

RRI Asia: 2012 Work-Plan Summary

I. Regional Overview

Dates of planning meetings in 2011:

October 9-10: Kathmandu, Nepal
 October 17-18: Bogor, Indonesia

October 13-14: Chiang Mai, Thailand (China)
 October 20-21: Bogor, Indonesia (Regional)

	Strategic Outcomes (As agreed to in 2008)	Strategy for Achievement	Partners/ Collaborators
Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial increase in recognition of community and indigenous rights in forest areas Substantial strengthening of real rights and ability to exercise rights (regulatory reforms) in order to improve community well-being and livelihoods in an inclusive fashion, including increased support for Alternative Tenure and Enterprise Models (ATEMs) as credible schemes Demonstrate how tenure and enterprise reforms can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation through practical implementation undertaken by Partners in various countries Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) widely supported by governments and increasingly accepted by private sector Substantial increase in strength and interconnectedness of local community and indigenous forest organizations and networks Enhance understanding and advocacy on the gendered dimensions of forest tenure reform and governance Effective advocacy for policy and market reforms and management of conflict Increased recognition by governments of the critical role of secure forest tenure in climate change response mechanisms such as REDD <p>2012 Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with CSOs to ensure implementation of historic commitments on forest and land tenure reforms in Indonesia and Lao PDR Activate new, strategic network of leaders, identifying key allies in forest policy agencies and tenure champions in the community forestry sector to accelerate forest tenure reform momentum in Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest tenure regimes in Asia exhibit broad diversity in practice: from those with established bundles of rights lands exceed state holdings (China) to those with near-complete state ownership (Indonesia). RRI's strategy is twofold: in decentralized regimes, ensuring institutional benefits for local forest users are realized in practice, and advocating for institutional recognition where exclusionary systems remain in power. Demand for commodity goods is increasing at an alarming rate, driven by Asia's continued population boom and burgeoning middle class, resulting in further expansion of agribusiness, infrastructure and extractive industry concessions and perpetuating forest conflict, displacement and rural inequality. RRI Partners and Collaborators are advocating at the national, regional and global level for adoption of industry-wide human rights standards for the private sector and for adherence to principles of FPIC In 2011, the international conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise in Lombok, Indonesia sparked historic commitments to forest tenure reform in Indonesia and synergized greater learning and sharing on forest tenure and governance among RRI Partners and Collaborators. Coalition members are now engaging in significant intra-regional learning exchanges to share best practices and strategize ways forward. 	RECOFTC, FPP, HELVETAS-Swiss Intercooperation, Samdhana, FECOFUN, ICRAF, Tebtebba, Forest Trends
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased support for creation of new Forest Law and legal reform that further incorporates rights Reform of supplementary forest regulatory policies and laws established so benefits can be realized Reform system of regulatory takings to develop a fair system of compensation and rights Pro-poor reforms ensure rights of vulnerable communities and ethnic minorities Gender dimension of tenure reforms and women's rights to forest lands is examined Remove obstacles to growth of small and medium-scale forest enterprises (SMEs) Knowledge of China's forest tenure policy and regulatory reforms disseminated to other countries and the broader development community <p>2012 Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRI inputs to amendment of Land Management Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRI has engaged in China by providing input into shaping the collective forest tenure reform and identifying additional reforms to both secure as well as realize the benefits of those rights (through eg., better logging quotas, market transactions, and financing arrangements) Given that a new Forest Law will need to be finalized in the near-term, consensus on state forest reform is needed in order to move forward. Since most of the legal components for collective forest sector are already decided, RRI Partners and Collaborators work to inform the development of additional dimensions such as gender equity, and ethnic minority perspectives. Key interventions in 2012 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting and amending any necessary analysis, and writing a set of focused policy 	ICRAF-China, RECOFTC Collab.: PKU, Landesa, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS), State Forestry Administration (SFA)

	<p>ensure that forestland takings are appropriate and just</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate RRI Coalition research on the nexus between gender and tenure, ethnic minority rights, and livelihoods into advocacy with State Forest Administration and eventually into new Forest Law • To work with State Forestry Administration on developing an equitable policy for regulatory takings within collective forest sector 	<p>briefings on regulatory takings for disseminating to the State Forestry Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collating findings into one framework to clarify broader geographical patterns (in Yunnan as a start) that demonstrate the overlap between forests, poverty, ecological protection zones, and ethnic minority populations • Developing broader recognition of the importance of the gender and forest tenure agenda among policy makers, development community, and donors 	
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community forest property rights secured in new Constitution and related legal framework • Alliance with Terai-based advocates of community forestry is strengthened to reduce corruption in Terai forests • Governments are accountable towards communities in climate change policies and programs • Enhanced inclusiveness and wider participation in community forestry institutions • Terai and mid-hills community forestry groups extend solidarity with IPs and communities in high Himal • Democratized Protected Area governance • Adequate incentives ensured and barriers removed for forest enterprises <p>2012 Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate strategically with legal drafters and other policy leaders to ensure new Constitution of Nepal protects community property forestry rights to natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRI Coalition members in Nepal mobilize awareness and advocacy movements to ensure key political and social leaders understand the contribution of community forestry so that community property rights can be enshrined in the forthcoming Constitution • Despite the community forestry movement's considerable success from the early 1990s onward, with continued work on improving social inclusion, the turbulent political transition has introduced significant challenges to the movement's attempt to expand its reach but also to prevent rollback in order to maintain its present strength • RRI Partners and Collaborators work to ensure CFUGs' autonomy is resilient against proposed new forest regulations that would lead to rollback of existing rights • Key interventions in 2012 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with legal drafters and launching major campaign to bolster autonomy and expand reach of community forestry, to ensure the new Constitution protects community property rights to natural resources. 	FECOFUN, HELVETAS-Swiss Intercooperation Collab.: Forest Action, COFSUN, NRM People's Parliament, NRM Confederation, HIMAWANTI
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and policy reforms, tenure and <i>adat</i> rights are recognized • Processes using national and provincial regulations/practices to support rights and secure livelihoods/local governance are strengthened • Private sector is made more accountable and respectful of community rights • Multi-stakeholder technical support for land use planning that incorporates local rights • Systems for formal and informal settlement of conflicts over natural resource are developed and supported • Strengthened tenure and stewardship instruments that guarantee sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation • Rights agenda is included in climate change policy <p>2012 Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully negotiate Roadmap for forest tenure reform with Ministry of Forestry and National Land Agency, as well as key domestic and international constituencies • Complete key analysis assessing forest-related conflict to identify priorities in developing effective conflict resolution mechanisms • Identify strategy for engaging private sector by RRI Partners and Collaborators for expansion of work in 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRI has worked in Indonesia since 2010 to identify means to achieving secure forest tenure rights, obtain recognition of community-managed forests and establish effective conflict resolution systems within the national context of legal pluralism. RRI Partners and Collaborators advocate to transform private sector industrial concession practices through FPIC principles, commodity roundtables such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, and pursuing establishment of human rights standards through National Human Rights councils • The 2011 international conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprises prompted new commitment by the Indonesian government to reform its forest tenure system. This important opening has catalyzed a platform of 15 CSOs to develop a roadmap for forest tenure reform. The content and timing of the reforms are in discussion and remain the most important issue on the table. Given that palm oil and agribusiness industries are very significant here, continuing expanding and consolidating work to ensure that this corporate sector assumes its public responsibilities will be important. • Key interventions in 2012 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting government agencies and the CSO roadmap platform to ensure crucial reforms are made to current tenure framework 	FPP, ICRAF-SEA, RECOFTC, Samdhana Collab: Epistema, HuMa, SawitWatch, PUSAKA, Institut Dayakologi, FKMM, Working Group on Tenure, KPA, Kemitraan, JKPP,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting coalition engagement in Indonesia on the three roadmap themes: a) forest gazettement processes b) conflict resolution mechanisms and c) recognition of community-managed forests. Reforming spatial planning processes for respect of community rights Conducting further assessment to determine whether community-managed forest regimes such as peoples' plantations deliver concrete benefits 	
Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policymakers gain lessons and best practices from international experiences of forest tenure and rights Comprehensive review of national forest policies and subsequent new legislation includes tenure security and recognizes rights <p>2012 Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support completion of comprehensive review of Lao PDR forest sector legislation that informs forest rights agenda Enable the National Assembly to advocate for stronger forest tenure rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2010 RRI has coordinated a tenure reform working group to engage key Laotian policymakers. Despite considerable expressed interest by the government in establishing community forest tenure rights, only one community titling project has been completed Political momentum suddenly shifted in mid-2011 due to REDD agenda and exposure study visits to Yunnan. Lao PDR has proposed a comprehensive review of its NRM legislation starting with the forestry sector. As a result of REDD programs, the need for forest tenure reform is considered key; this is therefore an extremely important opening Key interventions in 2012 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on gains of study trips and 2011 workshop on forest tenure reform by working alongside government on legal review and engaging the National Assembly and select CSOs in a dialogue on the direction of change Supplementing advocacy with media work on why the district community titling project has been successful 	RECOFTC, HELVETAS-Swiss Intercooperation Collab.: NAFRI, DOF, MAF, MONRE, LIWG, GDG
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Right Acts (FRA) is tracked at implementation level Communities are empowered to assert their claims with Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) Increased engagement and coordinated policy advocacy at national level on internal land grab phenomenon <p>Outcomes for 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the study of forestland grab dynamics enters into debate on new bill on Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Develop advocacy strategies to counter the dynamics of forestland grabs which threaten to undermine gains from Forest Rights Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2006 Forest Rights Act legally empowered tribal and traditional forest communities to reclaim their individual and collective rights to forests yet thus far its implementation has not measured up to original intentions. In addition to advocating for further FRA recognition, RRI Collaborators have conducted comprehensive analysis to understand the dynamics of land acquisition in forestry to forge appropriate advocacy strategies With the appointment of a new, progressive Minister of Tribal Affairs, it is crucial to pressure for more effective FRA implementation. Furthermore, the tabling of a new Bill on Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation in Parliament has opened a political opportunity to highlight the problems of forestland acquisitions. Key interventions for 2012 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizing the 2010 study of forestland grab dynamics in ensuring the debate on Land Acquisition law adequately considers forestland issues Sharing the study among tribal and rural activists so that the appropriate advocacy strategies can be developed 	Collab.: SPWD, RRI Fellow
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community forestry networks are strengthened to effectively influence CBNRM policies CF bill is enacted with needed legal instruments <p>Specific Outcomes for 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing of the Community Forestry Bill through the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRI intervention in Thailand works to strengthen the capacity of existing local and national community forestry networks to facilitate enacting of Community Forestry Bill after prolonged debate The Community Forestry Bill has been debated, 	RECOFTC Collab.: CF Network-Thailand, GACF

	<p>establishment of an effective national community forestry network</p>	<p>revised and reconsidered since 1991. The primary block has been the issue of conflict between Protected Areas and community forests. Momentum has particularly grown to see it through since the formation of the 2010 Community Land Title Deed. While there are many provincial community forestry networks, the national community forestry network needs strengthening to effectively use the Bill and proposed legislation on CBNRM for securing peoples' rights to forests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key RRI intervention in 2012: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating the creation of a national community forestry network that can be empowered to carry out advocacy work together with key CSOs on Community Forestry Bill (and other laws and policies related to forest tenure rights and governance. 	
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Overall budget requested for 2012: \$849,300

II. Planning Teams

2.1 Regional Planning Team

Partner	Participant	Email
FECOFUN	*Apsara Chapagain Jog Raj Giri	chapagainap@yahoo.com Jograj.giri@gmail.com
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FPCD	*Yati Bun	yabun@datec.net.pg
Forest Trends	*Kerstin Canby	kcanby@forest-trends.org
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ICRAF	Ujjwal Pradhan	u.p.pradhan@cgiar.org
RECOFTC	Tint Lwin Thaug James Bampton	tthaung@recoftc.org james@recoftc.org
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RRI Fellow	Madhu Sarin	msarin@sify.com
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Samdhana Institute	Nonette Royo Noer Fauzi Rachman	nonette@samdhana.org noer@nature.berkeley.edu
Tebtebba	*Victoria Tauli-Corpuz Raymond de Chavez	vicky@tebtebba.org raymond@tebtebba.org

