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IFAD

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

TO THE

INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION

FOR THE

**PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN THE SECURE ACCESS OF THE RURAL POOR TO
LAND AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES**

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LAND AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES**

I submit the following Report and Recommendation on a proposed technical assistance grant to the International Land Coalition (ILC) for the Programme to Strengthen the Secure Access of the Rural Poor to Land and Related Services in the amount of USD 900 000 for the first phase of a two year grant in the period 2005-2006.

I. BACKGROUND

1. IFAD and the International Land Coalition (ILC) both recognize the strategic importance of land issues in combating rural poverty. As a result of its convening the 1995 Conference on Hunger and Poverty, IFAD provided the leadership that brought access to land back onto national and international agendas.
2. The Coalition has gained recognition as an innovative mechanism due to its capacity to convene civil society, intergovernmental bodies and international financial and governmental organizations, and to merge their strengths into common efforts involving the politically difficult aspects of the land agenda.
3. The Coalition was established with a clear link to the mission and activities of IFAD. It operates with a fair degree of autonomy with partners committed to shaping and implementing agreed activities, assuming ownership as full partners in development. In addition to an expanding membership from civil society, the level of intergovernmental and governmental participation in the ILC is growing.

II. RATIONALE/RELEVANCE TO IFAD

4. At the global level, the value of the Coalition is reflected, among others ways, in its role in convening (with IFAD) the ministerial round table on land issues at the 2003 High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva and co-chairing with the President of the Republic of Benin the land issues segment of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment in New York on 30 June 2004.
5. At national levels, the Coalition's Land Alliances for National Development (LAND) Partnerships are bringing state and non-state actors together for policy dialogue. This provides ILC partners with an opportunity to help shape decisions on land access policies, regulations and procedures and to provide/access production support services.
6. The ILC aims to enhance the capacities of its members and partners to enable the rural poor, especially the landless, near-landless and smallholders, to gain and maintain secure access to land. Appendix I describes the six programme areas through which the ILC endeavours to achieve this objective.

7. The ILC seeks to strengthen partnerships with each of its members. IFAD, as a member and the host of the ILC Secretariat, has been examining with the ILC ways and means to enhance collaboration in terms of knowledge sharing/management, advocacy, policy development and, in particular, through greater collaboration with IFAD programmes. Appendix II outlines some of the Coalition's ongoing collaborative activities with IFAD.

8. The Coalition is a tangible expression of IFAD's role as an 'honest broker' of partnerships. Its relationship with the Coalition is also an example of IFAD leadership in an international context calling for partnership, harmonization, synergy and donor effectiveness in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. The ILC membership has completed a consultative process that resulted in the official approval of a Strategic Framework for 2004-2006 at the meeting of the Coalition Council on 28-29 June 2004. This framework specifies how the Coalition intends to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty by increasing the rural poor's secure access to land.

10. The framework sets out two objectives for the ILC. The ILC will:

- enhance the capacities of its members and partners to help the landless and smallholders gain and maintain secure access to land and related production support services; and
- facilitate the opening of spaces for dialogue with decision-makers.

11. The strategic thrusts that will shape ILC activities will be:

- documenting and sharing knowledge;
- demonstrating, piloting and testing innovation;
- replicating and scaling up best practices;
- building networks for collective empowerment;
- strengthening local and global advocacy campaigns;
- reporting on adherence to international agreements and goals;
- developing tools for monitoring and evaluating progress towards more equitable land access; and
- undertaking action research to find solutions suitable to the evolving nature and new challenges of the land agenda in today's global context.

12. IFAD and the ILC agree on the need and potential for enhanced collaboration, and concur that over the next two years this collaboration should be targeted to specific actions and results. They further agree that this next two-year period should assess the value added of the ILC in enhancing the impact of the Fund's operations.

