

## **Preamble**

The present document, hereafter referred to as cooperation agreement (CA), describes the key-elements and the structure of an international expert network dedicated to the promotion and benchmarking of landslide early warning systems (LEWS). The establishment of this network follows up on two workshops, which were held in Oslo - Norway in 2016, and in Perugia - Italy in 2020, with the aim of sustaining an active exchange between researchers and operators of regional LEWS in different countries across the globe.

## **PART ONE: Name, form and objectives**

### **Article 1: Name**

The international network on LEWS described in this CA is called LandAware.

### **Article 2: Form**

LandAware is a multi-disciplinary, knowledge-based, non-profit network of individuals (e.g. LEWS managers, researchers, stakeholders) who are interested in cooperating for addressing and promoting issues related to LEWS.

LandAware is not an entity registered in any country, therefore the behavior of the members of the network will only be governed by the provisions set out in the CA.

### **Article 3: Objectives**

The members of LandAware commit to liaise with reliability and honesty to achieve the objectives set out hereafter, with the general overarching aim of reducing loss-of-life probability in areas characterized, at specific times, by an intolerable level of landslide risk.

The primary purpose of LandAware is to share experiences, needs and innovations among LEWS experts and to develop and promote guidelines and best practices for upcoming LEWS.

In order to achieve this, LandAware is committed to:

- ✓ exchanging experiences, innovations and best practices in the development and operation of LEWS;
- ✓ promoting staff training and supporting stakeholders responsible for landslide emergency response and risk management;
- ✓ fostering cooperation between members through collaborative studies on specific cases and benchmarking of LEWS worldwide;
- ✓ enhancing the communication and awareness about landslide risk to all the categories of stakeholders;
- ✓ organizing scientific gatherings and dissemination initiatives;
- ✓ producing common standards and terminology, guidelines, recommendations, opinion papers and white papers;
- ✓ creating and maintaining online platforms as authoritative sources of information on LEWS;
- ✓ liaising with other relevant organizations that share similar objectives.

The specific actions of the network shall be carried out by means of working groups (WGs) and task forces (TFs) that will operate on the basis of predetermined working objectives.

## PART TWO: Membership

### Article 5: Membership categories

The network comprises two categories of membership, with different voting rights:

- ✓ members (with voting right)
- ✓ observers (without voting right)

Members and observers of LandAware are physical persons sharing the objectives of the network and subscribing this CA.

### Article 6: Members

Requests to become a member of LandAware must be addressed to the executive committee (EC), who is in charge of admitting new members following the admission rules defined by the GA.

Members have the following rights:

- ✓ voting right in the general assembly (GA);
- ✓ eligibility to coordinate a working group (WG-Chair) or a task force (TF-Leader).

The EC is in charge of keeping the list of members up to date.

At any time, the EC may suspend the membership status of individuals who do not adhere to terms and conditions defined in this CA or whose activities are in contrast with the objectives of LandAware. Suspended memberships are always discussed in the following GA, who finally decides on whether to terminate or reinstall the membership status suspended by the EC.

Members can request to withdraw their membership to the network at any time, by simply requesting it to the EC.

### Article 7: Observers

Observers have the following rights:

- ✓ participation to the GA, without voting rights;
- ✓ participation to activities of a WG, upon acceptance by WG-Chairs.

Observer status is automatically granted, upon request addressed to the EC, to any individual that wishes to be informed on the activities of LandAware.

## PART THREE: Governance/Organs

### Article 8: Organs

LandAware shall include the following organs:

- ✓ general assembly (GA);
- ✓ working groups (WGs) and task forces (TFs);
- ✓ executive committee (EC).

### Article 9: General assembly (GA)

The GA is composed of all the members and is the supreme governing body of LandAware.

The GA monitors the progress of the network activities and evaluates new challenges and upcoming issues.

The GA shall hold an ordinary meeting, either in presence or as an online event, once every two years. It may also hold an extraordinary meeting whenever necessary, at the request of the EC or at least of one-third of its members.

The president of the EC shall inform the members of the date of the GA well in advance of the meeting e.g., few months for attendance events or few weeks for online meetings. The GA, presided over by the president of the EC, shall be considered valid regardless of the number of members present.

