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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

**President's report on a proposed grant
under the global/regional grants
window to the International Land
Coalition**

**Putting a pro-poor land agenda into
practice**

Executive Board — Ninety-fifth Session
Rome, 15-17 December 2008

For: **Approval**

Note to Executive Board Directors

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
CSD-16	16 th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
ILC	International Land Coalition
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
PROCASUR	Corporation for Regional Rural Development Training
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for a grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Land Coalition for implementing its programme “Putting a Pro-Poor Agenda into Practice” as contained in page 2, paragraph 8.

President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Land Coalition – Putting a Pro-Poor Agenda into Practice

I submit the following report and recommendation on a proposed grant for agricultural research and training to the International Land Coalition (ILC) in the amount of US\$1,150,600.

Part I – Introduction

1. This report recommends the provision of IFAD support to activities foreseen in the strategic framework of ILC.
2. The document of the grant for approval by the Executive Board is contained in the annex to this report:

Putting a Pro-Poor Agenda into Practice – Implementing the International Land Coalition Strategic Framework at the Regional and Global Level
3. The objectives and content of this programme are in line with the evolving strategic objectives of IFAD and the policy and criteria of IFAD's grant programme.
4. The overarching strategic objectives that drive the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing, which was approved by the Executive Board in December 2003, are:
 - (a) Promoting pro-poor research on innovative approaches and technological options to enhance field-level impact; and/or
 - (b) Building pro-poor capacities of partner institutions, including community-based organizations and NGOs.
5. Deriving from these objectives and those of the IFAD Strategic Framework 2007-2010, the specific aims of IFAD's grant support relate to: (a) the Fund's target groups and their household food-security strategies, with particular reference to groups in remote and marginalized agroecological areas; (b) technologies that build on traditional local/indigenous knowledge systems, are gender-responsive, and enhance and diversify the productive potential of resource-poor farming systems by improving on- and off-farm productivity and by addressing production bottlenecks; (c) access to productive assets (land and water, a broad range of rural financial services, labour and technology); (d) the sustainable and productive management of natural resources, including sustainable utilization and conservation of such resources; (e) a policy framework at both the local and the national level that provides poor rural communities with a conducive incentive structure to improve their productivity and reduce their dependence on transfers; (f) access to transparent and competitive input/product markets and making these work for the poor primary producers involved in remunerative small and medium-sized enterprises and value chains; and (g) an institutional framework within which institutions – formal and informal, public- and private-sector, local and national alike – can provide services to the economically vulnerable, according to their comparative advantage. Within this framework, IFAD's grant financing supports commodity-based approaches for self-targeting among poor rural communities. Finally, IFAD's grant programme fosters the establishment and strengthening of networks for pro-poor knowledge generation and exchange, which in turn enhances the Fund's own capacity to establish long-term strategic linkages with its development partners and to multiply the effect of its grant-financed research and capacity-building programmes.

6. The grant proposed in this document responds to the foregoing strategic objectives in as much as it will enable poor rural women and men to have better access to, and the skills and organization they need to take advantage of:
 - Natural resources, especially secure access to land and water; and
 - Local and national policy and programming processes.
7. The grant is also in line with the recently approved IFAD Policy on Improving Access to Land and Tenure Security.

Part II – Recommendation

8. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, Putting a Pro-Poor Agenda into Practice, shall make a grant not exceeding one million one hundred and fifty thousand and six hundred United States dollars (US\$1,150,600) to the International Land Coalition for a one-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Lennart Båge
President

Putting a Pro-Poor Agenda into Practice – Implementing the International Land Coalition Strategic Framework at the Regional and Global Level

