

# RIGHTS AND RESOURCES INITIATIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND WORK PLANS

2020





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## Letter from the RRI Coordinator

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is only in hindsight that one can identify moments when the course of history changed, but I suspect that in a few years we will look back to 2019 and recognize it as a moment when the trajectory in the struggle to secure Indigenous Peoples territories and community land rights forever shifted. While the everyday reality for many of our indigenous and community colleagues continued to be marked by racism, criminalization and violence, and damage to their lands and forests, 2019 also saw the mainstream scientific and development community finally embrace the recognition of Indigenous Peoples and local communities' rights as a priority strategy to combat climate change and protect the biodiversity and ecosystems upon which all human life depends. The early success of the Tenure Facility—increasing the security of over 6 million hectares and earning support from at least 10 national governments—demonstrated the feasibility for quick impact with strategic support to rights-holders themselves and led major donors to seek advice from RRI as they consider how and where they should invest to secure land rights.

Also in 2019, local organizations successfully fought back and defeated major attempts to roll back the laws and policies that recognize their rights in India, Indonesia, and Colombia, as well as arguably diminish the scale of damage and threat posed by the new government in Brazil. Progress was not universal of course, but the effective prevention of massive backsliding by local movements is still a sign of progress.

These major steps forward in 2019 also lay the foundation for what we need to prioritize in 2020 in order to lock this positive shift into human history.

First, we need to do more to effectively support Indigenous Peoples and community leaders in defending their territories and lands, prevent the rollback of their legal protections, and more pro-actively propel positive legal reforms. New initiatives are underway and merit support, including the new Global Initiative to Address and Prevent Criminalization and Impunity against Indigenous Peoples spearheaded by Vicky Tauli-Corpuz and Joan Carling, the new Zero Tolerance Initiative by the Forest Peoples Programme to enlist corporate commitments to stop criminalization, and advance the adoption of the Gold Standard developed by the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, RRI, and the Global Landscape Forum. The Bogota workshop convened by RRI for land rights activists to share experiences set RRI's strategy for 2020 and our plan describes how we'll advance this work both in our priority countries and in the regional and international arenas.

Second, we need to do everything possible to implement existing laws and policies in countries that have adequate legal frameworks, support successful implementation of projects financed by the Tenure Facility and other donors and grow the pipeline, and embed this work in the climate and biodiversity global agendas. This level of support for the recognition of Indigenous Peoples rights to their territories and local community rights to their collective lands is unprecedented. To this end, in 2020, we will seize opportunities to influence the climate and biodiversity commitments at the upcoming COPs, as well as at meetings to set the rural transition, land use, and food security agendas, placing rights in the center of these efforts—where they belong.

Third, after decades of struggle and aspiration our land rights community has the collective knowledge, data, cost, and benefit metrics to articulate a compelling path to scale-up the recognition of indigenous and community rights globally. The amount of forestland recognized for communities increased by 40 percent since 2002, over 150 million

hectares, a level of progress that could be matched by implementing existing legislation in only four countries. We now know which countries have adequate legal frameworks, operational capacities, and political will, and we now see a feasible path to securing over 400 million hectares by 2030, benefiting a minimum of 200 million people, of which over half are women. A top priority for us in 2020 is to collectively define the path to scale, ensure alignment of the key players, secure the requisite funding, and establish the modalities to effectively deploy increased funding to the countries and organizations that are best positioned to secure rights and forests on the ground.

And fourth, in scaling-up the recognition of land rights, we need to transform the social, economic, and political systems to ensure a new norm where Indigenous Peoples and local communities are fully embraced and supported. One of the key lessons of 2019 was that land rights are vulnerable when societies and their governments do not appreciate and respect the critical contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to their economic and social development—this is especially true for the women within these communities. It is for this reason that RRI will be dedicating even more attention to this agenda in 2020, leveraging past work to support community enterprise and the Interlaken Group to shift rural economies to fully embrace and encourage community-led development.

One might look back and say we're closing out a decade facing challenges we never could have imagined, or we can face forward and say we're entering a decade of rights-based systems change we never thought possible. The progress this year is clear—we must look to the future, lock in these shifts, and ensure that 2020 is the beginning of a decade of securing rights and protecting the lands and forests that are vital to all of our lives. It's also clear that achieving this transformation will require new and innovative collaborations, and an expanded, more open and strategically connected network of champions, organizations, and governments—a priority that we look forward to exploring and building with you in 2020.

On behalf of all of us at the RRI Secretariat, we thank you for your commitment, all that you have done, and all that you plan to do. We look forward to better supporting you in this work and starting with you on this new path next year.

Best wishes for the holidays and onward to 2020!

Andy ■

## Scaling Land Rights and Transformation: A Path to 2030

Since 2005, the RRI Coalition has leveraged our collective power to support leaders in identifying and unlocking the political, technical, and capacity barriers that prevent the realization of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights. Together, we have profoundly influenced and shaped the ecosystem. As a result, there is unprecedented global understanding that securing the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities is necessary to achieve equitable development, address climate change, and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. What's more, we are beginning to shift the pendulum from awareness to action and implementation. At least 54 countries have laws recognizing communities as forest owners or designated rightsholders and the amount of forestland recognized for communities has grown by 40 percent since 2002. Together, we have helped build the enabling conditions for reform in countries and regions around the world.

We conceived of, incubated, and launched instruments such as the Tenure Facility, the first and only international, multi-stakeholder financial mechanism exclusively focused on securing land and forest rights for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, which has advanced communities' tenure security over more than six million hectares of land in two years, is engaged with more than 13 governments, and has a pipeline of demand.

Amidst this steady progress however, rollback, violence, and criminalization have increased and threaten to expand. RRI has leveraged robust analyses and strong alliances to support local leaders in countering rollback. Yet this rollback, in Brazil and Bolivia for example, demonstrates the fragility of legal reforms to recognize land rights when these rights are not embedded within social, political, and economic transformation. Ensuring durability of land reform processes requires transforming the social, economic and political systems in which emerging and ongoing reforms operate.

The convergence of unprecedented awareness of the importance of land rights and significant progress on implementation presents a unique opportunity to drive a new global ambition and increased investment to secure the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. At a critical time in our history, we can now finally think beyond aspirations and talk concretely about how to operationalize an historic transformation of land rights, governance, and livelihoods across the forest areas of developing countries, engendering a profound transformation of social, political, and economic systems. After years of mobilization, advocacy, and thoughtful innovation—in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and local communities—we believe the time is ripe for transformational scale.

To take advantage of this window of opportunity and reach the next level of impact, we see four critical action points for the Coalition in 2020:

1. **Articulate a feasible path to scale and transformation:** As awareness of local communities' and Indigenous Peoples' rights has grown, so has the field: each organization has experienced successes and set-backs and has learned from both; capacity in indigenous networks and organizations on the front-lines has grown; new allies and instruments have been formed; and proof points for what is possible with collaboration and resources, exist. Already, our Coalition has substantially expanded the number of countries with the "enabling environments" necessary to scale up land rights recognition; we have tested the feasibility of implementation projects and the Tenure Facility has demonstrated the speed at which laws can be implemented when funding is provided directly to rights-holder organizations and their allies; and now, we are catalyzing action to move from feasibility to implementation nationally. This path—moving from enabling conditions to feasibility projects to national scale in each country—further necessitates profound transformation of social, economic, and political systems to ensure such advances are made

resilient, durable, and long-term. In short, we have the collective knowledge required to articulate a shared path for how land rights and secure livelihoods can be scaled up in a country. With agreed upon 2030 targets and a framework for how to collectively move forward, we can garner more resources, identify gaps, and increase impact.

2. **Demonstrate Feasibility and Cost-Effectiveness:** Through our collective engagement to date, we have unmatched, compelling data and experience about what it takes to secure rights. Clearly demonstrating the viability of the path to scale and transformation, with impact stories from our shared history to bring it life, alongside rigorously documented past and intended impacts, will be imperative to catalyzing commitments from key donors to provide substantially scaled up financial support. Understanding the costs and benefits of scaling-up land rights will allow us to demonstrate that rights-based approaches to climate, conservation, and biodiversity is not only the correct approach, but is far more economically viable than alternatives. At a time when major investments are being made in climate, conservation, and biodiversity, we have a unique opportunity to influence the flow of funds and catalyze more support.
3. **Catalyze Coordinated Investment:** Early successes in implementation allow us to tell a powerful story of impact, backed up by robust data, to capitalize on emerging investment interest. New tools, like the Opportunity Framework, allows us to consolidate our collective knowledge and provide a coordinated approach for donors. Armed with both a clearly articulated path and robust data demonstrating feasibility and cost-effectiveness, we can mobilize far greater global ambition, coordinated investment, and monitoring. We believe it is now possible to convene a new, strategic “alliance” of key donors that commit to greater ambition, coordinated action, and joint impact monitoring. Building from our success and leveraging existing and new assets will drive the political will and catalytic investments necessary to achieve the Coalition’ goals.
4. **Mobilize and Leverage an Expanded Network:** Achieving the path to scale will require an expanded network of strategically linked organizations at community, country, and global levels. The field is at an inflection point. Our changed operating environment presents an opportunity to redefine how the Coalition works together, who makes up the Coalition, and where and how we leverage its collective power. Collective effort and shared ownership will be required to deliver on 2030 targets. What that looks like in action has yet to be determined but acknowledging the need for a more networked and nimble entity that supports rights-holders in this changed world is a place to start and we very much look forward to working with all of you to realize this vision.

The world needs solutions that can meet the scale and pace of the challenges before us, but without recognizing the rights and role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, we are bound to repeat history. As a thought leader in the field, a trusted ally to a wide range of stakeholders, and an unwavering commitment to fostering a diverse ecosystem of actors, RRI is well positioned to drive a new global ambition and increased investment to scale-up Indigenous Peoples’ and local community land rights.

You will see some of the above work woven into the 2020 work plans. Indeed, we see this as the connective tissue that unites our collective and individual work, and at all levels. That said, much has yet to be determined and engaging the Coalition and building momentum is an immediate priority. We look forward to leveraging our history of trusted partnership and embarking on this new era of impact together, beginning with the Governance Meeting in January. ■

## 2020 Work Plans by Region

### Overview of RRI Country and Regional Engagement

In 2020, RRI's country and regional programs will be focused on securing gains, preventing rollback of legal and political progress, and proactively building the enabling conditions for further reforms and implementation. RRI also plans to take advantage of multiple, overlapping opportunities in 2020 to develop a strategic and resilient pathway to dramatically scale up recognition of rights and transform rural livelihoods and meet the Coalition's 2030 goals. The success of RRI's country and regional programs to secure recognition of rights has contributed substantially to the unprecedented understanding of and support for scaled up action. Our country and regional programs will be a vital part of this work throughout 2020 to elaborate this new pathway to scale and transformation, particularly by documenting lessons learning about implementation and building the social, economic, and political case for scale up action. RRI's country and regional programs also inform and are supported by the Strategic Analysis, Communications, and Coalition and Strategic Networks programs.

**Advance Implementation.** RRI's country and regional programs have catalyzed major advances in legal reforms at the country level to secure rights. Implementing existing legislation in just four countries—India, Indonesia, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)—could more than double gains made in the last 15 years, and much more could be achieved if other countries followed their lead. In the coming year, RRI will continue to support, strengthen, and convene critical networks at the country and regional level, equipping them with the necessary evidence and analysis to effectively advocate for the recognition of their rights and deploying the Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) as necessary when opportunities arise. RRI will also leverage the suite of instruments catalyzed by the Coalition, including the Tenure Facility, the Interlaken Group, MegaFloresteis, and others to seize opportunities to advance forest tenure policy reforms in key priority countries. The country and regional programs will undertake site-specific analysis and convenings to advance gender justice and economic transformation.

**Counter Rollback and Criminalization.** However, legal progress on collective land rights has not always translated into full implementation, and much is now in danger of being lost. Major new risks of rollback of collective tenure rights have emerged, further inhibiting already limited execution of reforms and international agreements, while long-standing land rights claims remain unresolved. Land conflicts and criminalization of land rights defenders is increasing, as powerful vested interests seek to push back against the demands for land reforms and rights recognition. Despite the humanitarian crisis, there is greater integration and mobilization than in the past among land rights defenders across regions, prompting stronger alliances between civil society and grassroots organizations to confront the threats of criminalization and rights violations. RRI will equip Indigenous and Afro-descendent Peoples, women's organizations, and local communities with new analyses to respond to the regionally specific socio-political and economic trends driving the risk of rollback and support them to strengthen their advocacy plans and legal capacities, and expand their alliances with key actors to resist the trend of rollbacks. Building on the RRI Coalition strategy session in Bogota, we will enhance our support for emerging Coalition initiatives on legal defense and criminalization, fostering greater investment and coordination.

**Build the Pipeline.** While RRI will focus in 2020 on securing critical advances stewarded over many years, as well as addressing the risk of rollbacks in priority countries and across regional trends, we will also work to identify opportunities to build enabling conditions in a broader suite of countries over the longer term. In 2020, RRI will launch the "Opportunity Framework" analysis which will assess the status of three critical enabling conditions to scale up land rights in over 50 low- and middle-income countries. Regional programs will then use this analysis,

leveraging the expertise of the Coalition and other critical stakeholders, to evaluate further opportunities for reforms at the country level.

**Priority Countries in 2020.** RRI will continue to prioritize country-level involvement where there is both strategic political opportunity for substantial reform, and strong demand from credible local civil society organizations and governments that are able to engage in and support such reform. The rationale for country engagement is elaborated in the regional workplans. In **Asia**, RRI will continue its priority engagement with India and Indonesia to secure gains and counter the threat of rollback. The legal framework provided by the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in India created the potential for recognizing collective rights over 40 million hectares of forestland that is home to almost 170 million people. Yet barely five percent of this potential has been achieved. In Indonesia, the long-promised law on indigenous rights as well as the national task force for indigenous communities remain pending, and the progress on recognition of customary forests and land redistribution has been slow. RRI will also continue to work in Nepal given the country's potential to serve as a global example of best practices in community forest rights recognition and governance. Regionally, RRI's Asia Program will foster regional-level cooperation, sharing, and exchange on land and forest rights issues, particularly on strategic planning, youth engagement, gender issues, and community-based monitoring.

In **Africa**, RRI will continue its priority engagement with Liberia, Kenya, DRC, and Madagascar to seize critical opportunities to secure gains in legal reforms underway. After the adoption of the 2018 Land Rights Act (LRA) in Liberia, the process of drafting regulations necessary to the implementation of the LRA will continue in 2020. In DRC, the draft land policy has entered a national consultation process, with a finalized policy anticipated in 2020 and a revised land law by 2021. The government has committed to allocate 2.5 million hectares of forests for community management, in addition to the more than 1 million hectares already allocated, between 2018 and 2023 through the community forestry legal framework. In Kenya, Community Land Action Now! (CLAN), a civil society platform founded in 2018 with support from RRI, is advancing implementation of the Community Land Act (CLA) which was adopted in 2016, with regulations finalized in 2018. In Madagascar, a national dialogue produced a new roadmap in 2019 to deliver ambitious land reforms initially envisaged in a 2015 land policy reform. Regionally, RRI will continue to support the Network of African Land Institutions for Community Rights (ALIN), an intergovernmental platform to scale up implementation of Indigenous Peoples' and local community land rights initially catalyzed by the Coalition. RRI will also continue to support strategic convenings to document and respond to the growing threats of criminalization of land rights defenders across the region.

In **Latin America** and the **Caribbean**, RRI will seize the critical opportunity in 2020 at the regional level to build a path toward greater recognition of the collective land rights of over 130 million Afro-descendent Peoples, a process RRI has supported since 2010 and is now ripe for scaled up action. Across the continent, only five countries have recognized the collective land rights of Afro-descendent Peoples and the implementation of those rights remains disproportionately low, with uneven recognition across the region. In addition, 2020 presents a critical opportunity to build upon RRI's past work to refine the understanding of the distinct rights of Afro-descendant Peoples and local communities at the global level. RRI has been facilitating dialogue between RRI Affiliated Network AMPB and RRI Collaborator PCN to influence the UNFCCC Platform of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples regarding the participation and representation of "local communities." This work will be led by the Latin America program, bolstered by strong coordination and support from RRI's analytical and other regional programs. ■



## Asia

### *Rationale for Engagement*

Asia is characterized by competing demands on lands, forests, and resources due to dense populations and high resource dependence. In countries where long-fought struggles by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and peasants have led to pro-community reforms, implementation lags due to lack of political will and unsupportive vested interests. Across Asia, governments are instead promoting private sector investment in land-intensive projects and conservation models that exclude Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Rising authoritarianism in democracies like India, the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Thailand poses increasing threats to communities' land rights and access.

This represents a significant challenge to RRI's mission as Asia is home to the largest number of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with unrecognized rights over their customary lands. India and Indonesia alone offer potential for recognition of nearly 100 million hectares of collective land rights using the existing statutes and court rulings, which would benefit over 200 million people. With recent pro-community legal and policy shifts, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia also offer promising opportunities to advance land and resource rights for communities. Yet, lagging reforms and increasing pressures on land have led to widescale dispossession, conflict, and criminalization. RRI Collaborators' efforts to document land conflicts in two key countries—India and Indonesia—revealed more than 2,000 land-related conflicts, affecting more than seven million people and at least US\$200 billion of investments.

In 2020, RRI will leverage its Coalition Partners, Affiliated Networks, and Collaborators as well as Tenure Facility projects in the region to engage with land rights agendas at the regional, country, and local level. RRI Coalition members work at the local, national, and regional level, creating opportunities to share experiences, learning, and networking across countries. The Tenure Facility has two ongoing projects for advancing rights recognition in Indonesia and India, with another project under consideration in Nepal. These projects illustrate the willingness of many of the sub-national governments (provincial or local) to engage with land and forest rights, which has opened opportunities for potential upscaling of rights recognition.

RRI will continue its priority engagement with India and Indonesia where it works closely with land rights coalitions/networks and with Tenure Facility projects to scale up land and forest rights recognition. RRI will also continue to work in Nepal given the country's potential to serve as a global example of best practices in community forest rights recognition and governance. RRI will respond to emergent opportunities and threats in other countries in the region through the strategic response mechanism (SRM), Interlaken Group initiatives, and work undertaken by Coalition members.

Given the complex and diverse country-level situations in the region, RRI will work with its Partners, Affiliated Networks, and Collaborators engaged across the region to raise local funding support for the 2020 plan; and foster regional-level cooperation, sharing, and exchange on land and forest rights issues, particularly on strategic planning, youth engagement, gender issues, and community-based monitoring.

## INDONESIA

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo was re-elected in 2019 despite his failure to fulfill campaign promises on agrarian reforms and the recognition of indigenous and community customary rights. The long-promised law on indigenous rights as well as the national task force for indigenous communities remain pending, and the progress on recognition of customary forests and land redistribution has been very slow. Less than 23,000 hectares of indigenous forests have been recognized, although the government has prepared an indicative map of proposed customary forests covering about 500,000 hectares and has a broader goal of recognizing 2.25 million hectares of customary forests by 2019. Social forestry targets of 12.7 million hectares also remain largely unmet, with about

2.57 million hectares of forest put under community management with limited rights. Similarly, there has been little progress towards the redistribution of 9 million hectares of land under the agrarian reform process.

