. In the district of Mnyisa, where the project will be run, women are losing land because they do not have formal documents. The introduction of paralegals will provide assistance to women to access their documentation and the formal procedures to access land title. Work will be done with existing paralegals from Forum Muhler's partner Amodya, as well as new paralegals which will be recruited from the community.

#### **Areas for consideration**

Forum Muhler already has an established relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture hence there are opportunities for advocacy on the land titling policy and process.

Sustaining paralegals can be exhausting on organisation's human resource and financial capacity and in some instances can be difficult to sustain. Yet, paralegals are essential for grassroot access to justice through rights based information. To sustain paralegals, it will be important for Forum Muhler to look at how it can integrate advice giving through paralegals into its advocacy and research work. For example, whilst disseminating information on women's right to access land, the availability of paralegals to provide advice and support to women on how to access land becomes a valuable follow-on step to disseminating information. The existence of paralegals provides Forum Muhler with a valuable tool to measure whether its dissemination of information is having an impact by having paralegals placed in communities and documenting how many people come to paralegals to seek

assistance to access land. They can also document women's experiences with the process of acquiring land titles. This information can be fed back to Forum Muhler where it can be analysed in research report that can then be used to inform its advocacy and form part of its engagement with government. The changes that are achieved in policy can be measured in its implementation by again using paralegals to document experiences of grassroots communities (this is represented below).



### **1.2.2. GAMWI and GROOTS (Kenya)**

GROOTS is providing support to GAMWI to firstly document the Watch Dog Group model and secondly to replicate this model in other communities. The WDG model was identified in the Learning Route as innovative and many ILC partners on the Learning Route selected the WDG model as innovative practice that they will use to implement their own innovation plans. The strategy for implementation is for GROOTS and GAMWI is to document the experiences of the WDG pioneer members to build a model of intervention that can be replicated elsewhere. The second part of the strategy is to make use of information technology to widely disseminate the model of the WDG through blogging and providing an electronic educational portal.

#### **Areas for consideration**

For the WDG to be successful it has to be able to effect change in the external environment at both local and national level. The fourth step of the WDG model involves community dialogue. This is a critical stage of the WDG process as it not only facilitates local-local dialogue but also builds linkages between communities and local government officials and local level stakeholders like chiefs, for example. At a grassroots level this kind of local level linkages which GROOTS is helping GAMWI build is essential for strengthening the capacity of grassroots organisations to represent their own constituencies as opposed to relying on other organisations giving voice to local experiences. This is enabling GAMWI and GROOTS to put down roots at a grassroots level. The replication of this process in other communities will strengthen the capacity of other local communities to have their own agency. What is critical in this local level process is to ensure that it is not focused merely on the number of people at community level who get to participate but also the degree to which these communities can effect change at the local level. This would involve not only building local level organisation (which is essential) but should also include building support for the goals of local level communities, building capacity to form effective and sustainable alliances and the capacity to influence public opinion, either through local level negotiation or public campaigning with the aim of impacting on local level decision makers. Whilst GROOTS is assisting GAMWI in building stronger local level presence, bearing in mind the critical points raised above, it is also important for GROOTS to look at how it can assist local organisations like GAMWI to form linkages to national level decision making. This would involve GROOTS making use of local level experiences to link with national level decision-making hence much of GROOTS work would be ensuring that local experiences are constantly being articulated

at national level by making sure that the local experiences of the WDG in various communities are documented, analysed and put forward to national level decision makers to effect broader political change in the external environment.

### **1.2.3. HARDI, SIF and FVTM (Madagascar)**

HARDI, SIF and FVTM are working in partnership to build women's knowledge on their right to access and control land with the aim of building Malagasy women's agency to enable them to ask for their rights to land. This will also involve organising these women by building on existing structures. Whilst this is seen as a long term project, the innovation plan seeks to be the first step.

#### **Areas for consideration:**

In this innovation plan, HARDI plans to engage in a visioning workshop where the Malagasy women can envision their objectives for land rights and identify how HARDI can help them achieve this. From this process, HARDI will also be able to identify women who are leaders that can be trained as leaders in the community. HARDI then plans on using the GROOTS WDG model to link local communities with local government officials to engage in dialogue. The relationship with local government has been established through the action-research that HARDI had done previously. The women leaders will be trained in organisational building and leadership capacity building. There are many possibilities that this initial stage of the Innovation Plan presents. The first would be to build the capacity of the women leaders not only in organisational and leadership skills but also focus on the agency building.