I. Background

1. The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue and capacity-building. ILC is currently made up of 65 members, one of which is IFAD. The Fund also sits on the Council of ILC.
2. Following an independent evaluation of ILC in 2006, an action plan for 2007-2008¹ was drawn up aimed at refocusing ILC. This plan contains two main thrusts: (a) structural changes, including clarifying ILC's legal identity, strengthening the role of members and expanding the membership base; and (b) a strategic focusing of operational activities. The targets and milestones set up in the action plan have been achieved. Under the guidance of the Coalition Council, this agenda for change has been translated into the ILC Strategic Framework 2007-2011: Putting a Pro-poor Land Agenda into Practice, approved at the biennial Global Assembly of Members in Uganda in April 2007. The change process will be further reflected in the agreement between IFAD and the ILC Council, which establishes the relationship between IFAD – as hosting institution – and the ILC secretariat.
3. The actions proposed in this report have been developed as direct outcomes of a process of regional expansion undertaken through regional meetings and consultations with members and key partners in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, at which ILC members defined their priorities for working together. The global elements of the proposed actions were similarly developed through member consultations, including with the Coalition Council. The current proposal will not finance all activities as agreed by members, but concentrates on a selected few among those agreed by the wider membership (at regional and at global levels).

II. Rationale for grant and relevance to IFAD

4. Land issues affect the everyday choices and prospects of poor rural women and men. They influence the extent to which farmers are prepared to invest in improvements in production, in resources management or in adoption of new technologies. As rural population density continues to increase in most developing countries and as growing demand and high prices of food, feed and energy are bringing about higher competition for land, the issues of access to land and tenure security have become central to the development and poverty reduction agenda.
5. IFAD's commitment to improved and secure access to land for poverty reduction is articulated in the first objective of the IFAD Strategic Framework 2007-2010 and in the recently approved IFAD Policy on Improving Access to Land and Tenure Security. This is expressed through IFAD's programmes, with a significant number of projects containing a tenure security component.
6. One of IFAD's guiding principles in addressing land issues is to forge complementary partnerships with like-minded actors. IFAD's active membership in ILC has been one of several important avenues promoting collaborations and partnerships in working towards access and tenure security for poor communities. Among ILC members, IFAD has been at the forefront of the move towards a more member-driven coalition, and significant progress has been made in this regard over the past two years.

¹ ILC (2006), "Advancing Together: The International Land Coalition's Plan of Action in Response to the External Evaluation".

7. This transformation process is ongoing. For the first time, a proposal for an IFAD contribution to the Coalition has been developed based on regional strategies that have been elaborated by the members and approved by the Coalition Council. This contribution will allow the implementation of the ILC strategic framework, including through activities of direct relevance to IFAD country programmes. It will also contribute to the ongoing strengthening of ILC's operation as a member-based coalition.
8. ILC members collaborate closely with IFAD in a number of countries to enrich IFAD initiatives that have a bearing on access to land. For instance, in Madagascar, IFAD and ILC have worked together to support civil society engagement in the new tenure reform process. This has led to ILC support for the formation of a civil society platform that works with the Government and development partners in the reform programme. In 2007, ILC facilitated an inter-agency mission that enabled IFAD and other United Nations organizations working on land reform in Madagascar to share field experiences on pro-poor tenure reform. In the Niger, ILC is working with the Permanent Secretariat of the Rural Code and the IFAD-supported Project for the Promotion of Local Initiative for Development in Aguié (PPILDA) to pilot land demarcation. This experience is informing both the ongoing work of PPILDA and the Government's broader implementation of the Rural Code. In Latin America, ILC and the Corporation for Regional Rural Development Training (PROCASUR) – a former IFAD-supported programme and now an autonomous institution – are closely collaborating to design and implement "learning paths" on participatory cartography and on legal assistance for solving land conflicts. These knowledge-sharing opportunities are open to all ILC members and IFAD-supported programmes in the region.
9. A typical example of the Coalition's achievements on the ground, through innovative approaches and inclusive processes, can be reported from Nicaragua where ILC support to Grupo Tierra (a network focused on land issues) resulted in 10 pilot agreements for natural resource management, the successful engagement of 46 communities and 12 cooperatives in alternative solutions to land conflicts, and 15 agreements between landowners and landless groups. In Albania, the collaboration between ILC and the Transborder Wildlife Association resulted in more than 200 rural families obtaining legal recognition (individual and community rights) to use 4,347 hectares of state forest. Forest users' associations have been established to put people in a stronger position for sustainable and effective natural resource management.

