

Sharing Emerging Ideas with Practitioners Across the Globe



From the Ground Up

How Land Trusts and Conservancies
Are Providing Solutions to Climate
Change

James N. Levitt and Chandni Navalkha

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The Civic-Sector Land Conservation Community Spans the Globe, from Boston to Brussels, Beijing, Sydney, Santiago and Cape Town

I can describe that community best through my organization's service to it. My home base is The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, which **seeks to improve quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land**. A nonprofit private operating foundation which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2021, we are engaged in geographies around the globe, from the Americas to Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia.



The International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) is a program of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. **As a highly effective, trusted, and connected global network, we leverage expertise to successfully advance private and civic land conservation throughout the world.** Our mission is to connect organizations and people around the world that are accelerating voluntary private and civic sector action that protects and stewards land and water resources. We believe that building capacity and empowering voluntary private and civic land conservation will strengthen the global land conservation movement and lead to more durable and effective resource protection.



Our Community of Practice is Diverse, Talented and Widely Distributed

- The staff is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA; regional Representatives are based on 6 continents, from Chile to China
- Our colleagues come from key partner organizations around the globe (e.g., the Land Trust Alliance in the US, the European Land Conservation Network in the EU, the Australian Land Conservation Alliance, and the emerging African Protected Areas group (see <https://landconservationnetwork.org/who-we-are>)



Top Row: Tilmann Disselhoff, Germany (ELCN and NABU); Row 3: Andrew Bowman, US (LTA); Row 4: Jin Tong, China (TNC); Row 5: Geoff Wescott, Australia (ALCA, Trust for Nature); Row 7: Kiragu Mwangi: Africa (BirdLife); Row 9: Cecilia Mahung (Belize, TIDE); Marcela Renteria (DRCLAS at Harvard; Fundacion Tierra Austral)



The ILCN Serves a Growing Community-of-Practice Around the Globe

- The ILCN has grown rapidly since its founding. The **2014 organizational meeting**, brought together some **40 people from 14 countries**.
- **The 2021 ILCN Global Congress**, attracted **920 registrants from 89 countries** or territories, notwithstanding the fact that the ILCN had to pivot to a virtual event due to the COVID pandemic.
- **In 2021, our website had 12,725 unique visitors from 164 countries or territories**. This is an **increase of 94%** over the 2020 Google Analytics measurement of unique visitors.
- Inspired in part by the creation of the ILCN, the European Land Conservation Network (ELCN) was formed in 2016 with a grant from the European Commission.
- The Chinese Civic Land Conservation Alliance, which was launched in the fourth quarter of 2017, was inspired in part by a study tour of civic land conservation groups in New England that was organized by the ILCN.





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Land Trusts and Conservancies Around the Globe, Sharing Innovative Practices and Projects, continue to Advance Initiatives that Conserve Biodiversity, Address Climate Change and Promote Sustainability.

The best of these are:

- > **Creative in conception**
- > **Strategically significant**
- > Measurably effective
- > Transferable, and
- > Enduring.



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The 2020 Land Trust Census “reflects the unique role land trusts played providing solace for many Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 16.7 million people visited land trust properties in 2020, representing a substantial increase from 6.25 million in 2015.”

‘The dramatic increase in land conserved by land trusts paired with the public’s increased interest show the land trust community is gaining ground,’ said Andrew Bowman, president and CEO of the Land Trust Alliance.”

<https://www.landtrustalliance.org/61-million-acres-voluntarily-conserved-america-2020-national-land-trust-census-report-reveals>

The Land Trust Alliance in the US reports in its 2020 Census that more about 950 land trusts in 50 states have to date protected about 61 million acres (24.7 million hectares) of land – an area nearly as large as Oregon -- through acquisition, easement, transfer and other mechanisms.



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“Tierra Austral [has] played a critical role in the passage of Chile’s breakthrough private lands conservation law, the *Derecho Real de Conservación* (DRC), which has now become our most important tool for protecting private lands. The DRC enables landowners to enter into long-term private lands conservation legal agreements that are modeled on Conservation Easements in the United States and Canada and Conservation Covenants in Australia.”

<https://www.fundaciontierraaustral.cl/en/about-us/>

In Chile’s Mediterranean Zone, *Fundación Tierra Austral* has led the way in using a new civil code legal tool, the *Derecho Real de Conservación* to protect land in perpetuity. They are helping to create a new philanthropic community in their nation.



Thank you.

Join us at the ILCN online at www.landconservationnetwork.org,

or, for a digital copy of the new Policy Focus Report, use your browser to search for “[Lincoln Institute](#)” and “[From the Ground Up](#)”



Jim Levitt and Chandni Navalkha

International Land Conservation Network (ILCN)

at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA, USA

jlevitt@lincolninst.edu | cnavalkha@lincolninst.edu