What does it mean to have agency? This could mean that to have agency means to have access to rights (knowledge of rights) and be enabled to articulate their rights (knowledge of process) and have the ability to access the process by engaging with the process. It also means being able to effectively represent oneself to bring about change in the external environment. HARDI's thinking of having localised interventions is perfectly suited to Madagascar's decentralised land reform hence it becomes important for HARDI to also think about:

- a) how it can firstly build effective representation by building support for the goals of local level communities, building capacity to form effective and sustainable alliances and the capacity to influence public opinion, either through local level negotiation or public campaigning with the aim of impacting on local level decision makers;
- b) build strong linkages with local decision makers and other local stakeholders so that local Malagasy women have an enabled environment to articulate their demands
- c) how it can make this intervention sustainable and link it to the research and advocacy work of HAARDI, SIF and FVTM. One way to do this is to also train the local women leaders to provide legal advice on women's access to land and also provide support to local women to access the process to gain access and control of land. These local leaders can also document the number of women seeking assistance, the experiences they go through to access land and post-acquisition experiences which will be sent to HARDI, SIF and FVTM to be analysed and used for advocacy.

### **1.3. Non-funded Innovation Plans**

Telephonic discussions were held with the four ILC partners who submitted IPs but who did not qualify for a grant. The purpose of the discussion was to identify which aspects of their innovation plans they could implement without the funding from ILC.

**WOLREC's** innovation plan was to build the agency of women by providing them with critical rights based information on land rights to that they can effectively advocate for the realisation of their land rights within patrilineal and matrilineal societies. WOLREC's idea was to work with existing women's groups that participated in WOLREC's research to build their capacity to acquire knowledge and advocacy skills for effective lobbying.

*WOLREC has established relationships with local stakeholders and has been able to facilitate meetings between local groups and local stakeholders. It is planning on replicating this model in other areas where dialogue can be opened up with traditional chiefs. It is also going to be documenting this model as best practice through UNIFEM funding. WOLREC will be looking at how it can link the local experiences to national policy processes making use of UNIFEM's funding to take their work to the next level.*

**AHURICA's** innovation plan is to change the attitude of the community and to build the capacity of women to know their rights in relation to land to enable them to have full access and control over their land. AHURICA's plan is to sensitize women through workshops and information dissemination and to facilitate dialogues with local decision makers.

*AHURICA will examine the possibilities of being included in the District Land Board meetings to present to them the research that was conducted on women's access to land in the Kayunga District. The thinking behind this is to get the research findings presented at district level so that AHURICA can get the issue on to the agenda of local decision makers to open up discussions.*

**Young Widows Advancement Programme's** innovation plan sought to introduce income generating activities to widows who were able to gain access to their land to assist them in putting up territorial markings to enable them to make use of the land.

*It was difficult for the YWAP to find ways of continuing with their IP without funding. This was partly due to the fact that YWAP receives project funding from different donors and found it difficult to find ways in which this idea in the IP could be integrated into currently funded projects. Since the idea in the IP was new and additional aspect to what the YWAP is doing, it required new funding to enable this idea to be implemented as a project.*

**Women's Farmers Association's** innovation plan sought to raise awareness and educate women, communities and their leaders on customary and statutory laws and their effects on women's access to land. It was going to do this through the training of paralegals in the network. At community level, it was going to form watchdog groups.

*The WFA already have a gender awareness land rights programme which is their training programme on land rights hence the awareness raising aspect of its IP can be continued. It has already established community dialogues through established relationships with local leaderships and representatives from government line Ministries and this will enable WFA to continue linking local communities to local government leaderships through these dialogue forums. WFA also has a network of paralegals which it supports through providing training support. WFA undertook to develop the area of paralegal support as a key tool for disseminating rights based information and support.*

#### **1.4. Way forward**

With the ILC partners that have received funding to implement their IPs, there have been ongoing discussions via email and skype to discuss progress on the implementation of the IPs.