III. Target group

10. The target group consists of rural men and women whose livelihood depends on secure access to land and other natural resources. Special emphasis is placed on people with high vulnerability to land insecurity such as women, indigenous peoples, and people negatively affected by globalization, conflict and climate change.

IV. Goals and objectives

11. ILC aims to strengthen the capacities of its members and partners to become more effective institutions in empowering communities of resource-poor and landless households to gain and maintain secure access to land, including through processes to foster the establishment of pro-poor land policies at national levels.
12. ILC's programme of work is focused on implementing its strategic framework 2007-2011, which has the following objectives:
 - (a) ILC members provide coherent and coordinated support to global, regional and national commitments and actions to improve access of poor men and women to natural resources, especially land;

- (b) Civil society participates more actively in, and exercises greater influence over, the policy and decision-making processes that affect the access of poor men and women to natural resources, especially land;
 - (c) Civil society, intergovernmental organizations and governments identify, share and adopt lessons and good practices that improve the access of poor men and women to natural resources, especially land;
 - (d) ILC members have increased their capacity for networking, knowledge-sharing, dialogue and joint action; and
 - (e) ILC becomes a member-led and financially sustainable coalition.
13. This proposal focuses specifically on contributing to the achievement of objectives (a), (d) and (e). Together with contributions from other members and donors, these activities will be complemented so as to achieve ILC's 2009 programme of work. The outputs and key programme activities arise from the participatory planning process described above. The ILC secretariat has initiated discussions with the different divisions in IFAD in order to strengthen the complementarity and synergy between these proposed activities and IFAD's country programmes and regional networks such as FIDAMERICA, FIDAFRIQUE and Knowledge Networking for Rural Development in Asia/Pacific Region (ENRAP).
14. IFAD's recently approved land policy places emphasis on the Fund's membership in ILC in terms of partnership-building, policy dialogue and advocacy, and results-based country strategic opportunities. This grant will, in particular, enable ILC members in selected country contexts to collaborate with IFAD in implementing its land policy. It will also facilitate collaboration on global issues raised by the policy, by, for instance, developing collaborative responses to new global trends that place increasing pressures on land and heighten the vulnerability of smallholders and common property users who lack secure land rights. Finally, it will make it possible for ILC to promote the principles and experiences of IFAD's land policy at national, regional and international levels.

V. Expected outputs

15. Expected regional, global and institutional outputs are outlined below:

Africa:

- Civil society input into consultations for the land policy guidelines being developed jointly by the African Union (AU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Strengthened regional and subregional platforms on land
- Greater participation of ILC members in planning and budgeting
- A coordinated initiative to address land-based conflict in Central and West Africa

Asia:

- Reporting processes on pro-poor "access to land" (i.e. monitoring/shadow reports and "land watches") established at country level, along with regional synthesis and monitoring reports
- Policy dialogue and mechanisms on land issues among civil society organizations, governments and intergovernmental organizations at in-country and regional levels
- Field action learning and thematic sharing on priority topics identified by ILC members and partners (addressing land conflicts; women's access

to land; land rights of indigenous peoples, *dalits* (scheduled castes) and minority groups)

Latin America:

- Learning path on specific land- and territory-related topics identified by Latin American ILC members (focus on women, indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples)
- Collective action research for influencing regional debate
- Thematic communities of interests for knowledge-sharing

Global:

- Follow-up to the 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16): an initiative facilitating a coordinated response to increasing commercial pressures on land
- Pro-poor land indicators: ILC programme to effectively facilitate global monitoring of pro-poor access to land
- Joint initiatives with pastoralist-support organizations to promote pastoralists' land rights

Institutional:

- Increased leadership by members, and increased membership participation
- Greater institutional and financial sustainability
- Improved planning, accountability, effectiveness and focus of ILC initiatives

