

OVERVIEW OF THE CASE STUDIES

Theme 1: Women, land rights and resiliency

How women's rights, especially over land, improves the capacities of families and communities to implement resilience actions



Navigating Climate Change and Land Tenure Insecurity: A Case Study of Rural Women's Resilience Efforts in Analamanga Region, Madagascar



Ms. Mino Ramaroson
HC, Madagascar

This case study highlights the vulnerability of women in Fiaferana, who are disadvantaged, first, by their gender and indigenous heritage, and second, by their lack of tenure security in the midst of climate change. However, the women of Fiaferana have met these overlapping



challenges head-on through innovative and empowering strategies, including sustainable land use management.

Key Messages

- ◆ Gender and land rights inequality pose a two-pronged challenge for the women of Fiaferana. Women are denied inheritance rights, further limiting their access to and control over land resources. A key contributing factor to this disparity is a discriminatory land tenure regime in rural settings which relies heavily on customary practices that are not gender-sensitive.
- ◆ Climate-related effects intensify. The intersectionality of rural women's vulnerabilities and the climate crisis is creating a complex web of challenges that need to be addressed holistically.
- ◆ The current land policy framework in Madagascar, while avowedly gender-sensitive, does not incorporate a gender dimension, and neglects the specific challenges and rights of women in the implementation of land reform.
- ◆ Integrating customary land tenure systems within formal land governance structures can significantly strengthen community resilience but only if social norms and practices are not gender-biased.
- ◆ Fiaferana women have adapted to climate impacts such as hailstorms and cyclone induced flooding by embracing sustainable land management, including the adoption of organic agriculture, and by replenishing forests and protecting natural habitats, among others.

See link:


<https://angoc.org/portal/ip-women-challenge-the-intersection-of-gender-and-land-rights-inequalities-a-case-study-of-rural-womens-resilience-efforts-in-analamanga-region-madagascar/>

Climate resilience in Munda Community in South Western Coastal Area of Bangladesh



Mr. A.K.M Bulbul Ahmed
ALRD, Bangladesh

This case study challenges assumptions that disaster-hit communities that have lost their houses and possessions would willingly pack up and leave, believing that it is easier to



migrate than to remain in their communities. However, for indigenous people like the Munda in Shyamnagar sub-district, migration is not the answer to achieving climate resilience. Because their lives are inextricably linked to their ancestral home, uprooting themselves exacts a toll on their identity and undermines the continuity of their culture and traditions. Thus, following the destruction of their houses, cropland, and other properties in the wake of Cyclones Sidr and Aila, a number of Munda families were forced to migrate to other places, but they continue to affirm that they would have been become self-reliant with better adaptive capacity if they had been allocated agricultural land.

Key Messages

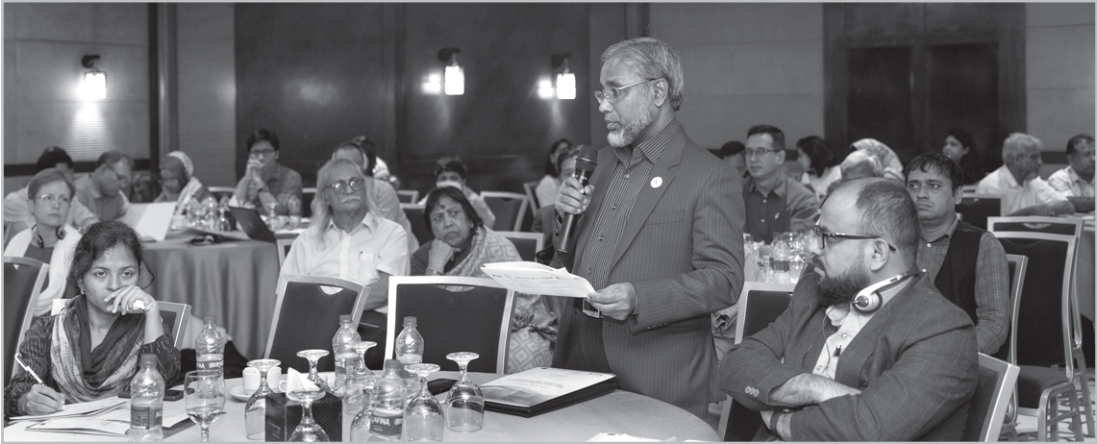
- ◆ The Government of Bangladesh has not yet recognized indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge, customs on conservation, nor their right to govern and conserve the Sundarbans — the home of the Munda people.
- ◆ To improve their livelihood resilience, the Munda people maintained that land tenure security is indispensable. They proposed a special policy initiative for land-based resilience building among the community.
- ◆ The current policy on agricultural khas land distribution among the landless can address the land rights deprivation of Munda women. If they are granted land, either individually or jointly with their husband, Munda woman are capable of sustainable use of it.
- ◆ In consultations with the Munda community, they expressed what is necessary to achieve resilience. They all agreed that migration is not a sustainable solution for them, because their culture and livelihoods are closely linked to the Sundarbans. To improve their livelihood resilience, they all affirmed that land tenure security is indispensable.
- ◆ The Munda community demands their participation in any decision-making that concerns them. The top-down approach, along with the corruption and insensitivity, has undermined ongoing projects and activities that are supposed to enhance their resilience. The community said that the scenario would be much better if they could take the lead.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/home-is-where-climate-resilience-should-be-built-a-case-study-of-climate-resilience-in-the-indigenous-munda-community-in-the-south-western-coastal-area-of-bangladesh/>