The GA, with a majority vote of the members present:

- ✓ approves the admission and expulsion of members recommended by the EC;
- ✓ approves WG-Chairs and TF-Leaders appointed by the EC or substitutes them by electing new ones;
- ✓ approves the creation of new WGs and TFs;
- ✓ approves the objectives and the deadlines of WGs and TFs;
- ✓ evaluates the work of WGs and TFs;
- ✓ decides on any modification of the CA and on the dissolution of the network (these decisions require a qualified two-thirds majority vote of the members present).

The agenda of GA meetings is set by the EC, mainly considering the work carried out by WGs but also considering proposals and reports coming from individual members.

## **Article 10: Working groups (WGs) and task forces (TFs)**

WGs and TFs are the main operational units of LandAware. WGs and TFs are formed to discuss and address specific topics and to fulfill specific working objectives, falling within the main scope of LandAware and considering the general objectives stated in this CA.

- **WGs** are set up with a clear mandate, typically associated with continuous activities and multiple deliverables.
- **TFs** are associated with one-off deliverables and a defined period of activity.

The establishment of a WG or a TF, the definition of its working objectives and the monitoring of its activities is in charge of the EC. The EC decisions are confirmed, or amended, by the GA during every ordinary meeting.

Each WG or TF is composed of:

- ✓ one or two coordinators, WG-Chairs or TF\_Leaders;
- ✓ members interested in the WG activities.

All members can be elected **WG-Chairs** or **TF-Leaders**, upon nomination or auto-nominations accompanied by a working proposal for the activities to conduct, to be submitted to the EC at any time. WG-Chairs and TF-Leaders are initially appointed by the EC, and then confirmed or amended by the GA, at each ordinary meeting. WG-Chairs and TF-Leaders shall ensure that WGs and TFs meet as often as the business requires, act consistently, efficiently and as a collegiate body to fulfill the established working objectives.

All members can ask to join any active WG or TF. The requests are evaluated by WG-Chairs or TF-Leaders considering the proven expertise of the requesting member to actively contribute to the mandate of the WG or TF. At any time, WG-Chairs and TF-Leaders may terminate the participation to a WG of members who do not participate in the group activities or whose actions are in

contrast with the objectives of the WG or TF. Against such decisions, members may appeal to the EC, who finally decides on whether to reinstall the member in the WG or TF.

### **Article 11: Executive committee (EC)**

The EC is authorized to carry out all acts that further the purposes of LandAware, and has the power to manage the network's day-to-day affairs. The EC meets as often as the business requires. The EC is composed of all active WG-Chairs, TF-Leaders and may include LandAware members nominated by the GA. The EC is chaired by one of its members, who acts as the president of LandAware. The president may nominate a secretary of the EC.

The **president** is the chairperson of the EC and of the CA. The president is elected by the EC among its members for a term of two years, and is eligible for re-election. The president represents LandAware and is responsible for carrying out all those routine activities and specific tasks that have to be fulfilled between GA meetings. If needed, the president may temporarily delegate this duty to any of the EC members.

The EC is in charge of:

- ✓ taking the appropriate measures to achieve the goals of LandAware and the working objectives of the WGs;
- ✓ preparing reports on the activities of LandAware and ensuring that the WGs report on their work progress;
- ✓ drafting rules and procedures to effectively manage the network;
- ✓ proposing and managing new activities that fall within the scope of LandAware;
- ✓ preparing and convening the GA;
- ✓ ensuring that the rules set in this CA are applied.

## **PART FOUR: Various provisions**

### **Article 12: Liability**

Each member or observer is not liable to any other member or observer for damage or injury attributable to the execution of its responsibilities under this CA. Members and observers will bear their own costs for the participation to the activities of LandAware unless expressly otherwise agreed in writing for specific programs and projects.

### **Article 13: Entry into force, amendments**

This CA, approved by the GA held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 19 September 2025, shall enter into force immediately and shall remain in force unless otherwise decided by the members. This CA can be amended or terminated by the GA. This CA may only be amended in writing. Amendments will take effect immediately after approval.

President of LandAware  
*Michele Cavello*