13. IFAD and the ILC both understand that this strategic partnership will, inter alia, include:

- generating, sharing and managing knowledge;
- carrying out advocacy and policy dialogue at national and international levels;
- assisting IFAD in developing policy in areas of ILC expertise and experience;
- strengthening relationships with stakeholders of the ILC and IFAD, particularly with civil society within countries and in partnership with IFAD divisions and country programme managers;
- developing, with the Programme Management Department (PMD) of IFAD, specific activities to enhance the design and implementation of country programmes, country-level policy dialogues, technical capacity and related implementation roles and responsibilities of PMD where the ILC may be an active contributor or partner;

- conducting work in close partnership with civil society organizations, in the process strengthening their ownership of the ILC agenda and research results; and
- enhancing the ILC contribution to loan-financed projects geared towards the improvement, at both national and local levels, of the community-beneficiary incentive structure for labour/capital investment in sustainable natural resource management.

III. THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

14. The proposed grant will provide a contribution towards the operational, administrative and programme requirements of the ILC to 31 December 2006.

15. The ILC needs to establish a fully functional secretariat in order to respond to the needs of its members and IFAD, demonstrate its potential to current and potential donors, and be adequately equipped professionally to pursue the requirements outlined in this document. The proposed grant, covering a two-year period, will enable the ILC, in consultation with IFAD, to engage professionals on contracts sufficiently long to attract people with the level of skills and experience required.

16. The grant will also enable the ILC to mobilize resources to pursue already interested/potential donors with the dedication needed to diversify its financial base. The Coalition has provided IFAD with a current and historical analysis of the ILC financial status and past, current and potential donor support.

IV. EXPECTED OUTPUTS/EXPECTED BENEFITS

17. The grant will provide the resources needed to achieve the following results:

- build ILC capacity to deliver the programme of work described in Appendixes I and II along with the implicit work reflected in the strategic thrusts referred to in paragraphs 11 and 13;
- establish a fully functional, professionally staffed secretariat equipped to meet the functional areas of: programme management; land tenure specialization; advocacy and policy dialogue; communications and knowledge management; and resource mobilization. This staff complement will also provide for the member and partner exchange of relations required to work effectively with the over 35 country-level activities of the ILC;
- provide for the ILC to pursue a resource mobilization programme with a reasonable horizon both to achieve results from already declared potential donors and to cultivate new donors;
- undertake with IFAD a set of agreed activities on the basis of which IFAD will be able to assess more effectively the value added by the ILC and therefore determine the relationship it may wish to have with the ILC in the future;
- manage its current portfolio of projects (over 45);
- implement the Strategic Framework for 2004-2006, including the strategic and management change processes needed to move the ILC from its current way of working and broad focus to the more focused role defined by the strategy as has emerged from a careful analysis of the Coalition's formative years of operation

V. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

18. This grant is in support of ILC operations and administration in the categories of activities described above. IFAD, as not only the grantor but also as a member of the ILC and as co-chair of the Coalition Council, will be directly engaged in the internal processes that will define the annual use of the grant.

19. The annual programme of work and budget is subject to approval by the Coalition Council and the President of IFAD. The grant will therefore be used in the ways and areas of work described above and precisely as presented in the approved annual programme of work and budget.

VI. INDICATIVE PROGRAMME COSTS AND FINANCING

20. The total financing considered by IFAD is about USD 1.87 million, in two phases of one year each – 2005 and 2006. In the first instance, Executive Board approval is sought for a first-phase grant of USD 900 000. On satisfactory review by IFAD of progress and achievements in 2005, a second-phase grant of USD 965 000 will be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

Item	Year 1 USD	Year 2 USD	Total USD
Governing body and other meetings	70 000	70 000	140 000
Staff costs	700 000	750 000	1 450 000
Operational costs ^a	130 000	145 000	275 000
Total IFAD contribution	900 000	965 000	1 865 000

^a These include costs for publications, duty travel, media activities, etc.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

21. The Executive Board is requested to approve the proposed technical assistance grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme to Strengthen the Secure Access of the Rural Poor to Land and Related Support Services, for the first of two years, commencing in January 2005, shall make a grant not exceeding nine hundred thousand United States dollars (USD 900 000) to the International Land Coalition upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.