Theme 2: Customary tenure, use and governance

How recognizing customary land rights and practices of indigenous communities helps build local capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change




Beyond Land Titles: Pastoralists Find Security Amid Climate Change in Community Land Governance Mechanisms in Kenya



Mr. Arach David James
Namati, Kenya

This case study presents the unique example of pastoralist communities in Kenya who had traditionally been able to rely on their customary land governance systems to ensure their access to grazing land and to help them sustain their livelihoods in the face of drought. However, land laws that were passed by the colonial and post-colonial administrations in Kenya progressively replaced customary structures and practices with artificial formal/legal structures that bore no connection to the communities' customs. Apart from weakening customary structures, these laws also created opportunities for powerful individuals to privatize communal land. As a result, pastoralist communities now require legal recognition of their customary tenure. With insecure land tenure and their inability to govern their lands, local communities cannot effectively benefit from their rich traditional knowledge on climate



resilience. Furthermore, without legal registration, communities will continue to lose their lands to large-scale land acquisition and bad deals. The government's wholesale endorsement of carbon trading as a climate adaptation strategy raises questions regarding the potential of such projects to build the communities' climate resilience. Communities have not been able to participate in related discussions because of their insufficient understanding of how carbon trading works. Moreover, elite groups within and outside the communities have monopolized the development and implementation of carbon trading projects in Kenya.

Key Messages

- ◆ Kenya's land laws, passed by colonial and post-colonial administrations, have replaced customary structures and practices that had served pastoralist communities well by enabling them to govern communal land effectively amid recurring droughts.
- ◆ The communities' heritage of robust resilience building practices is being eroded as more and more of their land is privatized or controlled by external interests. The new owners stand in the way of the communities' continued practice of their rich adaptation and resilience-building traditions.
- ◆ A land title is merely evidence of a community's land claim. Tenure security, however, is dependent on good governance at the community level and making sure that community members understand the law – and how to use it – to protect their rights and lands.
- ◆ In the face of current challenges from outside interests, pastoralist communities require legal recognition of their customary tenure and local community land governance structures. With strong governance mechanisms at the community level, communities will not only have improved tenure security, but will also be able to effectively implement their climate resilience strategies. In particular they will be empowered to participate in environmental governance, such as in the carbon trading projects.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/beyond-land-titles-pastoralists-find-security-amid-climate-change-in-community-land-governance-mechanisms-a-case-study-of-how-stronger-local-community-land-governance-promotes-the-climate-resilience/>

Theme 3: Land rights and sustainable land/ resource use

How secure tenure rights encourages sustainable land use by communities in ways that protect and restore their environment



Through Deluge and Drought: A Village Overcomes (Cambodia)



Mr. Te Sokkhoeun
SK, Cambodia

This case study shows the various faces of climate change that are witnessed by communities living in Trapeang Rumdenh Village, including flooding, drought, and other extreme weather events which destroy their livelihoods. Every time, these communities find a way to recover from setbacks. Every time, the lessons they learned from the most recent disaster gird them to anticipate and adapt to the next one. In the process, and as they overcome disaster after disaster, they build their resilience against what is bound to confront them as a result of climate change.