A combination of resistance by powerful actors, lack of capacity, institutional corruption, and contradictory legal frameworks have inhibited the Jokowi government's efforts to achieve these targets. Indigenous Peoples and local communities have had more success working with some local governments to pass local regulations that recognize indigenous communities' rights over forests and land. Provincial and District regulations or decrees have been issued with the potential to recognize 3.6 million hectares of indigenous forestland.

Pro-corporate laws and regulations posing threats to community land rights and access are being issued or prepared, including the draft Land Bill, Revised Law on Anti-Corruption Commission, and Water Resources Policy. Recent mass mobilizations against these "anti-people" laws have resulted in some of these legislative processes being stalled. Land conflicts and criminalization of land rights defenders continues, as powerful vested interests seek to push back against the demands for land reforms and rights recognition.

### ***Opportunities and Priorities***

The Jokowi government remains relatively accessible and amenable to pressure through mass politics. The government continues to prioritize the agrarian reform and social forestry agenda, creating opportunities for engagement by civil society and movements.

A number of local governments have been actively supporting indigenous and local communities through local regulations recognizing rights, which create spaces for scaling up collective rights recognition. Engagement with both local and national governments requires strong analysis, evidence generation, and effective advocacy strategies. Analysis can also strengthen and legitimize grassroots mobilizations and their demands. A key opportunity lies in demonstrating the critical importance of land rights recognition to the government's own objectives of inclusive development, climate mitigation and adaptation, conservation, and conflict reduction.

Almost 62 percent of Indonesia's land is controlled by investors for various purposes including mining, agribusiness, logging, and forestry, and most of these lands overlap with customarily claimed territories and areas occupied by local communities, leading to conflicts and criminalization. In this context, there is a critical need to engage with the powerful corporate sector and investors to ensure that they respect the rightful claims of communities. Efforts have been initiated on these lines and this is another priority area for RRI intervention in Indonesia.

The emergence of the Indonesia Tenure Coalition, a collective forum of CSOs and movements working on land and forest tenure, has created a platform for sharing and learning on tenure issues, as well as for engaging with state actors, social movements, and other stakeholders to promote tenure reforms.

### ***Strategies***

- **Convening and connecting:** Support the Tenure Coalition as an effective civil society organization and movement network to advance the agenda of land and forest rights reforms and to contribute to advocacy, analysis, and mobilizations. Support the Tenure Coalition to reach out and connect with mass mobilizations on climate change (youth) and resistance to anti-democratic laws such as the new land law (students, faith-based organizations, women's groups, labor unions, peasant organizations, Indigenous Peoples) to push the tenure agenda. Connect land rights defenders to mechanisms that support them in situations of criminalization and violence.
- **Analysis and evidence for rights and livelihoods:** Using the Tanahkita portal, work with data that compares the lands prioritized by Indigenous Peoples and local communities for redistribution and recognition with the lands prioritized by the government under various agendas (Agrarian Reform, Indigenous Forests) to identify the gaps and opportunities. Through pilot projects and analyses, generate evidence and discourse on the viability of alternative, rights-based sustainable development models through community enterprise. Advocate for state budgetary investment in these models.

- **Connect the corporate sector (Interlaken Group) to community-based monitoring (CBM)** to set-up mechanisms to channel reliable information collected by communities about corporate practice and agree on spaces to engage with communities to address the shortcomings. Invest in strengthening CBM (through regional exchanges/learning involving youth).

### ***Risks and Mitigation Strategies***

Risk 1: Government may pass laws which hurt the land rights and access of Indigenous Peoples and local communities due to pressure from the corporate sector and other vested interests.

*Mitigation Strategy: Provide analytical support to mobilizations against these laws through the Tenure Coalition and through Partners and Collaborators.*

Risk 2: Increased risks of criminalization and violence against Indigenous Peoples and local community leaders defending their lands.

*Mitigation Strategy: Supporting the anti-criminalization fund and the lawyers collective for defending land rights defenders.*

## **INDIA**

The legal framework provided by the Forest Rights Act (FRA) created the potential for recognizing collective rights over 40 million hectares of forestland that is home to almost 170 million people. Yet barely 5 percent of this potential has been achieved. The FRA faces strong opposition from conservationists, the forest bureaucracy, and sections of Indian corporates. The re-elected Modi Government has remained largely indifferent to the FRA and initiated policy steps which actively subvert the Act's promise (such as a proposed new forest policy and a law for offset afforestation). It also failed to defend the FRA against a lawsuit by conservation groups in the Indian Supreme Court, which led to an interim order in February 2019 to evict nearly 10 million forest dwellers. Though it was stayed after a massive outcry, this ongoing court case remains an existential threat to collective rights agendas in India. The increasing authoritarian tendencies of the current government have also led to shrinking civil society spaces and pressure on rights-based movements. Repression, criminalization, and violence against Adivasi, Dalits, and other marginalized groups have increased. Due to recent political advancements, there have been some positive indicators from the Modi government to implement the Forest Rights Act.

On the positive side, efforts by civil society, movements, and allies within the state apparatus have opened strategic shared spaces, including within state governments like Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh. RRI's own contribution to creating these spaces through evidence-based policy advocacy and support toward the legal defense of the Forest Rights Act has been considerable. At the end of 2019, proposed amendments to a colonial forest law which would have adversely affected community forest rights were withdrawn by the government under pressure from mobilization and advocacy. Pilot projects supported by RRI have now been scaled up through a Tenure Facility project to achieve recognition over a million hectares of community forestland. RRI has been able to develop a good relationship with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is the nodal agency for implementation of forest rights. RRI and its Collaborators seek to capitalize on these emerging spaces to push forward the forest rights agenda as well as to ward off major threats to the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

### ***Opportunities and Priorities***

Taking collective forest rights to scale through the FRA is the biggest opportunity to meet RRI's goals and priorities in India. Building political will and support for collective rights recognition under the FRA (at the central and provincial levels) is therefore a top priority. Ensuring community, civil society, and government capacity to implement the policy is a complementary priority. In 2019, RRI initiated efforts to start building a larger case for collective land rights recognition as a key strategy for development, poverty alleviation, climate mitigation, forest landscape



restoration, conservation, and women's empowerment. Creating this powerful case for recognition of collective rights as an instrument for meeting the goals of the national and provincial governments is a major RRI priority for 2020. Defending the FRA against a variety of legal challenges, policy changes, and opposition by powerful vested interests is essential. These include, in particular, addressing the risks posed by the ongoing Supreme Court case and changes in the Indian Forest Policy.

### *Strategy*

- **Analysis and advocacy to generate support for implementation and protect rights:** Leverage data and analysis to convince politicians and policymakers of the benefits of implementing the FRA and protecting land rights. Complete analytical work on policy and legal changes threatening the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and provide inputs to movements/CSOs and governments.
- **Convening:** Facilitate the convening of key actors and stakeholders to develop and further common strategies amongst actors committed to collective rights recognition. Influence governments and other key stakeholders on the importance of rights recognition for development, climate change, forest landscape restoration, conservation, securing peace, and conflict mitigation. RRI will also leverage and engage women's networks to promote a gender-justice rights recognition process as a force multiplier.
- **Capacity building:** Build local-level grassroots capacities and consultation among the primary stakeholders on a pilot basis to inform and ground the higher-level processes of advocacy, analysis, and policy action in grassroots learnings. Provide technical and advocacy support for initiatives working to scale up rights, including the Tenure Facility project, initiatives by other organization like FES, and the government.
- **Legal strategies:** Support responses to the legal challenges to the FRA in the courts; capacity-building and networking of lawyers and activists engaged in legal action on these issues.

### *Risks and Mitigation Strategies*

**Risk 1:** Increasingly repressive and restricted state action is reducing spaces for civil society and movements struggling for rights recognition.

*Mitigation Strategy: Develop local and national legal capacities to protect land rights defenders.*

## **NEPAL**

While Nepal is famous around the world for community forestry, communities' rights over the forest are not legally secure and their ability to freely make plans and use resources to benefit the communities is over-regulated. Nepal's 2015 Constitution provides a space for creating legislation that can strongly recognize community and indigenous rights over lands and forests. A new national Forest Act has been enacted, providing additional space for community forest rights. The Constitution also provides major roles to provincial and local governments in forest governance, with local governments receiving jurisdiction over community forestry. RRI Partners and Collaborators are currently working with provincial and selected local governments to ensure that they enact forestry laws which recognize community forest rights and deregulate community forestry. The political leadership at various levels of government are also deeply interested in leveraging community forestry for rural development, and the federal government has allocated more than US\$1 million from its budget to support community forestry enterprises next year. In 2019, RRI supported FECOFUN in the development of a project concept for the Tenure Facility to advance implementation of local government legislation to recognize community land rights.

### *Opportunities and Priorities*

The new three-tiered government structure presents an opportunity to advocate for change at the provincial and local levels, and to ensure effective community control over forests through the enactment of pro-people forest laws, regulations, and policies. Local governments, given their jurisdiction over community forestry, can emerge as the guarantors and supporters of secure community forest rights. Strong interest among government and

community actors in promoting community-forestry-based economic development offers an opportunity to strengthen both community forestry rights as well as livelihoods. Additionally, because of the long association of FECOFUN and its members with social movements, more than 1,200 of its members—including 700 women—have been elected to office in local governments. This represents an opportunity to build toward gender-equitable forest governance.

### ***Strategy***

- **Convene and connect:** Provide technical support to decision-makers and convenings to build political momentum to ensure pro-community forest laws, policies, and budgets are adopted and implemented across national, provincial, and local governments. Coordinate with national, state, and local governments to ensure that state budgets support community-forestry-based economic development. Ensure that a proposed Tenure Facility project which seeks to scale up community forest rights recognition through enactment of local government laws and regulations is grounded properly.
- **Capacity building and gender justice strategies** that amplify women's leadership in political positions, organizations, and community forestry enterprises.

### ***Risks and Mitigation Strategies***

**Risk 1:** Provincial governments may enact laws and policies which curtail the powers of local government and community forestry user groups.

*Mitigation Strategy: Support FECOFUN and its allied organizations in advocacy and mobilization to forestall such laws and policies.*

**Risk 2:** Local governments may curtail the powers and autonomy of Community Forestry Groups and treat community forests as a source of revenue generation.

*Mitigation Strategy: The proposed Tenure Facility project seeks to address this critical risk by supporting local governments to enact laws which recognize community forestry rights and mapping in 100 out of 753 local governments, creating clear best practices and benchmarks. This combined with the political advocacy will help to mitigate this serious risk. ■*

## Latin America

### *Rationale for Engagement*

Over the past four decades, most Latin American countries have enacted progressive national constitutions and policy reforms and created new institutions dedicated to recognizing the collective land rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities. Many countries have also adopted international frameworks, such as the ILO 169 Convention, the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. These substantive reforms have resulted in a total area of 435 million hectares of land recognized as designated for or owned by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, an area larger than India.

Legal progress on collective land rights has rarely translated into full implementation, and much is now in danger of being lost. Major new risks of rollback of collective tenure rights have emerged, further inhibiting already limited execution of reforms and international agreements, while long-standing customary land rights claims remain unresolved. Governments have also weakened long-established environmental protection policies to facilitate massive expansion of commercial agriculture, mining, energy, and infrastructure projects. In doing so, states are disrespecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, and women and putting additional pressures on community lands.

Although normative apparatuses exist for achieving greater recognition of communities' collective land rights, democratic institutions in the region are deteriorating as novel forms of authoritarianism are re-emerging. Increasing corruption, impunity, and inequality are also triggering social discontent. Countries across the region are experiencing mass social unrest, with people taking to the streets in Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, and Peru to counter a series of political decisions and socio-economic policies affecting the rights of their citizens. Lack of implementation of government reforms also remains a major challenge, particularly in Colombia, with the Duque administration's unwillingness to implement the peace agreement putting the country at risk of descending back into a state of internal conflict. In Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro's ultra-conservative policies are exacerbating pressure on indigenous territories from private economic interests, leading to open conflict and environmental catastrophe.

Latin America leads the world in criminalization, rights violations, impunity, and assassination of land rights defenders. According to data generated by an RRI study that documented and assessed the patterns of collective rights violations and criminalization, there were at least 122 identified rights violations from 2017 to 2019 across Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Peru. Such violations relate to access to water, collective land rights, and consultation rights, as well as free expression in defense of ancestral lands. Despite the humanitarian crisis, there is greater integration and mobilization than in the past among land rights defenders across the region, prompting stronger alliances between civil society and grassroots organizations to confront the threats of criminalization and rights violations. Women's, Afro-descendants', and Indigenous Peoples' organizations are directly engaging governments at the highest levels to fight for the recognition of their rights and defend their territories.

2019 was a critical year for RRI support to Coalition members in their strategic responses to the current socio-political context. For instance, RRI supported the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) in an international advocacy campaign across Europe to pressure the European Parliament to act on the deforestation crisis in the Amazon and the violation of Indigenous Peoples' rights in Brazil, both generated by Bolsonaro's regressive actions. In Colombia, RRI supported the National Indigenous Organization (ONIC) and the Afro-descendant organization CONPA to prepare a proposal for technical guidance and budget allocation to ensure the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the Peace Agreement and carry out a campaign to call for an end to the increasing violence and killing of indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders.



In 2019 RRI also supported such mobilizations through the production of various evidence-based analyses to better equip grassroots organizations and allies in their advocacy strategies. RRI identified 210 potential ally organizations and 10 global campaigns dedicated to the defense of community land rights that work in the Latin America region with which Coalition members can establish synergies. RRI also hosted an international exchange in Bogota to enable land rights defenders to share strategies and advise RRI on how to best support them in their anti-criminalization and rollback efforts. 40 people from 13 countries participated.

RRI also supported PCN and CNTI in conceiving and developing Tenure Facility projects and mobilized political support for the projects. The PCN project is now underway and the CNTI project is currently being considered.

### ***Opportunities and Priorities***

Throughout 2020, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Afro-descendants, and women's groups will be mobilizing various agendas to engage in international arenas. RRI is uniquely positioned to support engagement and facilitate greater synergy and learning to strengthen their agendas and ensure their priorities are considered in the deliberations.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, there are over 130 million Afro-descendants. However, only five countries have recognized their collective land rights and the implementation of those rights remains disproportionately low with uneven recognition across the region. RRI has been supporting the regional Afro-descendent movement since 2010. RRI started working with the Afro-descendent population in Colombia and then, beginning in 2013, expanded across the region to share lessons learned, help define a roadmap for moving forward collective rights recognition in different countries, and build the capacity of Afro-Colombian organizations to achieve greater land rights recognition. Most recently, in 2019, in the International Encounter of Afro-descendants held in Brazil, RRI triggered a plan to develop and implement a strategy for positioning the Afro-descendant rights agenda at the regional and global levels. This work at the regional and global levels is critical to build credibility and visibility of Afro-descendent struggles, thereby creating momentum for reform at the national level. RRI's support to the PCN Tenure Facility project also demonstrated the Coalition's commitment to them and their agenda. Due to the Coalition's expertise on the rights of Afro-descendant peoples, its unique work on collective land rights, and the trust established by long-term work with Afro-descendant communities, RRI is uniquely positioned to help build synergies between the two major Afro-descendant movements from Colombia and Brazil and support the crafting of these groups' strategic plan.

2020 presents a critical opportunity to build upon RRI's past work to raise awareness of the distinct rights of Afro-descendant peoples and local communities at the global level. RRI has been facilitating dialogue between RRI Affiliated Network AMPB and RRI Collaborator PCN to influence the UNFCCC Platform of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples regarding the participation and representation of "local communities." In 2020, the UNFCCC will determine the plan for selecting the representation of indigenous and local communities in the Platform. Additionally, signatory countries to the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC will submit new or revised Nationally Determined Contributions of domestic climate mitigation measures. These opportunities are a unique avenue of influence for Afro-descendant and local communities to advocate for their collective land rights, and RRI is well positioned to support them due to previous work supporting the engagement of groups such as AMPB and PCN in the UNFCCC framework.

Rural economic transformation has become a key element for improving sustainable development as well as a strategy for implementing conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Indigenous and Afro-descendant women play critical roles in their local economies, particularly when their collective land and resource rights are secure. Recognition of the value of local economic initiatives is now helping women to shape national policies and influence international frameworks, while opening opportunities for them to advance their agendas for achieving equitable land tenure rights. In 2020, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the CEDAW framework, is expected to start drafting an official "General Recommendation on Indigenous Women." The work RRI has advanced in the region since 2012 on the relationship

between forest and land rights and women's human rights positions the Coalition to play a role in drafting recommendations for CEDAW to formally include the tenure rights of indigenous women.

RRI will continue to bring visibility to the agendas of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Afro-descendants, women, and youth in regional and global spaces to defend their rights against regressive tendencies and criminalization. 2020 will be a critical year for reporting human rights situations in Latin American countries and globally through the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which brings the opportunity for strategic advocacy around the humanitarian situation of land defenders.

### ***Strategy***

In 2020, the Latin America program will support RRI Collaborators, Affiliated Networks, and Partners to continue the work that started in 2019 focused on the strengthening of synergies, greater collaboration, and learning to help advance tenure rights agenda across the region. The workplan for 2020 addresses five major priorities for collective action:

- Build a path toward greater recognition of Afro-descendant collective land rights by positioning their agenda at the national and international levels and backstop the PCN-led Tenure Facility project to ensure success and demonstrate the possibility to scale recognition in Colombia and other countries across the region.
- Counter the rollback of rights and criminalization.
- Advance the recognition of community economic systems as a contribution to development, with emphasis on women's economic entrepreneurial initiatives.
- Position the unique perspectives and voices of indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations in global climate change fora.
- Improve and enable the conditions for greater implementation of existing legal tenure rights in different countries.

To build a path toward greater recognition of Afro-descendant collective land rights, RRI will continue to support Afro-descendant movements across the region with the goal of promoting the incorporation of their land tenure rights agenda at national and international levels; prompting countries that lack legislation to recognize rights statutorily; and encouraging implementation of those rights where policies exist, thus helping to close the historical gap in Afro-descendant territorial rights recognition. To do this, RRI will facilitate meetings to strengthen the coordination between Afro-descendant organizations across the region and to generate a roadmap for positioning their collective tenure rights in regional and global scenarios and in national policies. The strategy will also aim to secure recognition of "Afro-descendant peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean" as a category of people with a representative role and decision-making power in international fora.

In order to counter rollback of rights and criminalization in 2020, RRI will ensure that Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, women's organizations, and local communities strengthen their advocacy plans and expand their alliances with key actors. To do so, RRI will facilitate a meeting among indigenous and Afro-descendant women's organizations from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru to analyze the differentiated impacts of rights violations and produce a roadmap strategy for advocacy, complementing the study on violations of collective rights carried out in 2019. In response to the opportunity to influence the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Coalition aims to generate an advocacy plan to influence the preparation of country reports on the status of human rights.