Workplans have been drawn up using the IPs and the consultants are currently working with partners to identify indicators for each of the results areas identified in the IPs as well as the activities. Also included in the workplans are timeframes for each of the activity areas. These will be finalised by the 1 September. The consultants are now in discussions with the four ILC partners to see how the areas for consideration can be taken forward in their IPs.

Work will then be undertaken to assist partners in preparing their presentations for the IDRC symposium.

## **2. Notes on IP implementation meetings with partners – Nairobi September 2010**

On the occasion of the IDRC conference, we arranged meetings with the partners currently involved in the implementation of their innovation plans selected in the contest following the Learning Route in March 2010.

Due to the delay experienced in transferring funds, some of the partners are slightly behind, however, all are optimistic that they will catch up and finalise activities as planned by February 2010.

We met with teams from Madagascar (lead organisation: HARDI), Mozambique (lead organisation: Forum Mulher) and Kenya (lead organisation: GROOTS Kenya). Unfortunately, the team from Uganda turned up only on the last day of the conference and was not available to set up a meeting – incidentally, this is also the team that the consultants engaged to assist with supporting implementation have had trouble contacting and getting information from.

The meetings were basically centred on two questions:

1. What is the status of implementation so far?
2. How can we support the work over the coming months (including through specific information, help with developing materials, etc.).

The consultant also proposed that each team share a brief update (max. 1 page in bullet points) on progress so as to put together a small 'newsletter' to share among the project partners for inspiration. All teams agreed to do so.

The consultant also met with YWAP/Kenya, as they are the only ones among the partners that did not win grant support in the innovation contest to have planned for advocacy activities.

### **2.1. Madagascar (14/09 evening)**

The team has carried out a first set of visioning workshops in the communities where the research was carried out and has engaged with traditional leaders to garner their support. They have strengthened their capacity in this regard and have developed materials and tools for this.

They have identified and spoken to an association in Sahambavy, called FIANTSO, that works on land and that are currently working on the establishment of 8 local land offices (guichet foncier) in the area (similar to HARDI's role in Miadanandriana) as part of a national programme for the preservation of lowlands. (??) It was felt that FIANTSO must work with other fraternal organisations around this.

There are requests coming from the communities to address the issue of colonial lands (under French ownership), and the team is asking for support on developing advocacy documents so as to be heard by government on this issue. Apparently, the French Embassy in Tana has previously reacted very negatively to any debate on this issue (so French government, major supporter of Madagascar through ODA is blocking this), but there seems to be an interest even within the government entity dealing with the tenure reform (PNF) for

civil society to address it. The team asked for guidance on how to approach this issue and on developing materials for advocacy.

Colonial lands are being used as an escape valve for women to access land. In many cases women are already using this land because they do not have access and control over the land of their husbands, no rights to inheritance, etc. (colonial land not occupied, the owners do not derive benefits from it and do not pay tax for the property – it seems that the national legislation stating that if you do not pay land taxes you can lose the title does not apply to foreign owners).

SIF and SAHA both want to push the issue of colonial lands. Can talk to PNF again for detailed info and backing.

15 October is Rural women's day and they want to bring some women to a functioning GF in Itasy (run by SAHA) and have started discussions with SAHA on how to collaborate (with Aina, who participated in the joint research project with ILC and SIF in 2007).

8 March 2011, despite being outside of the projects' timeline, is going to be a day of mobilisation and the team has approached UNDP to raise funds for activities. It is encouraging that they are networking and thinking of how to fund activities in future. The team has also met with Genderlink (a regional Southern Africa network based in South Africa).

Discussions with SAHA (Aina) to jointly propose gender-sensitive changes to current land policy have been held and SAHA is willing to help in the process (changes to policy letter). PNF is open to consider gender in words, but not actions. A key question that needs to be addressed is how to use research outcomes/results to improve gender policy.

**Overall advocacy issue: advocate for single land policy and dealing with colonial lands – and integrating gender into that in a meaningful way!**

The team identified as achievements that women are increasingly knowledgeable about the land certification process, but are also realising that getting such a certificate is only the first step, and that there is need for further change of attitudes.