Key Messages

- ◆ Diversification of income sources is vital. This can help to protect people from the impacts of climate change, such as crop failure or loss of livestock.
- ◆ The lack of funding and support for climate change adaptation is a major challenge that the central government must address by allocating more resources to the government agency responsible for disaster management as well as to local organizations so that they can better respond to the needs of vulnerable people affected by climate change.
- ◆ As part of the process of securing land tenure security, the community must begin to establish and document proof of their occupancy and use of the land.
- ◆ The community must consider forming a community land trust – a legal entity that takes ownership of, or authority over, a piece of property on behalf of a community. This can help to prevent land from being sold or developed by outsiders without the community’s prior knowledge and consent.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/through-deluge-and-drought-a-village-overcomes-case-study-of-trapeang-rumdenh-village-kbal-trach-commune-krakor-district-pursat-province-cambodia/>



Theme 4: Coping with risks and preventing disputes

How those with secure tenure are less likely to be at risk of land disputes, which may affect their adaptive capacity, or vice-versa



Tribal Communities Fight to Lift the Yoke of Landlessness Amid Climate Change: A Case Study of the Yanadi and Yrukula Tribal Communities in Andhra Pradesh State, India



Ms. Rohini Reddy
SARRA, India

The story of the Yanadi and Yrukula tribes, two of India's Scheduled Tribes living in Andhra Pradesh State, shows how the impact of land tenure insecurity amid climate change is magnified among people who are extremely poor, have limited livelihood opportunities, lack education, and whose recovery from climate disasters relies on the charity of strangers. At the same time, this story underlies the critical role of civil society organizations, where government support is insufficient and slow. Notwithstanding the disadvantages of these two tribes, they are clear and strong in their conviction that what they need is land and the knowledge to use it in a sustainable manner.

Key Messages

- ◆ The Yanadi and Yrukula tribes have not developed adaptation practices to help them cope with the impact of regular cyclones. However, they assert that they need a piece of land to build their home on and to grow food; and timely financial support to purchase seeds, fertilizers, and plant protection farm inputs.
- ◆ These communities cannot rely on aid from the government to help them cope with their disaster losses. Such aid could stop at any time, according to changes in government priorities.
- ◆ Gaps in research on the links between land tenure and food security must be remedied. Mixed methods are needed to analyze the complex casual linkages. Household-farm panel data collected over longer periods of time, combined with simulations, can also provide valuable insights about the linkages between tenure security and food security.
- ◆ CSOs employ a variety tools and approaches to explain the link between land rights and food security, including awareness-raising campaigns, community mobilization and engagement; partnership building and networking; policy dialogues; and research and documentation, among others. At the same time, they educate the tribes on sustainable agriculture and support them in their adoption of natural farming techniques, especially among women and the youth.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/tribal-communities-fight-to-lift-the-yoke-of-landlessness-amid-climate-change-a-case-study-of-the-yanadi-and-yrukula-tribal-communities-in-andhra-pradesh-state-india/>

Communities face off with a river that swallows lands and homes (Bangladesh)



Ms. Shanjida Khan Ripa

ALRD, Bangladesh

This case study tells the story of Yusuf Matubarer Dangi Village as a microcosm of the existential threat posed by river erosion and flooding to the country of Bangladesh. This village also encapsulates the experience of communities who are rendered landless when floods swallow up their properties and who then have to wait for new land to emerge from



the river in the simultaneous erosion and accretion of land when the river swells. Like other landless people, the affected community in this village expect that the government would grant them parcels of this newly created land, in accordance with the law. The Khas Land Management and Settlement Policy, 1997, provides that such lands, which are classified as public or khas land, can be distributed to, among others, families who have lost their land due to river erosion. However, like the rest of Bangladesh, residents of Yusuf Matubarer Dangi Village have been denied access to agricultural khas land which end up being controlled by powerful people.

Key Messages

- ◆ The social and economic impact of climate induced disasters on vulnerable families has been devastating. They have been forced to abandon their ancestral profession and migrate to cities in search of alternative livelihoods. They are not covered by social security programs of the government, largely because they have no permanent address. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of the government to fulfill the basic rights of displaced due to river erosion.
- ◆ During the consultation, the residents of Yusuf Matubarer Dangi Village decried the “massive complications” resulting from displacement from their homes, to boost their livelihood resilience against climate change. However, fragile housing, financial constraints, and lack of their own land are the greatest impediments to the sustainability of their adaptation efforts.
- ◆ The community advocates for the distribution of khas lands to enable them to recover from the losses they have suffered as a result of disasters. Access to khas land is expected to increase the adaptability of affected communities to face the risk of climate change, especially if land distribution is accompanied by training and financial assistance in aid of implementing income generating programs.
- ◆ There are limited opportunities for members of the community to participate and provide feedback on climate adaptation programming. People do not even feel comfortable providing feedback. Community members say many vulnerable people are left out of adaptation programs, citing favoritism and mismanagement.