*invited but did not attend regional meeting

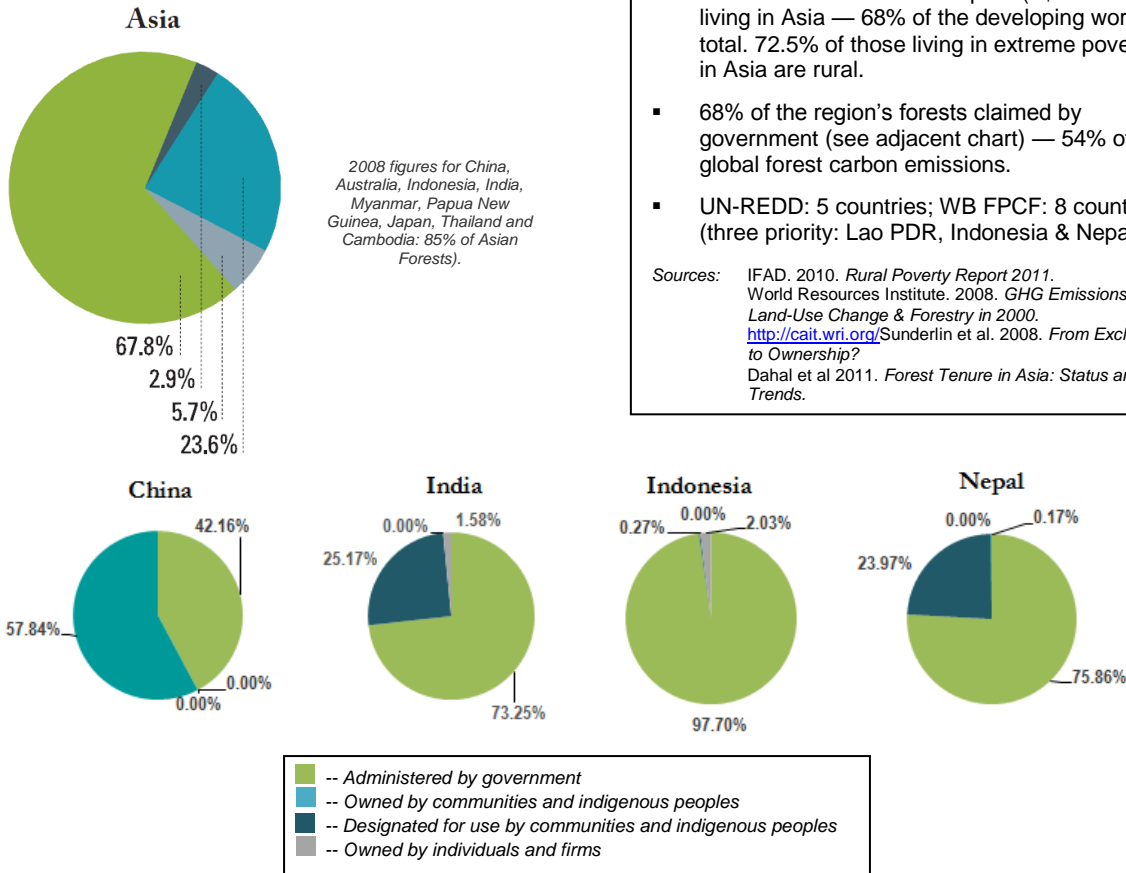
2.2 Current collaborators in region (28 organizations in 6 countries)

Landesa – *China*
Peking University – *China*
Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences – *China*
State Forest Administration – *China*
Kunming Institute of Botany – *China*
COFSUN – *Nepal*
ForestAction – *Nepal*
HIMAWANTI – *Nepal*
NRM People's Parliament – *Nepal*
NRM Confederation – *Nepal*
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation – *Nepal*
Epistema Institute – *Indonesia*
HuMa – *Indonesia*
SawitWatch – *Indonesia*
PUSAKA – *Indonesia*
FKKM – *Indonesia*

Working Group on Tenure – *Indonesia*
KPA – *Indonesia*
JKPP – *Indonesia*
Kemitraan Partnership – *Indonesia*
NAFRI – *Lao PDR*
Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment – *Lao PDR*
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests – *Lao PDR*
Land Issues Working Group – *Lao PDR*
Gender and Development Group – *Lao PDR*
Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development – *India*
Community Forestry Network – *Thailand*
AIPP – *Regional*
Global Alliance of Community Forestry – *Regional*

III. Asia- Regional

3.1 Regional Overview



Poverty, tenure and forest emissions in Asia

- There are 687 million rural poor (<\$1.25/day) living in Asia — 68% of the developing world total. 72.5% of those living in extreme poverty in Asia are rural.
- 68% of the region's forests claimed by government (see adjacent chart) — 54% of global forest carbon emissions.
- UN-REDD: 5 countries; WB FPCF: 8 countries (three priority: Lao PDR, Indonesia & Nepal.)

Sources: IFAD. 2010. *Rural Poverty Report 2011*. World Resources Institute. 2008. *GHG Emissions from Land-Use Change & Forestry in 2000*. <http://cait.wri.org>/Sunderlin et al. 2008. *From Exclusion to Ownership?* Dahal et al 2011. *Forest Tenure in Asia: Status and Trends*.

3.2 RRI Strategy in Asia

A recent RRI report entitled, *From Exclusion to Ownership*¹, indicates that although forest tenure worldwide is transitioning toward more community and household ownership, 68% of the forest estate in Asia remains claimed by governments. Although true as a generalization, there is in practice considerable diversity in forest tenure regimes across Asian countries.

Even within the major heavily populated Asian countries such as China, India and Indonesia (the BRICs and CIVETS) who are contributing to significant changes in the global economy, there is no simple pattern to be found. At one end of the spectrum, we have forest-rich countries (with over 55% forest cover of its land) such as Indonesia where the percentage of forest claimed by the governments is above 90% with little formal rights of access, use or management for the forest dependent communities living within them. Other countries such as Laos and Myanmar also fall into this category where the bulk of forestlands are administered by the state.

Interestingly, it is in those countries with forest cover less than 30% that we find forest regime systems that are less dominated by sole government administration. At the far and opposite end of this spectrum, we have a large country like China where collective ownership (58%) exceeds state ownership (42%) of

¹ Sunderlin, William, et al. *Who Owns the Forests in Asia?: An introduction to the forest tenure transition in Asia, 2002-2008*. December 2008.

forest lands. Whilst the balance is somewhat different, in Vietnam, communities own roughly one third of forestlands.

In the middle of such a spectrum exist countries such as India where all forestland is claimed by the state but in which communities have joint forest management responsibilities in about 20% of forestlands established only under a policy rather than legal mandate. Since the Forest Rights Act in 2006, a process has commenced whereby traditional forest-dwelling communities and individuals can reclaim rights to forests that had been taken away from them during the colonial period. Addressing the historical injustice whereby tribal peoples were disenfranchised from the forestlands they had inhabited for generations is a momentous development that needs active support. In contrast, Nepal's government too claims ownership over all its forestlands, but since the early 1990s, the government through the Forest Act of 1993 has enabled a proliferating number of community forestry user groups to successfully use and manage their own forests. There is now a national federation (FECOFUN) of 16,000 user groups that promotes the cause of community forestry covering some 22% of its total forest area. Similarly, Thailand has a vibrant community forestry constituency that is seeking legal protection for its customary rights.

In this context, moving towards overall RRI goals involves a two-fold approach at work within those countries where we believe that strategic intervention by the coalition can achieve significant change. On the one hand, in those countries where the state forest sector is very large, we are working to ensure that the rights of forest-dependent communities are recognized and legally secured. Within this category, RRI works in **Indonesia** and **Lao PDR** where both the greatest potential exists for sweeping transformations as well as good linkages with governments, academics and CSOs exist to work towards that change.

On the other hand, where ownership or use rights have been handed over to communities, RRI is working to ensure that the benefits from those rights can actually be obtained in practice. RRI's work in **China**, **India**, **Nepal**, and **Thailand** involves interventions to strengthen and expand existing ownership or management rights. In general it is clear that where forest tenure has shifted towards community control and management, forest restoration has increased whilst simultaneously improving people's livelihoods.

2011 has been an important turning point in the Asia program. In this year, we have seen dramatic shifts in **Indonesia** and **Laos**, both countries where states claim ownership over majority of forestlands, whereby a new commitment to carry out forest tenure reform to secure community rights to forests has been asserted. Following the *International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprises* in Lombok in July 2011 (organized by RRI, Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, and International Tropical Timber Organization), the Indonesian government announced a move to begin substantial reform of its forest tenure regime. Working with a 15-member group of CSOs who have prepared a draft Roadmap for Forest Tenure Reform, the process of agreeing to a plan has now commenced. Not only will this dramatically improve the lives of millions living in the official "forest estate" but given Indonesia's focal status in REDD+ agenda, these reforms have the potential to transform rural people's wellbeing, forest condition as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

In **Laos** too, the process of identifying the appropriate path for forest tenure reform has been at work for a number of years. But now, as a result of an increasing recognition that REDD projects require clarity of tenure rights, the government has announced in mid-2011 that it will carry out a comprehensive review of its forest legislation in which forest tenure reform is a key component. This is to be completed in quick motion by July 2012. The various components that the RRI group has been working on over the last few years, such as organizing study trips to China for Lao government officials to learn about forest tenure reform there, and holding a workshop in November 2011 where the experiences from key countries such as Brazil, China, Nepal and Vietnam were shared has coalesced into a new momentum. In all these countries, where importance has been given to the REDD+ agenda, a new commitment to establishing clear and secure forest tenure rights of communities and individual households can be found. Catalyzed by ongoing RRI coalition interventions, both these very significant transformations have the potential to improve the tenure security for millions of rural residents.

At the same time, in those countries where community/collective as well as individual household bundle of rights are more clearly established (be it under law or policy guidelines), there are emerging threats

that have the potential to weaken these rights. For example, in the case of **India** and **China**, the accelerating drive to grab forest (and agricultural lands) by the private sector is inevitably placing pressure on governmental agencies to weaken controls on farmer land rights. As such, the RRI India program is currently completing a comprehensive examination of forestland grab dynamics in tribal and poor areas. Such a study will provide new advocacy tools in the movement to ensure that the promises of the Forest Rights Act are realized for traditional forest-dwelling communities. Similarly, the case of Stora Enso's attempt to find land for plantations in South China was examined by Landesa in order to decipher how companies were able to bypass the formal set of forest right protections in place in China.

In a different way, now that community forestry in **Nepal** has had almost two decades (or more) of successful establishment and expansion in the mid-Hills producing not only improvements in forest cover but also new sources of income and resource flows for villagers, the government has begun the process of weakening regulations that enable community forestry user groups to function at a greater level of autonomy. It is not unusual to find that success brings with it new threats. The federation FECOFUN has become strong and extensive, and in the face of community forestry's strength, the government is sensing that the balance of power has shifted. In particular, as community forestry attempts to expand into the Terai, it faces strong opposition from both timber companies given its rich salt forests, as well as ethnic communities who are resistant to the waves of recent immigrants from the mid-Hills. Still, we find in Nepal many attempts to broaden the inclusiveness of community forestry groups opening to participation by more women, poor, Dalits, and marginalized ethnic groups. Moreover, given the historically significant political transition Nepal is currently going through, there has been a strong movement to enshrine community property rights over natural resources in the new Constitution that is currently being finalized.