A key question is how to scale up their work. At present they only work in a small area. They have thus engaged 21 women in each of the two areas (6 villages) and have created informal networks of women in the communities. Leaders were identified during the action-oriented research as those who can reach other women in the community. There is also a desire to broaden the focus onto other issues and not just land, and to link up with other organisations and institutions. It was also felt that it is important to broaden the information base before pushing forward with advocacy.

Another achievement has been working with FVTM, a rural women's union not only working on land issues, and linking them up with other partners.

A final note was in relation to land grabbing. With the current political crisis in Madagascar, this issue is falling through the cracks. It is an issue that needs attention.

Suggestions to address colonial lands issue:

- i. Identify stakeholders and their position (some support in local govt, PNF), whom can you convince to support you? Whom can you win over? Unpack the players (donors, local, govt, etc.) and find out what they think.

- ii. It may be easier to focus on local level in current context of political instability, and on building a common position of CS to be ready for any government coming and propose solutions!
- iii. Support to develop advocacy docs – December
- iv. Peer-to-peer exchange Itasy – October

This also presents a great opportunity to integrate the gender dimension into SIF's work (there is some hesitancy in SIF leadership, ILC support could encourage them to include this). SIF 3-year plan includes advocacy but does not specify on what.

A recommendation would be to consider conducting a strategic advocacy planning workshop in Madagascar with the consultants from South Development possibly as part of ILC support to SIF.

It was noted that Mino would be away mid-October to mid-November and that it was essential that she is present to ensure that gender dimension is integrated based on previous work.

#### **Actions:**

- 1. Give Tom literature on Madagascar
- 2. Give Mino info on CPL matrix dialogue etc.
- 3. Ask Cinzia whether I can bring Luca and Mino to Turin event

## **2.2. Mozambique (15/09)**

Received funds 1 month ago

Have held 1 meeting in community with cooperating partner AMUDEIA to plan for training dates and participation. The names of trainees will be collected by communities. AMUDEIA is closing the list of participants right now, and the training will be held for 15 days starting October 12<sup>th</sup>, and will include a practical element The training is accredited.

The team has established a partnership agreement with CFJJ (a centre for judicial training recognised by the state that has a lot of experience and existing curriculum for paralegal training and is open to also adapt this curriculum to specific context in Manhica, FM has proposed certain topics for inclusion).

10-15 people will be trained in the first session, 2<sup>nd</sup> session to be held in November with another 10-15 people.

The advantage of working with CFJJ is that it is connected to the state judiciary, training is a first step that can be built upon with further trainings (sustainability), and certified/accreditation is a powerful tool for empowerment of women participating. Many women that have been trained now act as community watch dogs.

They are also supported by Norwegian Embassy funding (until 2012, core funding). This activity builds on SWAL project but is also part of FM institutional strategy and agenda of building the women's movement.

Forum Muhler has also started dialogue with government on possibility of facilitating women's access to land titles (with land administration services). A key concern is how to simplify the titling process, especially at a local level.

Cooperatives associated with FM gain voice and visibility, FM can help them get media attention also.

Some cases assisted by paralegals may be finalised by February.

One of the difficulties experienced is that they are working in the local language in Manhica and then in Portuguese, then in English with ILC and the consultants. In terms of further support through Sara and Tom, FM would give this some thought.

Tom also mentioned the work of South African NGOs on similar issues that may be very instructive and could be an idea for an exchange visit. Organisations in South Africa such as the Black Sash use paralegal work to identify case trends and common issues that in turn inform advocacy action by the organisation. The case and information base deriving from paralegal work forms a solid foundation for lobbying and advocacy. Other organisations such as NADCAO (National Association of Democratic Community Advice Offices) and the Rural Legal Trust are rolling out a similar paralegal-based approach to advocacy. In the case of these organisations, the sustainability of the advice office and paralegal sector is also ultimately about broadening access to justice in South Africa.

#### **Actions:**

1. Tom to share info on South African legal NGOs (condensed into few pages)
2. ILC to translate monthly progress updates into English to facilitate.