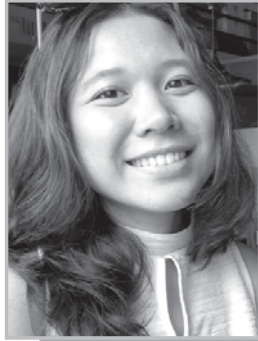
See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/communities-face-off-with-a-river-that-swallows-lands-and-homes-a-case-study-of-river-erosion-in-yusuf-matubarer-dangi-village-in-north-channel-union-of-faridpur-district/>

Land rights security improves sustainable rice farming: Increasing climate mitigation in upland communities in Passi City, Philippines



Ms. Marie Joy Demaluan
CARRD, Philippines



Ms. Caryl Pillora
CARRD, Philippines

This case study demonstrates how secure land rights, especially when backed by a land title, can hasten the livelihood recovery of farmers who have lost everything because of a climate-induced disaster. The farmers of Passi City already possessed a collective land title — the next best thing to individual land titles — when one of the most destructive typhoons to hit the Philippines laid waste to their land and livelihood in November 2013. Unusually for typhoon-affected communities, the Passi farmers bounced back quickly from their losses on the strength of their collective ownership of the land. Having previously been trained in organic agriculture by a non-government organization, the farmers resumed growing organic rice. With no landlord to dictate to them, the Passi farmers were able to make their own decisions on how and what to plant. Through a series of strategic decisions and actions, the farmers not only rebuilt their livelihood but succeeded in having their rice certified as organic and sold at a premium price in mainstream markets. Climate resilience in the case of the Passi farmers entailed the freedom to choose and pursue their own pathway to recovery.

Key Messages

- ◆ The government must ensure that land titles are not just awarded to farmers but that farmers actually occupy and make use of the land. Though the collective Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) received by the farmers in Passi City provide them with the right to occupy and till the land, the government should support and expedite the process of parcelizing collective land titles and issue individual land titles without delay. Individual titles offer stronger land tenure security.
- ◆ The experience of the Passi farmers has shown that the practice of organic agriculture offers an effective pathway towards livelihood recovery and resilience in the aftermath of climate-induced devastation of croplands. Organic agriculture promoted the use of seeds with high adaptive capacity; increased farmers' income, thus reducing their need to take out loans; improved soil texture and fertility; and, opened up access to government support services for organic farmers.

- ◆ In order to incentivize the practice of organic agriculture, the government must offer and strengthen its support for organic farmers so that they would not be lured to go back to conventional farming. The government must promote organic agriculture both for its environmental and commercial values.
- ◆ In the absence of civil society organizations (CSOs) that help promote organic agriculture in the communities, local governments should provide dedicated technical person/s with in-depth knowledge of organic agriculture who could educate and guide the farmers in shifting to organic agriculture practices.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/collective-land-ownership-empowers-farmers-to-choose-their-pathways-to-recovery-and-resilience-a-case-study-of-how-land-rights-security-improves-sustainable-rice-farming-and-increases-climate-mitigat/>

The sinking island of Ghoramara, West Bengal, India: a case study of community resettlement



Ms. Jennifer Brown
Sr. Land Specialist, Landesa

This case study highlights important lessons for non-government and community-based organizations working to support communities for post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation. In particular, in cases where the affected community has been almost completely destroyed, the most important task is to facilitate their managed retreat to the most suitable resettlement areas, guided by a plan that is developed jointly by the affected community, the local government, and support organizations.

This case study likewise provides an eye-opener for land rights advocates that land tenure security, while crucial in the long-term, is no guarantee of successful in-place recovery and rehabilitation in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Thus, land rights advocates and other organizations must focus their energies on ensuring that plans for managed retreat are in place, are developed with the community's approval, and are implemented automatically to ensure the safety, health, and livelihood security of the resettled community.