VI. Key programme activities

16. To support the implementation of member-led regional work and at global level, ILC proposes a number of activities for possible cofinancing by IFAD in 2009-2010, based on preliminary discussions with relevant IFAD divisions, and building on the priorities identified for Coalition activities by members in the regional platforms.
17. ILC's management cycle is defined by the newly approved operating framework. Accordingly, the December ILC Council meeting will approve multi-year indicative workplans, as well as the budget for the coming year. Following the consultative planning process as outlined in ILC's operating framework, and in accordance with the decisions taken by ILC's Council, the proposed activities will be elaborated in detail with the relevant IFAD divisions and other ILC members. This process will allow these indicative activities to be developed so as to fully complement the priorities and 2009 workplans of members, including IFAD.
18. Preliminary discussions have identified the following indicative activities:
19. **Africa.** ILC has been participating in the AU/UNECA/AfDB initiative to develop Africa-wide land policy guidelines since April 2006 with the objective of strengthening the involvement of civil society in the consultation process. As the guidelines are expected to be adopted by heads of state in early 2009, this activity will primarily be oriented to enabling civil society to take up the guidelines in specific countries.
20. Addressing land-related conflict was identified by ILC members and partners in Africa as a primary area for joint action. Members in the Great Lakes region, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in West Africa are already involved in this issue and would like to broaden their involvement.
21. **Asia.** ILC will promote policy dialogue and mechanisms among civil society organizations, government and intergovernmental organizations at country and

- regional levels. It will link with intergovernmental organizations and regional bodies (e.g. the Asian Development Bank; Association of Southeast Asian Nations; Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP); and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and build on IFAD-related initiatives for building this policy dialogue, such as the formulation of country strategic opportunities programmes and the CIRDAP-implemented technical assistance grant as a follow-up to the 2006 International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.
22. ILC has supported country mapping studies under Land Watch Asia (part of ILC's land reporting initiative) and will, in addition, help strengthen the capacity of civil society to engage constructively with government agencies, policymakers and intergovernmental organizations by supporting networking and consensus-building among different sectors, and by building capacity for action research and monitoring on land access issues, in two to three priority countries.
 23. In accordance with the main targets of IFAD's work in Asia, ILC will support at least three community initiatives that emphasize action learning and thematic sharing on priority topics identified by ILC members and partners, targeting groups most vulnerable to land insecurity including women, indigenous peoples, *dalits* and other minority groups.
 24. ILC's institutional development in Asia will focus on: (a) establishing a decentralized coordination system; (b) improving communications to increase transparency and efficiency within the network; and (c) establishing ways to track members' involvement in the implementation of the joint work programme.
 25. **Latin America.** ILC regional strategy emphasizes the importance of bridging knowledge and learning. Within the framework of an existing partnership agreement with PROCASUR, the Coalition will replicate an experience, piloted in 2008, of implementing a land-focused learning path to build the capacity of ILC's intergovernmental and civil society organization members. The learning path will take into consideration the experiences implemented by ILC members and other relevant organizations, and will benefit 18-20 organizations. Collaboration is envisioned with the Regional Unit for Technical Assistance.
 26. The complexity of land access and use is increasing, and fundamental elements must be considered in response to the food crisis and climate change. ILC will undertake regional collective research, leading to publications that provide evidence to advance at least three key land topics in the region.
 27. **Global.** At IFAD's request, the ILC secretariat coordinated a process of stocktaking and advocacy leading to CSD-16 on the implications that increasing commercial demand for land had on poor people. At a jointly organized workshop, next steps for collaboration on this topic were agreed on, including commissioning research, setting up a mechanism for information exchange, and planning for joint engagement with CSD-17 and the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
 28. ILC's work on global monitoring of pro-poor access to land has three objectives: (a) contributing to the development of global indicators and reporting; (b) promoting national partnerships for assessing land issues; and (c) supporting evidence-gathering by members, to be published in a high-profile global report. A consultation of the membership and a stocktaking exercise will be presented to key international and regional stakeholders in December 2008 for recommendations on how ILC could best add value to current initiatives, including those of IFAD. The recommended course of action will be implemented from 2009 onwards.
 29. ILC has liaised closely with IFAD on the land rights of pastoralists and indigenous peoples, including support for a large grant proposal under development by IFAD's Policy and Technical Advisory Divisions to support the World Initiative for Sustainable

Pastoralism. Activities will be targeted at strengthening the land rights of pastoralists, in alignment with ongoing initiatives by both divisions in this regard.