### **2.3. Kenya (GROOTS)**

The project kicked off late because funds disbursement arrived late. GROOTS has finished first phase of scoping organisations that have experience with community-led documentation and identifying a partner. They have selected ALIN – Arid Land Information Network which works on capacity enhancement, farmer-led documentation, packaging information for networking and sharing, ICTs). A needs assessment was undertaken to inform the training. They have developed a 7 module curriculum with the training to be undertaken in three blocks.

They are now in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of planning with the community and selection of participants for training, designed curriculum (7 modules) for training.

The training in 3 blocks is to allow community participants to internalise knowledge acquired. They have covered 4 modules in 2 blocks so far (record keeping, information recording systems, recording cases – client database, bring-up system) and participants have been tasked to go back to their communities to map out community WDGs and other stakeholders in district, and set up a client database. There has also been a focus on sharing information and enhancing facilitation skills. A writers' group has been formed (enhance writing skills)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final phase on ICTs includes blogging.

Thirteen mature (majority women) and 3 young people (2 boys one girl) are in training with the younger people focusing on blogging and more technical knowledge. The mature participants are focusing on basic ICT skills such as e-mail, uploading focus, PPs, etc. One of the criteria for selection of participants was that they should be able to share their knowledge also across borders (most of them have good English hence GROOTS is interested in exchange with other ILC partners. Trained people will go back to communities to replicate model as they now have a system/structure to replicate, as previously they only did more informal learning exchanges.

It is also hoped that after this training they can expand to another location and replicate the model there.

Brenda considers the Matrix developed by Sara to monitor progress as helpful and is using it, as has been the advocacy support provided by Sara in terms of getting higher level impact through engagement with national government. A suggestion made was for Sara/Tom to come to Kenya when advocacy phase starts to help GROOTS extend its reach? Advocacy phase will involve local-to-local dialogue and mobilisation, high level in new areas (Helen in charge of this). Abbey will identify other areas of support that Sara and Tom could provide.

They were also happy about producing a short one page report for sharing through a news letter for other ILC partners. They requested that we send a reminder for this.

GROOTS is about 4 months behind schedule but is optimistic about meeting its objectives.

#### **Actions:**

1. Check feasibility of an exchange visit (budget, timeline)
2. Send monthly reminder for the status update

#### **2.4. The Young Widows Advancement Programme**

This meeting took place late on the last night of the Symposium. The purpose of the meeting was to get a briefing on progress in their work, in particular in relation to advocacy. The meeting was between Tom and YWAP.

In short, the work of YWAP (the resource centre and support programmes for widows; training of paralegals; engagement with stakeholders such as local leaders, police, and court officials) continues although the organisation is struggling to secure the necessary resources to continue operations. This discussion on the work of the organisation was interesting since Tom had not met the organisation before and was not familiar with the work of the organisation.

YWAP noted that the work that was done with the ILC in relation to acquiring rural family land for widows was extremely useful, although whether this work can continue is questionable. At present YWAP is using savings from other donor funds to sustain the project. There are limits to the organisation's savings. What is required is some form of seed money that could form the base for a small-grant/loan facility or something similar.

The funding base of the organisation is also insecure. They get some assistance from government, although they do not apply for money. Although the issue was probed further, it is unclear where in government this money comes from or through what means or channels. YWAP noted that they believed the Finnish organisation KIOS was seeking partners to fund, and they are planning to submit a proposal. YWAP noted that this was something that they required assistance in.

With regard to advocacy, YWAP has identified a precedent setting legal case that if successful they believe will have a major impact nationally. The case involves a widow that is seeking redress for violence inflicted against her by her late-husband's family and reparation for damages to property. She is also seeking the return of her husband's livestock and cash savings. YWAP is planning to involve the media at all stages of the case. The groundwork for the case has already been set, and it will be interesting to see how this initiative progresses.

## 2.5. Summary of support requested from South Development

The table below summarises the requests for support from partners arising from the meetings:

<b>Partner/Country</b>	<b>Support requested/required</b>
Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Advocacy planning/advocacy support at local and network level – build common civil society position on land</li></ul>
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Will give further thought to what support they require</li><li>● Possible idea of learning exchange with organisations in South Africa around paralegals and paralegal led advocacy.</li></ul>
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Advocacy planning/advocacy support when advocacy phase starts</li></ul>
Young Widows Advancement Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Advice on funding proposal to KIOS</li></ul>