RRI will develop a case study of lessons learned on women's economic entrepreneurial initiatives to support indigenous and Afro-descendant women in their advocacy and to advance recognition of gender-responsive community economic systems as a contribution to development. RRI will then facilitate a multi-level regional

learning space between communities, governments, and the private sector to disseminate findings and continue to build momentum for reform. The Coalition will also generate a plan to influence the preparation of the CEDAW's "General Recommendation of Indigenous Women" to ensure the inclusion of indigenous women's tenure rights as part of the recommendation.

To position the unique perspectives and voices of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities and women in the climate change fora, RRI will implement a two-pronged approach to influence outcomes in the UNFCCC. The strategy includes: 1) the revision and proposal of a broader and more inclusive concept of "local communities" within the UNFCCC Platform to include non-indigenous groups with collective rights, such as Afro-descendant peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and other forest communities; b) advocacy within the UNFCCC system to secure representation of local communities in the platform. 2020 also presents a window for political advocacy through the NDC reports. Although indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant organizations will not be directly involved in preparing their countries' reports, RRI will support them in observing the reports to leverage reforms by demonstrating their contributions to climate change mitigation via the recognition of collective tenure regimes and viability of local economies.

RRI will continue supporting grassroots constituencies and allies to build enabling conditions for greater implementation of existing legal tenure rights in different countries. RRI will begin scoping the application of the soon to be released Opportunity Framework across the region and will continue to manage funding through the Strategic Response Mechanism as urgent opportunities arise. RRI is exploring potential opportunities for SRM funding in Suriname, Colombia, and Peru, and expects to respond to other unique cases in other countries during 2020.

### ***Risks and Mitigation Strategies***

**Risk 1:** Increasing risk of violation of rights and impunity as a result of worsening socio-political crises across the region.

*Mitigation Strategy: RRI's Coalition will set up an informal system of communication and identification of common threats, needs, and critical moments of advocacy to ensure that Coalition members are well informed and can act urgently and be adaptable to rapidly changing difficult conditions.*

**Risk 2:** Lack of consensus among indigenous organizations and their official country representation regarding securing the recognition and participation of Afro-descendant and forest communities within the platform on Local Communities within the UNFCCC deliberations.

*Mitigation Strategy: RRI will support AMPB and PCN in implementing their internal advocacy plan to arrive at consensus among indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant organizations as they aim to secure their participation and recognition within the platform. ■*



## Africa

### *Rationale for Engagement*

Africa is strategically positioned to greatly benefit from the current unprecedented global awareness on the importance of securing the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Communities claim ownership to almost 80 percent of the continent's lands, but only 10-15 percent of these lands are formally recognized. In 8 of the 19 countries surveyed by RRI in 2015, communities have legally recognized rights to own or control less than 1 percent of the country's land area, including both agricultural and forested lands. Another RRI study found that out of 11 countries surveyed, more than 80 percent of community-based tenure regimes in Africa do not recognize community-level inheritance rights for women.

The pressures on land across the continent are many, and intensifying. The continent is seen by many as “the last frontier” for substantial land investments, and major development projects in infrastructure, mining, extraction, and commercial agriculture are booming across the region. Conservation, forest landscape restoration, and climate change mitigation initiatives are also gaining in prominence with programs such as the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa into restoration by 2030. Three quarters of the continent's population is under the age of 35 and the total human population is forecast to quadruple by the end of the century. And foreign direct investment in sub-Saharan Africa, only \$6.9 billion in 2000, increased to \$32 billion in 2018, demonstrating that Africa is a priority region for international investors.

While the challenges are acute and growing, there are unprecedented opportunities to secure full recognition of the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities across the region. Agenda 2063, which serves as both a vision and action plan for continental development aspirations, recognizes the importance of land rights, including women's land rights explicitly, as a foundation for development and security. Current efforts to implement community rights in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, and Liberia as well as ongoing progressive land reforms in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Madagascar are proof of changes in land governance in the continent towards support for the recognition of indigenous and community land rights.

In 2020, RRI will capitalize on these political gains with a three-pronged approach: 1) advancing implementation in countries with adequate legal frameworks (Liberia, Kenya, DRC) in coordination with the Tenure Facility and other donors; 2) influencing international investors to adopt best practices in respecting land rights; and 3) disseminate the lessons from 1 and 2 across the continent to build political support and strengthen the new network of government officials supporting indigenous and community land rights (ALIN). The Tenure Facility is supporting two ongoing projects in Liberia and Mali, with three other projects in preparation in DRC, Burkina Faso, and Kenya.

**Regionally**, the Coalition will strategically facilitate experience sharing, mobilization of key actors, and mutual support across the region for collective community tenure rights through the Network of African Land Institutions for Community Rights (ALIN), an intergovernmental platform to scale up implementation of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' land rights. RRI will continue to support strategic convenings to document and respond to the growing threats of criminalization of land rights defenders across the region.

### **LIBERIA**

The Land Rights Act (LRA), adopted in 2018, includes provisions for recognition of customary land rights without requiring a title, women's rights to management and ownership of land, and communities' right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. The process of drafting regulations for implementation is now underway and it is crucial that the final regulations deliver on the promise of the passed law. The national government is also working on a National Oil Palm Strategy and a national interpretation of the RSPO's principles and criteria, as well as progressing towards the investment phase of the REDD+ process, all of which have implications for community-owned lands. Civil society

organizations have strongly mobilized and organized in platforms around three main themes of land, oil palm, and REDD+, and are strategically positioned to influence these processes. A new Tenure Facility project is underway and there are opportunities to leverage greater funding to advance implementation at the national scale.

### ***Opportunities and Priorities***

The processes of drafting the 2018 LRA regulations, producing a national interpretation document of the RSPO principles and criteria, drafting the national oil palm strategy, and working toward the elaboration of a REDD+ benefit-sharing mechanism are strategic opportunities. The Coalition will engage these processes to ensure that communities' land rights, including those of women within those communities, are effectively taken into account, and that the resulting documents are effectively in line with the recently passed LRA. Civil society organizations are highly respected, mobilized, and already engaged in these national discussions. Priorities include:

- 1) Influence emerging policy and regulatory processes (including the LRA regulations and national oil palm strategy) to ensure gender-sensitive recognition of rights.
- 2) Strengthen civil society capacity to influence key policies and processes by providing data and analysis, supporting strategic convenings, and leveraging networks of private sector actors.
- 3) Conduct research on rural economy and livelihood models with a gender perspective.
- 4) Help leverage additional funding and political support for the implementation of the Land Rights Act.

### ***Strategy***

The CSO Working Group on Land will continue to engage with all stakeholders, influence the drafting of the LRA regulations, and hold workshops and awareness-raising meetings with communities and government. To advance community tenure rights in the oil palm sector, the CSO Oil Palm Working Group will influence the drafting of the national oil palm strategy and national interpretation of the RSPO standards as well as monitor company operations and research community-led livelihood alternatives. The CSO platform on REDD+ will continue engagement with all stakeholders, monitor REDD+ implementation to ensure that community tenure rights are respected, and provide input into the development of the national benefit-sharing mechanism.

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)**

Following a period of unrest, Félix Tshisekedi took power in January 2019 with a promise to promote democratic reforms in key sectors, including land. He supports the land reform process, which was initiated in 2012 with the adoption of a consensual roadmap. A draft land policy document has just entered a large national consultation process last month, which will build towards a finalized policy by 2020 and a revised land law by 2021. The land policy document contains progressive provisions, including the recognition of communities' customary land rights; communities' right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent; and women's rights to management and ownership of land. Simultaneously, the government has launched the land use planning reform process to produce a national land use planning policy document and a new land use planning law by the end of 2020. The government has committed to allocating 2.5 million hectares of forests for community management between 2018 and 2023 through the community forestry legal framework. To date, more than one million hectares of forest are already under community forest concessions. In 2019, RRI supported a coalition of Congolese CSOs (CAGDFT) to develop a concept and proposal for the Tenure Facility.

### ***Opportunities and Priorities***

The national consultations on the first draft of the land policy document is a strategic opportunity for CSOs and communities to ensure progressive provisions are adopted, while the recently launched land use planning reform process and the elaboration of the first draft of the land-use planning policy document allows for communities to influence land demarcation and allocation at the policy and legislative levels. Through the land use planning

process, community lands can be demarcated and community forest concessions can be titled, while the new Tenure Facility project has great potential to scale up and demonstrate best practices. Finally, the pilot phase of the community forestry process is well underway, enabling communities to apply for and obtain community forest concessions. Priorities include:

- 1) Influence the process of consultation, drafting, and adoption of the land policy document and land-use planning policy document and law.
- 2) Support communities in applying for community forest concessions by building the capacities of all actors, including working with CAGDFT on the design and implementation of the Tenure Facility project.
- 3) Monitor and share information on the implementation of REDD+ investment projects.
- 4) Advocate for women's rights to land and natural resources in the new land and land use planning policies.

### ***Strategy***

CFLEDD will continue to lead engagement with the land reform process on multiple levels, including raising awareness within communities, provincial consultations, multi-stakeholder dialogues with government and the private sector, and direct advocacy with the national government which will also focus on women's rights. CTIDD will convene similar multi-stakeholder workshops for land-use planning. CAGDFT will lead the development of the Tenure Facility project and convene capacity-building workshops for communities and local and provincial administrations to support community forest concessions. Finally, the CSO working group on forest and climate change (GTCR-R) will monitor community rights within REDD+ projects.

## **KENYA**

Kenya is implementing the Community Land Act (CLA), adopted in 2016 with provisions for communities to apply for adjudication and registration of their properties. Regulations for the implementation of the CLA were finalized in 2018. The civil society platform Community Land Action Now! (CLAN), founded in 2018, is engaging with government, private sector, and donors for fast and fair implementation of the CLA to ensure secure community land tenure. In 2019, RRI supported CLAN to develop a concept for a proposal to the Tenure Facility, which is now under construction.

### ***Opportunity and Priorities***

Kenya recently adopted regulations for the CLA, opening the way for implementation. CLAN has strengthened their institutional and organizational capacities to support communities in applying for and registering their customary lands, including data gathering and documentation of historical injustices. Priorities include:

- 1) Build capacities and raise community, CSO, and local and county government awareness of the CLA and its regulations.
- 2) Provide support to the CLAN for the Tenure Facility project to support communities in the demarcation and registration of their customary lands.
- 3) In collaboration with the Interlaken Group, leverage private sector engagement to ensure implementation of the CLA through multi-stakeholder dialogues.

### ***Strategy***

CLAN will continue engagement with communities, government at all levels, and donors to advocate for the implementation of the CLA and to convene actors to capacity-building workshops as well as awareness-raising meetings around CLA implementation processes and community rights.

CLAN will work with all stakeholders to mobilize support from donors, including the Tenure Facility.



## **MADAGASCAR**

A progressive land policy document was adopted in 2009 and revised in 2015 to include specific provisions recognizing community land rights. This recent revision suggests strong political will that was reaffirmed in 2019 in a regional workshop of government land institutions. A national dialogue in August 2019 produced a roadmap to deliver the specific legal provisions established in the 2015 reform effort. Furthermore, the government has recently launched provincial consultations to collect necessary public inputs for the drafting of the legal texts.

### ***Opportunities and Priorities***

A roadmap has been developed for the elaboration of the legal framework addressing the specific status of community lands, and the national consultation process through provincial dialogues has started. Implementation of the roadmap ensures the elaboration of the legislation securing community land rights. For the first time, Madagascar would have a legal framework for community land rights. Priorities include:

1. Convene multi-stakeholder platforms with government, CSOs, communities, and donors to support coordination of efforts and advocacy to ensure effective community participation.
2. Collect data on existing traditional tenure systems in Madagascar in order to inform dialogues at all levels in the elaboration of legal texts.
3. Explore potential and desirability of developing a Tenure Facility project in Madagascar.

### ***Strategy***

The CSO platform on land, Sehatra Iombonana hoan'ny Fananan-tany (SIF), will continue engagement with government and donors to ensure progress of the process and community-informed participation. Information on existing traditional land tenure systems will be collected for an analysis to inform the drafting of legal texts on the specific status of community lands.

### ***Risks and Mitigation Strategies***

Regionally and in the four priority countries (Liberia, DRC, Kenya, and Madagascar), the Coalition's interventions will face similar risks with slight differences depending on the local political and economic context, the stage of the reform process, and communities' capacities. The anticipated risks, and mitigation strategies, are as follows:

#### **Risks:**

- Lack of political will to incorporate communities' inputs, and to complete and/or implement reforms.
- Drafted regulations are not effectively in line with progressive provisions contained in the laws.
- Lack of financial and technical capacities of governments to complete and/or implement reforms.
- Lack of financial and technical capacities of CSOs and communities to influence reform processes.
- Increase in repressive actions by governments that shrink civic spaces, as well as rollback of rights and criminalization of land rights defenders.

#### **Mitigation Strategies:**

- Mobilize actors and maintain constructive engagement with government.
- Support multi-stakeholder dialogues and communities' effective participation therein.
- Build technical capacities of national and local governments, CSOs, and communities.
- Hold awareness-raising workshops from the local to the national level with all stakeholders.
- Support capacity building from the local to national level and mobilization of actors to confront legal challenges and protect land rights defenders. ■

## 2020 Work Plans by Theme

### Overview of RRI's Strategic Analysis and Global Engagement

The foundational role of RRI's Strategic Analysis and Global Engagement (SAGE) will be leveraged in 2020 to support the growing momentum for rights-based transformative change across sectors and geographies. Guided by the need for a more integrated approach to the social, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities that Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and especially the women within them face, RRI's thematic structure has been updated to showcase the interrelated nature of climate change, biodiversity loss, and the struggle for sustainable and equitable development:

1. To address climate and biodiversity issues synergistically, the Rights and Climate portfolio will now include a dedicated focus on Conservation.
2. The previously framed Alternative Tenure Enterprise Models (ATEMs) theme has been recast as Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods to give greater weight to the urgently needed transformations of rural and global economic systems.
3. The purview of the Tenure Tracking program has been extended to include community-based freshwater tenure rights and the management of requisite databases for the Opportunity Framework.
4. To ensure justice for all, and the pursuit of gender-sensitive legal and normative reforms, the Gender Justice portfolio is now supported by a comprehensive strategy to significantly advance community women's land and resource rights and associated social, economic, and environmental benefits across scales and sectors.

Together, the SAGE portfolio of thematic programs is now more comprehensively defined, and better suited to support the evolving needs of the Coalition while retaining all of its core functions, including dedicated investments to: (i) generate strategic analyses and support the information needs of front line defenders and their allies; (ii) engage relevant international fora and instigate transformative change; and (iii) monitor and track global progress towards rights-based reforms.

In 2020, SAGE will channel the support of the Coalition to address the following priorities:

**Seize opportunities in climate and conservation arenas, and support action on the ground.** To build momentum towards transformative change at scale, Rights, Climate, and Conservation will support the demands and ambitions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities engaged in international climate and biodiversity negotiations. In collaboration with a growing network of front-line defenders, RRI will explore opportunities to enhance coordination around the development of a unified framework for urgent rights-based climate and conservation action.

Guided by the leadership of rights-holders, RRI will support dedicated dialogues ahead of the climate and biodiversity COPs to foster greater institutional coherence and tackle the root causes of nature's deterioration and its repercussions on communities and the environment. To build new alliances and mobilize greater investments in securing collective tenure rights, a robust global engagement strategy will be developed to strengthen coordination with climate and conservation financing instruments, improve synergies between dedicated rights-holder platforms, and support the dissemination and adoption of the Opportunity Framework and associated pathways to scale up transformative change.

Similarly, RRI will equip frontline defenders and their supporters with the information they need to advance their advocacy objectives across sectors and scales. Country-level successes and lessons will be leveraged to influence the global gender justice agenda, unlock global funding, and enhance direct support to women who are working at the community level to change cultural norms and open space for national reforms. And leading by example, RRI will initiate a Coalition-wide gender mainstreaming process, to meaningfully reflect on tools and strategies for mainstreaming gender justice across scales and geographies.

**Conduct the analysis underpinning the path to scale and mobilize support.** Through the deployment of the Opportunity Framework, enabling conditions for the advancement of tenure reform in key REDD+ countries—and other conservation and forest restoration priority areas—will be identified, and the repertoire of actions and strategies that can be deployed to scale up women’s and community rights to land, forests, and freshwater resources will be developed and tested. While initially coordinated by the Rights, Climate, and Conservation theme, the Opportunity Framework will be embedded in the Tenure Tracking program as part of RRI’s core body of work and expanded over time in alignment with planned updates of its land and forest tenure databases.

Through its Gender Justice program, RRI envisages the development of an analytical framework to assess the adequacy of existing and draft legal frameworks from a gender perspective and identify or inform opportunities for greater impact. Likewise, the Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods program aims to articulate pathways to bridge the power divide in rural areas by leveraging the rights of communities to further their own development aspirations and contribute to more sustainable and climate resilient economies across the developing south. To support these ends, RRI will leverage existing and emerging national-level multi-stakeholder platforms to identify pathways to tenure reform and sector-wide transformation. Relatedly, it will support efforts to strengthen community-based monitoring capacity and outreach to further downward accountability of the private sector to rights holders.

**Lead on flagship analysis and tracking of progress.** RRI will strengthen its analytical foundations by documenting and socializing the impacts of rights-based approaches, tracking progress and opportunities for reform, identifying gaps and emerging solutions, and capturing and disseminating operational lessons. Internal information tracking capabilities and online interface will be strengthened via the development and deployment of an updated user-oriented tenure portal, the land tenure database will be updated and expanded to inform the path to scale and support evidence-based advocacy at all levels, and RRI will widen the coverage of the Tenure Tracking program via new publications and data points on community-based freshwater tenure.

To strengthen the analytical foundations of rights-based approaches to global climate and conservation priorities, RRI will (i) work with global research institutions to identify the policy gaps and constraints to transformative change, (ii) assess the implications of emerging voluntary and compliance carbon markets and biodiversity offsets for the advancement of rights-based climate and conservation actions, and (iii) chart credible pathways to scaling-up rights based actions and investments.

Finally, in collaboration with key experts and practitioners, RRI will lay the groundwork for an in-depth assessment of the roles and contributions of community-led social and economic development models and approaches. Key to strengthening rights and addressing the policy and regulatory barriers that prevent the sustainable use and management of lands designated for or owned by communities is the need for a robust economic case that details the social and ecological benefits of locally governed lands, territories, and resources. Similarly, RRI intends to strengthen the case that supports the social, economic, and environmental impacts of women and inclusive, gender-sensitive land tenure reforms. ■

## Rights, Climate, and Conservation

### *Rationale for Engagement*

Climate change is accelerating. Together with other human-induced changes to the global bio-geosphere, the increasingly rapid rate of change risks triggering irreversible [tipping points](#) across the ecosystems that support life on Earth. The world faces an unprecedented urgency to tackle the root causes of nature's deterioration, recalibrate the global economic system, and redefine social narratives in favor of solutions that are good for people and planet.