In overall terms, the aim in countries such as **China**, **India**, and **Nepal** is to continue to provide further support to firstly, ensuring that implementation of forest tenure laws and policies takes place, and secondly, that these rights enable forest users to obtain a diverse set of benefits so that rural livelihoods can be improved. Most important here is **China** who has provided the clearest set of forest rights to households and collectives in its latest move to further reform collective forests. The key question here is: what are the supplementary policies (governing such dimensions as regulatory takings of forestlands for public interest, logging quotas, land transactions, mortgageability of land/trees, access to markets) that need to be established to ensure that equitable development is enabled for rural communities.

Thailand in many ways is a country going through an active transition from a state-administered forest estate to one that has a vibrant community forestry component. Starting from the 1970s, when the government sought to address the problem of intense deforestation, community forestry was recognized and encouraged. Today, there are more than 10,000 community forestry sites across the country affecting some 1-2 million people. Although a Community Forestry Bill was first drafted in 1991, it has still not seen the light of day due to endless revisions primarily due to the contentious debate over community forestry rights within protected areas. At the same time, various community forestry networks are emerging at provincial scales with the strong potential for a national one to form in near future.

Asia represents a particularly critical area for RRI because progress made on tenure and policy in the region has the potential to influence global "best practices" on implementation and legal reform. Rapid or gradual transitions in forest governance, such as those listed above, provide effective entry points for coalition engagement to advance RRI goals of more secure forest tenure and improved livelihoods. Therefore, in the **Asia Regional Program** (as opposed to any national program in Asia), the emphasis is on the development and strengthening of regional networks (or even sub-regional ones to begin with) that firstly, enable learning and sharing of knowledge, and secondly, that create new levers for transforming legal and policy structures. As such, the regional program has so far been working with community forestry networks, palm oil and agribusiness networks, and legal pluralism networks. The need to identify ways of networking policy analysts and government officials has grown, and in particular tenure champions to help jumpstart the process.

Methods for Engagement:

By building a coalition of committed partners and collaborators both in each country, as well as at the regional level, the specific forms of engagement in each country vary depending on the type of issues and broader political environment of the country, as well as capacities of coalition members. Broadly speaking, the coalition can be made up of civil society groups, community groups, forest federations and movements, think-tanks, researchers/analysts, and government officials. In one way or another, they are either solely working on forest issues or it forms a significant part of their overall mission (e.g. Landesa-China on Chinese land and forest rights, or Consortium on Agrarian Reform on agrarian and forest rights in Indonesia). Therefore, for example, in Nepal the coalition has very active partners who are made up of a federated community forestry user groups. In contrast, in China, we primarily work with researchers/analysts who are very experienced with policy-oriented analysis to help move the collective and state forest reform process forward. In particular, here, the State Forestry Administration is receptive to such inputs and therefore the contributions work towards useful reflections on the future of reforms.

In general though, there are some key types of interventions that are carried out each year:

1. Providing new analysis with recommendations on emerging issues
2. Convening policy dialogues and conferences to bring a bring a significant policy or legal shift on one issue (e.g., Nepal Constitution) and/or develop opportunities for learning, reflection and sharing
3. Support and strengthen networks and platforms advocating for changes in forest tenure rights and governance that works in the interests of communities, particularly marginalized groups
4. Developing study trips to learn from other country experiences
5. Engaging the private sector to ensure that appropriate regulations and best practices (such as concerning FPIC) are included in their commercial operations

Strategic Focus and Opportunities for 2012:

In the current context, it is crucial that very significant new openings in Indonesia and Laos for establishing a clearer and secure set of forest rights will have to be capitalized upon to ensure that our goals in those two countries are attainable. These initiatives will need significant and timely support given the current positive momentum both within governments as well as domestic CSOs and communities.

In addition to the country strategies (identified further below) the primary goal for promoting our goals at the regional level include:

- a) building upon the work linking the national community forestry movements through the work of RECOFTC, GACF, FECOFUN and others
- b) Further expanding the achievements of the palm oil/agribusiness network developed by FPP, RECOFTC, Samdhana Institute and others in order to pressure the private sector into establishing regulations and best practices that improve its respect for human rights. An important turning point here has been the important conference in Bali in Nov 2011 held by FPP, Samdhana and others that brought together the various national Human Rights Commissions from the region to ensure that customary rights in land are secured, and that standards for human rights are set up for the agribusiness sector
- c) developing a network of policy makers as well as community forestry champions so that avenues for leveraging changes in policy and law can be kept active and effective; they will also be important channels through which to share analysis on the forest tenure transition taking place in various Asian countries
- d) begin to establish the conditions for building a network on gender and community managed forests in Asia by starting with the already established work by the Asian Indigenous Women's Network

3.4 Complete Country and Regional Activity Overview for Asia

Asia Activities Overview						
	Activities 2012	Details/Description	Lead (collaboration)	Allocated as per agreements during planning meeting	FP 1 - Extra allocation on priorities identified in planning meeting	Funds Committed by Partners & Collaborators
Regional	1. Southeast Asia regional agribusiness and human rights policies	Build regulatory capacity and standards in SE Asia by promoting application of normative human rights obligations on the private sector and national governments; raise awareness and submit recommendations to UN CERD, AICHR, SRRF	FPP (RECOFTC, Tebtebba, AIPP, SawitWatch)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
	2. Building accountability in the palm oil industry in Southeast Asia	Leverage commitments to statutory reforms securing community rights, strengthen industry standards/best practices and ensure adherence to FPIC through engagement with new RSPO working Group on Human Rights, targeted advocacy, and exposing malpractices	FPP (Samdhana, SawitWatch, RECOFTC)	\$35,000	\$35,000	
	3. Sub regional workshop on forestland tenure reform in South Asia	Organize a workshop to share findings of South Asia sub regional tenure assessment (2011) and form learning group network of professionals, policymakers and community leaders for future action on tenure reform. Prepare briefing report on this for dissemination.	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (FECOFUN, RECOFTC, Intercooperation Social Development-India)	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$1,750
	4. Asia indigenous women's strategy workshop on climate change and forest/land tenure	Assemble indigenous women leaders from various forest ecosystems to strategize future reforms that realize women's forest/land tenure for input to national strategies on climate change and forest governance that respect indigenous peoples' customary rights.	Tebtebba (FPP, RECOFTC, FECOFUN, AIWN, Indigenous Peoples Partnership on Climate Change and Forests)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
	5. Community forestry champions networking	Strengthen network of community forestry champions in Asia region, build members' capacity to influence national policy and adopt effective rights and tenure approaches in key forestry institutions with an aim to inform and build linkages between constituencies in select Asian countries	RECOFTC (FECOFUN, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
	6. RRG Program Coordination & Technical Support for FPII	Consolidating and extending the benefits of activities since beginning of framework proposal (in the form of analysis/publications).	RRG		\$25,000	
Total Funds Requested for Regional Activities:				\$150,000	\$150,000	\$61,750

China	7. Legal and policy reform for China's Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)	Conduct legal research review of farmers' entitlement to compensation for forest loss on NFPP lands (ecological forests); disseminate findings and advocate to establish foundation for legal and policy measures to protect livelihoods from state-run conservation programs	Landesa (SFA-China)	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$19,980
	8. Dissemination of research findings on women's forestland rights in China	Develop campaign for strategic dissemination of findings from field research on gender dimensions of China's forestland reform, targeting policy recommendations to government officials, gender experts, development NGOs and media	Landesa	\$11,500	\$15,000	\$15,540
	9. Survey of collective forest management practices in Yunnan Province	Bring better understanding of local management practices and implementation of rights to demonstrate value of indigenous knowledge and community capacity-building for sustainable development and forest management	Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$6,222
	10. Mapping collective forests and livelihoods in Protected Areas in Yunnan province	Clarify spatial distribution of collective forests within Protected Areas and investigate link between collective forests and rural livelihoods of households in National Forest Protection Program.	ICRAF-China (Kunming Institute of Botany, Yunnan provincial forest departments, YASS)	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$12,800
	11. Fact sheet on China's forest tenure reforms	Consolidate information on legislation and research findings to date for dissemination to broad domestic and regional audiences	Peking University	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Total Funds Requested for China Activities:				\$156,500	\$160,000	\$54,542
Nepal	12. Community and Grassroots: Social mobilization and governance strengthening of community forestry in Terai	Address internal governance issues in Terai's CFUGs by training and mobilizing human resources, publicizing best practices and policy provisions, and providing discussion platform with overarching goal of safeguarding existing rights.	COFSUN (FECOFUN, HIMAWANTI)	\$23,800	\$23,800	\$6,782
	13. Monitoring and Evaluation: Documenting lessons from RRI approaches to support tenure reform process in Nepal	Monitor, document and review RRI interventions in Nepal from 2008-, analyze modalities of Partner and Collaborator engagement, identify challenges to engagement and devise improved practices for advancing collective agenda.	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (ForestAction)	\$21,000	\$25,000	\$3,000
	14. Coordination and Communication: Create mechanism for strategic advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratchet up strategic engagement to maximize results and inclusion of rights in June 2012 constitution Assess baseline understanding among politicians/policy makers on community forestry Analyze best practices in coalition-building, rethink coordination mechanism among Partners/Collaborators 	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (NRM People's Parliament)	\$16,800	\$20,000	\$4,200

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media dissemination and engagement 				
	15. State and Professional Sector: Policy advocacy on gender equity and social inclusion in community forestry institutions	Increase active institutional participation of women and other socially-excluded forest communities through training workshops, public awareness campaign and policy/media advocacy.	HIMAWANTI (COFSUN, FECOFUN)	\$23,800	\$23,800	\$3,000
	16. State and Professional Sector: Policy advocacy for people's rights over natural resources	Coordinated multi-stakeholder policy advocacy campaign to strengthen support for community forestry in key government institutions, with focus on capacity-building for women, indigenous peoples, dalits and other historically disenfranchised groups.	FECOFUN (NRM Confederation, Dept. of Community Forests, DDC, VDC, DFO, NRM People's Parliament)	\$54,600	\$54,600	
Total Funds Requested for Nepal Activities:				\$140,000	\$147,200	\$16,982
Indonesia	17. Coordination of the CSO Road Map for Tenure Reform	Strategic and research-based advocacy engagement with Ministry of Forestry and related agencies to ensure follow-through on commitment to implement road map for tenure reform. Key pillars include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceleration of forest gazettement process • Resolution of conflict over forestlands • Expand community-controlled forestland areas to improve local livelihoods 	Epistema (CSO network member organizations)	\$20,000	\$30,000	
	18. Conflict analysis	Continuation of analysis of conflict incidence and intensity across Indonesia to provide a database upon which strategies for establishing a conflict resolution policy can be determined.	HuMa	\$20,000	\$20,000	
	19. Strengthening FPIC in oil palm policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adherence to FPIC in industry expansion and new business development • Reform RSPO process, enabling communities to challenge bad certifications and coercive consents • Promote changes in voluntary best practices and statutory law to implement FPIC and secure community rights to forestlands 	FPP (Sawitwatch)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
	20. Tenure and rights advocacy related to the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE)	Support Malind peoples of Merauke District (Papua) through training, community mobilization and national-level advocacy to resist takeover of customary lands by agricultural development project	FPP (SawitWatch, HuMa, PUSAKA)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
	21. Security rights in HTR	Effective advocacy for allocation of community plantations (HTR) to benefit community livelihoods, respect rights and provide long-term tenure security	FPP (ICRAF, Watala, CAPP)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
	22. Putting rights into	Promote informed and coordinated community engagement	FPP (Institut Dayakologi,	\$20,000	\$20,000	

	spatial planning	in land claims and spatial planning processes to secure livelihoods benefits prior to reallocation of customary lands to state or private interests	ICRAF, Gemawan)			
	23. Assessing impact of state forest enterprises (Perhutani) on livelihoods, economic benefits and rights	Develop methodology to assess impact of state control on forest enterprises, hold workshop and conduct systematic analysis of how <i>perhutani</i> impacts local livelihoods, economies and rights	RECOFTC (ICRAF)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
	24. Building appropriate legal mechanisms for conflict resolution on land and natural resources in Indonesia	Consolidate CSOs' knowledge and experience on effective mechanisms for institutionalizing conflict resolution through research-based advocacy to reform land and resource conflict resolution policies	Epistema (HuMa, Pontianak Institute, Universitas Balikpapan)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$5,271
Total Funds Requested for Indonesia Activities:				\$160,000	\$170,000	\$5,271
Lao PDR	25. Forest tenure reform working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy dialogue with Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and other relevant agencies to carry out legal reform Support parliamentarians in pushing for tenure reform Fact sheet on Lao forest tenure 	RECOFTC (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, NAFRI, DOF, MONRE)	\$40,000	\$50,000	
Total Funds Requested for Lao PDR Activities:				\$40,000	\$50,000	
India	26. Coordinated efforts for policy advocacy on internal land grab phenomenon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National workshop in collaboration with Ministry of Tribal Affairs Support state-wide activist groups to develop advocacy materials based on analysis and workshop outcomes Follow-up activities emanating from workshop 	SPWD (RRI Fellow, Advisory Committee)	\$60,000	\$60,000	
Total Funds Requested for India Activities:				\$60,000	\$60,000	
Thailand	27. Strengthening Thai community forestry networks' policy advocacy	<p>Influence CBNRM policies and increase tenurial security for communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training workshops on policy, network strengthening and climate change to improve CF networks' advocacy strategy Produce annotated version of draft CF bill in policy forum Scale up networks through study tours to enable linkages with strategically-placed national/global networks 	RECOFTC-Thailand (Community Forestry Network-Thailand, other CF networks and NGOs, GACF, Royal Forest Department)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Total Funds Requested for Thailand Activities:				\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Total Funds Requested for All Country and Regional Programs:				\$726,500	\$757,200	\$153,545