Key Messages

- ◆ Managed retreat is becoming increasingly necessary in a variety of coastal and delta contexts. The case study of Ghoramara Island may be used as an example of the important considerations that should be reflected as more governments begin devising plans for resettlement through managed retreat.
- ◆ Current relocation efforts are largely “one-off” and devised as needed. No systematic institutional frameworks, policies, or funding mechanisms exist to support the relocation of entire communities when needed for managed climate-related retreat.
- ◆ Governments and stakeholder groups working on resettlement plans should be guided by specific considerations, including: (a) how beneficiaries will be identified, including the assurance that women are included; (b) how the land for resettlement will be acquired, when no available land exists; (c) how much land will be allocated to each family; (d) what laws and regulations may need to be adopted to streamline, standardize, and make transparent and participatory the process of resettling communities; (e) how the process of resettlement will be kept participatory and transparent, especially as the community is concerned; (f) how can women and marginalized groups be ensured an active voice in decision-making; (g) how can governments leverage the resettlement process to support and strengthen conservation and climate mitigation efforts; and, (h) how will the government fund the resettlement program; among others.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/managed-retreat-as-a-pathway-for-community-recovery-and-rehabilitation-in-the-wake-of-disasters-a-case-study-of-community-resettlement-in-the-sinking-island-of-ghoramara-west-bengal-india/>



Theme 5: Rebuilding after disasters

How tenure security/insecurity affects the post-disaster capacity of people to recover and rebuild



Drowning in despair: The story of a dream washed away by a flood (Nepal)



Mr. Jagat Deuja
CSRC, Nepal

This case study illustrates how people's lack of land rights or land tenure insecurity subjects them to new inequalities following a climate-induced disaster. These disparities— all created by landlessness — are evident in their lack of access to disaster loss compensation from the government, their ineligibility for livelihood loans, and their exclusion from government resettlement or shelter assistance programs.

In any case, government sponsored resettlement efforts have not been able to keep up. As a result, resettlement remains a distant dream for displaced families. To this day, not a single family from the Melamchi area has been resettled. Some affected people are forced to move to areas in Melamchi that are highly vulnerable to floods and landslides, such as floodplains and steep hills, which puts them at risk of new disasters.

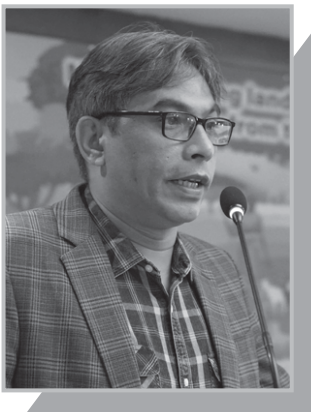
Key Messages

- ◆ Policies on climate change are largely silent on land and tenure issues. Organizations working on land and climate change need to work collaboratively to increase understanding on how to integrate the two issues.
- ◆ In post-disaster response, recovery and reconstruction, land tenure or possession of land ownership certificates must not be the exclusive eligibility criteria for availing of the government compensation package.
- ◆ The government and all stakeholders concerned must immediately secure the resettlement and proper rehabilitation of all displaced families. The government must allocate “safe” land areas to resettle the displaced families.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/climate-change-affects-us-all-but-the-landless-more-than-others-a-case-study-of-how-tenure-security-insecurity-affects-the-post-disaster-capacity-of-communities-in-helambu-and-melamchi-municipalities/>

Climate response and tenure rights in Char Bangla, a riverine char land in the coastal region



Mr. Rafique Ahamed Sherajee
ALRD, Bangladesh

This case study shows the challenge of securing land rights and land tenure security among a sector of Bangladesh’s landless poor whose claim to land is among the most tenuous in the world — the char dwellers. Their settlement on land that was created by river erosion and accretion of silts, and could at any time disappear in the same way provides a compelling case for the grant by the government of land rights that are not presently provided for by current land laws.

The increasing risk of disasters, particularly flooding, threatens char dwellers equally if not more than other landless poor. Thus, the government must urgently match the determination of the char people to triumph from disaster to disaster by enacting and enforcing laws that address the specific circumstances of char dwellers.