Lennart Båge
President

ILC PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

1. The Coalition supports one or more of the following six programmes with each of its country-level partner(s).
2. First, the **Knowledge Programme** helps civil society, governments and intergovernmental organizations learn from each other by identifying, documenting and sharing practical experiences, with an emphasis on community-level approaches. It also tests the replicability of civil society experiences with the goal of encouraging governments to incorporate into public policies those with potential for scaling up. At present, 12 ILC grants (source: Italian Supplementary Fund) are being provided to civil society organizations to cover documentation, publication and dissemination costs.
3. Second, the **Network Support Programme** strengthens civil society networks at the country level so that resource-poor households can negotiate their access to resources from a position of collective strength. The aim is for networks and their members to be: (i) informed of policy and programme opportunities; (ii) educated on how to engage the political process; (iii) organized to negotiate with vested interests; (iv) informed on how communities elsewhere have achieved their objectives; and (v) assisted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders in opening spaces enabling them to take part in decision-making with relevant authorities. Coalition grants (source: Government of Italy) will support ten network-building projects.
4. Third, the **Community Empowerment Facility (CEF)** strengthens the capacity of communities to gain and maintain access to land and related productive resources. It supports innovative projects that are expected to provide lessons that will be useful to the communities themselves, and to those elsewhere in the same country or possibly in other countries. Financed by the World Bank and IFAD, the CEF is currently supporting 25 projects: one global, one regional and the others involving 16 countries, namely Albania, Argentina, Bolivia, Cameroon, Georgia, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Malawi, Mozambique, The Philippines, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. These 25 projects involve grants ranging from USD 32 000 to 100 000 (grant ceiling). A project advisory committee (with representatives from IFAD, the Land Tenure Service of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and three civil society organizations) advises the ILC Secretariat through the project review process. It approved the 35 funded projects from an initial assessment of over 175 concept papers. The IFAD representative engages the country portfolio managers (CPMs).
5. Fourth, the **Women's Resource Access Programme (WRAP)** raises national and international understanding of the need to improve women's access to land by documenting and bringing women's views and opinions into decision-making. WRAP also provides practitioners with a rapid and low-cost means for incorporating women's resource issues into project identification, design, implementation and evaluation. With funding from the Japanese trust fund, WRAP was implemented in Cambodia, India, Indonesia and Nepal. In each country, the implementing partner has replicated WRAP in other districts. The results of each WRAP have been published jointly by the three sponsors – IFAD, the Land Coalition and the Japanese Women-in- Development Trust Fund. The success of the Asian activities led to support from the Department for International Development Trust Fund for replication in four countries of Africa. The first replication, in May 2003 in Kenya, was incorporated into IFAD's project preparation process.
6. Fifth, **Towards a Common Platform on Access to Land** aims to build a global consensus (platform) on land issues. The Common Platform is an iterative forum for dialogue, joint pilot activities and consultation (often in the context of national, regional and international workshops and conferences) to build a more common analysis, shared visions and the political will to address land issues. This programme is used by governments, civil society and intergovernmental organizations to

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stimulate land policy debates and focus them on concrete actions – the platform outlines practical actions for different stakeholders at various levels. It was widely endorsed by delegates to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), many of whom have participated actively since its launching at the Eighth Session of the United Nation’s Commission on Sustainable Development.

7. Sixth, **Land Alliances for National Development (LAND) partnerships** aim to work with governments to develop or strengthen country-level multi-stakeholder mechanisms that can provide an ongoing forum where those affecting, and those affected by, decisions on land access, use and management can work together to examine pertinent issues. LAND partnerships are a tool to advise on, debate and negotiate the implications of proposed policy reform and the need for changes to related productive services. Projects have been initiated in Guatemala, Indonesia, The Philippines and South Africa. The Netherlands Government is providing the funding for the pilot stage.

