

Synthesis and Ways Forward

Issues and Challenges

Surveying all the presentations during the workshop, the main issues and challenges in land administration and management projects revolved on **institutional mandates, land information and disputes**. Often, there are numerous institutions with overlapping mandates on the administration and management of land. This plurality leads to inefficiency in land governance as related agencies lack coordination, contradicting each other's system, resolving less and producing more land issues. Related to this issue, numerous tenurial instruments and the lack of or non-implementation of land use policies hinder effective land administration and management. Another challenge is non-recognition of tenure and other informal contracts on land.

Land information tends to be unavailable and inaccurate. More often they are difficult to understand and people lack awareness of its regulation procedures. In addition, land conflicts remain unresolved due to the lack of information needed to arrive at a decision involving disputes. In some cases, communities are in conflict with large scale investors or other enterprises whose activities involve land grabbing and green grabbing.

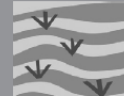
The participants agreed to work on three areas: policy, tooling and information networking.

Policy

The center point of land administration and management systems should always be the people. It should not focus solely on the accuracy of methods, technologies or policies; rather, it should center on peoples' relationship to the land, their context and their community. It should be participatory, purposive, partnership-based and pro-poor; what is valuable to a community's perspective should be considered. Systems should also recognize the plurality of tenurial forms, from formal to informal.

International processes and instruments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the VGGT, the Fit-for-purpose land administration and management approach and Committee on World Food Security's Responsible Investments for Agriculture and Food Systems, and other contracts/pledges that government developed can be used as guides for land administration and management systems. Consistency and coherence of national policies with international norms and standards remain a challenge for policy-makers.

CSOs must continue to assist communities in ensuring that governments adhere to participatory processes and transparency.



Tooling

To effectively address the challenges on land administration and management, key intervention on tooling as part of a continuing capacity building practice of both CSOs and governments for better land governance. While a number of tools have been developed (e.g., participatory land use planning, spatial mapping, capacity building, inclusive decision making, participatory conflict management and alternative dispute mechanisms), there is a need to contextualize them into different country characteristics. Local people should be able understand these tools into their local language. The end goal is to empower communities as knowledge is demonstrated and applied.

Information Networking

As organizations advocating for land, the forum's participants have a wealth of experience and knowledge, which would be useful to share with other countries and organizations to provide or acquire more perspectives on land administration and management interventions. Regular sharing of laws and mechanisms/processes on land administration among countries can go a long way. Government agencies from different countries can also start sharing challenges and successful methods and experiences.

Specific suggestion of an exchange program between rural-urban women to support the agenda on rural and urban land administration and management in selected countries can be arranged.

Mapping of capacities and needs requirements on using participatory and indigenous knowledge with modern technologies is still an area that needs to be developed. The social media should be optimized as a platform for information and communication hub. Online tutorials to share tools are possibilities for regional action.

Next Steps

Effective land administration and management system is key to achieving secure tenure for all. Land administration projects, if effective and participatory, can facilitate land reform and agrarian justice through laws and policies.

ANGOC and GLTN shall continue to facilitate and foster multi-stakeholder dialogues to understand and address the land challenges raised in the forum. Coming from various platforms, campaigns and processes, the challenge for this regional platform is on bringing and expanding synergy among CSOs, government, academe and private sectors.

In terms of sharing tools and knowledge products (e.g., studies, policy briefs, regional journals), both ANGOC and GLTN shall include the participants in their respective mailing lists. ■



Founded in 1979, ANGOC is a regional association of national and regional networks of non-government organizations (NGOs) in Asia actively engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance and rural development. ANGOC network members and partners work in 14 Asian countries with an effective reach of some 3,000 NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs). ANGOC actively engages in joint field programs and policy debates with national governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and international financial institutions (IFIs).

ANGOC is the convener of the Land Watch Asia (LWA) campaign and the Asian Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM-Asia). ANGOC is also a member of the International Land Coalition (ILC), Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and the Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium.

ANGOC may be reached at:

33 Mapagsangguni Street, Sikatuna Village
Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, Philippines
P.O. Box 3107 QCCPO 1101, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: +63-2-3510581 | Fax: +63-2-3510011
Email: angoc@angoc.org | URL: www.angoc.org



The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is an alliance of global regional and national partners contributing to poverty alleviation through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure particularly through the development and dissemination of pro-poor and gender-sensitive land tools. Know more about GLTN at <http://www.gltm.net>.

GLTN may be reached at:

Urban Legislation, Land and Governance Branch, UN-Habitat
P.O. Box 30030-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: +254 207624241
Email: gltm@unhabitat.org | URL: www.gltm.net



Land Watch Asia (LWA) is a regional Campaign to ensure that access to land, agrarian reform and sustainable development for the rural poor are addressed in national and regional development agenda. The campaign involves civil society organizations in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines. LWA aims to take stock of significant changes in the policy and legal environments; undertake strategic national and regional advocacy activities on access to land; jointly develop approaches and tools; and encourage the sharing of experiences on coalition-building and actions on land rights issues.