



# Background, Framework, and Methodology of the 2020 Land Conflict Monitoring Initiative

India Land and Devt. Conference | 21 November 2021



**Background**

**01**



***Land conflicts over time have increased in number, coverage, and intensity – threatening livelihoods and lives of communities and rights defenders.***

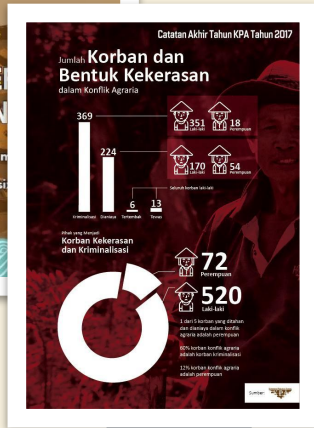
# Why monitor land and resource conflicts?



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- Land conflicts provide an observable indicator of unjust access to, control, or ownership of resources.
- Land conflicts may result in violence and violations of human rights.
- Land conflicts signal an urgency for government and other stakeholders to act.

# Previous efforts, limitations



- KPA (Indonesia) has been consistently monitoring land conflicts and attacks against defenders since 2003
- Other LWA WG LRHR\* members also produced conflict monitoring reports in 2018, using their own methodologies
- Varied scopes, definitions, methodologies, limited the regional consolidation, comparison and analysis of data

*\*LWA Working Group on Land Rights as Human Rights*



**2020 Land and  
Resource Conflict  
Monitoring Initiative**

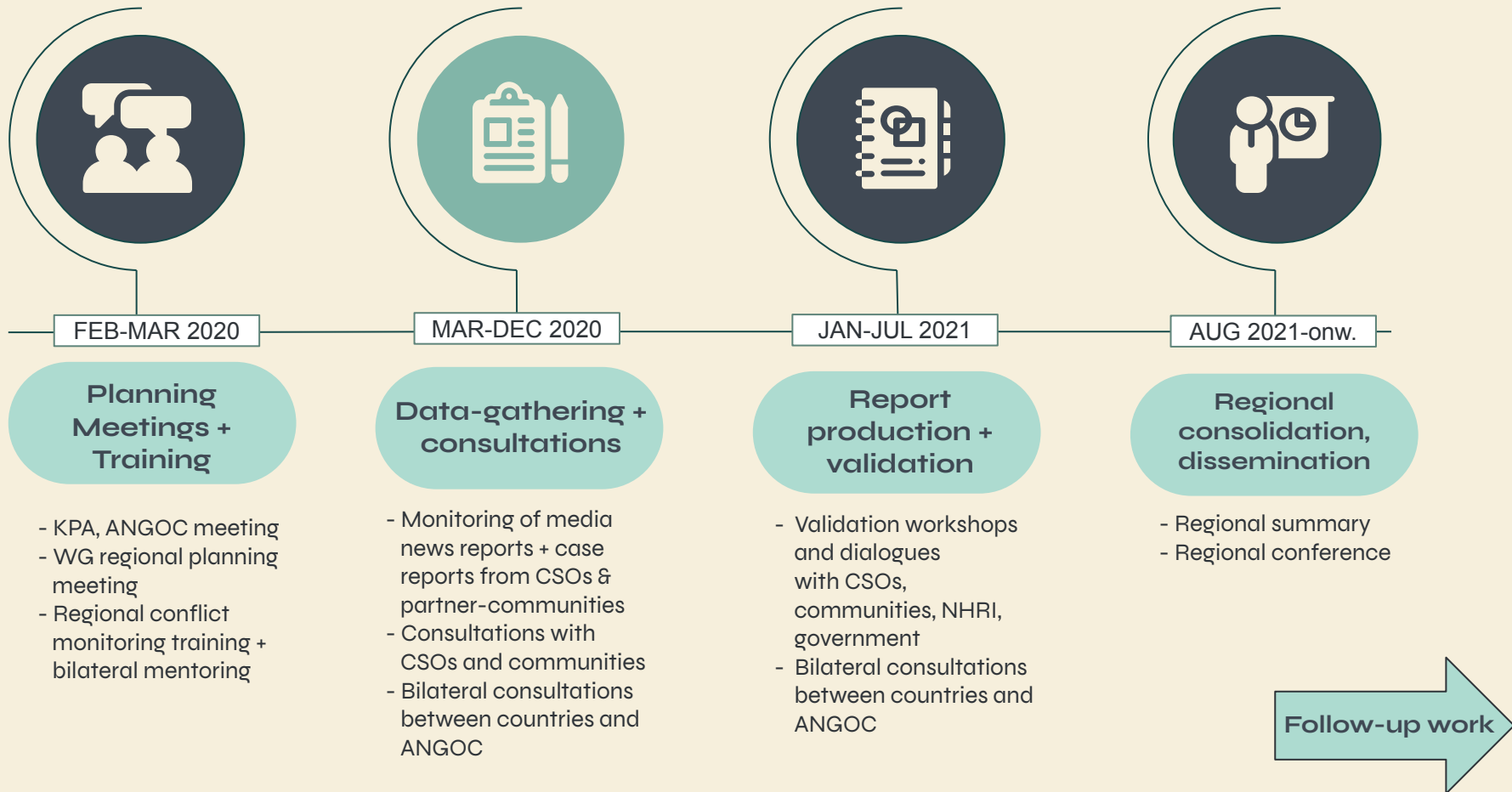
**02**



# Objectives of 2020 Land Conflict Monitoring Report

To implement a *common yet flexible system* for collecting data and information on land conflicts

- To describe the *prevalence and types* of land and natural resource conflicts;
- To examine the *nature and causes* of land and resource conflicts;
- To discuss the *impacts and outcomes* of land and natural resource conflicts on communities, as well as on land rights defenders; and,
- To draw up *recommendations* based on the study findings and consultations in each country.





