



CONCEPT NOTE
RRI Strategy Meeting on Gender Justice in
Community Land and Forests

Introduction

Indigenous and rural women are at the forefront of the struggle for land and forest rights, and they are also disproportionately affected when communities' land rights are not respected. However, gendered focus is often missing from land and forest tenure programs and policies, a reflection of the political and social marginalization of women in various countries across the world. The Right and Resources Initiative Coalition (RRI) is acutely aware that, even as women assume greater roles in sustaining local livelihoods and protecting the environment, they are doing so without the equal rights or support provided to men. Their ability to contribute to diverse sustainable development goals remains constrained by unjust laws and practices, and while community norms vary widely, persistent inequalities within some customary traditions can perpetuate this injustice.

As an international coalition dedicated to the recognition and implementation of local communities' and Indigenous Peoples' land and forest rights, RRI aims to dramatically *scale up global efforts to secure rural women's property rights, voice, and leadership within community land and forests*, both in law and in practice. To achieve such ends, RRI's 3rd Strategic Program (2018-2022) outlines three key priorities:

1. Produce and strategically disseminate lessons to advance gender justice in land and forest tenure reform processes;
2. Engage Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women's advocacy networks on gender justice in community-based tenure regimes and forest reforms; and
3. Document the recognition of women's tenure rights in national laws through RRI's tenure tracking analyses.

Since its creation, RRI has engaged and supported hundreds of partnering and collaborating organizations across Africa, Asia, and Latin America to advance women's tenure rights at national, regional, and global levels. The need to strengthen gender justice in rural settings was officially endorsed as an institutional priority in 2012, and a year later, a small group of dedicated experts was convened at the RRI secretariat to share best practices, identify tools and strategies for scaling gender justice in forest and land tenure, and assess opportunities for continued engagement. The meeting helped define modalities and focal areas for

advancing the Coalition's work on Gender Justice and women's tenure rights, as well as plans for ongoing collaboration.

Building on the contributions of the Coalition and RRI's reach (i.e. geographic diversity, local-global connections), convening power, and capacity to deliver high-level strategic analyses, RRI now seeks to heighten global awareness on the critical importance of securing women's land rights and spur actions for transformative change at local and national levels.

Rationale for Intervention

Attention to women's rights has grown in recent years, and the international community now recognizes gender justice and the empowerment of women and girls as essential foundations for socio-economic progress and the realization of key environmental goals. With increasing national and international commitments to strengthen equal rights for women and girls, the world faces an unprecedented opportunity to leverage coordinated action and change in the coming years. However, while many organizations have initiated programs to support women's land rights, few focus squarely on indigenous and rural women's rights to community lands.

In 2017, RRI convened three regional workshops on indigenous and rural women's collective land and resource rights in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. These workshops mapped and developed strategic alliances between existing regional initiatives; expanded regional networks; and identified regionally pertinent themes that can contribute to the development of complementary regional strategies on gender. These workshops also facilitated the development of comprehensive regional perspectives on the issues surrounding gender and tenure rights, thus helping to identify where the RRI Coalition could add value moving forward. Issues highlighted included women's leadership and economic empowerment, discriminatory inheritance laws, conflict resolution, anti-criminalization and the protection of land and human rights defenders, private sector engagement, and territorial governance.

At RRI's Third International Conference on Community Land and Resource Rights in Stockholm in 2017, findings from the regional workshops were used to inform a strategy session titled "Rural and Indigenous Women's Rights and Leadership in Collective Lands." Among other things, event participants discussed the possibility of a new global partnership to advance the collective land and resource rights of indigenous and rural women, and better document their growing role and contributions as leaders in community land and forest management. Participants noted that while there are many tools and initiatives at the global level, there is no mechanism to coordinate urgently required actions, including the need to: 1) develop a knowledge sharing and/or learning platform; 2) better document the breadth of rural women's experiences, including the challenges they face as well as successful strategies to secure right; 3) support local and regional advocacy efforts; and 4) develop a coordinated strategy to advocate for and monitor progress toward SDG land indicator 1.4.2.

As the joint imperatives of rural community land rights and gender justice draw growing attention at national and international levels, opportunities to advance the rights of rural

and indigenous women has never been greater. Progress, however, ultimately hinges on our collective ability to identify the most promising paths forward.

Key Objectives

1. To define and agree upon the core elements of a gender justice strategy for the RRI Coalition for the next five years (2018-2022);
2. Outline global- and regional-level priorities across RRI's processes; and
3. Assess the demand for a Global Initiative/Partnership to advance indigenous and rural women's rights to community lands.

Expected Outcomes

- Key priorities for advancing rural and indigenous women's land and resource rights are defined, including:
 - A strategy to leverage networks and areas of engagement identified during the regional workshops;
 - Critical analyses to be completed and strategies for leveraging these at local and national levels
 - Key targets and outcomes for a global engagement strategy
- Strategies and opportunities for a global partnership dedicated to the advancement of indigenous and rural women's rights to community lands and forests are identified;
- Three measurable, priority goals are agreed on;

Approach and methodology

RRI will hold a three-day meeting from **May 22-24 in Washington, DC.**

The meeting's facilitator will guide discussions around RRI's Gender Justice strategy's core elements, ensuring that it will be developed in a participatory manner through brainstorming, contextual analysis, discussions, and plenary sessions. The facilitator will also contribute to the preparations of the Gender Justice strategy meeting through consultations with the organizers and members of the Coalition, as well as resource people as appropriate, and submit a summary report of the meeting's main findings.

Participants

The meeting will bring together participants from 15 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as well as representatives from indigenous networks, donors, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and RRI Regional Facilitators and dedicated staff. In all, some 30 participants are expected to attend.




