

# Annual Statement of Business & Affairs

## Rights and Resources Group

### 2007



# Annual Statement of Business & Affairs of the Rights and Resources Group, 2007

Prepared by the Rights and Resources Group  
January 2008

## Business Status

The Rights and Resources Group is the coordination mechanism of the Rights and Resources Initiative, a global coalition formed to advance forest tenure, policy and market reforms. Rights and Resources Group is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. Rights and Resources Group was formally created in 2005.

As of December 2007, ten partner organizations compose the Rights and Resources Initiative:

Organization	Headquarters	Date of joining RRI
CIFOR – Center for International Forestry Research	Bogor, Indonesia	2005
IUCN – World Conservation Union	Gland, Switzerland	2005
RECOFTC – Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific	Bangkok, Thailand	2005
Forest Trends	Washington, DC	2005
ACICAFOC – Central American Indigenous and Peasant Coordination Association for Community Agroforestry	San José, Costa Rica	2005
FPCD – Foundation for People and Community Development	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea	2005
FPP – Forest Peoples Programme	London, United Kingdom	2006
Intercooperation	Bern, Switzerland	2006
ICRAF – World Agroforestry Center	Nairobi, Kenya	2006
Civic Response	Accra, Ghana	2007

## Location of Business

The Rights and Resources Group is currently located in Suite 204 at 1238 Wisconsin Avenue in Washington D.C., United States. The office space is leased on a 10-year lease, which was signed in 2005 and will expire June 30, 2016. The mailing address is:

1238 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Suite 204  
Washington, DC 20007, USA

## **Governance**

The Rights and Resources Group is governed by its Board of Directors, which is composed of members of the Rights and Resources Initiative coalition Partners, and representatives of other relevant organizations. As of December 31, 2007 the composition of the Board of Directors is:

- 1) Doris Capistrano, Chair  
Bogor, Indonesia
- 2) Yam Malla, Secretary  
Regional Community Forestry Training Centre (RECOFTC)  
Bangkok, Thailand
- 3) Stewart Maginnis, Treasurer  
World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
Gland, Switzerland
- 4) Yati Bun  
Foundation for People and Community Development (FPCD)  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
- 5) Alberto Chinchilla  
Coordinating Association of Indigenous and Agroforestry Communities of Central America (ACICAFOC)  
San José, Costa Rica
- 6) Marcus Colchester  
Forest Peoples Programme  
Moreton-in-Marsh, United Kingdom
- 7) Michael Jenkins  
Forest Trends  
Washington D.C., United States
- 8) Kyeretwie Opoku  
Civic Response  
Accra, Ghana
- 9) Andy White  
Rights and Resources Group  
Washington D.C., United States

## **Staff**

As of December 31, 2007, the Rights and Resources Group has seven regular employees, including experts in forest economics, community development, international finance, forest poverty and sustainable forest management. Staff persons originate from two countries (India and the United States, and two of seven are female.

Dr. Andy White, President  
Arvind Khare, Director, Finance and Policy  
Dr. Augusta Molnar, Director, Communities & Markets  
Dr. William Sunderlin, Senior Researcher  
James-Christopher Miller, Portfolio Manager  
Patrick Brown, Operations and Grants Manager  
Megan Liddle, Project Manager

## Financial and Operations Status

### Audited Statements for 2007

Audited statements for 2007 are currently under preparation and will be included in the Annual Statement upon completion.

### Conflict of Interest Statements for 2007

The Conflict of Interest statement is signed every year by members of the Governing Board and RRG senior staff members. This statement will be signed at the Board meeting to take place in January 2008, in Washington DC, United States and will be included in the Annual Statement upon completion.

## Program Status of the Rights and Resources Initiative

In 2007 the Rights and Resources Group (RRG) coordinated with RRI Partners to orchestrate collaborative efforts advancing forest tenure, policy and market reforms around the world. These include a wide range of activities in each of five program areas: (1) the global campaign, (2) strategic analysis, (3) country-level research and engagement, (4) network support, and (5) RRI coordination.