# Focal Organizations for the 2020 Land Conflict Monitoring

Country	Focal Organization
Bangladesh	CDA
Cambodia	STAR Kampuchea
India	CLRA
Indonesia	KPA
Nepal	CSRC
Philippines	ANGOC
Region	ANGOC



# Key Commonalities in Methods

01

Definitions

02

Scope

03

Data sources

04

Data validation

05

Perspective

06

Database

07

Indicators and  
analysis

# Definitions

- WG agreed on key definitions. A glossary was prepared. Definitions used are mostly from official/international sources.

<b><i>Land conflict</i></b>	A situation wherein two or more stakeholders compete for control over land and/or resources, including decision-making and truth. Also called 'structural conflicts' wherein the conflicts emanate from: a) loopholes and contradictions in law, b) difference in paradigms of competing tenure systems, and/or, c) weak enforcement of legal and customary tenure systems.
<b><i>Conflict incident</i></b>	An event or string of events that indicate an ongoing conflict. All manifest conflicts have conflict incidents.
<b><i>Land rights holder</i></b>	A stakeholder whose rights to the land under contestation are held under law, tenure reform/s, or custom, and whose relationship to the land is inherent to their survival and identity.
<b><i>Land rights defender</i></b>	Stakeholders who may be Land Rights Holders or support groups assisting Land Rights Holders to defend their land rights.
<b><i>Aggressor</i></b>	A stakeholder whose claim over land under contestation is not inherent to their survival and identity.

# Scope

- Information covered by the monitoring
  - **CASES** – basic information about the conflict (ex. type of land/resource contested, size of contested area, location)
  - **RELATIONSHIPS** – stakeholders involved (affected communities, aggressors) and their actions
  - **INCIDENTS** – violence, victims and perpetrators, their effects

# Scope

- Information covered by the monitoring
  - Cases with reported incidents – primary focus of the monitoring; ex. a contested mining application case that led to the criminalization of indigenous leader opposing the project
  - *Cases without incidents* – ex. ongoing opposition from fisherfolk community on planned reclamation activities, without manifestations of violence towards the community in 2020
  - *Incidents not tied to a specific case* – ex. slaying of an activist working with a peasant's organization

# Coverage

- One calendar year (1 January to 31 December 2020)
- *Structural\** land conflicts ongoing in 2020
- Incidents that occurred within the time frame
- Conflicts and incidents in rural areas

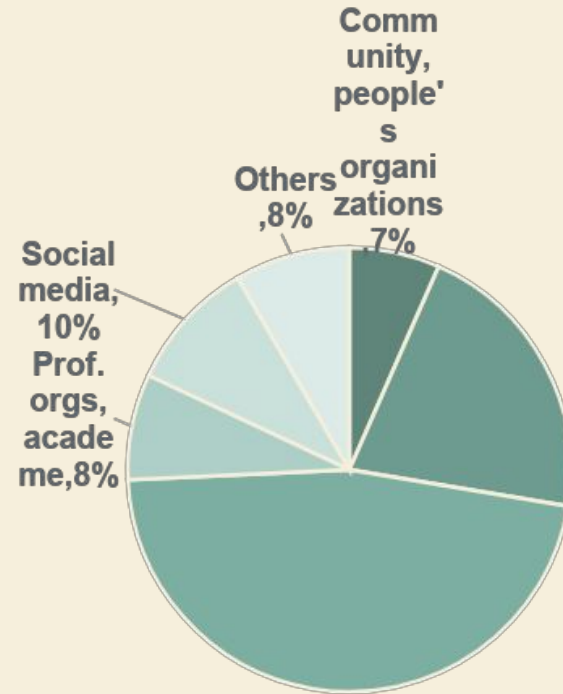


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*\*conflicts that emanate from: a) loopholes and contradictions in law, b) difference in paradigms of competing tenure systems, and/or, c) weak enforcement of legal and customary tenure systems.*

# Data Sources

- Mostly secondary data from publicly available sources and other NGOs
- Some primary data from community reports and field visits



