

# NO TIME TO WASTE

There is still **LIMITED UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONSE** in addressing the nexus of the impacts of **climate change, social and policy responses, and need for land tenure security.**

Climate Action Through Secure Land Rights and Sustainable Land use

## ASIAN COUNTRIES

- Experience the highest frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events
- Have a high proportion of poor people living with tenure insecurity
- Considered the most vulnerable to climate change

**Land tenure rights influence the way that land and natural resources are used and can impact directly on the environment and climate change**

## LAND ISSUES IN VULNERABILITY & RESILIENCY

- People without land tenure security face the greatest risk to the impacts of climate change
- Poverty pushes people to live in vulnerable areas and conditions:
  - **Case study in India**  In Kerala, India, an unprecedented amount of rainfall in August 2018 caused widespread flooding and landslides that left 400 dead and 5.4 million people affected. Land use changes due to urbanization and overdevelopment was seen as the major reason for the disaster
  - **Case study in Bangladesh**  Over a million people are displaced each year due to river flooding and riverbank erosion brought by monsoons. This is likely to worsen with climate change, as rainfall increases and becomes more erratic, and melting Himalayan glaciers alter river flows
  - **Case study in Nepal**  Some 50 families were forced to leave their ancestral land in Khairala village, along with their long-established community ties and social networks, to the remote village of Bategada in Chure rural municipality due to flooding and landslides
- Disasters force people to migrate, and to cope by shifting their livelihoods, while facing increased vulnerability
- Calamities also cause displacement indirectly. They create opportunities for land speculation and land grabs. Tenants, sharecroppers, pastoralists, lessees, and occupants become particularly vulnerable to evictions
- Affected households with no secure tenure have greater difficulty in relocating or reclaiming their original occupied properties
- Understanding post-disaster land issues



**Secure Land Tenure increases the resiliency of families & communities in light of stresses brought by natural disasters & climate change**

- Adaptation needs to be implemented in a larger scale. Several emerging approaches: Community Based Resource Management (CBRM), Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs)

### ◦ Case study in Cambodia

The establishment of the Rokha Community Forestry (CFo) in Pursat Province, Cambodia enabled forest dwellers to participate in the Commune's climate change adaptation and mitigation action planning

### ◦ Case study in Kyrgyzstan

Local associations of water users, forest users, and pastoralists are seen as key players in the rapid response to and prevention of natural disasters. The functioning of these user associations is enshrined in national laws of the Kyrgyz Republic

### ◦ Case study in Indonesia

For years, the farming community of Bulupayung Village in the southern coast of Cilacap regency, Central Java has been mired in agrarian conflict with a State-owned forest enterprise. In spite of this, the local peasant union conducts agrarian reform and climate change adaptation based on community self-initiatives

### ◦ Case study in Philippines

Indigenous peoples in Mt. Kalatungan, Bukidnon provide water regulation services through reforestation of denuded lands, in exchange for monetary support from businesses, cooperatives, academic institutions, religious organizations, households, and individuals

## TOWARDS A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- States should ensure adequate tenurial security for people and communities
- Tenure systems should allow land rights to be reassigned so societies can cope with land use change, displacement and migration, and the expected rise in conflict over land

## WAYS FORWARD

- Ensure participation of local stakeholders
- Inclusive governance & reframing policies on climate change
  - Address tenure rights insecurity in the context of natural disasters
  - Improve climate change discourse to gain better appreciation of land tenure issues

Land systems create vulnerability to disasters

Natural disasters impact on land & human relationships (tenure) on land

Land responses affect resilience after natural disasters



**CITATION:** Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and Land Watch Asia (LWA). (2022). No Time to Waste: Climate Action Through Secure Land Rights and Sustainable Land Use. ANGOC and LWA. [Infographics].

