



INTERNATIONAL  
LAND CONSERVATION  
NETWORK

## The ILCN engaged land practitioners from across the globe in discussions about conservation and climate change at the 2022 Land Trust Alliance Rally

*Lily Robinson  
September 19, 2022*

The International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) staff team spent three days collaborating with land conservation leaders from across the globe at the 2022 Land Trust Alliance Rally. This year's event was held in New Orleans from September 15-17. ILCN participants attending Rally were especially excited to gather after more than two years of meeting virtually. The staff, including Jim Levitt, Chandni Navalkha, Robin Austin, Shenmin Liu, and our newest colleague, Lily Robinson, hosted several sessions and presented the network's most recent publications at its exhibit booth.



*Meeting to discuss the future of the ILCN at the 2022 Land Trust Rally are participants from North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. From left to right: Anton Gazenbeek, Angelo Salsi, Ann-Sophie Mueller, Hernán Mladinic, Chandni Navalkha, Jim Levitt, Dawn Carr, John Lounds, Laura Johnson, Tilmann Disselhoff, Carolina Halevy, Lily Robinson and Shenmin Liu. Not pictured: Sarah Brugler, Renee Kivikko, Kiragu Mwangi, and Robin Austin.*

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Following a spirited International Reception hosted by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) and the ILCN, participants joined a crowd of about 1,500 guests at a plenary banquet held at the Marriott, New Orleans. During the kickoff dinner, the LTA and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy honored Ebonie Alexander, executive director of the Black Family Land Trust, with the 2022 Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award. The award recognizes the work of individuals whose work has enriched

the field of land conservation through innovation and creativity. Alexander will also serve as the 2022-23 Kingsbury Browne Fellow at the Lincoln Institute, where she will work to further engage with the community, share her skills and experience, and advance land conservation through research, writing, and mentorship. Alexander is the 17th recipient of the leadership award and fellowship.

*Friday, September 16, 2022*

Conservationists from around the world kicked off the day early to convene over coffee and conversation at the ILCN's international breakfast. ILCN Director, Jim Levitt, energized the room with a presentation highlighting stories in "From the Ground Up." The Lincoln Institute's most recent publication is a collection of case studies illustrating innovative tools land trusts have developed to combat climate change.

Ernest Cook—interim director at the Network for Landscape Conservation—continued the dialogue to present the results of ongoing research examining how regional landscape-scale conservation collaboratives in the United States are advancing programs to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation. With these ideas as catalysts, guests then shared the group narratives of similar initiatives from their own nations, including examples from Africa, South America, Asia, Europe, Australia, and Canada.

*Saturday, September 17, 2022*

The Rally audience stayed engaged through the weekend's final workshop session at the ILCN's roundtable, "Easements Go Global." Chandni Navalkha—associate director for sustainably managed land and water at the ILCN—moderated the session, which compared the tools and legal context of land conservation in countries from Europe, South America, and Australia. Speakers described projects and strategies from their region with the goal of inspiring U.S. conservationists to innovate and expand their organizations' impact.

Victoria Marles—Trust for Nature (TFN) CEO—gave a virtual presentation on the use of covenants as a tool for supporting voluntary private land protection in Australia. Sarah Brugler—former legal counsel for TRN and a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania, with a focus on environmental law—joined the group in person to elaborate on Marles' presentation and answer questions from the crowd.

Henry Tepper—strategic conservation advisor for the *Fundacion De Conservacion Tierra Austral*—joined the group to discuss the historical roadblocks to private land conservation in Latin America. Tepper then contrasted the slow progress of conservation in much of the region to the trajectory of that same work in Chile, which has leveraged unique legal and social characteristics to become a laboratory for conservation innovation.

Angelo Salsi—head of the European Commission's LIFE Unit—wrapped up the session by introducing Natura 2000, the world's largest network of protected areas, much of which is composed of privately-owned parcels. The vastness of this network and its implications for the public help explain the European Union's acute interest in private land protection. Salsi also highlighted systems for providing monetary incentives to promote private land protection from Spain, Finland, and France, each of which has played a powerful role in the trajectory of conservation within the legal framework of the EU.



*The ILCN exhibit booth, displaying "From the Ground Up" and other recent publications from the Lincoln Institute*

If you missed the ILCN's booth or did not make it to this year's LTA Rally you can still access our report "From the Ground Up," our newly published country profiles, and conservation resources at <https://www.landconservationnetwork.org/>.

*Have news? Share updates from your organization or country by emailing [ilcn@lincolninst.edu](mailto:ilcn@lincolninst.edu).*