# Key Differences in Scope & Sources

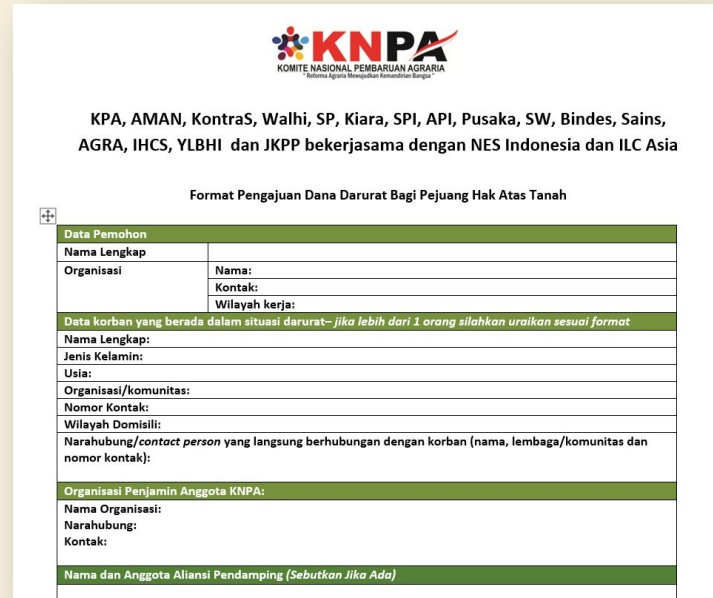
Country	Cases Covered	<u>Main</u> sources of data, approaches to data-gathering
Bangladesh	35	Collected available information from 36 mainstream media reports (ex. newspapers, news sites) (mostly secondary sources)
Cambodia	78	Gathered conflict cases from partner-communities, mainstream media (primary and secondary data). Used at least 94 sources.
India	36* (776 in LCW)	Selected and qualitatively analyzed 36 cases from Land Conflict Watch's database of 776 cases (secondary data from landconflictwatch.org)
Indonesia	241	Collected reports of ongoing conflicts with violent incidents from national network of partner-communities (primary data)
Nepal	19	Gathered conflict cases from partner-communities (mostly primary data)
Philippines	223	Sought and collected reports from publicly-accessible online sources (mostly secondary sources). Used at least 388 sources.



# Data Validation

- For secondary data\*
  - At least 2 independent sources, or
  - On-ground validation, or
  - Reports from CSOs considered *validated* at community level.
- For primary data
  - On-ground validation, following incident reports

\* Due to data-gathering difficulties because of COVID, some reports with only *one* source available were still included in the database.



**KNPA**  
KOMITE NASIONAL PEMBARUAN AGRARIA  
Tubuh Kita Mengajukan Kemajuan Bangsa

KPA, AMAN, KontraS, Walhi, SP, Kiara, SPI, API, Pusaka, SW, Bindes, Sains, AGRA, IHCS, YLBHI dan JKPP bekerjasama dengan NES Indonesia dan ILC Asia

Format Pengajuan Dana Darurat Bagi Pejuang Hak Atas Tanah

<b>Data Pemohon</b>	
Nama Lengkap	
Organisasi	Nama:
	Kontak:
	Wilayah kerja:
<b>Data korban yang berada dalam situasi darurat— jika lebih dari 1 orang silahkan uraikan sesuai format</b>	
Nama Lengkap:	
Jenis Kelamin:	
Usia:	
Organisasi/komunitas:	
Nomor Kontak:	
Wilayah Domisili:	
Narahubung/contact person yang langsung berhubungan dengan korban (nama, lembaga/komunitas dan nomor kontak):	
<b>Organisasi Penjamin Anggota KNPA:</b>	
Nama Organisasi:	
Narahubung:	
Kontak:	
<b>Nama dan Anggota Aliansi Pendamping (Sebutkan Jika Ada)</b>	

# Perspective

- Perspectives and narratives of communities and rightsholders are prioritized and given more weight, considering that their experiences are often overlooked. (ex. in recording the instigators of conflict and perpetrators of violence; in instances wherein a rights defender is tagged as a “rebel” or “communist”)





# Indicators and Analysis

- Common outline for country reports
- Common indicators included in country reports (ex. size of areas affected by conflicts, typology of conflicts, victims disaggregated by sex, etc.)
- Common summary table templates used by Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines
- Therefore, some level of aggregation of data across countries has been made possible

Gender	BD	KH	INDO	NP	PH	TOTAL
Male	68	4	158	81	95	406
Female	10	4	6	36	40	96
Unspecified/Don't Know	2	52	-	-	152	206

# Some Differences

01

**KPA (Indonesia) continued to use their own format for data recording and analysis**

Since the monitoring of other countries took inspiration from KPA, some key data are still aggregable at regional level

02

**CLRA (India) analyzed select cases from Land Conflict Watch**

LCW is a network of researchers and journalists in India, consistently monitoring conflicts in all Indian states. The regional summaries extracted data from LCW.



**Reflections**

**03**



# Limitations

- Not all land and resource conflicts are reported or documented
- Disparity in the number of conflicts and incidents reported may skew the regional summary – contextualization is a must
- Methods were *common* but not *uniform* – question of how much flexibility in methods is acceptable to produce sound results



# Areas for Improvement

Uniform understanding  
of concepts

Further simplification of  
concepts and tools

Maximizing and  
expanding in-country  
network for monitoring

Research capacities of  
CSOs (quantitative)

Digital security





# Thank You.

## Questions? Feedback?

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