8. Further to these programmes, the Coalition is actively involved with IFAD in the design of an action research programme aiming at more fully incorporating land activities into IFAD/Belgian Survival Fund Joint Programme programmes in Niger and Uganda.

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION WITH IFAD

1. The ILC and IFAD have recognized and agreed to foster the synergies and mutual benefits to be achieved by more active collaboration between the two organizations. A specific programme of work and activities will be established with measurable outcomes and target dates. Among the opportunities, the following are some ongoing activities that can and need to be built upon so that they will become more effective contributions to the mission of each organization.

2. Working together takes direct and indirect forms. Appendix I, on programmes and activities, contains examples of both. Numerous initiatives with CPMs are underway to expand the current scope of direct activities. These range from working with IFAD's Technical Advisory Division to make the links between gender and water issues, to common research and the design of several collaborative field projects. CPMs are gradually availing themselves of the CEF by encouraging their country partners to benefit from this programme. CPMs turn to the Coalition's database for information on NGOs and networks. There is greater scope for IFAD-Coalition collaboration in the project cycle. In collaboration with each of IFAD's five regional directors, ILC will take the lead in the development of a deeper level of collaboration at the country level.

3. Direct, country-level involvement with IFAD currently occurs in Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Nicaragua, The Philippines and Sri Lanka. In relation to the Belgian Survival Fund (BSF), a joint BSF/IFAD/ILC project formulation is being finalized for Niger and Uganda. IFAD is also involved in ILC Land Partnerships and invited to all country-level events, which adds South Africa to the list of countries of engagement.

4. Policy work with IFAD has taken many forms from the Commission on Sustainable Development to ECOSOC to WSSD, to assisting in the preparation of IFAD messages on land in publications, studies, communications, and content of speeches by IFAD officials. The ILC could be more engaged in IFAD project formulation and policy dialogue at country levels and in helping IFAD to elaborate a corporate policy on access to natural resources, especially land. This would be welcomed and would reflect the common interests and agreements of IFAD and ILC to have a defined and measurable plan for more active collaboration.

5. In other ways, working together is indirect. Strengthening the voice of communities in public decision-making creates a demand that needs to be present to underpin IFAD's efforts to be proactive in promoting land and other access issues in its lending programmes. Directors often cite that governments dismiss issues such as land, saying they have no signs of demand. Strengthening the influence of institutions of the rural poor is essential to these processes.

6. IFAD through its Technical Advisory Division (PT) is one of five organizations serving on the Project Advisory Committee for the Community Empowerment Facility, which is currently financing 35 projects. CPMs are consulted on projects being considered in their countries of responsibility to foster opportunities for further collaboration. In this way, IFAD's experience guides the selection and implementation of these projects.

7. The ILC is contributing to a number of IFAD thematic groups/working groups, such as those on gender, community-based natural resource management and land and water. It is also assisting PT in preparing one of the case studies on the Initiative for Mainstreaming Innovation.

8. The ILC has just completed a study and documentation of the Ecuadorian Land Fund, an IFAD initiative. This very significant case has been documented in order to help advise other countries on how to establish a land fund. Land funds are expected to become increasingly prominent as a result of a new provision in World Bank policy enabling lending for this purpose. In documenting and

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disseminating this successful IFAD experience, the ILC is not only raising the profile of IFAD but also encouraging other intergovernmental, governmental and civil society organizations to take up IFAD experience, to reflect it in public policy and to replicate and scale up IFAD models.

9. Due to the large and growing numbers of ILC members and partners in all geographic regions, IFAD frequently calls upon the Coalition for contacts, information and advice vis-à-vis civil society and social movements.

10. While the Coalition's structure, governance and ways of work are as an alliance of equals, it is evident to all partners that IFAD has somewhat higher exposure than the others. The situation is similar to that of the World Bank, which hosts the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor – a mechanism that like the ILC has its origins in fostering a microfinance coalition.