	28. Regional Facilitation Costs	Remuneration, travel and administrative expenses and other costs incurred for hosting Asia Regional Facilitator	RECOFTC	\$67,100	\$67,100	
GRAND TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED for All Country and Regional Programs, plus Facilitation Costs:				\$793,600	\$849,300	\$153,545

IV. Countries of Engagement - China

4.1 RRI Strategy

Context:

Starting from the early 2000s, what is called “collective forest reform” started to emerge in China. An earlier round of collective forest tenure reform had taken place when the household responsibility system first began to be established in early 1980s but it was halted because it had led to deforestation in the absence of regulatory control. This new round of reform was composed of state-sponsored pilot projects and provincial-level initiatives to distribute collective forestlands to households in order to move forward the de-collectivization of the countryside and establishment of free markets. In this way, not only would livelihoods be improved but social stability be possible. By 2008, a formal policy was announced called “Guidelines on Fully Promoting Collective Forest Tenure System Reform.” The basic goal of this reform is to encourage collective forest owners to re-evaluate the allocation of forest use rights based on a majority vote which involves either a two-thirds vote by the whole village assembly or the committee of the village representatives. Collectives had a range of options that included: reallocating forest rights to individual households, collections of households (so-called “partnerships”), private contractors; or they could maintain collective management either at the level of hamlets (so-called village clusters, very often natural villages) or at the full collective level. The ultimate ownership of this forestland remains the village collective. In essence, this is a move towards private ownership. After a series of reforms were carried out at the provincial level, starting with Fujian, a stronger declaration of its commitment to forest tenure reform was announced by the State Forestry Administration (SFA) in 2006 by calling it the priority for the year.

As these reforms have proceeded, the State Forestry Administration has also been interested in ensuring that the reform of collective forest rights can be utilized to boost income streams through such measures as creating forestland transaction centers and supporting mortgageability of trees. In addition, the Rural Land Contracting Law provided farmers with protections against coerced acquisition of land. Presently, there are plans to reform the logging quota system in order to ensure adequate forest coverage whilst giving the local level more flexibility in deciding these quotas rather than the present top-down allocation system. Altogether, RRI-sponsored research shows that these forest tenure and regulatory reforms have generally yielded higher household incomes and increased afforestation rates in forest areas.

There has been very substantial progress in pressing forward with these important reforms, but there are key challenges that still remain to be addressed. These include:

1. *Forest Law.* The National People’s Congress has already instructed the State Forestry Administration to complete a new Forest Law draft. This will essentially integrate all the various policy directives that have been issued since the 1990s into one comprehensive piece of legislation. As yet, however, whilst much progress has been made on the direction of reform in the collective forest sector, there is little clarity on what should take place within the state forest sector. This is stalling progress on completing the Forest Law draft which is estimated to take another 2-3 years. Landesa has recommended that given all the policy components of the collective forest sector law are already largely determined, the government should issue two laws in order to provide real legal backing to the villager’s rights. The proposal is therefore to go ahead with preparation of the one on collective forests, and then subsequently and separately address state forest law when the time is ripe.

2. *State Forestlands.* This is certainly an important issue on the SFA policy agenda, but as yet, it is unclear how much progress has been made on this issue. It is recognized that no standardized model for reform of state forest areas can be developed, and as such, it is necessary to study the issue on a regional basis (e.g., NE and SW are key areas). An additional concern here is the way in which customary forest use practices overlap with state forest areas, especially in ethnic minority areas. In 2011, some work in the RRI Coalition by Peking University has been done on examining how local level reforms initiated by the state forest units have affected the livelihoods of its workers. Recommendations are being prepared for the SFA on this dimension to be shared at an upcoming workshop.

3. *Collective and Individual Forestland Rights.* Over the last few years, much research and analysis has been carried out by Prof. Xu Jintao of Peking University on how the process of allocating collective forestland rights was carried out in numerous provinces, as well as what the income benefits and changes in forest cover have been from the early 2000s. These have provided much information on how much forestland was individualized, how much was re-allocated back to collective control after an earlier round of decollectivization in the 1980s, and how much was managed in other forms (such as partnerships etc). More recently, there has been work by Landesa on gender equity within forest tenure regimes for which there are presently no specific regulatory stipulations (resulting in the male head of household being the rights holder by default). In addition, research into how communities in ethnic minority areas such as Yunnan perceive the reform process has been carried out by ICRAF-East Asia Office, and also Yunnan Academy of Social Science's Rural Development Institute. As such, now that the broader picture of reforms has become much clearer, the focus is on examining how these reforms are affecting marginalized populations such as women, poor and ethnic minority communities.

Simultaneously, it is also clear that there is insufficient understanding of the policies and regulations governing distribution of forestland allocations, land transactions, dispute resolution mechanisms. Here, Landesa is involved in legal education work through legal aid clinics and dissemination activities in provinces such as Guangxi (which is among those targeted for major land acquisition by pulp and paper companies).

4. *Regulatory Policies to Support Realization of Tenure Benefits.* In addition to the establishment of use and management rights, other dimensions of forest management regimes have prevented rights owners from being able to practically receive benefits from those rights. For example, timber harvesting quotas are typically distributed in a top-down fashion and as such, it is not possible to match the quota system to the ecological realities of forest growth on the ground. This needs to be remedied, and this last year the Yunnan Agricultural University was involved in an experimental study of different logging quota systems to determine a more participatory approach. There are other dimensions which the SFA is also trying to address: such as improving the financing conditions (mortgageability of trees vs. forestland, loans and subsidies, financing information dissemination) through which farmers can proceed to increase their income stream.

5. *Regulatory Takings.* Following the major floods in the Changjiang watershed in 1998, China has established a series of programs to prevent deforestation in key targeted upland areas of major watersheds. As such, western and northern China saw logging bans in both state forests as well as collective forests. In addition, there was the establishment of "public benefit forest zones" (part of a newly created zoning system) coupled with the "Forest Ecosystem Compensation Program" (FECF) that aimed to provide compensation for income lost. As Landesa's work has shown over the last few years, the system of regulatory takings (compensation for controls in the public interest) has been seriously inadequate and they are now poised to share their comparative research findings together with their recommendations with the SFA. In addition, now that the Land Management Law is being revised, Landesa is moving forward with submitting recommendations on inclusion of stipulations concerning regulatory takings of forestlands.

This is also a parallel strand of work being carried out by ICRAF-East Asia Office which is concerned with how the establishment of these ecological protection forest zones all too often takes place within ethnic minority areas that are poor (and mountainous). As such, even though collective forest tenure reform has distributed forestland rights to households in Yunnan (for example), these lands often fall within the logging ban zones. This means villagers are unable to use these rights to improve their livelihoods. In this context, there are moves to identify alternative forest management systems that will create the same ecological benefits. The Yunnan Academy of Science's Rural Development Institute is involved in this work.

6. *Forestland Grabs.*

There is a continuing problem of growing commercial pressure to acquire forestlands for plantations. In 2010, the case of Stora Enso's acquisitions in Guangxi by the major pulp and paper company Stora Enso

was investigated by Landesa. Given that this research showed that land transactions were being carried out through improper procedures and coercive measures, involving the local government, middlemen and the private sector, it is clear that legal protections for farmers need to be implemented in practice. Stora Enso, in response, made amendments to their approach. There has been some evidence of companies moving away from acquiring land directly, but instead acquiring the timber directly from the farmers themselves. Even so, the commercial pressures have not diminished given the recent moves by Sino-Forest as well as APP.

7. Small and Medium Scale Forest Enterprises. Research by Prof. Xu Jintao of Peking University as part of the RRI program has shown that SMEs in the forest sector have contributed to local economic development. Most wood-processing enterprises in China are of small and medium-size which contribute to 90% of total output value and 70% of employment for China's forest product industry. They create widespread opportunities for rural people, particularly forest farmers. The panel industry alone has the potential to improve the lives of 100 million farmers. The global financial crisis has had a distinctive negative impact on this sector, and in that sense, further works needs to be done to support the conditions under which SMEs can flourish. Overall, the role and contribution of SMEs in forest sector are not appreciated by the government, and therefore there is a need for national-level data to capture attention and drive policy reform forward.

Strategic Focus for 2012:

The strategic work-plan for RRI in China both continues strategic analysis on the impact of reforms, but equally importantly, the focus this year will be shifting towards effectively conveying our findings and recommendations to policy makers as well as disseminating within the community of relevant stakeholders. An emphasis on communication of research in both Chinese and English is being developed.

There are two key areas of analytical inputs for policy reform this year. Firstly, there will be an examination of the geographical correlations between different types of forest regimes (including NFPP and conservation zones), forest cover, poverty and ethnic minority population distributions in Yunnan province. The aim here is to demonstrate that although forest tenure reform has been carried out in collectives, much of this falls into ecological protection zones resulting in very little poverty alleviation potential. Therefore, this will lead to an opening for advocating a different, less exclusionary approach to ecological protection that needs to be exercised particularly in such poor, minority socio-economic contexts. Secondly, in parallel, there will be an examination of how extant community-managed forests in these Yunnan areas do, in practice, succeed in achieving sustainable forest management. These two inputs, in tandem, are expected to help argue for the lifting of absolute logging bans in the name of ecological protection.

In terms of policy dissemination and media communication of earlier work, there are three areas proposed. Firstly, the considerable work by Landesa on regulatory takings (both internationally and in China) will now be shared with policy-makers in SFA through a set of policy briefings in order to encourage a new way of approaching this issue of equity. Landesa will also be working on encouraging the new draft of the Land Management Law to also consider forestlands takings in addition to agricultural lands. This law is being amended primarily because of the massive appropriation of farmland within the urban periphery for development/construction purposes. Secondly, the 2011 research by Landesa on gender and forest tenure will be shared within the Chinese communities of interest on gender and NRM. Thirdly, a briefing will be prepared that outlines the history of forest tenure reform in China and future challenges ahead. This will be produced in both Chinese and English. It will be of use to our partners and collaborators within China and also will help with the growing interest in learning about Chinese forest reforms internationally.

