



## The Rights and Resources Initiative – Quarterly E-mail Update

April - June 2013

Dear Friends,

**Since the beginning of the year, RRI has sought to bring the global crisis of insecure and contested community land rights to the attention of the world, and gain greater commitment from influential players such as the G8, the World Bank, the United Nations, and the world's major private sector leaders to prioritize the securing of community land rights.**

The G8's pledge to help realize the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure](#), expressed in powerful language in its summit on June 17, was a much-awaited and welcome move. It is clear to us that the G8 alone cannot achieve the ambitious agenda it put forth, but we are confident that this commitment adds momentum to a movement that is on its way to securing the attention of many more international actors—as did the World Bank's April 8<sup>th</sup> [statement](#) pledging to support the Voluntary Guidelines and acknowledging the risks of large-scale land acquisitions and the vital role secure access to land plays in achieving sustainable development.

While these, and other high level commitments, are very positive and timely, they won't achieve their objectives unless they are fully adapted and their compliance monitored. The upcoming [Conference on Scaling-Up Global Efforts to Securing Community Land and Resource Rights](#) will mobilize leading actors in the world on the land rights crisis and will identify concrete steps and strategies to move this agenda forward in the coming months.

This quarterly update includes, among others, the latest news on the progress made by RRI Partners and Collaborators on forest tenure reform in Indonesia in the run-up to its 2014 presidential election; outcomes of a Parliament-Government Dialogue on land reform and governance in Cameroon; and a new, far-reaching commitment by the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture to establish operational titling guidelines for community land recognition in coordination with local communities.

**Learn more about RRI's work in its priority countries from [April - June 2013](#). ([Click here](#) to learn about our reasons for engaging in these areas of the world.)**

**- Rights and Resources Initiative**

## Global Level Strategic Analysis and Action

- The Next Generation of Forest Agency Leaders seminar, held in Oaxaca, Mexico from May 27-31, gathered senior officials from public forest agencies in Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, and the US to learn about cutting-edge analyses on global issues and challenges affecting forest governance, and to promote information sharing and networks among future forest leaders. This international training was the fourth in this series organized by RRI and the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) of Mexico. For more information, click [here](#) or contact [Claire Biason](#).
- Partners from around the RRI Coalition gathered in Washington, DC from June 18-20, for the second Coalition-wide Communications Meeting in Washington, D.C. In a relaxed and collaborative setting, participants worked together to identify key audiences, strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities for RRI's communications initiatives and delivered key inputs for developing a new Coalition-wide communications strategy. These inputs are now being used to prepare a first draft of a strategy that will reflect current and prospective opportunities and incorporate RRI Partners' capacities, objectives and ideas. The strategy will be presented to the Coalition in the 2014 planning meetings after undergoing further consultation with the meeting's participants. Contact [Jenna DiPaolo](#).
- RRI, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Environmental Investigation Agency-US, FERN, Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), Global Witness, HELVETAS-Swiss Intercooperation, International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI), Namati, and PRISMA (Salvadoran Research Program on Development and Environment) sent a Group Letter to World Bank President Jim Kim in response to the World Bank's April 8th statement acknowledging the risks of large-scale land acquisitions and the vital role secure access to land plays in achieving sustainable development, pledging that the World Bank Group will support the UN's new Voluntary Guidelines on Land Governance, and committing to strengthen the safeguards and project risk assessments for the World Bank Group's investments and policies. The letter's signatories welcomed and applaud these new commitments, and called for the operationalization of these pledges across the Bank's portfolio, and asked the Bank to take additional steps to demonstrate global leadership in addressing the global land crisis. **Read the letter.**

## Country and Regional-Level Analysis and Action

### Asia

#### Indonesia

- On April 17-18, a workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia reflected on the progress of forest tenure reform underway in the country, and formulated a multi-sectoral follow-up plan to further accelerate this reform in the run-up to the 2014 presidential election. The Konsorsium Pembaruan Agraria (Agrarian Reform Consortium, or KPA) and other RRI Collaborators were joined by representatives of 12 ministries and government institutions (known as NKB 12 K/L) and the Independent Journalist Alliance (AJI) at the workshop. The AJI engaged civil society organizations on best practices for mobilizing support for tenure reform through the national media, and agreed to hold trainings for civil society and journalist groups to improve and coordinate messaging and broaden engagement. In addition, the civil society organizations agreed to further engage NKB 12 K/L to push for better accountability as a result of the joint agreement. This momentum is especially key in the wake of the May 2013 Constitutional Court decision declaring the provisions of Indonesia's 1999 Forestry Law (which deny community tenure and classify all customary land as "state forests") unconstitutional. Contact [Iwan Nurdin](#) or [Ganga Ram Dahal](#).