### Global Campaign Activities

- Coordination of the collaborative work of Partners in the consultation phase of the Listening, Learning Sharing Launch (LLSL) of RRI. A global meeting of LLSL coordinators was held in Washington DC in January 2007 and regional meetings convened by regional coordinators were held throughout the year. In Africa, consultation meetings were held in Cameroon in March and December. In Asia, consultation meetings were held in Thailand and the Philippines in May and July. In Latin America, consultation meetings were held in Bolivia and Nicaragua in May and October.
  - Now available is the final Asia synthesis report on the LLSL: *Land, Forest and People: Facing the Challenges in South-East Asia*. Available at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
  - Now available for comment are the eight studies completed as background to the Asia LLSL: *Review of Legal Frameworks for Community-based Natural Resource Management in Selected Asian Countries*. Available at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- Maintenance of the Rights and Resources Initiative website as a dynamic portal of information on rights and tenure. In 2007 RRG introduced new publications and reports publicly available on the RRI website, regularly posted information feeds on Partner activities on rights and tenure, and introduced a regular blog featuring news on rights and tenure from around the world. RRG also created a decentralized content-management system for the RRI website to allow more regularly updated program information and better Partner access for posting information and resources. This new version of the website will launch in January 2008.
- RRG and coalition Partners made many presentations to international fora and audiences on the scope and work of the Rights and Resources Initiative. These included presentations to the Committee on Forestry in Rome in March, the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York in April, the International Tropical Timber Council in May, July and November, the Consultative Group on Biodiversity in June, Sida in October and November, Norad and the UN Conference on Ecosystems and People in November, and IIASA and CIRAD in December.

## Strategic Analysis Activities

- RRI piloted a new project on Alternative Tenure and Business Models (ATEMS). Pilot activities began in Central and West Africa, with initial case studies from Ghana and Cameroon. Meetings were held in Cameroon in June and a technical workshop for case study authors was held in Ghana in August. Partners and workshop participants finalized a methodology and work plan for case studies in Central and West Africa and agreed on field sites to represent a diversity of enterprise models, product types and tenure situations. RRG and RRI Partners are finalizing the pilot model in Central and West Africa to scale up the project to other regions in 2008.
- A five-day international conference, *Community Forest Management and Enterprise: Global Issues and Opportunities*, hosted by the International Tropical Timber Organization and organized by RRI, Global Alliance of Community Forestry, IUCN and the Government of Brazil. The conference was held in Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil from July 16 – 21. More on the conference, including an event summary, the agenda, presentations and press coverage, is available online at: [http://www.rightsandresources.org/news/events/CFE\\_conference.html](http://www.rightsandresources.org/news/events/CFE_conference.html). In December, proceedings from the conference were distributed to more than 15,000 individuals and organizations as a special issues of the ITTO *Tropical Forest Update*.
- A final print copy of the report *Community-Based Forest Enterprises in Tropical Forest Countries: Status and Potential*. Augusta Molnar, Megan Liddle, Carina Bracer, Arvind Khare, Andy White and Justin Bull. ITTO and RRI. This report was published in parallel to the conference on *Community Forest Management and Enterprise* in Brazil in July 2007. The report and case studies are available online in English, Spanish, and French, at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- In September, RECOFTC and RRI hosted a five-day international conference on *Poverty Reduction in Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms*. The conference was hosted by RECOFTC in Bangkok, Thailand, from September 3 – 7, 2007. More information from the conference is available at <http://www.recoftc.org/>.
- New research and reports on the relationships between rights, tenure, governance and major global challenges such as conflict, climate change, biofuels pressures and plantations. RRI Partners met in June in London to discuss the convergences between these key issues. In October, RRI and Sida sponsored a conference in Stockholm, *Towards a New Global Forest Agenda*. At the conference, RRI Partners and collaborators presented draft papers discussing the role of rights and governance in each of eight major global challenges. These papers (listed below) will be finalized and distributed in early 2008. Summaries are available online at: [http://www.rightsandresources.org/news/events/Global\\_Challenges\\_Stockholm.html](http://www.rightsandresources.org/news/events/Global_Challenges_Stockholm.html).
  - On Rights: *Beyond Tenure, Rights-Based Approaches to People and Forests*. Marcus Colchester. RRI and Forest Peoples Programme.
  - On Poverty: *Poverty, Rights, and Tenure on Forest Lands: The Problem, and Priority Actions for Achieving Solutions*. William Sunderlin. RRI.
  - On Climate Change: *Climate Change and Governance in the Forest Sector*. Carmenza Robledo, Jürgen Blaser, Kaspar Schmidt and Tamara Levine. RRI and Intercooperation.
  - On Forest Conflict: *The Role of Forest Tenure and Governance in Addressing the Global Challenges of Reducing Violent Conflict in Forest Countries*. Ruben de Koning, Doris Capistrano and Yurdi Yasmi. RRI and CIFOR.
  - On Conservation: *Rights, Tenure, Governance and a More Pro-poor Vision for Conservation: What Should We Be Aiming At?* Gill Shepherd, Bob Fisher, Stewart Maginnis and Jeffrey Sayer. RRI and IUCN.