RRI in China has several effective points of leverage for the coalition's work program. Primarily, constructive relations with the State Forestry Administration enable the coalition to share information with policy-makers in the Chinese government. Policy and strategic analysis findings by Peking University, which contributes valued expertise on tenure reform and rural livelihoods in China, is positively received by SFA. Landesa and the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences are both very experienced at examining

the legal and policy dimensions of tenure reform and making recommendations on legal and policy reforms at the central and provincial levels. The World Agro Forestry Center (ICRAF-Yunnan) leads work on understanding the impacts of China's various land management programs and the social and ecological impacts on ethnic minority populations.

RRI recognizes that China's experience in collective tenure reform has great value for other regional actors and, for this reason, supports efforts to share these experiences among South and Southeast Asian neighbor

4.2 China – Planned Activities 2012

Activity		Details/Description	Lead (collaboration)	Allocated as per agreements during planning meeting	Extra allocation on priorities identified in planning meeting	Funds committed by RRI Partners
7	Legal and policy reform for China's Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)	Conduct legal research review of farmers' entitlement to compensation for forest loss on NFPP lands (ecological forests); disseminate findings and advocate to establish foundation for legal and policy measures to protect livelihoods from state-run conservation programs	Landesa (SFA-China)	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$19,980
8	Dissemination of research findings on women's forestland rights in China	Develop campaign for strategic dissemination of findings from field research on gender dimensions of China's forestland reform, targeting policy recommendations to government officials, gender experts, development NGOs and media	Landesa	\$11,500	\$15,000	\$15,540
9	Survey of collective forest management practices in Yunnan Province	Bring better understanding of local management practices and implementation of rights to demonstrate value of indigenous knowledge and community capacity-building for sustainable development and forest management	Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$6,222
10	Mapping collective forests and livelihoods in Protected Areas in Yunnan province	Clarify spatial distribution of collective forests within Protected Areas and investigate link between collective forests and rural livelihoods of households in National Forest Protection Program.	ICRAF-China (Kunming Institute of Botany, Yunnan provincial forest departments, YASS)	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$12,800
11	Fact sheet on China's forest tenure reforms	Consolidate information on legislation and research findings to date for dissemination to broad domestic and regional audiences	Peking University	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Total Funds Requested for China Activities:				\$156,500	\$160,000	\$54,542

4.3 Audiences and Priority Outcomes – 2012

Audiences	Priority outcomes
Leadership of key Chinese agencies (primarily SFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China continues to advance and improve pro-poor forest tenure policy reform by passing new Forest Law which maximizes community and individual livelihoods benefits in both collective and state forest sectors • Removes regulatory barriers on collective forests (“quota” system, logging ban, zoning) • Adjusts conservation policies to respect local rights (e.g. FECP, NFPP) • Recognizes value of SMEs for strengthening local livelihoods and overall forest economy
Community support organizations (e.g. NGOs and researchers), particularly in Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess community, household and individual ability to benefit from tenure reforms and identify structural impediments to achieving benefits • Identify policy and market reforms to help the poor benefit from forest resources • Improved analysis of legal framework and recommendations for new forest law • Recognize contributions of SMEs and promote these models in forest areas and among government agencies • Disseminate knowledge on impacts of tenure reforms to national and regional audiences, including media • Recognize existing sustainable forest management systems and collectives in ethnic minority areas • Help historically poor and disenfranchised groups, including women and ethnic minorities
International donors and development community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and understand reforms underway in China and lessons learned on tenure and policy • Advance tenure and policy reforms to protect local rights and better enable rural poor to benefit from land

4.4 Strategic Partners, Collaborators and Roles

Strategic Partners	Roles
ICRAF-East Asia (CMES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts research on spatial distribution of forestland in Yunnan to investigate nexus between collective forestry, conservation programs and rural livelihoods in ethnic minority areas to raise recognition of ethnicity dimensions of tenure/rights reform
Collaborators	
Landesa-Beijing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts research on legal dimensions of forest tenure and rights in China • Analyzes livelihood benefits of forest farmers on • Disseminates information on gendered dimensions of forest land rights to key audiences
Peking University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads work on data collection and analysis of state forest reform and livelihood benefits for future policy engagement • Conducts surveys on SMEs in forest areas and impacts on rural household and community incomes • Disseminates information to key policy and non-governmental audiences in China
Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze local management practice, particularly indigenous and CBFM, and their sustainability/livelihoods value in Yunnan

V. Country of Engagement - Nepal

5.1 RRI Strategy

Nepal's historic political transition offers a unique opportunity to establish democratic and inclusive forms of natural resource governance with strong community property rights. This political transformation is the outcome of a range of struggles that include political parties, people's movements (natural resource, women's, underprivileged and ethnic), grassroots community groups, and civil society organizations. Included within the substantial restructuring of governance taking place are the issues of federalism, the key stakeholders in governance and the level of its devolution. As such, there are a number of key fundamental issues on the table. It is inevitable that when such a massive transformation is afoot, there will be considerable upheaval and instability as a new pathway and structure is being forged. The ongoing political stalemate, frequent cabinet reorganization and rapid turnover at high levels of the government, and conflicts around power-sharing have prevented policymakers from focusing on much-needed institutional reforms.

Whilst the history of community forestry predates these changes, the formation of key community forestry (CF) federations such as FECOFUN (Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal) is part and parcel of this vibrant democracy movement. The rapid geographic expansion of FECOFUN from the early 1990s together with its effective campaigns to enable community forestry user groups to develop greater autonomy in the assertion of its rights has resulted in Nepal being seen as one of the leading global examples of successful community forestry.

However, during the period after the abolition of the monarchy in 2007, there have been opportunistic attempts in this period of anarchic democracy to weaken community forestry. The most recently appointed Minister of Forestry and Soil Conservation (from mid-2011) is not a positive supporter of CF, and as such, it is hard for champions within the ministry to continue to promote, much less strengthen, CF. Moreover, there is a growing recognition that there is still, as yet, inadequate recognition of the impressive achievements in CF within political parties and key leaders.

Therefore, there is a two-fold challenge emerging in Nepal. Firstly, there is the need to actively push for the inclusion of community property rights in the new Constitution that is currently being prepared. Secondly, the achievements of the community forestry movement need to be protected and further extended in ways that enable the communities to gain a fuller set of benefits from their rights. With the recent election in Nov 2011 of a new Prime Minister, Baburam Bhattarai of the Maoist Party, there is hope that the new Constitution will soon be finalized and a new political stability can be established.

On the issue of the Constitution, the process has been fraught with challenges and hence postponements over these last three years. The political parties have not reached agreement on a common political framework as well as the necessary direction of Nepal's development. As a result, the level of enthusiasm has decreased and there is widespread frustration among the broad public resulting in a dissipation of political will. However, the recent seven-point deal signed by major political parties in October 2011 has paved the way to solving the prolonged issue of integrating Maoist combatants within the Nepali army. This is considered as a major breakthrough in concluding the ongoing peace process, and enables the government to concentrate more on completing the task of promulgating the new Constitution. The Constituent Assembly term has been extended for another six months, from December 2011 till May 2012, and this extension is likely to be the last: the Supreme Court has ruled against further extension beyond this deadline.

With this deadline looming, RRI intervention must focus more strategically than ever to identify and capitalize on how to ensure local communities' rights to resources are institutionalized in the pending Constitution. In the final draft of the Natural Resources, Economic Powers, and Revenue Allocation Committee of the Constituent Assembly, submitted in Dec 2009, there was partial recognition of local tenure rights, but further work is needed to secure the full bundle of property rights both in the constitution itself and in resulting legal and policy frameworks. If this is not achieved, rights will be ensured in name only but will fail to be fully realized.

Secondly, starting from 2009, there has been a weakening of political will in the forest sector that has supported CF. There has been a favoring of policies that promote centralized control of forest tenure and governance, private sector concessions, and expansion of the Protected Area model.

Paralleling this have been attempts to weaken the scope of community forestry user groups (CFUGs). This can be seen in the previous Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) leadership (Mr. Deepak Bohra) introducing a new Amendment to the Forest Act of 1993 to further regulate CFUGs in ways that weaken their autonomy, limit their economic benefits, and minimize linkages with civil society group support. As a result of a broad advocacy campaign by FECOFUN and others, this amendment was withdrawn. Despite this, the move to weaken CFUGs still continues. Attempts to change the mapping of forest blocks as well as requirements for environmental impact assessment by user groups aim to limit CFUG scope of work. The appointment of a Madhesi Minister of Forestry and Soil Conservation in mid-1022 also presents a strong possibility that what is formally called “collaborative forestry” (involving a greater role for the government) rather than CF will be favored, posing a new layer of threats.

In addition, steps to establish a series of new Protected Areas in ways that would marginalize CF activities were initiated in 2009. The initial plan to establish Gaurishankar Conservation area was cancelled after vehement opposition by groups such as FECOFUN. Even so, the domestic conservation lobby and BINGO supporters are in the midst of ongoing attempts to create three new Protected Areas which RRI Partners and Collaborators continue oppose.

Allied to this ongoing tendency to weaken CFUGs has been the new arrival of climate change mitigation funds through multilateral development programs such as FCPF and carbon-financing frameworks such as REDD+. A 2011 scoping exercise of climate policy institutions in Nepal found that agencies were unaccountable to local interests in climate change policies. If this continues, Nepal could follow the unfortunate lead of other countries whereby REDD and other schemes result in community displacement by private or public sector interests, exacerbate forest conflict and give governments another means to chip away at existing rights.

Working not only to oppose the rollbacks to CF, groups such as FECOFUN is working on expanding the establishment of new CFUGs beyond the Mid-Hills where it has successfully blossomed so far. Whilst expansion into the Terai has taken place, this has been limited by significant obstacles. Organized resistance in the Terai stems from a number of significant angles including the tension between long-term and migrant communities, issues of distant users, and also the higher value timber in Terai. At the same time, the expansion of community forestry rights in the High Himal is not being promoted in any significant ways by forest federations, donors or the government, as the diversity of ethnic minority groups and complications of establishing local forest governance systems and enterprises in high-altitude regions presents its own set of challenges. How to successfully establish and federate CFUGs in these two zones have become an important priority over time to develop an integrated community forestry system throughout Nepal.

It is recognized that CF in Nepal remains an important role model for many other countries around the world having successfully pioneered many of its key institutional features. As such, ensuring the strength of CF rights in Nepal holds international significance. It is, therefore, important to prevent any weakening or fracturing of powerful CF movements through political or ethnic/divisive fragmentation.

Strategic focus for 2012

For 2012, after reflecting upon the benefits of the Coalition activities, decided to continue with its primary strategic goals, but this time, to give more time to working out mechanisms to further enhance the effectiveness of its activities. So, there are a number of key components that in totality aim to ensure that community forestry both consolidates current gains as well as develops new strategies for expanding its reach. These components include: a) ensure that community property rights are enshrined in the new Constitution, b) there will be a halt to further centralization of control over CF within the Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation, c) expanding CF successfully into the Terai, and d) to ensure that there is both a halt to expansion of Protection Areas whilst identifying appropriate models for managing these

areas that both supports CF and conservation/biodiversity goals. This will involve targeting: a) political parties and Constitution Assembly members, b) government officials including in Ministry of Forestry, c) media institutions, and d) grassroots CF groups.

At a broader level, due to the weakened support for CF within the Ministry of Forestry itself together with the general lack of awareness of CF's contribution to rural livelihoods among Nepalese politicians and leaders, there will be a specific campaign to disseminate the achievements of CF widely through media.

The new strategy for engagement this year includes allocating responsibilities for particular targets with specific partners and collaborators as follows: a) FECOFUN will lead the advocacy work on policymaking particularly with government officials, b) COFSUN and HIMAWANTI will work to mobilize grassroots groups and especially on expansion into Terai, c) Forest Action will provide gap analyses and also document the work of the coalition so that a process of monitoring and evaluation by the Nepal RRI coalition can be facilitated, and d) HELVETAS-Swiss Intercooperation with NRM Parliament will work on ensuring smooth coordination among all Nepal partners and collaborators, especially in mobilizing change on the Constitution, and pursuing media promotions.