#### Lao PDR

- Recommendations put forward by the Land Issues Working Group (LIWG) and RRI on the draft National Land Use Policy were presented via the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization at a high-level policy meeting held on 15-17 May in Vieng Viang, Lao PDR. Subsequent revisions of the National Land Use Policy indicate the adoption of key language from the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure, as recommendation by LIWG. Stated principles regarding consultation and compensation to communities facing land acquisitions have been strengthened, and categories of rights are more clearly defined. The promulgation of the National Land Use Policy is now scheduled for December 2013. Contact [Hanna Saarinen](#).

#### Nepal

- The first of a series of meetings between natural resource management organizations and media representatives in Nepal was organized by Community-based Forestry Supporters' Network (COFSUN) in collaboration with Green Media Nepal (GMN) on 4 May. COFSUN and GMN engaged with FECOFUN, HIMAWANTI and ForestAction, as well as other land and water rights groups, with GMN playing an advisory role in assessing organizations' readiness and strategy for media engagement on issues of conservation, community property rights, and livelihoods development. Participants concluded that regularly scheduled follow-up meetings would be extremely beneficial in developing a cohesive strategy in advance of the Constituent Assembly election, scheduled for 19 November. The second of such meetings is scheduled for 30 June. Contact [Bhola Khatiwada](#).
- FECOFUN engaged more than fifty political parties and civil society organizations at a *Ban Chautari* workshop in June to promote green development and generate awareness on the role of forest based enterprises in economic growth. This national level work was complemented by seven district level conferences on enterprise development and green jobs, which generated awareness of forest

enterprise and demonstrated that existing forest governance and regulatory frameworks in Nepal create real barriers to the establishment and welfare of forest enterprise. Strategies for attracting private investment in community forest enterprise developments were shared, and local experiences were brought to the attention of national policymakers at the June workshop. Contact [Bharati Pathak](#).

- Representatives of Nepal's three largest political parties (Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, and Maoist) and representative from FECOFUN worked together to draft position papers on community rights for political party manifestos. Party leaders committed to include community rights in the forthcoming election mandates. In parallel, FECOFUN engaged with ex-parliamentarians to raise awareness of community rights among Constituent Assembly candidates and party leaders, resulting in all three parties highlighting community property rights as a headline issue in their ongoing campaigns. Contact [Bharati Pathak](#).

## **Africa**

- On June 11-12, the Network of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPAR) held a Parliament-Government Dialogue in Yaoundé on the issue of land reform and governance in Cameroon. This multi-stakeholder dialogue was an opportunity for participants from diverse backgrounds (10 ministries, national and subnational elected officials, traditional authorities, civil society actors, development partners and land tenure experts) to discuss the ongoing land reform and generate proposals on the best way forward. Two main outcomes resulted from this exercise: the adoption of a Communiqué incorporating all of the recommendations and the establishment of a multi-actor "Follow up Committee" to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. Contact [Solange Bandiaky-Badji](#).

## **Latin America**

### Guatemala

- With the help of the government, Collaborators in Guatemala designed a proposal for the upcoming discussions on legislation reforms and revisions to the Forest Incentives and Climate Change Laws, having a greater chance to ensure community forestry activities are incentivized and promoted in future laws. In May and June 2013, the National Association of Community Forestry, Utz Che, the Peten community organization, ACOFOP, and the National Alliance of Community Forestry Organizations, convened a series of discussions on the defense of collective rights and lands, which led to the creation of specific recommendations for upcoming negotiations on the law's provision with both the national government and private sector actors. These coordinated efforts will better prepare civil society to ensure that community forestry activities are suitable incentives and promoted in the laws during the upcoming negotiations. Contact [Iliana Monterroso](#) or [Victor Lopez](#).