30. In addition to the regional and global dimension of ILC's work, two cross-cutting thematic areas (gender equality/women's access to and control over land; and innovation) will be a focus of activities over the coming years. Special attention will also be paid to enhancing communications in the ILC network.
31. **Institutional.** Efforts will be focused on implementing ILC's operating framework 2008-2011, its monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and its resource mobilization strategy. Through the Coalition Council, ILC will undertake a consultative process to develop recommendations, to be presented to the Assembly of Members in 2009, that more precisely define members' roles, responsibilities and obligations. In particular, it will address the question of members' responsibility for ILC's financial stability and autonomy, specifically the recommendation to establish membership fees and contributions.

VII. Implementation arrangements and methodology

32. These activities will be implemented by the ILC membership and its network of partners and by the ILC secretariat under the guidance of the Coalition Council, as per the approved ILC operating framework.
33. Implementation of activities will be supported by the regional nodes hosted by ILC members in the three regions (for Latin America, Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales, in Peru; for Asia, the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, in the Philippines; for Africa, the Kenya Land Alliance, in Kenya).

VIII. Indicative programme costs and financing

34. IFAD's plan for its future relationship with the International Land Coalition (EB 2006/89/R.36) sets the target that not less than 65 per cent of ILC's funding should be provided by non-IFAD sources by December 2008 and, within this, cofinancing by IFAD of the administrative portion must not exceed 50 per cent. These targets were achieved and surpassed one year earlier than required. As at January 2008, the approved ILC budget showed that 79 per cent of its total funding came from non-IFAD sources. Furthermore, IFAD's contribution to the administrative portion was 35 per cent for 2008.
35. The Coalition's annual workplan and budget for 2009 is estimated at US\$4.44 million, of which IFAD will contribute US\$1.15 million. Negotiations are currently being finalized with the European Commission, another founding member of ILC, to contribute a similar amount.
36. Additionally, co-funding has been secured for 2009 from the Netherlands and from the International Development Research Centre for a total of US\$0.96 million. Negotiations are currently also under way with the Belgian Survival Fund and the Canadian International Development Agency.
37. Non-IFAD contributions to the 2009 ILC workplan will reach US\$3.29 million. IFAD will therefore contribute 25 per cent of ILC's 2009 budget.
38. Finally, discussions are ongoing with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and with Norway, which are expected to increase the diversification of ILC contributors further.

Summary of budget and financing plan
(In United States dollars)

<i>Type of expenditure</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing</i>
Hosting of the ILC secretariat	98 000	100 000
ILC governance (Coalition Council and Assembly of Members)	60 000	100 000
ILC secretariat administrative costs	104 600	235 000
Secretariat staff for global activities (advocacy, partnerships, knowledge management and management of the secretariat)	250 000	725 000
Secretariat staff for regional programmes	150 000	270 000
Travel	32 000	70 000
Programme grants	456 000	1 790 000
Total	1 150 600	3 290 000

IX. Monitoring and evaluation and reporting arrangements

39. Monitoring and evaluation is an ILC priority. It is aimed at improving the Coalition's performance as a member-led organization adding value to its members, including IFAD, and providing them with opportunities to collectively advance the land policy agenda in ways they could not as individual organizations or through existing networks. For the Coalition, M&E has the twofold purpose of accountability and learning, with members sharing responsibility for applying ILC-agreed M&E procedures and approaches, and for providing feedback on what works and what does not.
40. Progress reports will be submitted to IFAD by the ILC secretariat annually. As a member of the ILC, the Fund will also receive an annual report accounting for the overall achievement of the ILC 2007-2011 strategic framework. The ILC secretariat will have overall responsibility for the financial management of activities and will maintain financial records in accordance with IFAD's financial regulations, policies and procedures.