- On Biofuels: *Convergence of the Fuel, Food and Fiber Markets – A Forest Sector Perspective*. Don G. Roberts. Available online at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- On Plantations: *The Boomerang – When Will the Global Forest Sector Reallocate from the South to the North?* Sten Nilsson. RRI and IIASA. Available online at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- On Global Trends: A final draft of *Transitions in Forest Tenure and Governance: Drivers, Projected Patterns and Implications*. An issues paper prepared by the Rights and Resources Group. RRI. Available online at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- A report on *Small and Medium Forest Enterprises: Instruments of Change in the Developing World*. Rob Kozak. RRI and University of British Columbia. Available online at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- A final report on *Poverty and Forests: Mutli-country analysis of spatial association and proposed policy solutions*. William D. Sunderlin, Sonya Dewi, Atie Puntodewo. CIFOR, ICRAF, RRI. Available online at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- A final report on *Overview of Industrial Forest Concessions and Concession-based Industry in Central and West Africa, and Considerations of Alternatives*. Alain Karsenty. CIRAD. Available online at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- A final report on *Power, Progress and Impoverishment: Plantations, Hydropower, Ecological Change and Community Transformation in Hinboun District, Lao PDR*. Keith Barney. CIFOR, Probe International, RRI and the York Centre for Asian Research. Available online at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.
- A final version of *Organization and Governance for Fostering Pro-poor Compensation for Environmental Services*, by Carina Bracer, Sara Scherr, Augusta Molnar, Madhushree Sekher, Bensun Owuor Ochieng and Gaya Sriskanthan, World Agroforestry Center and Forest Trends. Available online at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.

### Country-Level Research and Engagement

- CIFOR fully launched its new research program in support of RRI activities, *Improving Equity and Livelihoods in Community Forestry*. The project focuses on select countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. As regional and country-specific work advanced throughout the year, regional coordinators also met in March and September to develop a cross-regional conceptual research framework and advance understanding of the methodologies applied.
  - In Africa, CIFOR has launched a regional review of existing knowledge on tenure regimes and customary institutions, along with country-specific policy review and analysis completed in Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Ghana.
  - In Asia, the project has recently completed a review of forest land tenure, decentralization and impacts on livelihoods, forests and equity. The results emphasize the need for diversification of tenure models to achieve outcomes like livelihood improvements and biodiversity conservation. Further research continues with local partners in the Philippines, Nepal, Laos, India and Indonesia.
  - In Latin America, the project has completed a regional review that reflects the influence of agrarian reform and the growth of the conservation movement on current reforms in the forest sector. The review also assesses the extent of community forestry in the region and how customary institutions and gender issues are treated within tenure reforms. Country-specific research continues in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Brazil.