### Nicaragua

- Collaborator NITLAPAN is now the lead organization in the North Autonomous Region of Nicaragua (RAAN) to relay the agreements made between the Indigenous Peoples' government and non-Indigenous Peoples who live in their territory to the government of Nicaragua in hopes to better define the government of Nicaragua's land clarification process. To attain this outcome, NITLAPAN advanced in the presentation of a proposal and negotiation of the land clarification process with four Indigenous Territories of the RAAN. Contact [Iliana Monterroso](#) or [Ceferino Wilson](#).

## Perú

- A recent commitment to establish operational titling guidelines for community land recognition in coordination with local communities by the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture in charge of land titling policies resulted from the ongoing work of efforts of Instituto Bien Comun (IBC) and other national allies. IBC and its allies have been implementing the Campaign for Securing Communal Land Property in Peru since 2012. This commitment is an important step in ensuring to attend to the demand of the 805 communities in Peru to have secure land rights. Contact [Mario Osorio](#) or [Richard Smith](#).
- A new AIDSESP strategy promotes the implementation of the newly enacted regulation in Peru that enhances the protection of native communities' territorial rights. This regulation is an important success for the coalition in Peru, as it will improve the administrative process to register autonomous local government and territorial boundaries of communities in the public record. Now that this has been enacted, the Coalition seeks to raise awareness of the implementation procedures among regional officials and community leaders. Contact [Mario Osorio](#).

## Brazil

- From June 13 to 15, Forest Trends supported a workshop in Acre, Brazil in the Indigenous Territory Rio Gregorio of the Yawanawa People. This workshop sought to determine if an ecosystem services project is a possibility for the Yawanawa People, and how compensation for ecosystem services could form a basis for the tribe's life plan and benefit the communities. The workshop was in response to the State of Acre's passing of a System of Incentives for Ecosystem Services (SISA) in October 2010, which seeks to reward the state's residents for the provision of ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, water purification, traditional knowledge and more. Contact [Beto Borges](#).

## Ecuador

- The Indigenous Peoples of Kichwas de Pastaza presented a territorial management proposal to the Ecuadorian government. Constructing this proposal strengthened the Indigenous Peoples of Kichwas de Pastaza's strategies with regards to territorial governance, as well as the participation of other Indigenous Peoples in governmental discussions. The proposed negotiation strategy enabled the Kichwas de Pastaza to hold meetings with the Ministry of Political Coordination (Ministerio de

Coordinación Política) and the Vice President of Ecuador, who is in charge of the natural resources management program. Kichwa de Pastaza's negotiation strategy strengthened the participation of other communities in negotiation spaces with the government, and facilitated the creation of a process for consensual agreement on oil activities in their lands, including the respect of their own management and governance systems. Furthermore, the initiative motivated others indigenous organizations to follow the same negotiation strategies. Contact [Omaira Bolaños](#) and [Alfredo Vitery](#).

## Panama

- PRISMA and the indigenous organization of Panama, COONAPIP, influenced the UN-REDD Program to recognize the importance of respecting the right of Indigenous Peoples to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for all planned REDD activities in their territories. This intervention has enabled COONAPIP to advocate their agendas in key global fora, such as the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, the Global Preparatory Indigenous Peoples Conference for the World Conference of Indigenous People. This international campaign spurred the UN to conduct its own independent investigation on what changes need to be made in the REDD process. For more information please contact [Susan Kandel](#).

## Recent and Upcoming Events

- **July 22-26, 2013: Missoula, Montana, USA – Rethinking Forest Regulations:** An international training workshop for forest agency officials and civil society representatives to study the Montana case and discuss challenges linked to forest regulations. [Event Details](#)
- **September 19-20, 2013: Interlaken, Switzerland – Scaling-Up Global Efforts to Secure Community Land and Resource Rights:** An International Conference to Take Stock of Current Efforts, Identify Promising Strategies, and Catalyze New Alliances and Action. [Event Details](#)
- **October 21-25, 2013: Bali, Indonesia – MegaFlorestais 2013.** [Event Details](#)

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