As interlinked phenomena, ecosystem degradation and climate change require system-level transformations to address their drivers while maintaining global progress toward the sustainable development goals and other international commitments. In recent years, [nature-based solutions](#) and other ecosystem-based measures have gained increasing importance, both as vital compliments to reducing emissions and in the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods. However, evidence from existing conservation and forest restoration initiatives make clear that to be effective and sustainable, communities must benefit from and be empowered by such investments, as opposed to assuming overall burdens. Already, demand from [voluntary carbon markets](#) and biodiversity offsets are increasing exponentially, as are propositions to protect [up to half of the world's natural landscapes](#). In the absence of clear rights-based standards and dedicated actions to involve those who, for generations, have stewarded the landscapes that are now being targeted for nature-based contributions to climate and conservation goals, planned and ongoing investments are unlikely to succeed.

As noted in the [IPCC Special Report on Land](#) and [IPBES Global Assessment](#), the relationship between local communities' and Indigenous Peoples' [land tenure and global climate and conservation goals](#) is clear and robust. Secured support from the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility to identify opportunities for scaling up forest tenure reforms in participating REDD+ countries, as well as increasing demands from other climate and conservation constituencies, demonstrate the readiness of the international community to advance rights-based climate and conservation actions. If adequately leveraged, ongoing negotiations to significantly [increase the ambition](#) of nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement and ratchet up global efforts to restore and protect biodiversity and essential ecosystem services could lead to a dramatic shift in the global pendulum towards rights-based actions and transformative changes.

### *Opportunities and Priorities*

Emerging trends in the climate and conservation arenas point to several leverage points to dramatically scale up rights recognition for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including:

1. Opportunities to influence the underlying strategies of nationally-determined contributions and inform national debates on carbon rights in the context of required efforts to scale-up ambitions.
2. Commitment by the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and other REDD+ initiatives to map out opportunities to scale up forest tenure reforms in participant countries and initiate trial investments to support the implementation of existing legislation.
3. Ongoing consultations for the adoption of a more integrated and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15 and associated opportunities to develop rights-based strategies for restoring and protecting the world's biodiversity and ecosystems.
4. Coordinated actions by the global research community to identify gaps, opportunities, and pathways to dramatically scale up rights-based climate and conservation actions and accelerate social and economic transformations across scales.
5. The adoption of the "Gold Standard" (rights-based principles for the sustainable landscape management and conservation) by the Global Landscapes Forum and progressive partner institutions.

6. Increasing commitments by the international community to better align emerging climate and biodiversity priorities within the framework of nature-based solutions at COP 26 in Glasgow.
7. The unprecedented opportunity to strengthen synergies between the local communities' and Indigenous Peoples' platforms of the UNFCCC and CBD to further coordination and produce consolidated demands for urgent rights-based climate and biodiversity actions.

### **Strategy**

Efforts to leverage the momentous nature of 2020 and inform emerging climate and biodiversity commitments will require unprecedented coordination and collective actions by rights-holders, the RRI Coalition, and the broader climate and conservation communities. To achieve such ends, RRI will need to:

1. Develop a robust global engagement strategy to strengthen coordination with climate and conservation financing instruments to further the adoption of the Opportunities Framework and Gold Standard; and support Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their efforts to develop common global strategic demands in the context of the UN's Integrated Agenda for the UNFCCC, CBD, and SDG processes.
2. Strengthen the analytical foundations of rights-based approaches to global climate and conservation priorities and support the development of operational pathways for scaling up the implementation of community land and forest rights within the context of REDD+ and other climate and biodiversity framework items. To this end, RRI will work with practitioners, rights-holders, and dedicated institutions to produce dedicated briefs on the gaps and constraints to transformative change and lessons learned from effective interventions to inform proposed dialogues on the pathways to scale rights recognition in the climate and conservation arenas.
3. Assess the implications of emerging voluntary and compliance carbon markets and biodiversity offsets for the advancement of rights-based climate and conservation actions—to be captured in a forthcoming report.
4. Conduct strategic convenings to accelerate the adoption of rights-based approaches to global climate and conservation goals as well as principles for sustainable landscape management and use. RRI will host dedicated dialogues in advance of the CBD and UNFCCC COP to strengthen credible pathways to scale up rights-based actions and investments. RRI will also leverage its convening power to draw-up a unified framework for urgent rights-based climate and conservation action, to be launched ahead of the climate and biodiversity COPs in Spring 2020.

### **Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

**Risk 1:** There is a limited timeframe to leverage support for rights-based actions in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and subsequent revisions to NDCs.

*Mitigation Strategy: RRI's Rights, Climate, and Conservation agenda is ambitious but critical to instigating necessary reforms at a global scale. To overcome constraints related to scale and reach, RRI will draw on four interlinked strategies. First, the convening power of the RRI Coalition and other associated rights-holder platforms will be leveraged to draw up a unified framework for urgent rights-based climate and conservation action, to be launched ahead of the climate and biodiversity COPs in Spring 2020. Second, RRI will work with the world's leading sustainability research institutions to identify the policy gaps and constraints to transformative change, and chart credible pathways to scaling up rights-based actions and investments. Informed by dedicated dialogues ahead of the CBD and UNFCCC COPs, RRI will use the platforms to substantiate and strengthen proposed operational pathways to scale up rights. Third, RRI will draw on the momentum afforded by the official launch of the Gold Standard to rights-based approaches to leverage early adoption of the principles by globally recognized climate and conservation initiatives. Finally,*

*RRI will draw on the development of the opportunity framework and related conservation analysis to extend engagement with the key donors and multilateral financing institutions that support REDD+ and global conservation measures, to both strengthen dialogue and identify opportunities to scale-up actions that support Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and the women within these groups.*

**Risk 2:** Over the long term, the economic case for the long-term viability and sustainable impacts of secure community land and resource rights is inadequately developed and leveraged to create the requisite shifts in country policies, donor priorities, and global commitments.

*Mitigation Strategy: RRI will draw on the support of the global research community—FLARE, IFRI, IASC, and Future Earth in particular—to define the “grand challenges” to rights-based social, economic, and environmental transformations, and support the identification of enabling conditions for the pathways to scale and transformative change. To this end, RRI will strengthen coordination and collaboration with selected communities of practice to capture existing evidence and identify the nature and implications of remaining gaps. Finally, the analytical framework for the flagship analysis of the economic case for secure community land and forest rights (see Sustainable Livelihoods theme) will be developed in 2020, and initial data collection and review of the literature will be used to produce a high-level fact sheet of key findings to support country and donor engagement opportunities. ■*



## Gender Justice

### *Rationale for Engagement*

Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' lands cover more than half the world's global land mass, and women make up more than half of the 2.5 billion people who customarily own and use these lands. Strong tenure rights for community women and their equal rights to govern those territories and lands are essential to poverty reduction strategies that benefit women and their families (e.g., food security, health, education, economic stability, etc.) and resilience to climate shocks. Furthermore, laws that protect women's rights to community forests are more likely to safeguard the forest ownership rights of entire communities. The growing number of international initiatives supporting gender justice, along with the growing portfolio of Tenure Facility projects, present major opportunities to significantly scale up recognition of community women's land and resource rights resulting in improved social, economic, and environmental outcomes for all.

Securing indigenous and community rights to land, and women's rights within those communities, is not without precedent. Notable progress has been made in Nepal, Liberia, DRC, Colombia, and Peru, where—after years of advocacy—Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities have achieved groundbreaking land reforms, including women's recognition and access to collective land rights and governance. In Africa, Asia, and Latin America, women continue to exercise their leadership in governance and management of their territories and are gaining political momentum in their aspirations to secure their rights. Significant opportunities exist to advance reforms in country, including ensuring indigenous and community women's participation in ongoing reforms and forest law reviews in most African countries, as well as strengthening community- and forestry-based women's enterprises in Asia and Latin America. Continuing to focus on country-level efforts can propel the scaling-up of community land rights globally. Creating evidence for what is possible and elevating it has the potential to unlock global funding, spread promising practices, and generate momentum that could be the tipping point for scaling Indigenous Peoples' and local community land rights.

Despite such promise, real barriers to scaling indigenous and local women's land rights exist. Consistent feedback from RRI Partners, Collaborators, and indigenous and community women is that implementation of land laws, even when the rights of women are specified in the law, does not guarantee women's meaningful participation in decision-making and governance within communities. Cultural norms, behaviors, and attitudes are regularly cited as barriers to real change for women on the ground.

Furthermore, while the rights of women, and women's land rights in particular, were prominently profiled in the Sustainable Development Goals, these policy goals are primarily focused on individual property rights. Given the number of women in collective tenure regimes and the amount of land their communities represent, there is a significant opportunity to demonstrate the impact of gender equality at scale. Women's rights and gender equality are increasingly recognized as solutions to climate change, poverty, and food security – foundational to addressing sustainable development challenges – yet women in collective tenure regimes remain on the sidelines of the broader gender discussion.

Lastly, as RRI promotes and collaboratively works towards scaling community land rights, ensuring the meaningful integration of gender equality into its programming and organizational practices is a prerequisite to sustainable change. In 2019, RRI made pathbreaking progress in ensuring integration of gender justice in Tenure Facility projects and revised the Interlaken Group's guidelines to ensure respect for women's rights.

### *Opportunities and Priorities*

1. Continue to prioritize supporting and profiling Coalition efforts to seize opportunities to advance legal and regulatory reforms, and implementation of those reforms in countries where the Coalition is active (DRC, Liberia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Colombia, and Peru)

2. The growing number of projects implementing reforms provides an opportunity to capture lessons, collect data, and build an even stronger case for indigenous and community women's land and resource rights resulting in improved social, economic, and environmental outcomes for all.
3. Capture opportunities to further advance gender justice in the international arena and unblock funding by leveraging country-level successes and lessons learned and ensuring indigenous and community women's voices in these arenas. In 2020, the comprehensive country-level review of action on the advancement of women's rights in connection to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, presents a particular opportunity to highlight the existing gaps and opportunities to advance the recognition of rights of community and indigenous women around the world.
4. Build capacity and credibility of the Coalition to engage in this work through a reflective and meaningful gender mainstreaming process, starting with the RRI Secretariat and sharing lessons across the Coalition.

### ***Strategy***

In 2019, RRI articulated a gender justice strategy that orients the Coalition towards achieving its five priority gender outcomes, and provides a framework for more robust engagement and collaboration. While the Coalition will lead and own the work, RRG staff will act as facilitators, supporting members and establishing new mechanisms that enhance Coalition communication and collaboration. The Coalition will continue to rely on its core assets to move forward its gender strategy, with a focus in 2020 on:

- **Analysis:** At all levels (global, national, and local) there remains a chasm between policy and practice. RRI is uniquely positioned to both build the business case that securing community women's land rights and equal rights in governing indigenous territories and community lands results in sustainable outcomes and to document and disseminate promising practices of *how* to implement women's land rights at scale.
- **Connecting:** It is imperative to continue to elevate national and local women leaders and connect them to each other and global platforms. This can insert land rights into the global gender conversation, open space nationally for reforms, and lend credibility to women within their respective communities.
- **Innovating (Internal):** Evolving donor requirements present an opportunity to more meaningfully reflect on how to mainstream gender within RRG. Using 2020 to start the process will result in a strengthened Secretariat and will create the foundation necessary for the broader Coalition to take a leading role on the intersection of gender and land rights.

### ***Risks and Mitigation Strategies***

Indigenous and community women remain vulnerable to the onslaught of development and conservation models and investments that not only deprive communities of lands and rights, but also often have a disproportionately negative effect on women. Countering these models and their effects requires raising awareness of the disproportionate impacts on women, the massive economic and development contributions local women make, and the due diligence tools and models available to mitigate these risks.

A second is that international initiatives promoting women's land rights prioritize private land rights for women, putting at risk community land rights. While some global advocacy organizations and platforms (e.g. Women Deliver, Global Landscape Forum) are increasingly cognizant of the importance of indigenous and local women's land rights, without understanding the nuances, initiatives may unintentionally overlook the relationship between collective rights and women within the collective. Securing indigenous and local community land rights and the rights of women go hand-in-hand. ■

## Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods

### *Rationale for Engagement*

Ownership and use of the majority of rural lands and forests globally remains contested between Indigenous Peoples and local communities, companies and investors, and developing country governments. Though there is increased recognition and understanding of the land and forest rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as the economic and livelihood potential therein, rights defenders continue to be persecuted, deforestation is accelerating, and the historical models of top-down investment in rural lands persist. However, indigenous and local community groups have been successful in furthering tenure reforms globally and are now assessing options on how to translate stronger rights into improved economic and livelihood outcomes for communities. Communities are now better positioned and organized than ever to bridge the power divide to further reforms and capitalize on stronger rights by leveraging new and robust networks, technology and transparency initiatives, and better data on the impacts and contributions of community control and governance of rural areas. The progress and aspirations of the indigenous and community organizations and networks facilitating reforms in Kenya, Liberia, India, Indonesia, and Colombia, among many others, are indicative of the major opportunity for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to lead the transformation of rural landscapes and economies.

By contrast, the corporate private sector, which was touted as the most promising force that was to transform rural landscapes, protect forests, and improve livelihoods over much of the past decade, has largely not delivered. Since 2010, many global companies and investors operating, sourcing, or investing in land-based sectors have developed and adopted policies to respect local land rights. But despite a suite of new tools and initiatives to support implementation,<sup>1</sup> commitments at the global level have yet to substantially change practice among the local producers and suppliers directly impacting community lands.<sup>2</sup> For those private sector stakeholders that have adopted rights-based principles and policies, progress towards implementation is overly dependent on self-reporting with limited, if any, validation by rights holders.

Progressive companies and investors increasingly cite developing country governments' failure to implement or enforce legislation and policy supporting community land rights as one of the main hindrances to implementation of sustainability commitments and the transformation of supply chains.<sup>3</sup> Yet developing country governments, many of whom are currently undertaking reforms of land tenure systems, continue to prioritize allocating rural lands and forests to private corporations, despite the widely documented environmental and social limitations of this approach and the risks it poses for communities, companies, investors, and governments alike. This model persists in part because the economic rationale for recognition of rights and subsequent management and governance of rural territories by Indigenous Peoples and local communities remains inadequately developed to drive requisite changes in developing country governments' policies or the priorities of international donors. Absent more compelling and persuasive data on the economic contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities when their rights are secure, the growing momentum for reform and progress to date is at risk of rollback as governments, which face chronic and growing budgetary shortfalls, continue to prioritize short-term gains from concessions of lands for commercial agriculture, mining, and infrastructure.

### *Opportunities and Priorities*

There is a critical opportunity in 2020 to define and demonstrate the pathways to bridge the power divide in rural areas and position Indigenous Peoples and local communities to capitalize on stronger land rights towards

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<sup>1</sup> Consider, for example, the following initiatives led by Interlaken Group participants: Rainforest Alliance's [Accountability Framework Initiative](#); Proforest's [Responsible Sourcing Implementation Framework](#); Landesa's Land Assess Tool; Earthworm Foundation's [Kumacaya Initiative](#); and Landesa and TMP Systems' [Social License Platform](#).

<sup>2</sup> Oxfam. 2019. Companies Spoke. Did Their Suppliers Listen? Tracking Behind the Brands Sustainability Commitments the Supply Chains with the 'Agribusiness Scorecard'. ([link](#))

<sup>3</sup> Consider a recent request from major cocoa companies to the European Union for regulations encouraging sustainable cocoa production, including partnering with producer country governments to, among other, clarify land and tree tenure. See [link](#).

achievement of their own economic development aspirations, and to contribute to sustainable and resilient economies in rural and forested landscapes. Opportunities in 2020 include:

- Multi-stakeholder platforms for engaging companies and investors sourcing, producing, or investing in land-based sectors in the developing world are revealing compelling pathways through which to facilitate broad uptake of international norms on land tenure. In 2019 the RRI Coalition and the Interlaken Group established “safe spaces” for joint problem solving and collective action between private sector, civil society, and community groups in Kenya, Malawi, Indonesia, and Laos, yielding concrete opportunities for unlikely allies to work together at the national project levels to jointly support land tenure reforms. They also demonstrated the potential to collectively engage and influence developing country governments on these issues. These spaces acted as clearinghouses through which to pilot and share experiences on the emerging alternative sourcing and land-use arrangements that represent pathways for companies and investors to change practice.
- Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and their representative organizations, are monitoring the social, environmental, and governance impacts of investments in rural lands and forests. Indigenous and local community groups around the world (and across the RRI Coalition) are utilizing new technologies and sophisticated strategies to collect and leverage ground-level data to monitor the results of investments in agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, and other sectors. Many of the investments being monitored across regions are linked to one another via global supply chains. Elsewhere, communities are collecting and leveraging data on their own positive impacts on rural areas as the basis to advocate for stronger rights. Practical experience gained via an exchange of community-based monitors from across the regions that was co-organized by RRI, AMAN, and FPP, and hosted by an indigenous community in Sumatra, confirmed the ongoing negative impacts of some progressive supply chains on the ground, as well as the ability and appetite of local peoples to monitor and hold these groups to account.
- Indigenous and local community coalitions and networks that have successfully organized to further tenure reforms and register rural lands are now assessing economic development opportunities and approaches. In Kenya, Liberia, and DRC, among others, coalitions of Indigenous Peoples and local community organizations that were created to support implementation of tenure reforms are now turning their attention to the future of lands where rights have been (or will be) secured. These groups have necessarily developed relationships with government leaders and development finance institutions and are seeking the financial capacity and technical support required to position themselves to invest in community lands. Many of these areas overlap with existing or planned natural resource or infrastructure concessions, or conservation areas.

### *Strategy*

To drive progress towards these opportunities, RRI will prioritize the following strategies:

- Leverage private sector stakeholders to support and strengthen tenure reforms in priority countries, sectors, and supply chains. RRI will maintain national-level engagements initiated by the Interlaken Group and the Coalition in Malawi, Kenya, Laos, and Indonesia, and assess the potential to engage in Colombia. Emerging lessons on alternative business and land-use models will be shared across countries and globally. At the global level, the Interlaken Group will implement its medium-term strategy and continue to provide direction and inspiration on emerging challenges and contentious issues hindering private sector support for secure land tenure. These might include demonstrating leadership on how companies can integrate community-based monitoring data into their decision making.
- Support and position communities to leverage locally-collected data to report on and hold to account the forces impacting community lands. RRI will support a regional exchange in Asia to enable CBM practitioners to learn from one another, coordinate their strategies, and leverage the growing number of support tools in the international arena. Building on results from 2019, RRI will support pilot efforts on the part of a rural community in Sumatra to leverage local data on the impacts of palm oil development to influence supply chains and advocate for secure land rights. Globally, RRI will conduct an assessment of the CBM activities that are

ongoing across the RRI Network, including the strategies and technology being utilized and supply chains being monitored, and define the role and niche of the Coalition in this space.

- Build the economic rationale at the global and national levels for recognition of rights and community-led governance of rural lands. RRI will influence developing country policymakers in selected countries and sources of development finance by quantifying the economic, environmental, and social benefits that accrue to communities, governments, and the public good when indigenous and community land rights are recognized. Additionally, at the country level RRI will continue to build the economic rationale for community led economies and livelihood strategies. RRI will support the advocacy efforts of local coalitions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Liberia, DRC, India, Indonesia, and at the regional level in Latin America through analysis and learning exchanges.
- New flagship analysis tracking the progress of government recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights to manage, conserve, use, and trade forest products and services in areas under their ownership or designated use. In 2020, RRI will develop the analytical framework and begin to research a flagship analysis to establish a baseline and track progress on the status of the recognition of rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to manage, conserve, use, and trade forest products and services in areas under their ownership or designated use. This baseline will enable all to assess where Indigenous Peoples and local communities have a real opportunity to develop their own enterprises, and where they do not. This work would complement existing RRI tenure tracking analyses and emerging research on the pathway to scale up recognition of community rights.