- As part of the *IUCN Livelihoods and Landscapes* strategy, RRI is coordinating the cross-cutting theme on rights and tenure. With support and coordination from RRG, RRI Partners are providing technical support to the geographic regions in the program and strengthening ties among RRI Partners. RRG is also working with IUCN teams to link the Livelihoods and Landscapes geographic teams to policy dialogues on rights and tenure at national and regional levels.
- Collaborative work on tenure and markets in China continued with a *Trade Scenarios* workshop and a workshop on the *Legal Dimensions of Collective Forestry* in June. These workshops were hosted in China and coordinated by Forest Trends, RRG, University of British Columbia, Peking University, and the Rural Development Institute.
- In Laos, RRI is collaborating with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) to conduct research on Forest Products, Market and Trade in Lao PDR. RRI is also collaborating with the National University of Laos (NUOL) to conduct research on Land and Forest Land Allocation in Lao PDR. RRI and Partners in the region are also pursuing collaboration with the National Land Management Agency of Lao PDR.
- RRI initiated new exploratory work in India, examining key drivers and trends affecting India's forests over the last two decades.
- A final report is now available on the 2006 policy seminar on implementing land tenure reforms in Asia. *Implementing Land Tenure Reforms in Asia: lessons learned and recommendations for the future. An international policy seminar, Bali, Indonesia, 2006.* RRI, IASC, Samdhana, ICRAF. Available at <http://www.rightsandresources.org>.

### Network Support

- RRI continued strategic support and facilitation of the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) to the ITTO.
  - In May 2007, FPCD, IUCN and RRG organized CSAG participation in the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Tropical Timber Council meeting in Papua New Guinea. RRI and CSAG members coordinated recommendations from PNG civil society to the PNG government and the ITTC, including a review of ITTO projects funded to-date in PNG.
  - In July, CSAG organized a meeting of community members and stakeholders from Brazil, working closely with the Global Alliance of Community Forestry to produce recommendations for the ITTO.
  - In November, CSAG participated in the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the ITTC in Yokohama, Japan. In Yokohama CSAG sponsored a side-event during which the governments of Brazil and Cameroon outlined the growing importance of community forestry in forest management and commerce.
  - Upon the invitation of the ITTO, CSAG also prepared recommendations for the biennial work plan of the ITTO and participated in the deliberations on the five-year strategic plan. CSAG recommendations and advocacy resulted in the inclusion of several key provisions to the biennial and five-year strategic plans of the ITTO, including funding for a global assessment on the status of forest tenure in tropical countries, funding for technical assistance and exchanges among community forest enterprises, and funding for new analyses on opportunities for community forest enterprise.
- RRI continued strategic support of and collaboration with the Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF). GACF worked closely with RRI to design the agenda and community involvement in the July conference on *Community Forest Management and Enterprise*. During the conference GACF organized meetings with members and community members

interested in joining the GACF. Working closely with CSAG, the GACF also organized strong community participation in the conference and produced clear recommendations to the ITTO for better supporting community forest management and enterprise.

- RRI continued to facilitate annual meetings of the MegaFlorestais, an informal meeting of forest chiefs from large forested countries. In October 2007, the Russian Federal Forest Agency hosted the second annual meeting of the MegaFlorestais in St. Petersburg, organized by RRI and IUCN. Attending were government representatives from Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Finland, India, Indonesia, Russia and the USA.

### **RRI Coordination**

- RRG coordinated and convened two full meetings of the Board of Directors in 2007, in New York City, United States April 20 – 21, and in Bangkok, Thailand on September 5<sup>th</sup>. The first full Program Meeting of RRI Partners and collaborators took place in April during the New York City Governance and Planning meetings. The next Planning and Governance meeting will take place in the third week of January 2008.
- RRG coordinated and facilitated the construction and signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding* among RRI Partner organizations. The Memorandum of Understanding lays out the basic framework of collaboration among Partner institutions and further establishes the governance framework of the RRI coalition.
- RRG also coordinated Partner contributions and the creation of a coalition-wide *Framework Proposal* for the Rights and Resources Initiative. The proposal requests \$25 million USD over five years, from 2008 – 2012. It was submitted and discussed with donor representatives from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID), the European Commission, the Ford Foundation, the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Swedish International Cooperation and Development Agency (Sida), and the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC).
- RRG continued to facilitate and convene the informal donor support group, which includes DFID, the Ford Foundation, IDRC, Norad, Sida, and SDC. The informal donor support group met in New York City in April and in Stockholm in October.