



INTERNATIONAL
LAND CONSERVATION
NETWORK

Why We Exist

With the immediate threats of climate change and ongoing human population growth, governments simply cannot do the job alone. The abundant talent, advanced technology, financial creativity and organizational ingenuity of the civic and private sectors have proven their ability to accelerate the pace and improve the quality of land conservation initiatives in recent decades in North America. An opportunity exists to leverage such resources to benefit land conservation efforts on six continents.

The job is simply enormous. One United Nations estimate is that there are two billion hectares worldwide — an area larger than South America — available for rehabilitation. Additional hundreds of millions of hectares of vibrant forests, wetlands and grasslands merit long-term protection.

A recent International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) report on privately protected areas stated “privately protected areas deserve far greater recognition and support than is the case at the moment...we therefore believe that (this report) will help bring the private conservation movement fully into the mainstream of global conservation practice, and request governments, the international community and other actors to work together to implement the recommendations herein.” The major recommendations of the report recognized the need to develop training and improve knowledge sharing and information.

An all-sectors-on-deck approach to land conservation can be significantly enhanced if there are means to share best practices, expertise and the ability to build organizational leadership and operating capacity. In the United States, the Land Trust Alliance helps to fill that role. In 1981 the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy played a crucial role in launching the Alliance (then called the Land Trust Exchange). Now 30 years later the Lincoln Institute is playing much the same supporting role to the new Network as it did with the Alliance, by hosting the first organizational meeting of the International Land Conservation Network in September 2014, and continuing to support the establishment and long-term sustainability of the ILCN. The ILCN aims to help make land conservation knowledge and know-how available to engage civic and private sector organizations and citizens around the globe.

What We Do

Build capacity

- Commence development of informational and curricular offerings that address basic to advanced topics in private and NGO land conservation, allowing a continuum of learning
- Assemble a team of experts who are willing to give advice to emerging land conservation organizations
- Develop case studies focused on relevant legal, financial, management and organizational leadership issues

Develop baseline information and initiating exchanges

- Map existing networks and active organizations, essentially creating a baseline census to help measure change and growth in private land conservation movement over time
- Initiate international exchanges among individuals and organizations in the Network

Help to catalyze the growth of private and civic land conservation on multiple continents

- Hold first Congress in October 2015 in Berlin, Germany
- Help develop legal structures for perpetual private land conservation in a civil code nation (derecho real de conservacion in Chile, analogous to a conservation easement under common law)
- Highlight for the World Bank cases in which civic and private land conservation have catalyzed large landscape conservation initiatives in Africa, South America and North America
- Identify potential partnerships with other organizations.

Develop the ILCN's organizational strategy

- Convene an international steering committee and sub-committees to determine the ILCN's mission and vision statements, governance model and membership structure
- Develop a five-year strategic plan and financial model for the ILCN
- Create a visual identity/brand and develop appropriate "kit" of supporting material
- Create and launching the ILCN website