### ***Risks and Mitigation Strategies***

**Risk 1:** Ensuring the safety of community-based monitors and front-line defenders. There is a major opportunity to leverage and coordinate ongoing community-based monitoring initiatives across the Coalition in support of bottom-up advocacy to reveal the local realities of investments linked to specific supply chains and portfolios. Gathering and utilizing this data comes with potential risks to local communities and monitors located near concessions or operations that may be implicated in such an initiative. There is increasing documentation of the risks to land-rights defenders of contesting public and private sector investments.

*Mitigation Strategy: RRI will work closely with the Network to develop, as this initiative takes shape, a physical and digital risk assessment and mitigation strategy to ensure that risks to local peoples are minimized. This strategy will be designed such that communities are directing how and where data is being used and is properly anonymized. RRI will work closely with experts in the community-based monitoring space, several of whom are Partners, to design this approach.*

**Risk 2:** Maintaining RRI's position as a neutral and legitimate interlocutor between private sector, government, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Despite substantial progress in catalyzing opportunities for collaboration between the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and government to further land tenure reforms and improve livelihoods, it is clear that the realities of local impacts of investments and private sector operations on local peoples remains largely quite stark. Per RRI's strategy for instigating change on the part of the private sector (i.e. felt risk, credible pathways), RRI may be confronted at the country level with opportunities to support collaborative engagement with the private sector and government, but also with the need to support advocacy or campaigns targeting elements of these same institutions.

*Mitigation Strategy: RRI will work closely with Partners, Collaborators, and trusted allies to ensure that where these conflicts may exist that a strategy is in place to mitigate risks. There will likely be options to link, for example, advocacy-focused organizations to take forward the campaigning elements of local initiatives, and to which RRI might contribute "behind the scenes". In all cases though, RRI will prioritize the demands of its core constituency of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. ■*

## Tenure Tracking

### *Rationale for Engagement*

RRI's Tenure Tracking program has maintained its niche, amidst an exciting and ever-expanding field of mapping and monitoring initiatives, as the only global initiative to longitudinally track and analyze the legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights to the world's lands, forests, and freshwater—including the specific rights of women to community lands and resources. By tracking the legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights under the national laws of countries covering 82 percent of the world's land and 92 percent of the world's forests, these analyses advance the global evidence-base needed to promote and scale-up the recognition of community-based tenure at all levels, enabling actors and institutions to: (1) measure progress and setbacks in the legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' tenure rights, including those of indigenous and community women; (2) monitor the implementation of international commitments on sustainable development, human rights, conservation, and climate; and (3) support and make informed decisions concerning the recognition and implementation of community-based tenure.

Within a context of continued shrinking space for civil society and imminent threats to frontline land, water, and human rights defenders around the world, the need for accessible and gender-sensitive data and analyses illuminating global, regional, and country trends concerning the status of enabling legal frameworks and implementation is clear—as is the need to articulate the pathway towards transformative and scalable implementation at all levels. Tenure Tracking will thus contribute to the development of a business case defining this path to scale.

### *Opportunities and Priorities*

Over the past five years, RRI has been in a continuous process of expanding the scope and depth of its Tenure Tracking Databases. In addition to tracking the extent and strength of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' statutory rights to the world's forests, RRI has applied its unique methodological approach to enable assessment of communities' rights to freshwater and rural lands as well as indigenous and community women's specific rights to both terrestrial and water resources. The upcoming year is thus an opportune moment to reflect on how to leverage these data sets in an integrated manner to (1) maximize internal information tracking capabilities, (2) ensure that comprehensive data on communities' and community women's tenure rights is widely and readily accessible through an improved Online Tenure Tool, and (3) enhance and connect national, regional, and global narratives concerning community-based rights to various resources.

In order to seize a key moment to monitor global advancement in the legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' land rights in the context of the Land Rights Now campaign and global climate, conservation, and sustainable development targets, the update and expansion of RRI's Land Tenure Database will be a key priority in 2020. The resulting flagship report and associated regional briefs will identify key global narratives that inform the path to scale and support evidence-based advocacy at all levels.

Lastly, the completion of RRI and ELI's flagship report on the status of community-based freshwater tenure across 15 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America positions RRI to support advocacy efforts to protect communities' water and land rights at all levels and to contribute to framing global narratives on the status of communities' freshwater rights. The concept of "water tenure" has gained traction as a lens through which to consider questions of water access, use, and governance—particularly in the context of protecting the interests of vulnerable persons and communities. The security of communities' land and water tenure is critical for the realization of a myriad of sustainable development and climate objectives. Consequently, the development of common language and objectives around the good governance of water and land tenure is imperative. By continuing to leverage RRI and ELI's pathbreaking framework for assessing the status of communities' legally recognized rights to freshwater, learning from the resulting analysis, and new relationships with land- and water-oriented constituencies, RRI is poised to inform emerging efforts that support integrated approaches to and guidance on the recognition and



realization of communities' land and water rights. In doing so, RRI will continue to connect advocacy on communities' freshwater rights to pivotal debates on integrated resource governance, gender justice, rural economic development, and conservation.

### ***Strategy***

For nearly 15 years, RRI's signature Tenure Tracking data has served to shape the global narrative and define a global agenda concerning Indigenous Peoples', local communities', and community women's land and resource rights by providing a globally comparable means by which to monitor the enactment of enabling legislation supporting community-based tenure, as well as the implementation of these legal frameworks, over time. In tracking progress and setbacks in the recognition of community-based tenure rights, Tenure Tracking data also forms a cornerstone of RRI's strategy to equip front-line land and environmental defenders, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, rural women, and other stakeholders with the information necessary to advance their advocacy objectives across sectors and at multiple levels.

The value of this data is enhanced by the increasingly aligned and comprehensive coverage of Tenure Tracking Databases, which will be furthered by the expansion of the Land Tenure Database to include 5-10 additional countries selected based on characteristics such as total land area, regional gaps and strategic opportunities, and availability of preexisting data. Four of these countries have been selected to ensure that comprehensive data on the strength and extent of communities' and community women's terrestrial tenure rights is available for a core set of 30 low- and middle-income countries. This data will further provide a basis for assessing the adequacy of existing and draft legal frameworks, which will inform the identification of opportunities and readiness to scale up implementation to achieve transformational change through two forthcoming 2020 analytical products: the "Opportunity Framework" and the "Rights-Based Roadmap to Meeting Proposed 30x30 Land Conservation Target" (see the Rights, Climate, and Conservation Workplan).

To promote accessibility and usability of these expansive data sets, RRI will redesign its Online Tenure Tool as a more interactive web-based platform presenting the latest Tenure Tracking data on both communities' and community women's rights to land, forests, and freshwater in a manner that meets the needs of target audiences and supports open-data objectives.

Tenure Tracking data will also continue to establish a credible basis for convening discussions concerning the status of community-based tenure. Convenings such as these play a crucial role in broadening awareness of community-based tenure as a pathway for the realization of global sustainable development and climate goals among practitioners, international development actors, and donors; and in promoting integrated, gender-sensitive, and tenure-based approaches to natural resource governance.

### ***Risks and Mitigation Strategies***

**Risk 1:** The Tenure Tracking Program's internal capacity will be limited in 2020 and, as a result, unforeseen demands pose a particularly high risk of adversely impacting core activities.

*Mitigation Strategy: This will be mitigated through advance internal planning and coordination and increased external support to the Land Tenure Update in particular, as well as consideration of added internal capacity needs.*

**Risk 2:** Where the status of community-based land tenure in a country is assessed for the first time, there is an increased risk that an adequate number of peer review responses will not be received or that agreement concerning the status of communities' recognized land rights will not be reached, hindering RRI's ability to publish country results.

*Mitigation Strategy: RRI will place emphasis on leveraging relationships with Regional Partners, Affiliated Networks, and Collaborators in countries where Land Tenure data is being collected for the first time to ensure data is reliable and accurately reflects national contexts. ■*

## 2020 Work Plans by Strategic Assets to Amplify and Engage

### Strategic Communications

#### *Rationale for Engagement*

There is unprecedented global awareness that securing the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities—and particularly women within them—is necessary to achieve equitable development, reduce conflict, address climate change, and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Awareness, however, does not equate to action.

After 15 years of creating the enabling environment for rights recognition and testing implementation, RRI has the networks, tools, and evidence to scale up implementation of rights globally. Mobilizing the requisite action, coordination, and investment requires the business case demonstrating a feasible path to scale up rights recognition for the local peoples who have stewarded the planets' resources for generations. For this case to be effective, we must thoughtfully and purposely communicate the connection between secure land rights and global climate and development goals for 2030 in the language of key target audiences, and provide tools and best practices to guide implementation. In 2020, RRI will build the case and provide the requisite materials to mobilize key changemakers toward creating the enabling environments for rights recognition and targeting investment where this environment already exists.

This will not be without its challenges. First, this unprecedented recognition of the importance of indigenous and community land rights has taken place against a backdrop of criminalization and violence against land and environmental defenders, continued rollback of rights in key countries, and the specter of political nationalism and authoritarianism and closing political space for civil society. And until rights are fully realized, local peoples' lives and livelihoods—and the protection of the forests, water, biodiversity, and climate necessary for human survival—remain fragile at best. Second, the progress that has been made was largely in the shadows of mainstream climate, development, and conservation agendas.

To tackle both these challenges, RRI must 1) cultivate new allies by developing new narratives that convey how recognition of community land rights advance their goals; 2) mobilize those who have already committed to land rights by providing the practical tools needed to guide action and investment; and 3) cultivate new allies by demonstrating how recognition of community land rights advances their goals. This will involve continuing to develop the overlap of “shared language” between each key audience's values and the Coalition's core messaging and identity. RRI will also support communications efforts in focus countries to unlock political obstacles; expand its pioneering “unbranded” style of communications to put our data, tools, and knowledge in the hands of the actors best positioned to drive change; and mobilize its broad Coalition to speak with one voice to communicate the new narrative.

There are numerous opportunities to influence global climate and conservation policies in 2020 and set the agenda for the next decade, which will be critical to combatting the climate and biodiversity crises. Seizing these opportunities will require unprecedented coordination and collective actions by rights-holders, the RRI Coalition, and the broader climate and conservation communities.

#### *Opportunities and Priorities*

- **Articulate a new narratives to expand awareness of the contribution of indigenous and community rights to global goals to advance support for rights—grounded in new analysis—with bespoke, targeted messaging for key stakeholders.** RRI is operating within an ecosystem where a greater number of actors than ever before “buy in” to the importance of community land rights—but lack the information, practical tools and

cases, and capacity to make securing rights a reality and a large, perhaps growing, number of those who oppose recognition. In this context, RRI is uniquely positioned to both make the case for scaling up efforts among existing supporters and developing new arguments for those not yet supportive.

- Documenting and spotlighting what successful implementation looks like, indigenous and community contributions to economic development, and the RRI Coalition's key role in unblocking political obstacles at key moments, will help concretize the "path to scale" and can be used to win new allies and create additional momentum for reform.
- The Opportunity Framework provides an opening to engage a group of key donors around the new narrative and mobilize increased coordination and investment toward the achievement of community land rights at scale. RRI's communications team will provide bespoke materials and messages to seize this opportunity.
- **Influence dominant conservation, climate, and nature-based solutions narratives towards rights-based approaches in advance of key "moments" for the conservation community.** The 2020 debut of RRI's new analysis "A Rights-Based Roadmap to Meeting Proposed 30x30 Land Conservation Target"—timed to the abundance of upcoming "moments" for the conservation community (World Conservation Congress, CBD preparation and COP, etc.)—offers an excellent opportunity to provide a blueprint for action and investment, as well as alter dominant discourse to include indigenous and community rights in global, regional, and national agendas on climate, conservation, and nature-based solutions.
  - Implementing learning from the indigenous and community response to the IPCC report, there is an opportunity to work with the same (or an expanded) group of indigenous and community organizations representing over three-quarters of the world's tropical forests to produce another statement designed to influence the conservation community—linking to RRI's forthcoming analysis on conservation—prior to the 2020 WCC, CBD, and COP. This provides a critical opportunity to present the "shift" of dominant discourse from awareness to implementation.
- **Support in-country advocacy.** Supporting the efforts of our in-country colleagues, equipping front-line defenders with data and messaging, and fostering local-global connections continue to be key value-adds for the RRI Coalition. Deeper integration with the regional and SAGE teams will allow communications to better respond to fast-breaking opportunities, with inroads made in 2019 paving the way for greater engagement in 2020 and beyond.
  - Provide direct support for country level communications and advocacy in priority countries, and seize opportunities for progress or to prevent rollback in coordination with RRI's regional teams.
  - The Land Rights Now Alliance represents a critical means to support advocacy efforts in country. Where a full campaign is not feasible or time is very tight, the new "urgent action alert" will enable RRI to mobilize Land Rights Now's wider reach to increase pressure around very specific, time-bound asks in-country.
  - By keeping the Land Toolkit site up to date (rollout in early 2020) and updating the public-facing Tenure Tracking Database, RRI will meet the Coalition's increased demand for tailored data, messaging, and visuals.
- 4. **Leverage the Coalition:** Consultations with the Coalition have revealed most members' desire to be more connected and more involved—allowing us to re-imagine our Coalition-internal information-sharing, learning, coordination, and amplification structures and processes.
  1. 2020 presents an opportunity to mobilize and engage the vast Coalition to speak with one voice around key moments to concretize and publicize the Coalition's ambitious yet achievable agenda to

implement community land rights worldwide. Taking advantage of this opportunity will both require and result in increased collaboration within the Coalition in the context of the new MOU.

### ***Strategy***

RRI will deploy its Coalition-endorsed communications and resource mobilization strategies for SPIII to respond to the above opportunities. At the core of the strategy is leveraging RRI's assets to meaningfully engage existing and new stakeholders to 1) demonstrate how recognizing community land rights advances *their* work, and 2) drive recognition and implementation of community land rights by linking our issues to dominant development narratives and identifying action paths toward the achievement of global goals. Underpinning all this work is the power of the RRI Coalition.

This strategy responds to a changing ecosystem and a need for scale, as well as the needs of both RRI's own expanded Coalition and a diverse group of front-line defenders. Key mutually reinforcing *tactics* of this strategy include the following, the first of which is new to respond to the opportunity presented by the "path to scale":

#### **1. Develop requisite materials demonstrating the path to scale and accompanying business case and ensure it reaches key changemakers and donors.**

- Leverage launch of key analytical products, including the "Opportunity Framework" and "Rights-Based Roadmap to Meeting Proposed 30x30 Land Conservation Target" to strengthen global engagement strategy and build momentum for scaled up action.
- Showcase successful implementation and opportunities for scaling, action, and investment through high-level convenings, creating and leveraging key media moments, and creating bespoke RRI communications assets.
- Refine RRI's articulation of its value add to the field. Ensure impact stories better capture and bring to life how the Coalition works at all levels to unblock political obstacles to tenure reform.
- Develop new narrative to advance the role and contribution of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to national development, economy, and identity.

#### **2. Target key changemakers by meeting them *where they are* and providing *what they need***

- Launch statement from indigenous and community leaders in advance of the WCC showcasing how respecting rights is key to achieving the 2030 agenda.
- Identify and mobilize key audiences to ensure that the release of RRI reports and other deliverables effectively advance programmatic goals.
- Identify key "should be" audiences to advance recognition of community land rights and leverage existing and new materials to cultivate these audiences; for example, cultivate champions in the scientific community to communicate with other scientists.
- Segment data, messaging, and dissemination tactics to target specific national and sub-national audiences (such as identifying and targeting changemakers/influencers with messaging that resonates with their goals/values).
- Continue targeted delivery and engagement with "technical influencers" (people who work in our field or fields adjacent to it that have decision-making capacity) to strengthen knowledge of key RRI findings.

#### **3. Support country and regional programs to advance national level advocacy**

- Directly support country programs through active collaboration to identify key opportunities to advance reforms and/or prevent rollback by responding to fast-breaking opportunities, such as through Land Rights Now country campaigns and urgent action alerts.

- Provide messaging and data to support in-country advocacy, including through promotion of the Land ToolKit website (data by key theme and country, for debut in January 2020).
- Further develop and deploy a network of champions.
- Ensure all “global moments” (launch of analysis, etc.) directly support in-country efforts by coordinating with country-level strategies in tandem with the Coalition/regional teams and ensuring availability of country-level data.

#### **4. Strengthen core communications functions, including the website, social media, targeted dissemination, and development of marketing materials**

- Ensure that RRI’s digital and visual presence (marketing materials, website, social media, etc.) fully reflect the new narrative and value-add, including new RRI and Interlaken Group websites.
- Disseminate RRI’s reports and assets to key audiences, tailoring materials and outreach efforts by audience.
- Develop new marketing materials specifically for the Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM).
- Develop new marketing materials specifically for conservation, climate, and gender justice-focused foundations that capture what we do, our history of catalytic interventions, and make the case for secure land rights as a necessary precursor to achieve global goals relating to these issues.

#### ***Risks and Mitigation Strategies***

**Risk 1:** As RRG explores relationships with unconventional funders, allies, and/or audiences in the private sector, faith communities, or governments that have been historically less progressive on indigenous and community rights issues, outreach and messaging alienates RRI’s core constituency, erodes trust from key stakeholders, or undermines progress toward the mission.

*Mitigation Strategy: Ensure that core messaging on the importance of securing community land rights for different audiences is not lost in specialized or targeted content, and instead work closely with indigenous and community leaders who have already built relationships with these actors to emphasize shared values. Work with spokespeople from the target audience (such as the private sector) to both reduce risk and increase the receptiveness of the target audience.*

**Risk 2:** Addressing strategic opportunities in the context of long-term commitments is a delicate balancing act—a struggle common to many Coalition Partners and Collaborators. Staff time devoted to relatively inflexible institutional requirements means that unforeseen opportunities are increasingly difficult to take advantage of, especially when timelines are not adhered to or priorities arise during periods where staff is beyond full capacity. Growing demand for more ambitious and sophisticated coordination, greater involvement in the rapidly evolving ecosystem of rights-based initiatives, and concurrent efforts to seize strategic opportunities are forcing the Secretariat to more effectively prioritize, understand the extent and limitations of its value-add, and better leverage the growing platform of instruments and initiatives that have emerged in the past decade.