RRI Strategy Meeting on Gender Justice in Community Lands and Forests

AGENDA

DAY 1 : Understanding Our Purpose & Context for this Meeting

9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome from Alan Landis, Chief Operating Officer (COO) at RRG
9:15 am – 9:20 am	Overview of Agenda for the Meeting
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Participant Introductions
10:00 am – 10:10 am	How Will We Work Together: Group Agreements
10:10 am – 10:30 am	What is the Purpose for the RRI Strategy Meeting on Gender Justice in Community Lands and Forests?
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break (15 minutes)
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	Overview of RRI's Gender Justice work: global and regional and Q&A with Solange Bandiakya-Badji
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch (1 hour)
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Regional Working Groups: Context for Gender Justice in Community Lands and Forests in the Three Regions: Asia, Africa and Latin America
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break (15 minutes)
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Presentations of Regional Context by Regional Working Groups with Q&A
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Linking Local Level Strategies to the Global level: Presentation of Survey Results and Panel Conversation
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Reflection and Closing for the Day



DAY 2: Envisioning a Gender Justice Strategy for Rural and Indigenous Women's Rights in Community Lands and Forests

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Welcome Back and Agenda
9:30 am – 10:30 am	What are the Basic Elements of a Strategy? Presentation with Renee Giovarelli – RRI Gender Strategy Consultant
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break (15 minutes)
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	What is Our Vision for the Gender Justice Strategy?
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch (1 hour)
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Creating Strategic Regional Objectives and Outcomes
2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	Break (10 minutes)
2:10 pm – 3:20 pm	Creating Strategic Global Objectives and Outcomes
3:20 pm – 3:30 pm	Break (10 minutes)
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Defining Global and Regional Outcomes and Key Targets
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Reflections and Closing for the Day

DAY 3 : Operationalizing the Gender Justice Strategy and Exploration of a Global Initiative to Advance Indigenous and Rural Women's Rights to Lands, Forests, and Enterprises

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Welcome Back and Agenda
9:30 am – 10:30 am	What are our values or guiding principles for the Gender Justice Strategy?
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break (15 minutes)
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Work Session: How do we use the power of the coalition to operationalize the Strategy?



12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch (1 hour)
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Commitments and Defining Next Steps to Operationalize the Gender Justice Strategy
2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	Break (10 minutes)
2:10 pm – 2:40 pm	Presentation by RRI Staff: What Does a Global Initiative to Advance Indigenous and Rural Women’s Rights to Lands, Forests, and Enterprises look like?
2: 40 pm – 3:40 pm	Q&A with RRI Staff and Facilitated Discussion on the process for the creation of the Global Initiative
3:40 pm – 3:50 pm	Break (10 minutes)
3:50 – 5:00 pm	Final Commitments and Closing Remarks for the Meeting

Gender Justice Strategy Meeting Participants
May 22-24, 2018 in Washington, DC

#	Name	Country	Affiliation	Position
AFRICA				
1	Alfred Brownell	Liberia	Green Advocates	Lead Campaigner and Founder
2	Alain Diouf	Senegal	RRI	Fellow
3	Marie Dorothée Lisenga	Democratic Republic of Congo	Coalition des Femmes Leaders pour l'Environnement et Développement Durable (CFLEDD)	Coordinator
4	Esther Mwangi	Kenya	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	Principal Scientist
5	Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet	Cameroon	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)	President
6	Sylvia Noagbesenu	Ghana	Initiative for Gender Equality and Development in Africa	Executive Director
7	Mary Nyuyinwi	Cameroon	Consultant	Facilitator for Africa
8	Julie Weah	Liberia	Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI)	Director
ASIA				
9	Maribeth Bugtong-Biano	Philippines	Tebtebba	Indigenous Women Programme
10	Prajeena Karmacharya	Thailand	The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)	Partnership Officer
11	Cristi Nozawa	Philippines	Samdhana	Executive Director
12	Madhu Sarin	India	RRI	Fellow
13	Bimbika Sijapati Basnett	Indonesia	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	Scientist
LATIN AMERICA				
14	Sofia Garzon	Colombia	Proceso de Comunidades Negras	Community Leader
15	Fany Kuiru	Colombia	Corporación Ecologica Mujer, Tejer y Saberes (Mutesa)	Director
16	Anne Larson	Peru	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	Principal Researcher
17	Otilia Lux de Coti	Guatemala	UN Women	Indigenous Counselor, Civil Society
18	Wilma Mendoza	Bolivia	Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)	Community Leader
19	Mayra Tenjo	Colombia	RRG	Facilitator in Colombia
CONTRIBUTORS				
20	Katia Araujo		Landesa	Director of Advocacy, Women's Land Rights
21	Myrna Cunningham		The Tenure Facility	Chair of the Board of Directors

22	Aminatu Gambo		International Indigenous Women Forum (FIMI)	Political Participation and Advocacy Coordinator
23	Renee Giovarelli		Resource Equity	Gender Strategy Consultant
24	Ana Maria Reichenbach		Independent	Meeting Facilitator
RRG STAFF				
25	Wendy C. Atieno		RRG	Intern, Asia Program
26	Solange Bandiaky-Badji		RRG	Director, Africa and Gender Justice Programs
27	Lindsay Bigda		RRG	Senior Officer, Communications & Advocacy
28	Omaira Bolaños		RRG	Director, Latin America Program
29	Natalie Campbell		RRG	Senior Associate, Asia Program
30	Molly R. Cyr		RRG	Associate, Africa Program
31	Nina Hamilton		RRG	Intern, Gender Justice
32	Mary Alice Jackson		RRG	Intern, Latin America Program
33	Patrick Kipalu		RRG	Africa Program Coordinator
34	Kundan Kumar		RRG	Director, Asia Program
35	Silene Ramirez		RRG	Manager, Latin America and Gender Justice Programs