Key Messages

- ◆ Land titling will enhance the adaptive capacity of the char people. Otherwise, they will exhaust their resources and undergo physical and mental stresses in the process of securing land titles and addressing land conflicts.
- ◆ Char Bangla dwellers have adapted to climate change through a variety of ways, including changing their cropping patterns along with the seasons, timing their cultivation according to predictions of natural disaster, switching to occupations that are more adapted to the weather and climate; diversifying their crops; changing their eating habits, among others. But an injurious coping strategy that they have resorted to is to cut their spending on health and on their children's education, with all the negative anticipated outcomes.
- ◆ Char landless families in the coastal areas will continue to face the frequency and intensity of cyclones and other extreme weather events. Unless their land tenure security is strengthened, they will continue to struggle to face disasters and to rebuild in the aftermath.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/land-emerges-land-disappears-char-dwellers-continue-fighting-for-land-tenure-security/>

Land Rights Take Center Stage in Asia's Fight for Climate Resilience



Ms. Pubudini Wickramaratne
OXFAM



Ms. Rashmini de Silva
Law and Society Trust-Sri Lanka

The impacts of the climate crisis on land are immense: it causes loss of land, soil erosion, and land degradation that forces changes in land use. It threatens the land rights of communities, causes displacement, affects food security and aggravates land inequality. These impacts have led to greater competition for land, and increased pressures on land use. Communities

struggle to cope with loss and damage, unable to recover from them or to improve their climate resilience.

Oxfam listened to women and men from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste who shared their stories on how the climate crisis has caused loss and damage to their lands, and the impact this has had on their lives.

The stories demonstrate that land ownership is a key factor in determining people's eligibility to receive assistance to recover from loss and damage. Those who could prove land ownership received compensation and alternative land or relocation benefits, while those who did not own the land or could show proof of their rightful ownership and tenure struggled to obtain these benefits. Similarly, land ownership gave access to membership in farmer societies through which government extension services relating to climate adaptation and mitigation as well as climate finance were channeled.

See link:

<https://angoc.org/portal/land-rights-take-center-stage-in-asias-fight-against-climate-change/>



RAISING THE VISIBILITY OF LAND TENURE IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE DISCOURSE: Shaping knowledge and communications



Chair:

Mr. Nathaniel Don Marquez

Executive Director, ANGO



Presenter:

Ms. Romy Sato

Land Portal Foundation (online)

This presentation talked about efforts to raise awareness to land tenure issues in the climate discourse that took place in the frame of the GFAR/GFAiR Collective Action "Mainstreaming Land Rights of the Rural Poor in the Climate Discourse". These awareness raising efforts revolved around two main areas: a) the development and promotion of research and open knowledge pieces by the Land Portal and its partners in the Collective Action, and b) the implementation of a social media campaign also in collaboration with multiple partners.

The awareness raising strategies were meant to address two challenges identified within the Collective Action: that land issues still have limited importance in the climate agenda, and that climate-affected communities are still mostly portrayed as victims in the climate discourse.

Examples of how the Land Portal addressed these issues through awareness raising included the update of the Bangladesh country profile (see <https://landportal.org/book/narratives/2023/Bangladesh>), where a special section about climate change was added. In a special edition of the "What to Read digest" (see <https://landportal.org/what-to-read/climate-land-insecurity>), a blog with recommendations about the latest and most relevant readings about a particular issue, the Land Portal suggested publications that reinforced the role of local knowledge to adapt to the effects of climate change with case studies from Bangladesh and India.

Until September 2023, the social media campaign included 15 posts in Twitter and Facebook, three email campaigns (Mailchimp) sent to over 24,000 subscribers, and 40 land

communication professionals contacted to help disseminate the preliminary results of the Collective Action.

To measure the effectiveness of the social media campaign, we analyzed the visualization rate (impressions) of some of the posts and the engagement level. Data showed a higher open rate for some of the information sent via mailchimp than the usual campaigns by the Land Portal. For example, 24.4 percent of open rate for the What to Read digest mailchimp compared to the average of 21.8 percent for other campaigns by the Land Portal. Nevertheless, we observed a lower click rate of the Collective Action campaigns (one percent) compared to the click rate of other campaigns (2.1 percent). Data suggests that the GFAR/GFAiR campaign on Twitter/X was, overall, very successful. The performance of the GFAR/GFAiR-related tweets is consistently above average (between 332 to 1,497 impressions per tweet compared to the average of 320 impressions per tweet). The values for the engagement rate show a more erratic trend, recording values above average in some cases, but below average in other cases. The campaign appears to have been more successful on Twitter than on Mailchimp, but both channels suggest that the campaign was well tailored to boost impressions and visibility, rather than engagement.

Overall, the implementation of both awareness raising strategies confirmed the importance of the collaboration with partners to build a collective action which is coherent with its objectives, as well as the potential of social media channels to expand the outreach of messages that may otherwise have been limited to the countries that are most severely affected by climate change.