*Mitigation Strategy: The communications team provides clear information, timelines, and reminders for all products that require staff input—as well as meets monthly with analytical colleagues who produce RRI products and data to ensure alignment of strategy and delivery. Careful advance planning, adherence to realistic deadlines, and identified institutional priorities will help ensure that these requirements don’t fall behind and exacerbate this risk. In addition, budget allocated to respond to fast-breaking opportunities ensures some flexibility to reduce the risk of missed opportunities. Maintaining the flexibility to continuously reassess its strategic niche and limit its engagement to what it does best, while better leveraging the Coalition to take advantage of existing opportunities and not recreate the wheel are increasingly essential to the long-term success of the Coalition. ■*

## Coalition and Strategic Networks

### *Rationale for Engagement*

In its nearly 15 years of existence, RRI has successfully raised the profile of collective land tenure as a lynchpin of inclusive global development, as well as an essential strategy to achieve global climate and biodiversity goals. Community land rights now enjoy wide recognition in principle, in new legislation, development projects, and corporate sustainability policies worldwide. However, the implementation of these commitments presents a new set of challenges, especially as communities contend with increased pressure on natural resources, criminalization of land defenders, and often violent backlash against the assertion of customary and legal rights. Together, RRI can shift this environment in communities' favor by influencing new initiatives, donors, companies, and governments, all of which must provide adequate resources and commitments towards the implementation of major tenure commitments at scale.

Going forward, our efforts will focus on:

1. Protecting the rights that have already been recognized and the people defending them.
2. Scaling up the recognition of land rights in new countries and implementation at the national level.
3. Transforming social, economic, and political systems to fully integrate, embed, and endorse indigenous and community rights and self-determined development.

To do so, the internal structure of RRI must adapt to this new global context and tackling this challenge. The ongoing process of renewal of RRI's five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU – expiring in June 2020) offers a key opportunity for the Coalition to reflect on how RRI can increase its collective impact and support a new vision for its work. This process, along with the definition of a larger theory of change, is a watershed moment for RRI, enabling the Coalition to emerge more effective, united, and able to leverage the diverse capacities of its members to continue to drive national and global support for community land and resource rights.

### *Opportunities and Priorities*

2020 will see stocktaking on SDGs, major global goals, agreement of new CBD targets (Kunming), and new ambition on climate (UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow). The RRI Coalition will be leveraged around these key moments of influence, taking them as opportunities to jointly advocate for Indigenous Peoples and local communities as key drivers of inclusive development and to present new data and tools to scale up recognition of land rights and transform rural areas to key audiences during the year. This will build momentum and place RRI and its allies in a prime position to conduct two convenings on the transformative opportunities of secure community land and resource rights in the context of national and international commitments to climate change, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem restoration. Additionally, the MegaFlorestais network will be leveraged to further expose government officials of the most forested countries to best practices for forest tenure reform in its 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, as political will remains one of the major challenges for the recognition of land rights and their implementation.

The CSN program will accompany the MoU renewal process to ensure that RRI continues to add value by driving the tenure agenda, scaling up recognition of land and resource rights, and responding to pressing needs from indigenous, community-based, and women organizations. It is expected the new MoU will maximize collective impact and collaboration in support of our mission, offering a new platform and increased flexibility for the emergence of a new vision for the Coalition, including new ways of working together.

This is an exciting opportunity as this process will be closely tied to the development of a new vision and roadmap for RRI in 2030. As mentioned previously, the path to scale and transformation will lead to a new theory of change and roadmap to engage the Coalition and foster change within our ecosystem to catalyze greater impact. This will be an ongoing process during 2020 that will involve key Coalition members.



## **Strategy**

CSN will organize several convenings in 2020—some focusing on the Coalition’s vision, internal structure, governance, and planning; and others to strengthen RRI’s relationships with key actors on the global tenure agenda and get their support on our proposed path to scale and transformation.

In the first category, RRI’s global Coalition meetings (the January Governance Meeting and the October Global Strategy Meeting) will provide space for Coalition members to agree on a new vision for RRI, identify shifts in our structure to implement it, and maximize collective action. CSN will also continue to support the work and regular meetings of the RRI Ad Hoc Renewal Committee, as well as the development and adoption of new institutional documents by mid-2020. It is anticipated that the emerging path to scale discussions will embolden us to think creatively about how we work together and foster the ecosystem of actors to deliver this vision at scale. We expect to host additional strategy discussions with key leaders, Partners, Affiliated Networks, and Collaborators to help refine this vision and strategy throughout the year. Lastly, CSN will ensure the RRG Board and its new members receive appropriate support so the Board is fully engaged and able to offer essential oversight to RRI.

In the second category, two high-level dialogues will target the climate and conservation communities in advance of the CBD and the UNFCCC COP. Drawing on the results of the Opportunities Framework and conservation analyses, and high-level coordination of the UNFCCC and CBD indigenous and community platforms, and the World Bank Tenure Advisory Panel, the events will present credible pathways to scaling-up rights-based actions and investments. Additional limited funding will be set aside in case holding an international conference in early 2021 would enable us to drive political buy in toward the path to scale and transformation.

Additionally, discussions are ongoing with the Peruvian Ministry of the Environment and the Forest and Wildlife Service to host the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of MegaFlorestais in April/May. This event, organized in collaboration with the Tenure Facility and the Interlaken Group, would give top forest agency leaders the opportunity to learn from the Tenure Facility’s success at implementing tenure reform, building political support in major countries to scale up implementation, and a greater understanding of the private sector’s perspectives on these issues.

## **Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

**Risk 1:** Some Partners and Affiliated Networks might not be willing to join RRI under the new structure.

*Mitigation Strategy: This is a natural part of Coalition restructuring and those organizations will still be welcome to collaborate with RRI. However, RRI’s new structure must gain the support of most Partners and Affiliated Networks and be developed in close consultation with them to ensure that Coalition members continue to derive value from collaboration. The Committee is incorporating different constituencies to ensure buy-in and monitoring the development of RRI’s new structure with several report backs and discussions with all stakeholders. Enough time is planned to ensure thorough evaluation, avoiding the risks inherent to a rushed process.*

**Risk 2:** RRI may see unexpected Board rotation if Board members are unable to fulfil their duties.

*Mitigation Strategy: Candidates should be vetted and ready for introduction to the Board in order to ensure proper oversight to RRI governance is uninterrupted.*

**Risk 3:** Since no MegaFlorestais meeting was held in 2019 given political changes in Brazil, the network could lose momentum without a meeting to galvanize energy in 2020.

*Mitigation Strategy: Working with the Tenure Facility and the Interlaken Group to hold a productive, valuable meeting will be key to ensure that forest agencies continue to be interested in this space and RRI maintains the trust it has gained. ■*



# Annexes

## Annex 1: 2020 Proposed Budget

		Rights and Resources Initiative Budget by Activity Summary			
2020 Proposed Budget		Secured Budget	Unfunded	Total	Secured as % of Total
12/17/2019					
Regional Programs					
Africa		505,951	120,000	625,951	7%
	Africa	270,000	120,000	390,000	3%
	RRG Africa Coordination & TA	235,951	-	235,951	3%
Latin America		517,693	95,000	612,694	7%
	Latin America	269,900	95,000	364,900	3%
	Latin America Coordination & TA	247,793	0	247,794	3%
Asia		548,884	662,000	1,210,884	7%
	Asia	293,000	662,000	955,000	4%
	RRG Asia Coordination & TA	255,884	0	255,884	3%
Strategic Analysis and Global Engagement		1,736,368	665,500	2,401,868	23%
	Tenure Tracking	110,000	-	110,000	1%
	Rights, Climate and Conservation	455,000	160,000	615,000	6%
	Gender Justice	83,000	95,500	178,500	1%
	Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods	105,000	410,000	515,000	1%
	RRG SAGE Coordination & TA	983,368	-	983,368	13%
Strategic Communications		805,047	40,000	845,047	10%
	Strategic Communications	274,000	40,000	314,000	4%
	Strategic Communications Coordination & TA	531,047	-	531,047	7%
Coalition and Strategic Networks		756,184	0	756,184	10%
	Coalition & Strategic Networks	380,000	-	380,000	5%
	CSN Coordination & TA	376,184	0	376,184	5%
Strategic Response Mechanism		523,583	500,000	1,023,583	7%
	SRM Agreements	445,000	500,000	945,000	6%
	SRM Coordination & TA	78,583	-	78,583	1%
Operations, Finance and Administration		1,611,080	-	1,611,080	21%
	Non Salary Core Operating Costs	876,267	-	876,267	11%
	RRG Finance and Administration	734,813	-	734,813	10%
Program Office		414,027	0	414,027	5%
	Program Costs	42,959	-	42,959	1%
	Senior Program Staff Costs	371,068	0	371,068	5%
Subtotal of Costs		7,418,817	2,082,501	9,501,318	96%
Hedge		297,961	-		4%
TOTAL		7,716,777	2,082,501	9,799,278	100%
Total Funded and Unfunded Budget			\$ 9,799,278		



Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
Africa	20RFCD01	DRC: Multi-stakeholder dialogue on provincial edits concerning women land rights in regard to land reform process	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Africa	20RFCD02	DRC: CSO workshop on REDD+ monitoring and information-sharing on community rights	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Africa	20RFCD03	DRC: Technical and logistical organization of 3 provincial consultations on the first draft of the land policy document	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Africa	20RFCD04	DRC: Establish permanent dialogue with the Ministry of Land Use Planning; Organize a national multi-stakeholder strategic meeting around the land use planning reform process; Engage the drafting and consultation process leading to the adoption of the land use planning policy and law	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Africa	20RFCD05	DRC: Organization of the National Multi-Stakeholder Round-Table on Community Forestry, and trainings for local administration officials	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
Africa	20RFKY01	Kenya: Organize meetings between communities and county governments; hold sensitization and information sharing workshops on CLA and its regulations	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Africa	Funded in IDSL	Kenya: Civil society conducts a national public awareness campaign targeting private sector actors and others	\$0	\$0	\$0
Africa	Funded in IDSL	Kenya: Support CLAN investor's task force by convening workshop with DFI partners; Commission tools/trainings to prepare companies/financiers and communities for productive direct engagements	\$0	\$0	\$0
Africa	20RFKY02	Kenya: Capacity building workshop for communities on registration of land, reporting violations of the CLA, and historical injustices via training workshops about data-gathering and documentation	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Africa	20RFLR01	Liberia: Civil Society Working Group on land participates in meetings on drafting regulations at county and national level with attention to women's land rights	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Africa	20RFLR02	Liberia: The Civil Society Working Group on REDD+ conducts trainings to enhance technical understanding of REDD+, including Carbon calculation and LRA, and information sharing sessions with communities to ensure their awareness of and engagement with national processes	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Africa	20RFLR03	Liberia: Awareness-raising meetings between CSOs and communities on LRA and its regulations	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Africa	20RFLR04	Liberia: Conduct a study on community enterprises to support alternative livelihood models	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Africa	20RFLR05	Liberia: Participate and contribute to the development of the National Strategy on Palm Oil, and the National RSPO interpretation.	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Africa	20RFLR06	Liberia : The Civil Society Working Group on Oil Palm builds capacity on monitoring, human rights, and FPIC via trainings	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Africa	20RFMG01	Madagascar: Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the elaboration of legal texts for the community land rights	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Africa	20RFMG02	Madagascar: Conduct a study of existing traditional tenure systems in contribution to the elaboration of legal texts regarding the specific law on community land rights	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000

Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
Africa	20RFUG01	Uganda: East Africa Regional Workshop on Land Rights and Criminalization of Land Rights Defenders.	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
Africa	20RFT	Travel	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Africa	20RFF	Facilitation	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
Africa	20RFP	Planning	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Africa	20RFS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$235,951	\$0	\$235,951
<b>Africa Subtotal</b>			<b>\$505,951</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$625,951</b>

Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
LA	20RLR01	Regional: Generate a plan to influence the preparation of the CEDAW's "General Recommendation of Indigenous Women" to ensure the inclusion of indigenous women's individual and collective land rights as part of the recommendation	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
LA	20RLR02	Brazil, Colombia, Peru: Facilitate a meeting among indigenous and Afro-descendant women's organizations from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru to analyze the differentiated impacts of the violation of rights and produce a roadmap strategy for advocacy; complementing the study on violation of collective rights carried out in 2019	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$35,000
LA	20RLR03	Regional: Generate an advocacy plan to influence international fora for country reports on the status of human rights, such as sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva and others; utilizing analysis of the violation of rights mapping	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
LA	20RLR04	Regional: Facilitate two meetings to strengthen the coordination between Afro-descendant organizations from Latin America on collective tenure, environmental, and women's rights to position them in regional and global scenarios and in national policies	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$40,000
LA	20RLR05	Regional: Strengthening agendas of local communities and Afro-descendants to influence the criteria for selection and securing representation at the UNFCCC platform on local communities	\$30,000	\$5,000	\$35,000
LA	20RLR06	Peru, Colombia, Mexico: Facilitate discussions on the observations of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-descendants of their countries' NDC reports (Such as Peru, Colombia, and Mexico)	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
LA	20RLR07	Regional: Facilitate a multi-level regional learning space between communities, governments, and the private sector to exchange results of the regional study of economic initiatives of indigenous and Afro-descendant women	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000
LA	20RLR08	Regional: Develop a case study and contextualization of women's economic initiatives based upon lessons learned from the database of cases generated in the 2019 study to define a strategy for continued empowerment	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
LA	20RLPA01	Panama: Develop an exploratory analysis of the opportunities to foster IP engagement in natural resource and forest management in Panama	\$9,900	\$0	\$9,900
LA	20RLT	Travel	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
LA	20RLF	Facilitation	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$65,000
LA	20RLP	Planning	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
LA	20RLS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$247,793	\$0	\$247,794
<b>Latin America Subtotal</b>			<b>\$517,693</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>	<b>\$612,694</b>



Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
Asia	20RSIN01	India: Promoting women's rights under the FRA	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Asia	20RSIN02	India: Meetings and consultations with the India Advisory Group	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Asia	20RSIN03	India: Support the national network collecting land conflict data and maintain landconflictwatch.org	\$93,000	\$7,000	\$100,000
Asia	20RSIN04	India: Analysis on protected areas and forest rights	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Asia	20RSIN05	India: Capacity building, consultations, and micro-support	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Asia	20RSIN06	India: Monitoring and action on high court and Supreme Court cases, rulings, and judgements posing a risk to forest rights under the FRA	\$0	\$80,000	\$80,000
Asia	20RSIN07	India: Support research, analysis, strategic release of studies, and implementation of advocacy strategies	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000
Asia	20RSIN08	India: Convene key actors from the conservation/climate change/development sector around issues of livelihoods and rights	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000
Asia	20RSID01	Indonesia: Engender participatory mapping	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$50,000
Asia	20RSID02	Indonesia: Tenure Coalition planning, fundraising, and implementation	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Asia	20RSID03	Indonesia: Publication of consolidated data on land/territories prioritized indigenous and community colleagues under various agenda in Tanahkita portal	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Asia	20RSID04	Indonesia: Emergency fund for victims of criminalization	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
Asia	20RSID05	Indonesia: Support to lawyers' network	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Asia	20RSID06	Indonesia: Research on economic value generated by Indigenous Peoples and local communities post recognition	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Asia	20RSID07	Indonesia: 8 forest communities implement Gender, Ecology and Social Transformation (GESiT) tools	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$60,000
Asia	Funded in IDSL	Indonesia: Papua training on IG standards and Business and Human Rights	\$0	\$0	\$0
Asia	20RSNP01	Nepal: Support community-based women's leadership and forest-based enterprise and community forestry	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Asia	20RSNP02	Nepal: Advocacy and technical support to provincial and local governments for enactment of pro-community forest laws, regulations, and policies	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Asia	20RSNP03	Nepal: Coordinate with national, state and local governments on CBE to ensure flow of state budgetary supports	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Asia	20RSR01	Regional: Convening of regional gender and rights meeting	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Asia	20RSR02	Regional: Co-ordination with Partners and Affiliated Networks on youth engagement with collective rights	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Asia	20RSR03	Regional: Co-ordination on Community Based Monitoring at regional level	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Asia	20RST	Travel	\$25,000		\$25,000
Asia	20RSF	Facilitation	\$70,000		\$70,000
Asia	20RSP	Planning	\$15,000		\$15,000
Asia	20RSS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$255,884	\$0	\$255,884
<b>Asia Subtotal</b>			<b>\$548,884</b>	<b>\$662,000</b>	<b>\$1,210,884</b>

Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
Tenure Tracking	20TX01	Global: Data for 64 countries featured in RRI's Land Tenure Database is updated, and data is collected for 5-10 additional countries	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000
Tenure Tracking	20TX02	Global: Tenure Tracking Program conducts an internal assessment of its databases in order to enhance its knowledge management capabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tenure Tracking	20TX03	Global: Development of a strategy to ensure the future durability of the 30x30 and Opportunity Framework studies	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tenure Tracking	20TX04	Global: Redevelopment of Online Tenure Tool to include updated forest tenure and gender data	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Tenure Tracking	20TX05	Global: Production of RRI/ELI Water Tenure Flagship and targeted advocacy materials is completed and disseminated to key stakeholders at national, regional, and global levels	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tenure Tracking	20TX06	Global: Provide support and guidance to external organizations to use data and associated framework to further their advocacy objectives	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tenure Tracking	20TX07	Global: Collaborate with the RRI Coalition, Environmental Law Institute (ELI), and other key institutions and constituencies working towards securing the resource tenure rights of communities and women within those communities to engage in and/or convene dialogues in key international global forums (such as the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, International Water Resources Association World Water Congress, Stockholm International Water Institute World Water Week, FAO Water Tenure Roundtables)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tenure Tracking	20TX08	Global: Contribute data underpinning a business case for the path to scaling up implementation	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tenure Tracking	20TX09	Global: Provide support and guidance to external organizations and efforts in furtherance of community-based tenure rights, including through the revision of concept notes, draft reports, and other materials.	\$0	\$0	\$0
TT	20TXT	Travel	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
TT	20TXS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$251,844	\$0	\$251,844
<b>Tenure Tracking Subtotal</b>			<b>\$361,844</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$361,844</b>
SAGE	20TRS	SAGE Monitoring and Learning Staff Costs	\$88,196	\$0	\$88,196
<b>SAGE Monitoring and Learning Subtotal</b>			<b>\$88,196</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$88,196</b>



Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
RC&C	20TC01	Global: Arm, connect, and leverage the power of rights-holders via the RRI Coalition, the IPCC Response Coalition, & the CBD / UNFCCC IPLC platforms to develop a common action framework to accelerate transformational change towards the realization of 2030 goals on climate, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. Draw on the breadth of indigenous and local community demands, the gold standards, the 30x30 analysis, the opportunities framework, and other indigenous and local community assessments to chart a common actionable framework; Launch ahead of the WCC, CBD and UNFCCC CoPs	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$50,000
RC&C	20TC02	Global: Strategic coordination with global research community to identify key policy gaps and actionable opportunities to scale-up rights and accelerate social and economic transformation; Leverage established convenings of dedicated research platforms to jointly develop a global research agenda on the contributions of collective tenure security to social, economic, and environmental imperatives; Anticipated costs cover the participation of at least 2 RRI staff members to at least 3 international research meetings	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
RC&C	20TC03	Global: Develop a global opportunities framework to advance forest tenure reforms in key REDD+ countries in collaboration with the RRI Coalition / WB FCPF; Develop data layers on carbon and biodiversity benefits; Develop Opportunity Framework deployment strategy to accelerate donor adoption, country commitments, and indigenous and local community engagement; Launch, promote and leverage the Opportunity Framework ahead of the WB Land Conference and Oslo Tropical Forest Forum; In collaboration with WB advisory panel, identify and develop two pilot projects to demonstrate the application of the Opportunity Framework	\$140,000	\$0	\$140,000
RC&C	20TC04	Global: In collaboration with McGill University, support integration of RRI tenure data in econometric analysis, focusing on the influence of REDD+ investments in tenure reform processes; Leverage data & findings to support Opportunity Framework; Support write-up and submission to peer-review journal	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
RC&C	20TC05	Global: Leverage RRI Coalition, and new Opportunity Framework and 30x30 analyses to engage and influence the global climate and conservation communities; Identify entry points and opportunities to influence the flow of climate and conservation investments towards rights-based approaches and tenure prioritization; Develop and operationalize outcome mapping of change agents and institutions needed to accelerate the pathway to scale and associated transformational work; Leverage RRI Coalition and Opportunity Framework and 30x30 analyses to engage and influence the global climate & conservation communities; Identify entry points and opportunities to influence the flow of climate and conservation investments towards rights-based approaches and tenure prioritization; Develop and operationalize outcome mapping of change agents & institutions needed to accelerate the pathway to scale and associated transformational work; Define RRI's approach to the GCF and global REDD+ community	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$30,000

Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
RC&C	20TC06	Global: Develop an in-depth assessment of the legal status of carbon rights in FCPF partner countries and assess related implications for the advancement of collective forest rights in both project and jurisdictional initiatives; Leverage the credibility of the Interlaken Group platform to develop operational guidance to reduce investor exposure to tenure risks in market-based climate and conservation related initiatives	\$60,000	\$40,000	\$100,000
RC&C	20TC07	Framework and Conservation analyses, and high-level coordination of the UNFCCC & CBD IPLC platforms, the WB Tenure Advisory Panel, and other relevant platforms and initiatives to conduct 2 high-level dialogues on the transformative opportunities of secure community land and resource rights in the context of national and international commitments to climate change, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem restoration	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000
RC&C	20TC08	Global: Pre-SBSTA Dialogue on Rights & Conservation. Draw on the results of the Opportunities Framework and Conservation analyses, and high-level coordination of the UNFCCC & CBD IPLC platforms, the WB Tenure Advisory Panel, and other relevant platforms and initiatives to conduct 2 high-level dialogues on the transformative opportunities of secure community land and resource rights in the context of national and international commitments to climate change, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem restoration	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000
RC&C	20TC09	Global: Summarize key findings from IFRI submissions to Science and Nature to capture policy relevance for decision-makers and policy makers at national and global levels; Leverage findings to showcase results in the OTFF, WCC, UNFCCC, and CBD; Produce relevant country / regional analysis to support advocacy needs of RRI Coalition	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
RC&C	20TC10	Global: Produce synthesis of the 30x30 scenario analysis Strengthen engagement with Nat. Geographic Society, Campaign for Nature, ICCA Consortium, and others to ensure integration and replication of relevant findings and recommendations Hold dedicated events in the context of key regional / global conferences and meetings to advance endorsement and support of the 30x30 agenda	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
RC&C	20TC11	Global: Finalize and launch Gold standards for rights-based approaches at jointly selected event / platform; Accelerate consultations and endorsement pledges ahead of official launch date; Hold joint event on Gold standards at IUCN WCC to recognize early adopters and scale-up ambition	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
RC&C	20TC12	Global: Leverage the credibility of the Interlaken Group platform to develop operational guidance to reduce investor exposure to tenure risks in market-based climate and conservation related initiatives	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
RC&C	20TCT	Travel	\$25,000		\$25,000
RC&C	20TCS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$262,516		\$262,516
<b>Rights, Climate and Conservation (formerly Rights and Climate) Subtotal</b>			<b>\$717,516</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$877,516</b>



Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
Gender Justice	20TG01	Global: Connect indigenous and community women across regions to share knowledge on how to strengthen their governance rights	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Gender Justice	20TG02	Global: Leverage global platforms to promote indigenous and community women's rights (GLF, Women Deliver, RRI's conference)	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Gender Justice	20TG03	Global: Engage the Coalition in articulating a gender justice research agenda	\$77,000	\$23,000	\$100,000
Gender Justice	20TG04	Global: Map the ecosystem of gender and land rights programs/platforms, to advance the Coalition's common goals	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Gender Justice	20TG05	Global: Implement RRG's Gender Justice mainstreaming process	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	DRC: Multi-stakeholder dialogue on provincial edits concerning women land rights regarding land reform process			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Liberia: Civil Society Working Group on land participates in meetings on drafting regulations at county and national level with attention to women's land rights			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Asia: Convening of regional gender and rights meeting			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Indonesia: Engender participatory mapping			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Indonesia: Publication of consolidated data on land/territories prioritized by indigenous and community colleagues under various agenda in Tanahkita Portal			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	India: Promoting women's rights under the FRA			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Latin America: Generate a plan to influence the preparation of the CEDAW's "General Recommendation of Indigenous Women" to ensure the inclusion of indigenous women's individual and collective land rights as part of the recommendation			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Liberia: Organize meeting between communities between CSOs and communities about LRA and its regulations for information-sharing			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	DRC: Workshops on community forest concessions and training for how to apply			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	DRC: Workshops about monitoring REDD+ activities and sharing information on community rights for local communities			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Indonesia: Publication of consolidated data on land/territories prioritized by indigenous and community colleagues under various agenda in Tanahkita Portal			\$0

Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Brazil, Colombia, Peru: Facilitate a meeting among indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant women's organizations from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru to analyze the differentiated impacts of the violation of rights and produce a roadmap strategy for advocacy; complementing the study on violation of collective rights carried out in 2019			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Latin America: Generate an advocacy plan to influence international fora for country reports on the status of human rights such as sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva and others; utilizing analysis of the violation of rights mapping			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Latin America: Facilitate two meetings to strengthen the coordination between Afro-descendant organizations from Latin America on collective tenure, environmental, and women's rights to position them in regional and global scenarios and in national policies			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Indonesia: Strengthen role of women and producers groups in community-based forestry enterprises; Support community-based women's leadership and forest-based enterprise and community forestry			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Nepal: Support community-based women's leadership and forest-based enterprise and community forestry			\$0
Gender Justice	Funded in Regional Plans	Global: Collect and document case studies highlighting emerging private sector experience implementing commitments on community land tenure, specifically highlighting efforts to strengthen women's rights to land and resources			\$0
Gender Justice	20TGT	Travel	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
Gender Justice	20TGS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$147,455	\$0	\$147,455
<b>Gender Justice Subtotal</b>			<b>\$230,455</b>	<b>\$95,500</b>	<b>\$325,955</b>



Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
IDSL	20TA01	Global: Commission an assessment of community-based monitoring efforts, supply chains being monitored, and data being collected across the RRI Coalition	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
IDSL	20TA02	Global: Coordinate with RRI Partners and Collaborators to develop a methodology to aggregate existing community-based monitoring data	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
IDSL	20TA03	Indonesia: Pilot strategies to support communities in Indonesia to develop and leverage locally collected data to utilize the RSPO complaint mechanism to influence local companies and support land tenure reform.	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
IDSL	20TA04	Indonesia: Asia regional learning exchange of community-based monitoring practitioners and youth to learn about best practices and from one another, and identify opportunities for coordination.	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
IDSL	20TA05	Global: Define and develop a global analysis orienting community-led models of economic development at the heart of climate change, poverty reduction, and landscape restoration	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
IDSL	20TA06	Liberia: Support an exchange of practitioners and leaders of community-led enterprises and livelihood models in West and Central Africa, along with key stakeholders from development finance, private sector, development partners, and donors, to advise on options for community based forestry and palm oil in Liberia.	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
IDSL	20TA07	Malawi: Support platform on Large Scale Land Based Investments to deliver workshops 2-4 of their workplan, bolster connections to local communities and conduct analysis and outreach with key stakeholders not currently engaged	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
IDSL	20TA08	Kenya: Support CLAN investor's task force by convening workshop with DFI partners. Commission tools/trainings to prepare companies/financiers and communities for productive direct engagements	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
IDSL	20TA09	Laos: Commission Interlaken Group position paper on responsible investment criteria for Production Forest Areas, targeting policy makers; On-going support to multi-stakeholder platforms in country	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
IDSL	20TA10	Colombia: Scoping mission for potential Interlaken Group convening on responsible investment	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
IDSL	20TA11	Indonesia: Support the training of forest and agricultural staff of influential companies in Papua on emerging practices to respect community land rights, and facilitate local private sector support for community tenure	\$15,000	\$35,000	\$50,000
IDSL	20TA12	Global: Collect and document case studies highlighting emerging private sector experience implementing commitments on community land tenure, specifically highlighting efforts to strengthen women's rights to land and resources.	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
IDSL	20TA13	Global: Define and develop new Interlaken Group guidance product demonstrating the requirements for companies and investors to integrate community-based monitoring (CBM) and local data into decision-making.	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000

Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
IDSL	20TA14	Global: Implement Interlaken Group work-plan by convening at least two formal meeting of participants at at least one venue in the Global South.	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Asia: Co-ordination with Partners and ANs on Youth Engagement with collective rights			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	DRC: Co-ordination with Partners and ANs on Youth Engagement with collective rights			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	India: Workshops on community forest concessions and training for how to apply			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Liberia: Support research, economic analysis, strategic release of studies, and implementation of advocacy strategies			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Liberia: Participate and contribute to the development of the National Strategy on Palm Oil, and the National RSPO interpretation			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Liberia: The Civil Society Working Group on Oil Palm builds capacity on monitoring, human rights, and FPIC via trainings			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	DRC: Conduct a study on community enterprises to support alternative livelihood models			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Indonesia: DRC analysis of econmic contributions of community forest areas			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Indonesia: Strengthen role of women and producers groups in community-based forestry enterprises to access resources, create local market, secure food for community, and contribute good practices to mitigate climate change			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Latin America: Research on economic value generated by indigneous and local communities post recognition of rights			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Latin America: Facilitate a multi-level regional learning space between communities, governments, and the private sector to exchange results of the regional study of economic initiatives of indigenous and Afro-descendant women			\$0
IDSL	Funded in Regional Plans	Global: Develop a case study and contextualization of women's economic initiatives based on lessons learned from the database of cases generated in the 2019 study to define a strategy for continued empowerment			\$0
IDSL	20TAT	Travel/Facilitation	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
IDSL	20TAS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$233,357	\$0	\$233,357
<b>Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods(Formerly ATEMs) Subtotal</b>			<b>\$338,357</b>	<b>\$410,000</b>	<b>\$748,357</b>



Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
Comms	20X01	Global: Targeted communications to advance national agendas in priority countries and respond to unforeseen strategic opportunities	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Comms	20X02	Global: Virtual global media moment to leverage the Coalition to speak to one voice about the path to scale and the critical importance of community and indigenous land rights for achieving global conservation goals by 2030; supplemented by national launches in India, Indonesia, and others TBD	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$45,000
Comms	20X03	Global: Production and dissemination of water flagship follow up materials	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Comms	Funded in Tenure Tracking	Global: Redevelopment of Online Tenure Tool to include updated forest tenure and gender data	\$0	\$0	\$0
Comms	20X04	Global: Engage with Coalition members to produce blogs/articles that highlight indigenous and community women's voices in key spaces within the women's rights field (e.g. Women Deliver, GLF)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Comms	20X05	Global: Production and promotion of women's economic and/or climate contribution analysis (dependent on GJ plans)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Comms	20X06	Global : Promotion of the Land Tenure Update Flagship	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Comms	20X07	Global: Production of the Land Tenure Update Flagship and regional two pagers	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Comms	20X08	Global: Web hosting and technical support and site-infrastructure rebuild	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Comms	20X09	Global: Constituent management (Mailchimp), production and design software (Adobe Creative Suite), photo and video library (Flickr), media lists (Meltwater) and online outreach tools (press release distribution, etc.)	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
Comms	20X10	Global: General support (business cards, reprints, unforeseeable translations, etc.)	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Comms	20X11	Global: Scoping/develop plan for digital advancement needed for mass mobilization in support of secure community land rights	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Comms	20X12	Global: Coordination, management, and execution of Land Rights Now campaign	\$33,000	\$0	\$33,000
Comms	20X13	Global: Development of new narrative and messaging suite to articulate the path to scale, compliment the "shift" from awareness raising to implementation, and support engagement with key donors	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Comms	20x14	Global: Promotion of new LandToolkit	\$0	\$0	\$0
Comms	20x15	Global: Spokesperson intensive 3-day training (likely in connection with other meeting); regular phone/zoom briefings on new research; positioning of this group within outreach efforts by the RRI Coalition and beyond		\$15,000	\$15,000
Comms	20X16	Global: Development of Interlaken Group communications strategy and accompanying public-facing messaging materials, including virtual launch of new Interlaken Group messaging and positioning with redesigned Interlaken Group website, outreach to key private sector stakeholders	\$0	\$0	\$0
Comms	20X17	Global: Community-Based Monitoring research publication and promotion	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
Comms	20X18	Global: Tenure Facility Learning highlighted in the 4th International conference on Community Land Rights	\$0	\$0	\$0
Comms	20X19	Global: Sida Mid-Term Evaluation	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Comms	20X20	Global: Development of the 2019 Annual Narrative Report	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Comms	20XT	Travel	\$11,000		\$11,000
Comms	20XS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$531,047	\$0	\$531,047
<b>Strategic Communications Subtotal</b>			<b>\$805,047</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>\$845,047</b>
CSN	20QP01	Global: RRI Re-thinking Process Facilitated	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
CSN	20QGV/21QGV	Global: 2020 Governance Meeting	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
CSN	20QP02	Global: RRI Partners and Affiliated Networks Meeting	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
CSN	20QP05	Global: Organization of the Global Strategy Meeting	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000
CSN	20QP04	Global: New institutional documents (MoU, IBA) drafted, circulated for input, and endorsed by the Coalition	\$0	\$0	\$0
CSN	20QP06	Global: 1-2 Meetings of a renewed RRG Board of Directors fully engaged and able to offer essential oversight to RRI	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
CSN	21QP10	Global: Preparations for an international conference possibly held in early 2021	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
CSN	20QP09	Global: 2020 Annual Meeting of MegaFlorestais held in Peru	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000
CSN	20QP08	Global: Draw on the results of the Opportunities Framework and Conservation analyses, and high-level coordination of the UNFCCC & CBD IPLC platforms, the WB Tenure Advisory Panel, and other relevant platforms and initiatives to conduct 2 high-level dialogues on the transformative opportunities of secure community land and resource rights in the context of national and international commitments to climate change, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0
CSN	20NT	Travel	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
CSN	20NS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$376,184	\$0	\$376,184
<b>Coalition and Strategic Networks Subtotal</b>			<b>\$756,184</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$756,184</b>

Program	Activity Code	Planned Activities	Secured funding	Unfunded	Combined Total
SRM	20Z	Strategic Response Mechanism	\$445,000	\$500,000	\$945,000
SRM	20ZS	Coordination and Technical Assistance	\$78,583	\$0	\$78,583
<b>Strategic Response Mechanism Subtotal</b>			<b>\$523,583</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$1,023,583</b>
F&A	200A	Accounting/Audits/Banking	\$74,314	\$0	\$74,314
F&A	200O	Facilities (adds Canada)	\$306,181	\$0	\$306,181
F&A	200D	Fixed Assets	\$174,000	\$0	\$174,000
F&A	200E	Donor Engagement	\$0	\$0	\$0
F&A	200F	Fundraising Travel and Other	\$24,000	\$0	\$24,000
F&A	200G	Gen Ops/Supplies/Events	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000
F&A	200H	HR/Recruiting/Professional Services	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
F&A	200M	Montreal Related Expenses	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
F&A	200T	Technology/Systems	\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000
F&A	200TS	New Systems Development	\$76,772	\$0	\$76,772
F&A	200S	Staff Development & Training	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
F&A	20ADMS	Administrative Personnel Costs	\$734,813	\$0	\$734,813
<b>Operations, Finance and Administration Subtotal</b>			<b>\$1,611,080</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,611,080</b>
SPO	20SPOS	Program Leadership/Management	\$371,068	\$0	\$371,068
SPO	20SPOT	Program Leadership Travel	\$42,959	\$0	\$42,959
<b>Program Office Subtotal</b>			<b>\$414,027</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$414,027</b>
<b>Total Currently Allocated</b>			<b>\$7,418,817</b>	<b>\$2,082,501</b>	<b>\$9,501,318</b>



## Annex 2: Report on 2019 Progress

### SELECT MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2019

**Adoption of Indigenous Peoples and local community land rights as a priority solution to the climate and biodiversity crises by mainstream climate and conservation actors and donors.** Citing evidence from the RRI Coalition's body of work, the 2019 IPCC Special Report on Land and Climate Change was the first IPCC report recognizing indigenous and community land rights as a priority climate change solution, and the 2019 IPBES Global Assessment Report highlighted the positive contributions of indigenous and community land rights to conservation and biodiversity as well as the necessity to recognize and strengthen their rights and roles in conservation. Yet without effective amplification, these findings would have remained buried in the reports. The RRI Coalition worked with indigenous and community colleagues from around the world to develop an evidence-based response to the IPCC report which was endorsed by indigenous and community organizations from 42 countries spanning 76 percent of the world's tropical forests. By highlighting these findings and ensuring that local peoples land rights were a central element of press coverage, RRI effectively defined the IPCC statement as a scientific endorsement of community land rights, creating an advocacy tool to shape global climate discourse and the ambitious conservation agenda for the following decade. In addition, a growing number of key stakeholders and donors in the conservation sector are increasingly referring to the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as key in global conservation efforts, suggesting the adoption of rights-based climate and conservation solutions is taking hold.

**The success of the Tenure Facility led to significant gains in rights recognition and provided a proof of concept for the path to scale, catalyzing an increase in donor commitments.** With the enabling environment for rights recognition established in many countries—in large part thanks to members of the RRI Coalition—Indigenous Peoples and local communities made significant progress securing over 6.5 million hectares of land and forest with support from the Tenure Facility in just two years in RRI priority countries of Colombia, Peru, Indonesia, and India. The Tenure Facility's success in strategically investing relatively small amounts of money directly in Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' efforts to formally secure their land and the subsequent outsized impact points to an imminently feasible path to scale up land rights globally. This has catalyzed significant interest and commitments from donors for the rights recognition agenda and for RRI's forthcoming Opportunity Framework which will provide a tool to coordinate investment and action.

RRI's history of support of local actors and engagement with key decision makers in priority countries helped to ensure a robust pipeline of projects and continued political will and capacity for implementation. In Africa, RRI instigated a regional exchange, which led to the creation and launching of the network of African Land Institutions for Community Rights (ALIN), an intergovernmental platform to scale implementation of indigenous and community land rights creating new momentum across the continent to build the enabling conditions for future projects. Across Latin America, RRI catalyzed unprecedented collaboration among Afro-descendent Peoples, drawing on the wealth of experience of leaders in Brazil and Colombia, to generate momentum and pressure across the region to recognize the collective land rights of more than 130 million Afro-descendent Peoples. RRI support to the Process of Black Communities (PCN) Tenure Facility project in Colombia prioritized work with the national government to unlock administrative barriers to move forward the titling process of 50 Afro-descendant communities.