5.2 Nepal – Planned Activities 2012

Activity		Details/Description	Lead (collaboration)	Allocated as per agreements during planning meeting	Extra allocation on priorities identified in planning meeting	Funds committed by RRI Partners
12	Community and Grassroots: Social mobilization and governance strengthening of community forestry in Terai	Address internal governance issues in Terai's CFUGs by training and mobilizing human resources, publicizing best practices and policy provisions, and providing discussion platform with overarching goal of safeguarding existing rights.	COFSUN (FECOFUN, HIMAWANTI)	\$23,800	\$23,800	\$6,782
13	Monitoring and Evaluation: Documenting lessons from RRI approaches to support tenure reform process in Nepal	Monitor, document and review RRI interventions in Nepal from 2008-, analyze modalities of Partner and Collaborator engagement, identify challenges to engagement and devise improved practices for advancing collective agenda.	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (ForestAction)	\$21,000	\$25,000	\$3,000
14	Coordination and Communication: Create mechanism for strategic advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratchet up strategic engagement to maximize results and inclusion of rights in June 2012 constitution • Assess baseline understanding among politicians/policy makers on community forestry • Analyze best practices in coalition-building, rethink coordination mechanism among Partners/Collaborators • Media dissemination and engagement 	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (NRM Peoples Parliament)	\$16,800	\$20,000	\$4,200
15	State and Professional Sector: Policy advocacy on gender equity and social inclusion in community forestry institutions	Increase active institutional participation of women and other socially-excluded forest communities through training workshops, public awareness campaign and policy/media advocacy.	HIMAWANTI (COFSUN, FECOFUN)	\$23,800	\$23,800	\$3,000

16	State and Professional Sector: Policy advocacy for people's rights over natural resources	Coordinated multi-stakeholder policy advocacy campaign to strengthen support for community forestry in key government institutions, with focus on capacity-building for women, indigenous peoples, dalits and other historically disenfranchised groups.	FECOFUN (NRM Confederation, Dept. of Community Forests, DDC, VDC, DFO, NRM People's Parliament)	\$54,600	\$54,600	
Total Funds Requested for Nepal:				\$140,000	\$147,200	\$16,982

5.3 Audiences and Priority Outcomes – 2012

Audiences/Constituencies	Priority Outcomes
Government of Nepal, Constituent Assembly Members, Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal's forthcoming new constitution endorses community property rights and governance over natural resources • Advancement of pro-poor forest policies and regulatory framework • Promotes forest based enterprises to support local people's livelihood • Further expansion of community forestry program in Terai and Himal regions of Nepal
Civil Society Organizations and Federations of Natural Resource Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate to ensure the rights of community property rights and governance over natural resources • Strengthen capacity of grassroots community based organizations • Improved analysis of current tenure reform and its impact on people's livelihood and environment • Strengthen network of federations working on natural resource sector • Greater engagement in policy process in Nepal • Analyze impact of REDD+ policies and programs on community benefits
International Donors and Development community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and understand reforms underway in Nepal and lessons learned in tenure and policies • Advance community forestry policy and better enable local community to benefit from forest management • Promotion of forest based pro-poor business model

5.4 Strategic Partners, Collaborators and Roles

Strategic Partners	Roles
FECOFUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads grassroots social mobilization • Advocates for the rights of community over forest resources • Coordinates multi-stakeholder national policy campaign with political parties, government agencies, and key leaders to promote community forestry
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides intellectual inputs on forest governance and tenure reform to inform advocacy strategy • Coordinates Monitoring & Evaluation and capacity-building efforts amongst RRI actors in Nepal to develop improved practices for advancing collective agenda • Develops strategy for media dissemination and engagement on RRI interventions
Collaborators	
Forest Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates on national level for the rights of community by undertaking research studies and analytical work on value of community forestry programs • Conducts gap analysis to identify needed provisions in new constitution • Supports RRI Nepal M&E development
HIMAWANTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops leadership capacity and institutional representation of women associated with the management of natural resources • Creates awareness about gender and equity in forest management
COFSUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engages in advocacy for the rights of communities, particularly marginalized communities and women, in forestry sector to increase institutional participation at national policy level • Mobilizes and builds capacity CFUGs and federations in Terai region to strengthen internal forest governance; establishes model approach for successful intervention in Terai
NRM Confederation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates to key policymakers and legal drafters to ensure recognition of community property rights to natural resources • Help strengthen coordination of CSOs and networks working in NRM
NRM People's Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates to key policymakers for rights of local communities over natural resources • Provides inputs to national-level leaders on NRM related issues on behalf of local communities • Works with legal drafters and policymakers to insure community property rights are duly recognized • Mobilizes media to raise national awareness of community forestry

VI. Country of Engagement – Indonesia

6.1 RRI Strategy

Context:

Indonesia has the largest land-base, population and forest cover in Southeast Asia. The archipelago is renowned for its incredible biodiversity and productivity of its forests. Indonesia's forested landscapes are the site of two key challenges. Firstly, high deforestation rates (and the clearing and draining of peat lands for plantations), illegal logging, and large-scale agribusiness and forest industry concessions not only is significantly damaging of forest ecologies but it also contributes to Indonesia being one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions in the world. The country's forests have been disappearing at an alarming rate having shrunk from 82% in the 1950s to nearly 50% at present. This substantial loss of forest stems from widespread corruption and weak forest governance that is rooted in the lucravitiveness of the concessions/plantations economy. At the same time, there are deep social tensions over forest rights between government and indigenous peoples and other local communities that lead to on-going conflict and physical displacements.

Since the fall of Suharto in 1998, Indonesia has demonstrated its ability to be one of Asia's most stable democracies. While political reform has been slow, the re-election of President Yudhoyono began a phase of proactive global citizenship whereby Indonesia plays a major role in plans to mitigate climate change through the REDD+ program. As Indonesia is among the next line of emergent economies after the BRIC countries (within the so-called CIVETS), the central issue of how to promote equitable economic growth whilst supporting the protection of its forests will need to be confronted.

For Indonesia, the primary issue is that of who owns or controls its forests which stems from confusion and disagreement over where its forestlands are located and how and by whom they are being used. In order to develop a more equitable and functioning management system for Indonesia's remaining natural forests (protected and production areas) together with plantations – there is a need to clarify what the rights of communities are in forested lands. As it is, much of what is officially classified as the "forest zone" under the control of the Ministry of Forestry is, in practice, community-planted agroforests, agricultural land or grasslands. Without clarity on rights, local communities are reluctant to invest in these lands, in order to improve their livelihoods, because of the fear of eviction. At present, there are at least 33,000 villages (about 20% of total villages in Indonesia) within this official "forest zone". Certainly, this is the result of a continuation of colonial policies that need to be fundamentally rethought. In combination with this, policies to address forestlands within officially designated agricultural lands (under control of National Land Agency) will help develop an integrated national approach to forest management.

The recent International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprises held in Lombok, Indonesia on 11-15 July 2011 (organized by RRI together with Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry and International Tropical Timber Organization together with collaborators) presented a new turning point in reforming the system of forest tenure rights in Indonesia. In a keynote speech, Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, head of the President's Special Delivery Unit, announced the government's intention to prioritize the need of its forest communities and to recognize, respect and protect *adat* rights, implementing the TAP MPR IX, a significant umbrella piece of legislation enacted in 2001 to ensure an integrated approach to forest management. He also advocated the need to develop a "one map" so that there is unified agreement on the geography of forest tenure. By the end of the conference, the Ministry of Forestry had agreed to carry out a set of forest tenure reforms to be identified in conjunction with a group of CSOs. The CSOs have now put together a Roadmap for Forest Tenure Reform (based on their advocacy positions presented at the conference) which is being negotiated with both the Ministry of Forestry and the National Land Agency (BPN). The Roadmap consists of following components:

- a) Improved policies and accelerated forest gazettement processes (including comprehensive resolution of the legal status of 33,000 villages in forest areas as stated by Minister of Forestry in Lombok conference): establishing legal and legitimate forest areas with clear boundaries
- b) Resolution of forestry conflicts: developing mechanisms to resolve existing conflicts and

preventing new ones from arising especially in a context where there are pluralist legal systems at work

c) Recognition of community governed areas and an improved quality of life for indigenous and other local communities: recognizing and upholding the rights of forest-dwelling people and securing their well-being and livelihoods

The CSOs are working to enable reforms that are comprehensive, permanent, coordinated and rapid. Furthermore, in their view, policy guidelines need to be changed to improve legal security and tenurial justice and this requires clear, long-term, and measurable initiatives which are acceptable to all parties.

In addition, as a result of a new MoU between AMAN (Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara-Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago) and the National Land Agency (BPN) that was signed on 18 Sept, 2011, there is now an additional component added to the CSO Roadmap. This concerns how to carry out reforms within the agrarian land sector (that includes forestlands outside official governmental forest estate) such that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized. As a result of this, the Roadmap now has a very comprehensive approach to the issue of reform within Indonesian forestlands.

Presently, the threats from palm oil plantations and agribusiness operations (such as Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate) mean that confirmation of forest tenure rights is essential for securing people's livelihoods. Therefore, RRI aims to strengthen the requirements for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) by business operations through voluntary best practices, legal requirements and RSPO process are important avenues of change. Similarly, the way which state forest enterprises (*perhutani*) impinge on local communities needs to be more carefully understood. In parallel, whilst new tenure regimes such as people's plantations (HTR) have aimed to provide communities with new sources of incomes, recent work demonstrates that corporate interests have been able to co-opt such new regimes and divert income flows away from local groups. At root, though, it is the structure of spatial planning that determines how different land-use interests gain access to land rights and hence this too becomes a strategic area of work for

Strategic Focus for 2012:

RRI Partners and collaborators in Indonesia have identified a program of work for 2012 that places priority on the CSO Roadmap for Forest Tenure Reform. Other components focus on addressing the problems that a) emerge from plantations/concessions/agribusiness that undermine the rights of local forest dependent communities, b) have led to communities being unable to benefit from community-oriented forest regimes such as people's plantations (HTR) and state forest enterprises (*perhutani*), and c) stem from a spatial planning process that needs to incorporate community engagement in land claims and planning processes in order to *secure* adat lands. Underpinning all this work is the central need for effective conflict resolution mechanisms that recognize the fact of legal pluralistic systems within Indonesia's forested landscapes.

In preparation for the Lombok conference in July 2011, a group of Indonesian CSOs worked together to develop a key set of advocacy positions (on law, conflict resolution, community managed forests, linkages between forestry and agrarian reforms, and indigenous peoples and forests) to present at the conference. Their presentations at the conference formed the basis upon which the new CSO Roadmap for Forest Tenure Reform has been created. The CSO Platform who is putting this together consists of 15 CSOs who are actively working on forest rights issues and as such, illustrates how politically effective coalition-building can be in creating policy and legal changes in Indonesia.