Logical framework

<i>Hierarchy of objectives</i>	<i>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</i>	<i>Means of Verification</i>
1. ILC members provide coherent and coordinated support to global, regional and national commitments and actions to improve the access of poor men and women to natural resources, especially land	At least two collaborations/ partnerships established between ILC, CSOs & IGOs at global, regional and national levels Ratings by peer-to-peer reviews of quality of collaboration between members At least two instances where land-related agreements, policies, laws and compliance are changed in favour of the poor thanks to ILC role Ratings by members and partners of relevance and utility of tenure security monitoring indicators Use of, or reference to, tenure security monitoring indicators by target audiences (governments, IGOs, etc.)	- Annual survey of members - Annual report - ILC website, and ILC members' websites - Policy and thematic Papers
2. ILC members have increased their capacity for networking, knowledge sharing, dialogue and joint action.	Rating by members of extent to which ILC lessons & good practices have led to improved access of poor men & women to NR & land Rating by CSOs/ members of extent to which they have improved access to land-related knowledge as a result of ILC's stock-taking activities	- Annual survey of members - Annual report
3. ILC becomes a member-led and financially sustainable coalition	At least ten joint actions by members mediated through ILC support (by region & country) Two active ILC-supported networks that attract non-ILC funding and support	- Annual report - ILC and members' websites - ILC workplan and budget
Expected results		
1.1(Global) Policy dialogues and mechanisms on land issues among CSOs, government and IGOs at in-country and regional levels in place 1.2 (Global) defined and agreed role for ILC in facilitating of global monitoring of pro-poor access to land 1.3 (Global) a more coordinated response to increasing commercial pressures on land 1.4 (Global) Increased support for land rights of pastoralists (Africa) Co-ordinate efforts to address land-based conflict in central and/or west Africa 1.5 (Africa) strengthened civil society engagements with AU/UNECA/AfDB land policy guidelines 1.6 (Asia) reporting processes on pro-poor "access to land"(i.e. monitoring/shadow report and "land watches") established at country level, along with regional synthesis and monitoring reports	At least six policy dialogue and advocacy initiatives in the 3 regions and globally Early evidence of changes in target audience attitudes, stance or levels of trust in relation to ILC's policy positions and to ILC's advocacy messages At least one advocacy initiatives/campaigns conducted by ILC members Level and nature of participation of ILC CSOs members in policy dialogue with AU/UNECA/AfDB Level and nature of ILC member contact with other organizations advocating for similar change Increase % of budget allocation on activities to monitor agreements, policies and laws (ILC Programme - LRI) At least two agreements, policies and laws monitored (in Asia and globally) At least two land related analyses prepared and disseminated by ILC Target audiences reached with monitoring data and analysis	- ILC Policy and advocacy papers (ILC and members) - ILC and members' websites - Progress reports - OTRs (secretariat and members) - ILC annual survey and evaluation questionnaire - ILC financial statements
2.1 (Latin America) Learning path (ruta de aprendizaje) on specific land and territorial related topics identified by ILC members 2.2 (Latin America) Collective Action Research for influencing regional debate and policy maker 2.3 thematic communities of interests for knowledge sharing 2.4 (Asia) field action learning & thematic sharing on priority topics identified by ILC members	Satisfaction with relevance and utility of packages by target audience Increase % of budget allocation on capacity building activities Level of client satisfaction with training received Cost per participant of training delivery	- Progress reports - ILC annual survey and evaluation questionnaires - ILC financial statements
3.1 Increased leadership by members, and increased membership participation 3.2 greater institutional and financial sustainability achieved 3.3 Improved planning, accountability, effectiveness and focus of ILC initiatives	At least twenty members playing an active role in planning and managing ILC-funded activities and in internal ILC decision-making processes Number and nature of member-to-member contacts – within the regional network and with members in other regions Number and nature of regional processes managed or coordinated by the regional networks At least five potential ILC donors contacted and informed about the ILC At least two potential ILC donors expressing interest in funding ILC activities	- Progress reports - Minutes of meetings - ILC annual survey and evaluation questionnaires - ILC proposals to donors - ILC agreements with donors