6.2 Indonesia – Planned Activities 2012

Activity		Details/Description	Lead (collaboration)	Allocated as per agreements during planning meeting	Extra allocation on priorities identified in planning meeting	Funds committed by RRI Partners
17	Coordination of the CSO Road Map for Tenure Reform	Strategic and research-based advocacy engagement with Ministry of Forestry and related agencies to ensure follow-through on commitment to implement road map for tenure reform. Key pillars include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceleration of forest gazettement process • Resolution of conflict over forestlands • Expand community-controlled forestland areas to improve local livelihoods 	Epistema (CSO network member organizations)	\$20,000	\$30,000	
18	Conflict analysis	Continuation of analysis of conflict incidence and intensity across Indonesia to provide a database upon which strategies for establishing a conflict resolution policy can be determined.	HuMa	\$20,000	\$20,000	
19	Strengthening FPIC in oil palm policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adherence to FPIC in industry expansion and new business development • Reform RSPO process, enabling communities to challenge bad certifications and coercive consents • Promote changes in voluntary best practices and statutory law to implement FPIC and secure community rights to forestlands 	FPP (SawitWatch)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
20	Tenure and rights advocacy related to the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE)	Support Malind peoples of Merauke District (Papua) through training, community mobilization and national-level advocacy to resist takeover of customary lands by agricultural development project	FPP (SawitWatch, HuMa, PUSAKA)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
21	Security rights in HTR	Effective advocacy for allocation of community plantations (HTR) to benefit community livelihoods, respect rights and provide long-term tenure security	FPP (ICRAF, Watala, CAPP)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
22	Putting rights into spatial planning	Promote informed and coordinated community engagement in land claims and spatial planning processes to secure livelihoods benefits prior to reallocation of customary lands to state or private interests	FPP (Institut Dayakologi, ICRAF, Gemawan)	\$20,000	\$20,000	

23	Assessing impact of state forest enterprises (Perhutani) on livelihoods, economic benefits and rights	Develop methodology to assess impact of state control on forest enterprises, hold workshop and conduct systematic analysis of how <i>perhutani</i> impacts local livelihoods, economies and rights	RECOFTC (ICRAF)	\$20,000	\$20,000	
24	Building appropriate legal mechanisms for conflict resolution on land and natural resources in Indonesia	Consolidate CSOs' knowledge and experience on effective mechanisms for institutionalizing conflict resolution through research-based advocacy to reform land and resource conflict resolution policies	Epistema (HuMa, Pontianak Institute, Universitas Balikpapan)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$5,271
Total Funds Requested for Indonesia:				\$160,000	\$170,000	\$5,271

6.3 Audiences and Priority Outcomes – 2012

Audiences/Constituencies	Priority Outcomes
Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage strategically with key government agencies to advocate for implementation of Road map for tenure reform Strengthen collective action amongst CSO network members to intensify social mobilization; mainstream tenure reform into broader civil society agenda Advocate for realization of legal and policy reforms, tenure and <i>adat</i> rights Analyze prevalence of forest- and resource-based conflict; conduct research-based advocacy and develop mechanism for effective conflict resolution in forest areas Mobilize local communities to resist takeover of customary lands by private concessions or government interests Advocate for agrarian reform that recognizes indigenous rights
Funding agencies and donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen capacity of CSO network Ensure rights agenda is included in climate change policy, laws and regulations Hold Government of Indonesia accountable to commitments on forest and land tenure reform
National and local government agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance decentralization agenda and facilitate the process of forest tenure reform Institutionalize legal and policy reforms which recognize customary rights to forestlands Strengthen tenure and stewardship instruments that guarantee sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen industry-wide human rights standards for agribusiness and adhere to FPIC principles

6.4 Strategic Partners, Collaborators and Roles

Strategic Partners	Roles
FPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes recognition of community and indigenous rights in private sector and spatial planning processes • Disseminates knowledge on legal analysis, legal pluralism, and FPIC • Studies impact of agribusiness and industrial concessions in Indonesia and advocates to reform RSPO process and institute private-sector industry standards to ensure adherence to FPIC and international human rights norms • Supports capacity-building of CSO Roadmap platform members
ICRAF-Southeast Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts research related to state forest enterprises and community plantations
RECOFTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts research and analysis on impact of state forest areas on rights and livelihoods
Samdhana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists capacity-building efforts to educate local communities about environment and rights • Provides intellectual knowledge, capacity-building, research and expertise on issues related to tenure, rights and conflict • Assists indigenous organizations' advocacy efforts to ensure reformed agrarian laws recognize customary rights to agricultural lands
Collaborators	
Epistema Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates CSO Roadmap for tenure reform; engages regularly and strategically with Ministry of Forestry and BPN to ensure follow-through on commitments to institutional forest tenure reform • Leads legal research and analysis and strategic advocacy engagement with key government agencies • Develops effective legal mechanisms for conflict resolution to inform Roadmap engagement
HuMa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes realization of community and ecology-based legal reforms • Helps develop capacity of CSOs in terms of legal understanding and legal reform process • Analyzes conflict in forest areas to develop strategy for conflict resolution
SawitWatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates on impact of palm oil plantation on community rights and their livelihoods • Provides legal support to local communities
PUSAKA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates for community and indigenous rights to customary lands in Papua
Institut Dayakologi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes Dayak community capacity-building to enable revitalization and restitution of <i>adat</i> rights and cultural heritage • Mobilizes community engagement in national spatial planning processes to secure rights and livelihood benefits to forestland
AMAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates regularly and strategically with National Land Agency (BPN) to ensure reform of agrarian law recognizes <i>adat</i> customary rights to agricultural lands
Kemitraan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates and strengthens relationship between CSO Roadmap platform and key government agencies and leaders to ensure government commitment to tenure reform • Engages President's Special Delivery Unit and ministries to ensure rights agenda is included in new REDD+ policies and programs

VII. Country of Engagement – Lao PDR

7.1 RRI Strategy

Context:

Government agencies, along with international organizations in Lao PDR, have been working to advance a national tenure and rights agenda for the last three decades, and a strong political will exists for recognition of forest tenure rights. However, despite its substantial forestland area, the government of Lao PDR has failed to initiate any broad measures to assist local efforts to use forest resources for livelihood benefits and poverty reduction. The vast majority of forests remain under state control, and deforestation continues at an unsustainable rate.

In 2009, a stakeholder consultation meeting held at the then Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture reiterated government interest and commitment to advance the agenda on tenure and rights. A reactivated national level tenure task force under National Land Management Authority (NLMA), headed by the Director General of National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), provided a strategic opportunity for RRI to engage with and support government initiatives on tenure rights. Over the past two years, RRI has carried out a suite of activities that aim to promote learning from international experiences on forest tenure rights, and advance this program of learning on a long-term basis. In September 2010, a team of nine government officials representing various agencies attended the International Conference on Forest Tenure and Regulatory Frameworks, co-organized by RRI and the China State Forest Administration (SFA) in Beijing. Following the conference, these officials participated in a field visit to China's Yunnan province. These parallel initiatives not only provided the delegation with an opportunity to learn about various tenure frameworks in China and across Asian countries, but also built the delegates' capacities to encourage their respective agencies to work on advancing the tenure and rights agenda in Lao PDR.

Furthermore, in November 2011, a team of senior government officials and a representative from the Lao National Assembly visited China to further understand the process of tenure reform on the ground, after which they engaged in a high-level dialogue with key SFA officials in Kunming. This dialogue provided an opportunity for further collaboration between the two countries and expanded the scope for mutual learning.

Most importantly, these visits were followed by a successful "National Workshop on Forest Tenure and Policies in Laos PDR" that was held with the Department of Forests in Vientiane on 28-29 November 2011 to identify pathways for reform based on international experiences, which included Brazil, Nepal and Vietnam as well as China. At this workshop, there was significant input from the National Assembly (that is promoting forest tenure reform), civil society groups (such as Land Issues Working Group, and Gender Development Group), academics and donor communities in deliberating over the future form of forest tenure rights. The Lao government is producing a policy brief that will outline some of the tipping points for tenure reform, and elaborate issues, challenges and opportunity to undertake tenure reform in Lao PDR. RRI's past interventions have identified strategic actors within government agencies and formed an alliance with National Assembly members actively pushing for tenure reform.

This workshop came in the wake of the first communal land title issued by the Lao PDR government (in Sangthong District of Vientiane prefecture), which grants legal authority and responsibility for the management and use of communal land to local communities. The initiative is considered a landmark development in terms of recognizing community rights over resources. In parallel, the Laotian government has been undergoing major institutional restructuring, which has established a new Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, whose mandate includes land allocation and management, forest conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and other environmental issues. The National Land Management Authority (NLMA) is subsumed within this new ministry. Additionally, the government has also planned to review and revise all policies and legislations related to natural resources within the next three to four years. The process of revision has already begun, starting with the forestry sector, and has been strengthened by a network of international organizations and donors working in Lao.

Through both its ongoing work to promote learning from international experiences and glean best practices and as a result of the recent government restructuring, RRI sees exciting new windows of opportunity to intervene in the policy process and achieve significant impact on ensuring rights of local communities and indigenous people in the revised forest policies and legislation. RRI will continue to engage government allies on reviewing forest legislation, drawing on the progress made on community titling in Sangthong district and adapting lessons learned from international experiences to the Laotian context before the June 2012 policy review deadline. Most importantly, RRI will strengthen the capacity of the National Assembly, through proactive dialogue with key members, to ensure approval of the ministries' review in June.

Additionally, RRI has benefitted from the expansion of further collaborators in its Laos work. Besides RECOFTC, HELVETAS-Swiss Intercooperation is another partner in Lao PDR who is actively involved in various development interventions including rights agenda. Similarly, some of the civil society organizations such as Land Issues Working Group, Gender Development Group, and the Southern Network of Community Group are emerging as potential collaborators to work on forest rights in Lao PDR.

In the context of government ongoing efforts to review forest policies and laws by June 2012, the workshop in Vientiane was also a forward-looking development as it put forward some immediate proposals for RRI support. First, the government of Lao wants to get support for comprehensive review and analysis of current forest policies and laws by international policy expert so as to identify gaps and recommend ways forward for changes to be made. Second, to organize a workshop of policy people in Vientiane to share the outcome of the comprehensive review undertaken by experts and discuss what can be included in forthcoming revision of forest policies and laws. In addition, the workshop also highlighted the need to continue learning on forest tenure reform from other countries through exchange visit and interaction. Similar to China visit, high level officials as well as members of national assembly for Lao PDR would like to visit Nepal, where delegates can learn the forest tenure reform process, and have opportunities to interact with policy people including the members of the Constituent Assembly.

Strategic Focus for 2012:

Given the new opening in middle of 2011 (sparked partially by the needs of the REDD+/FIP) calling for reform of forest laws to improve forest tenure security, the time has arrived for integrating the earlier work of RRI in Laos (involving study trips to China and discussion of reform strategies) into the review of forest legislation to take place by June 2012. In 2012, the findings of the workshop held by RRI, RECOFTC and Lao Department of Forests will result in a new policy brief, an additional workshop focusing specifically on the forest review and additional dialogues with the National Assembly to help smoothly move the process forward.

Therefore, the strategy for ensuring progressive changes in the forest legislation is a) to support the National Assembly in their push for forest tenure reform by providing further information on experiences/options from elsewhere and b) to work directly on the comprehensive review of the forest legislation by identifying appropriate expertise/inputs and c) further developing new links with CSOs in Laos to provide additional stakeholder inputs into the process. Altogether, the aim is to build momentum so that the commitment by the Lao government can move to a productive conclusion. Given that this is one of the two key countries in Asia that RRI works in with very substantial state administration of forest lands, the possibility of communities getting their forest rights recognized across the country has the potential to positively affect the majority of its population.

7.2 Lao PDR Planned Activities – 2012

Activity		Details/Description	Lead (Partners and Collaborators)	Allocated as per agreements during planning meeting	Extra allocation on priorities identified in planning meeting	Funds committed by RRI Partners
25	Forest tenure reform working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy dialogue with Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and other relevant agencies to carry out legal reform • Support parliamentarians in pushing for tenure reform • Fact sheet on Lao forest tenure 	RECOFTC (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, NAFRI, DOF, MONRE)	\$40,000	\$50,000	
Total Funds Requested for Lao PDR:				\$40,000	\$50,000	

7.3 Audiences and Priority Outcomes – 2012

Audiences/Constituencies	Priority Outcomes
National and local government agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR continues to advance tenure and rights agenda and facilitate the progress of land use management and land use planning
International organizations and donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to land use planning and capacity development of local and national-level government agencies
Civil Society organizations and academics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate knowledge on forest/land tenure reform and community resource rights to key government agencies and international organizations

7.4 Strategic Partners, Collaborators and Roles

Partners	Roles
RECOFTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates RRI engagement in Lao PDR to support revision of forest policies and laws • Leads advocacy engagement and multi-stakeholder policy dialogues with key leaders for tenure reform • Leads learning initiatives (workshops and exchanges) to expose policymakers to best practices from international experiences on forest tenure and rights
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts research and advocacy within existing development initiatives to gain support for tenure reform agenda • Builds capacity of civil society groups on environment and development issues; engages private sector to support local enterprises for community livelihoods
Collaborators	
<i>Government agencies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate learning from tenure reform working group and international exchanges to inform comprehensive review of national forest sector laws and policies
NAFRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead organization to facilitate process of developing land use planning and land distribution.
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead government authority on production forests and unclassified forestlands
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MONRE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead government authority on land allocation and management, forest conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and other environmental issues
National Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforms forest tenure as a result of FIP initiatives
<i>NGOs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become active in policy dialogues to inform government agencies on value of rights-based reforms and community forestry policies
Land Issues Working Group (LIWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes awareness of environmental and socioeconomic impacts of land use and natural resource management • Assists RECOFTC in disseminating knowledge on land management issues
Gender and Development Group (GDG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes awareness on gender and women's issues to Laotian NGOs and CSOs • Assists RECOFTC in disseminating knowledge on gender issues

VIII. Country of Engagement – India

8.1 RRI Strategy

Context:

The passage of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in 2006, for the first time, legally empowered tribal and other forest communities to reclaim and assert their individual and collective rights on forests and forest lands. As a result, it became a historic opportunity for the nearly 90 million people within the tribal communities of India to finally see their forest land rights recognized. However, now that it is close to five years since it came into force, it has become clear (based on the work of RRI collaborators and others) that despite constant pressure from grassroots movements demanding implementation of the law in its true spirit, all that has been achieved to date is a limited recognition of individual land rights (and that too in a highly compromised manner).

Moreover, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which was initially demoralized by the fact that the implementation mandate for FRA was given to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), has now repositioned itself and become a major actor in subverting its realization through multiple types of strategies. One of these involves capturing additional common lands (about 10 million hectares) under the guise of mitigating climate change through its proposed draft “Green India Mission.” In parallel, various other financial and industrial interests are engaged in a land grab around Indian forests which will drastically impinge on people’s rights. These include interests in afforestation for gaining carbon credits, REDD and REDD+, mining, and biofuels. Many of these interests are working behind the scenes to achieve the requisite changes needed in law and policy to further their economic goals.

So far, very little has been known about how this is being carried out, the extent of land being potentially acquired, and the number of people affected. What is known are the unprecedented protests by tribal movements (almost a daily occurrence), civil rights advocates, and supporting organizations. The fact that companies such as Vedanta Resources (a UK-listed mining company) and Posco (Korean steel company) have been controversial cases in the process of getting their clearances demonstrates that the government is wary of swiftly approving projects. However, given their clearances could well be approved, considerable vigilance remains very important as the balance of forces could very easily shift towards industrial interests with significant monetary and political clout. Therefore further work needs to be done to identify the emerging threats that attempt to undermine the full realization of the FRA’s intentions.

Starting from late 2010, the Society for the Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) together with Madhu Sarin (RRI Fellow) have been engaged in an examination of this internal land-grab phenomenon in order to provide a timely advocacy tool for those fighting for the rights of tribal and other forest communities. This study culminated in a “National Consultation on Land Grab Issues” that was held at SPWD on 11-12 June 2011. At this event, a cross-section of issues was presented from across 9 states in India covering the thematic areas of mining, infrastructure development (road, ports, and electricity generation), renewable energy, and common revenue lands. A comprehensive synthesis paper is being finalized that presents an overview of the dynamics behind the land grab that affects forest and common lands. This analysis will enter into the debate on the new Land Acquisition and Relief & Rehabilitation Bill (that aims to strike a balance between social benefits and economic growth) which will be introduced this winter session. Furthermore, it will be shared as an advocacy tool at a workshop to be organized with MoTA in spring 2012 for tribal and rural activists.

The recent reconstitution of the National Advisory Council (NAC) headed by the Congress President and which has some of the country’s most renowned civil society activists as its members is currently also available as a political platform for policy advocacy. The NAC has identified operationalization of PESA, tribal development and improved FRA implementation as major priorities. Furthermore, the recent appointment of a progressive tribal Minister holding the dual charge of MoTA as well as Ministry of Panchayati Raj (responsible for PESA) presents another favorable window of opportunity to gain political traction on this important issue.

Strategic Focus for 2012:

RRI has brought together academic and intellectual analysts side-by-side with the government and civil society organizations to come to a joint, in-depth understanding of the FRA and the land grabs by examining the nature of current dialogues. In parallel, RRI has also supported the tracking of implementation of the Forest Rights Act for over three years. By supporting this analysis for advocacy RRI will continue to play a strategic role in India. The international credibility of RRI will also add to the advocacy strength of national actors.

As India embarks on revamping the colonial Land Acquisition Act, RRI with its collaborators in civil society, NAC, and MOTA will ensure that adequate provisions are made in the revised Act to include the uncultivated half of India (forests and other common lands) as a guarantee against land grabs. The RRI supported study and the proposed collaborative conference with MOTA are key steps that will be undertaken in 2012.

8.2 India Planned Activities – 2012

Activity		Details/Description	Lead (Partners and Collaborators)	Allocated as per agreements during planning meeting	Extra allocation on priorities identified in planning meeting	Funds committed by RRI Partners
26	Coordinated efforts for policy advocacy on internal land grab phenomenon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National workshop in collaboration with Ministry of Tribal Affairs Support state-wide activist groups to develop advocacy materials based on analysis and workshop outcomes Follow-up activities emanating from workshop 	SPWD (RRI Fellow, Advisory Committee)	\$60,000	\$60,000	
Total Funds Requested for India:				\$60,000	\$60,000	

8.3 Audiences and Priority Outcomes – 2012

Audiences/Constituencies	Priority Outcomes
National and local government agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enacts new bill on land acquisitions that recognizes forest-dwellers' rights over land and resources and recognizes common revenue land Forest Rights Act (FRA) is tracked at implementation level
Community and civil society groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are empowered to assert their claims with Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) Increased engagement and mobilization to prevent commercial forestland grabs

8.4 Strategic Partners, Collaborators and Roles

Collaborators	Roles
SWPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads analysis on internal land grabs and synthesis of findings Convenes and mobilizes key government and civil society actors for national workshop Conducts strategic advocacy engagement with key policymakers
CSOs and state activists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops state-level advocacy strategy based on analysis and workshop conclusions
RRI Fellow (Madhu Sarin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acts as advisor to ongoing analysis and policy advocacy on land acquisition and FRA implementation, provides research and analytical expertise

IX. Country of Engagement – Thailand

9.1 RRI Strategy

Context:

Thailand in many ways is a country going through an active transition from a state-administered forest estate to one that has a vibrant community forestry component. Starting from the 1970s, when the government sought to address the problem of intense deforestation, community forestry was recognized and encouraged. Today, there are more than 10,000 community forestry sites across the country affecting some 1-2 million people. They manage some 1.15 million ha of forest (which is almost 7 percent of the country's total forest land) in their domain as de facto rights holders for decades. As of December 2010, the Royal Forest Department had formally recognized and registered around 8,000 community forestry groups around Thailand. At the same time, various community forestry assemblies are emerging at provincial scales with the strong potential for a national network to form in near future.

During the whole process of forming new laws and regulations pertaining to community rights in Thailand, not only are various community forestry assemblies remained very significant, but the role of CSOs has also been critical. CSOs are able to maintain strategic engagement with government departments, but at the same time are united in the fight to secure local community rights over forest resources. Although CSOs are active at the provincial level, there is still the lack of a national-level presence, which could be more strategic in terms of undertaking dialogue and putting pressure on national policy makers. Therefore, the establishment and strengthening of a national federation of CSOs is one of the primary strategic interventions in Thailand to ensure that effective policy changes are carried out.

Although a Community Forestry Bill was first drafted in 1991, it has still not seen the light of day due to endless revisions primarily due to the contentious debate over community forestry rights within protected areas. Over the last 20 years, the original draft has been rewritten, rejected, approved and then rescinded. However, it still remains alive on the political agenda. The key point of contention has been over local people's forest use rights in protected areas (which conservation interest groups are staunchly against). Therefore, by strategically strengthening the formation of a national network on community forestry, there is a strong potential to move beyond this impasse.

Thailand's Constitution and various individual legislation such as the Decentralization Act (1988) clearly empower local communities to actively engage in natural resource management, use, and protection. The government has recently approved new legislation on community land titling with the aim of solving land tenure problems and supporting local communities. The pilot implementation of this approved legislation began in several communities in September 2010. This has encouraged communities and civil society organizations (CSOs) to explore alternative avenues of gaining statutory rights to local resources by drafting and promoting a new bill on 'People's Participation in Natural Resource Management' and as well as a new Law on Community Rights.

RRI capitalizes on RECOFTC's well-established and ongoing interventions in Thailand, which is a RECOFTC focal country. Through the Thailand Country Program (ThCP), RECOFTC works to provide a platform for community engagement and mobilize the wider network of Thai CSOs and communities to discuss critical issues, reach consensus, and influence policy. Similarly, the Global Alliance for Community Forestry has also recently started working closely with the network of CSOs in Thailand to help advance the concept of community forestry by extending solidarity through the GACF network. On a similar vein, RECOFTC has signed an MOU with the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), which presents yet another opportunity to strengthen Thai networks through international linkages.

Strategic Focus for 2012:

The primary focus in 2012 is to build the strength and effectiveness of the national community forestry network as well as CSO interventions through both national dialogues as well as supporting their legislative push so that both the Community Forestry Bill will be enacted in the next year or two, and that new additional legislation on people's participation in natural resource management can be tabled in same time period.

9.2 Thailand Planned Activities – 2012

Activity		Details/Description	Lead (Partners and Collaborators)	Allocated as per agreements during planning meeting	Extra allocation on priorities identified in planning meeting	Funds committed by RRI Partners
27	Strengthening Thai community forestry networks' policy advocacy	Influence CBNRM policies and increase tenurial security for communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshops on policy, network strengthening and climate change to improve CF networks' advocacy strategy • Produce annotated version of draft CF bill in policy forum • Scale up networks through study tours to enable linkages with strategically-placed national/global networks 	RECOFTC-Thailand (Community Forestry Network-Thailand, other CF networks and NGOs, GACF, Royal Forest Department)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Total Funds Requested for Thailand:				\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000

9.3 Audiences and Priority Outcomes – 2012

Audiences/Constituencies	Priority Outcomes
Government of Thailand, Royal Forest Department, other national and local agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forestry Bill is enacted with needed legal instruments • Community-based natural resource management policies ensure statutory recognition of local rights
Community Forestry networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks are strengthened to effectively influence policy • National network is formalized and mobilized

9.4 Strategic Partners, Collaborators and Roles

Partners	Roles
RECOFTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads all RRI work in Thailand, acting as focal point for other stakeholders and implementing/monitoring all activity Strengthens existing networks' capacity, builds platform for community engagement at policy level, mobilizes broader network of Thai CSOs for strategic advocacy engagement Organizes capacity-building and training workshops to respond to network needs
Collaborators	
CF Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes coordinated action between CF users and local CSOs on rights and tenure issues
GACF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works with Thai CF networks to promote regional solidarity and enable linkages with existing regional and global networks

X. Budget – Countries of Engagement

Country	Budget
China	\$160,000
Nepal	\$147,000
Indonesia	\$170,000
Lao PDR	\$50,000
India	\$60,000
Thailand	\$20,000
Total	\$607,200

XI. Summary of all Regional Activities

Category	Budget
Countries of engagement	\$607,200
Regional activities	\$175,000
Regional Facilitator (time for seven months: May-December 2012)	\$67,100
Total	\$849,300