**Helped prevent rollback of rights in India, Indonesia, and Colombia, and diminished the risk of increased threats to land and environmental defenders in Brazil and elsewhere.** In India, legal and political advocacy work contributed to a stay in a Supreme Court case that would have evicted 10 million forest dwellers. RRI media



and advocacy support also contributed to the withdrawal of proposed amendments to India's Forest Rights Act that threatened community and indigenous land rights. In Indonesia, RRI facilitated the emergence of a national Tenure Coalition to engage with the Indonesian government, civil society, and communities on land and forest rights issues, which helped stall a new Land Law that posed significant risks to indigenous and community land rights. In Colombia, RRI supported the Inter-Ethnic Commission for Peace, an alliance of Afro-descendant and Indigenous Peoples, to assess progress on implementation of the ethnic chapter of the peace agreement. The results demonstrated a complete lack of progress with the government citing technical capacity and budgetary constraints, however, with an SRM from RRI, the Commission created a plan for implementation of the Ethnic Chapter and laid the groundwork to scale up the recognition and protection of collective land rights. In Brazil, RRI supported the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) to undertake an international advocacy campaign across Europe to pressure the European Union parliament to take action on the Amazonian deforestation crisis and violation of Indigenous Peoples' rights generated by Bolsonaro's regressive actions and continue to generate momentum for recognition of Brazilian Afro-descendent populations via strategic convenings and new data. In the DRC, RRI prevented communities being sidelined in the recently launched land use planning reform process and enabled the improvement of the land policy document to include provisions on community rights. Globally, RRI raised awareness of the risks to land and environmental defenders by co-convening a global Land Rights Now mobilization calling for an end to the criminalization of land rights defenders and connecting land rights defenders to mechanisms that support them in situations of criminalization and violence.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2019, BY PROGRAM AND THEME

### ASIA

#### High Level Political Engagement

The RRI Coalition engaged intensively in Indonesia, India, and Nepal to create the enabling environment for scaling up land rights recognition. High-level policy advocacy, convening, analysis, capacity-building, and grassroots mobilization contributed to this aim. This included ensuring that land and forest rights became important issues in the national elections in India and Indonesia. In order to support the move from policy to practice, RRI also supported ongoing and proposed Tenure Facility projects in these three countries.

RRI Partners and Collaborators effectively combatted judicial and legislative rollback in India and Indonesia (see accomplishments 1 and 2, below) and engaged with the ongoing enactment of national, provincial, and state laws impacting IP/LC rights in Nepal (see accomplishment 3, below). RRI also opportunistically intervened through SRMs in other countries in the region to address emergent opportunities and threats related to FPIC.

#### Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements

**Achievement 1:** Legal and political advocacy work in India leveraged greater support by the Modi government for the implementation of the Forest Rights Act and contributed to a stay in a Supreme Court case that would have evicted 10 million forest dwellers. RRI supported legal advocacy work for civil society/government affidavits for the Supreme Court Case, and mobilized media and advocacy support to combat the ruling; the order was stayed, and hearings are ongoing. ([Read more](#)). Advocacy work also contributed to the withdrawal of proposed India Forest Act amendments that threatened community and indigenous land rights and strong support from the Minister of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the Forest Rights Act. ([Read more](#)).

**Achievement 2:** In Indonesia, RRI facilitated increased collaboration that helped stall a new Land Law that posed significant risks to IP/LC land rights. RRI has helped facilitate the emergence of the Indonesian Tenure Coalition to engage with the Indonesian government, civil society, and communities on land and forest rights issues. Its

members work to advance agrarian reform, indigenous rights, and social forestry. This year, RRI supported the Tenure Coalition to formally launch a secretariat. The Tenure Coalition and RRI Collaborators engaged in advocacy and mass mobilization—bringing people to the streets in huge numbers—to call for the withdrawal of the Land Law ([Read more](#)).

**Achievement 3:** In Nepal, RRI Partners and Collaborators engaged with the enactment of the national Forestry Law to ensure the protection of IP/LC rights in the Forest Act passed in 2019. They also engaged with provincial and local governments to ensure that pro-community forestry laws are enacted at the provincial and local levels, with two local governments passing forest laws supporting community forest rights ([Read more](#)).

### **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

1. Lack of political will in implementing pro-indigenous and community tenure reforms remains a major challenge. The demand for land by powerful interests for industry, agribusiness, infrastructure, conservation, and forest restoration, dampens enthusiasm for pro-community reform among political actors. In response, RRI Partners and Collaborators are trying to generate political will to support Indigenous Peoples and local community rights recognition through advocacy on the political, economic, social, and conservation benefits of recognizing indigenous and community land rights. For instance, RRI Partners and Collaborators in India have carried out electoral constituency analysis to inform political parties about the importance of indigenous and community rights in national and provincial elections. A related strategy is evidence-based advocacy on the economic development, poverty alleviation, climate mitigation and conservation potential of scaling up Indigenous Peoples and local community rights recognition. This is complemented with efforts to convince private sector actors and governments through data-based “cost of conflicts due to insecure tenure” arguments. The ongoing and proposed Tenure Facility projects not only demonstrate the feasibility of scaling up rights, but also generate evidence for supporting the above arguments. These strategies complement the grassroots political mobilization by Indigenous Peoples and local communities themselves to obtain political support.
2. Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ movements/organizations, civil society, and other key supporters of indigenous and community land and forest rights (including government agencies) require additional capacities to take land and forest rights to scale. Lack of resources, marginalization of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, internal contradictions, and competing interests among allies create hurdles in scaling up rights recognition. Some of the key strategies by RRI include: facilitating convenings of diverse interests around the rights agenda (such as the Indonesian Tenure Coalition); focusing on common interests in rights recognition; direct capacity-building through trainings and exchanges; and supporting pilot projects (such as community-based monitoring). A key part of capacity building for the indigenous and community rights agenda is to engage with potential allies such as women’s networks, youth mobilizations, and social movements, so that they can integrate indigenous and community rights as part of their own actions and strategies, and thereby act as force multipliers. The facilitation of Tenure Facility projects, given their scale, also contributes to capacity-building for rights recognition.
3. As across the world, in Asia, criminalization and violence of Indigenous and community rightsholders and land rights defenders is a key obstacle to scaling up rights. The political economy of land creates powerful vested interests to deny indigenous and community rights. These powerful interests often use violence and criminalization against Indigenous Peoples and local communities defending their rights, targeting the most critical and often most vulnerable grassroots actors spearheading land rights struggles. This threat has increased in magnitude with the rise of authoritarianism in many countries. While RRI is cognizant of the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat these trends, we have begun initial mitigating measures. These include the Emergency Fund in Indonesia, which provides urgent support to land rights defenders facing criminalization and violence. In India, a [handbook](#) has been published to use the FRA and other laws (including the Prevention of Atrocities Act) to counter criminalization and violence against Adivasis, Dalits, and forest dwellers.

## **Outstanding Events/Opportunities/Challenges Expected to Impact Progress by End of 2019**

- The Indian Supreme Court will have its next hearing before the close of the year, date to be determined.
- In Nepal, the provinces will likely finish enacting their forestry law by January 2020.
- The Indonesian National Assembly has added the Indigenous Peoples Bill as a legislative priority for 2020. ■

## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **High Level Political Engagement**

At the regional level, RRI facilitated the creation of a joint agenda between indigenous and Afro-descendant, women's, and community organizations in order to more meaningfully influence the global climate discourse and agenda, as well as develop strategies to combat criminalization and rollback.

In Colombia, the new government of President Duque, delayed the implementation of the 2016 peace accord, increasing insecurity for indigenous, Afro-descendant and women's organizations. RRI's priority has been to support these groups' ability to conduct advocacy around the protection of social leaders and the implementation of the peace agreement.

In Peru, where Indigenous Peoples continue to confront encroaching oil and gas exploration on their forests, RRI supported capacity building to equip communities to meaningfully engage in consultation processes, which often favor the private sector, and ensured effective political support for the launch of the Tenure Facility project with PCN and design of the potential Tenure Facility with CNTI.

### **Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements**

**Achievement 1:** In 2019, RRI produced a regional map of the concentration of rights violations, criminalization, persecution, and impacts on communities and their territories related to territorial disputes between communities and extractive industries during the period of 2017-2019 in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. The analysis and database generated by the study will be critical evidence underpinning the work of indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant organizations as they continue to mobilize and directly engage with government authorities and international organizations to position their agendas. Also at the regional level, AMPB and PCN gained the support of COICA to open the UNFCCC Platform of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples to other non-indigenous groups with collective rights, such as Afro-descendants. Their collective efforts have helped influence the uptake of the LC platform as a topic to be deliberated in greater detail during the COP 25 in Madrid; in 2020, the UNFCCC will determine a plan for selecting the representation of indigenous and local communities within the platform.

**Achievement 2:** In Colombia, RRI supported the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) with an SRM to prepare a proposal for technical guidance and budget allocation for the Colombian Congress to ensure the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the Peace Agreement in the national public budget, which constitutes the safeguard mechanism for the protection of the collective tenure rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. RRI also supported ONIC through the Land Rights Now Campaign with the implementation of a national and international campaign to call for support to end the increasing violence and killing of indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders. Finally, in defense of the Barú community in Colombia, RRI supported the preparation of a well-documented legal action against the National Land Agency to restore the titling administrative process previously withdrawn by the Agency in April 2019. If successful, the strategy could result in a historic victory, restoring the Barú community's collective rights and titling, which would set a precedent for other Afro-descendant communities under similarly nebulous collective tenure situations.

**Achievement 3:** In opposition to an oil concession known as "Block 200" in the Ucayali region of the Peruvian Amazon, RRI supported the Federation of Native Communities of Ucayali (FECONAU) in coordination with the

Institute for Legal Defense (IDL) to ensure that the 14 indigenous communities affected by the proposed development actions of the Oil Block 200 were fully informed and prepared to go through the prior consultation process before November 2019. In addition, the project aimed to ensure that government authorities are aware of the problems that occur during the prior consultation process by implementing a political and legal advocacy strategy targeting public authorities in Lima in hopes of influencing or stopping the FPIC process for Block 200 entirely.

### **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

1. In Colombia the humanitarian situation around criminalization and violation of rights is rapidly deteriorating—with at least 800 extrajudicial killings of social activists, Afro-descendants, and indigenous leaders since 2016—making efforts to advance the collective rights agenda while maintaining safety incredibly difficult. The regressive actions of the Duque administration demonstrated its explicit lack of interest in implementing the peace accord, and congressional cutting of budgetary appropriations for 2020 across social programs, including to agencies responsible for the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the accord. ONIC's allies within the Congress have thus advised them to wait until the following year to present their proposal for technical guidance and budget allocation—a major challenge to carrying out the 2019 SRM. However, despite the delay in the presentation of the proposal, this also provides a key opportunity for the long-term realization of the safeguards within the peace accord.
2. In Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro's nationalistic policies are exacerbating pressure on indigenous and Afro-descendant territories from private economic interests, leading to open conflict, targeted assassinations, and environmental catastrophe, which has proven challenging for achieving greater articulation across social movements. The humanitarian situation has been particularly difficult for Brazilian Afro-descendant Quilombola, who are confronting an increasingly racialized environment of discrimination resulting from Bolsonaro's actions. In response, Brazilian Quilombola are mobilizing to consolidate their movements with other Afro-descendants from across Latin America to strengthen an agenda for securing territorial rights. In 2019 the National Coordination of Articulation of Rural Quilombola Communities (CONAQ) convened an international colloquium for Latin American Afro-descendants to define a strategic plan for regional articulation and positioning of the Afro-descendant rights agenda at the regional and global level. A key strategy moving forward will be to support this greater coordination of Brazilian Quilombola with other Afro-descendant organizations across the region such as PCN, to bring greater visibility to their movements and increase international pressure on the Bolsonaro regime.

### **Outstanding Events/Opportunities/Challenges Expected to Impact Progress by End of 2019**

- In Colombia, there are still outstanding events that apply to the Barú community's case against the ANT. After submitting their legal action in early January 2020, the case should then move to litigation. As the court proceedings move forward, the community will face a challenge of maintaining the same level of cooperation that it has established with its allies up to submitting the action. Meanwhile, the Barú community council will be renewing its membership, which serves as an opportunity to generate new momentum into 2020, opening the door for new spaces for intervention and political engagement to continue the process as their case is considered.
- In Peru, the outcome for influencing the FPIC process for FECONAU and the communities affected by Block 200 remains to be determined. IDL has developed a legal strategy to support FECONAU in engaging specific Peruvian government authorities on what's transpired between the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM) and the affected communities. Meanwhile the communities began developing a communications strategy for media coverage and advocacy tailored to those authorities and are weighing their options for the legal actions they can take. So far, a preliminary request was sent to MINEM requesting a change in the dates for closing the consultation, which was initially fast-tracked, to ensure that the communities are fully informed of the implications of the oil concession in their territory. ■

## AFRICA

### High Level Political Engagement

RRI's high level political engagement in Africa in 2019 focused on opportunities to catalyze rights recognition in Kenya, Liberia, and DRC. Kenya passed the Community Land Act (CLA) in 2016 and regulations for its implementation in 2018. RRI is supporting civil society through the Community Land Action Now! platform (CLAN) to support fast and fair implementation of the CLA. Liberia adopted the Land Rights Act (LRA) in 2018 and is now drafting the regulations for its implementation. With support from RRI, several Collaborators are participating in this process and influencing these draft regulations to ensure communities benefit from the implementation phase of the LRA. And in DRC, RRI contributed this year to the drafting of the national land policy document, which recently entered a national consultation process. The land use planning reform process is also ongoing. RRI support allowed CSOs to influence the processes of drafting, consultation, and adoption of policies and laws related to these two reforms. RRI identified project concepts and mobilized political support for new Tenure Facility projects in DRC, Kenya, and Liberia which will scale up recognition in these countries and demonstrate the possibility of implementation in the region.

### Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements

**Achievement 1:** Regionally, the creation and launching of the Network of Africa Land Institutions for Community Rights (ALIN- the first ever network of government officials dedicated to securing Indigenous Peoples and local community land rights in Sub-Saharan Africa) is key to leverage the Coalition's engagement in the region going forward. The Network was created and launched by participants from 13 African governments in Madagascar during the Regional Workshop of African Land Institutions for Securing Community Land Rights, instigated and co-organized by RRI. Two side events co-organized by RRI at the Conference on Land Policy in Africa provided an opportunity for RRI to introduce ALIN to a wider set of stakeholders from governments around the region and position ALIN to play a key role in providing strong political support for the implementation of laws recognizing indigenous and community land rights in 2020 and beyond.

**Achievement 2:** In DRC, the inclusion of community FPIC and women's land rights provisions in the current draft of the national land policy document was a direct result of the Coalition submission via CFLEDD of a technical note to the government land reform commission (CONAREF) on women's land rights, and direct engagement influencing the drafting of the land policy document. RRI support in convening multi-stakeholder meetings in DRC has also helped open political space for dialogue between CSOs and government on the land use reform planning process.

**Achievement 3:** In Kenya, RRI support played a key role in increasing the capacity of CLAN, which has put in place a working group on private sector engagement and launched a website and social media campaigns around the implementation of the CLAN. CLAN has also held trainings and raised awareness about the CLA and its regulations. With the support of the RRI Coalition, a Tenure Facility proposal is being developed by CLAN and other stakeholders to scale up implementation of the CLA.

**Achievement 4:** In Liberia, RRI efforts to strengthen the capacities of the CSO Working Group on oil palm (CSO-OPWG) and on REDD+ has positioned them to influence key national processes and push for rights recognition in the national agenda. RRI worked with the CSO-OPWG to strengthen their understanding of FPIC, the LRA, contract negotiation, and UN Principles on Business and Human Rights, which allowed them to influence national FPIC guidelines and led to an invitation from the Liberian government to contribute to the development of an Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Trainings organized with FCI for the CSO Working Group on REDD+ allowed them to monitor REDD+ projects, as well as advocate for and obtain a seat for CSOs in the REDD+ national technical body at the Forest Administration Authority.

### Challenges and Strategies to Overcome

1. Throughout the region, the limited technical, financial, and organizational capacity of governments, CSOs, and communities is a major challenge. The lack of coordination between government ministries and agencies, particularly in the land and forest sectors, also negatively impacts implementation of progressive policies on the ground. Limited coordination between government agencies and limited financial and technical capacity is particularly challenging in the priority countries of DRC and Liberia. To address these challenges, RRI will prioritize multi-stakeholder engagements to break down silos and support capacity-building efforts in DRC and Liberia. Regionally, RRI will convene through ALIN a regional forum to bring together national forest and land agencies to facilitate dialogue within and between governments.
2. Criminalization of land rights defenders in Africa is increasing, particularly in East and Central Africa. RRI will organize a regional conference in East Africa to discuss strategies to address this threat and address criminalization of land and environmental defenders.
3. In Kenya, challenges include limited community and county governments' awareness about the Community Land Act and its regulations, as well as the fact that not all communities within CLAN have a formal engagement structure. 2020 priorities include efforts to continue awareness-raising activities with community, local, and county governments about the CLA and its regulations; support communities in the demarcation of their land; and convene multi-stakeholder dialogues.

### **Outstanding Events/Opportunities/Challenges Expected to Impact Progress by End of 2019**

In Liberia, a forthcoming workshop to be held by the Liberia Land Authority, the CSO Working Group on Land, and other stakeholders for the validation of the LRA regulations will provide a strategic moment for scaling up efforts to implement the LRA. ■

## **INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT AND SUTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS (formerly ATEMs)**

### **High Level Political Engagement**

In 2019, RRI engaged globally and at the national level in Peru, Liberia, DRC, Malawi, Kenya, Laos, India, and Indonesia to leverage the influence of the private sector to support secure community land tenure, including through: 1) facilitating implementation of corporate commitments to respect local land rights; 2) creating spaces for the progressive private sector to signal the importance of secure land rights to developing country governments; and 3) identifying and sharing emerging cases of inclusive land use and sourcing models predicated on secure local rights and inclusion of local peoples. RRI efforts in 2019 also aimed to reduce the persistent power imbalance between IPLCs and government and private sector stakeholders by leveraging and coordinating ongoing community-based monitoring initiatives as a method to hold private sector stakeholders accountable to their commitments, and by documenting the economic potential of community-led economic development approaches to contribute to national agendas in terms of livelihoods, growth, and environment.

### **Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements**

**Achievement 1:** The Interlaken Group demonstrated its ability to convene national-level stakeholders, including government, and catalyze opportunities for collaboration in support of land tenure. In the countries where the Interlaken Group worked this year (Malawi, Kenya, and Laos), each initiative leveraged the political capital of companies and investors to influence government, and all have resulted in concrete opportunities for “unlikely allies” to work together.

**Achievement 2:** An RRI exchange co-organized with AMAN and FPP validated the potential of locally collected data to narrow the power imbalance between communities on one side, and private sector and governments on the other. The experiences shared by participants in the workshop demonstrated how RRI Coalition members are aggregating data points on the impact of investments and using this information to support their advocacy.



**Achievement 3:** The Interlaken Group better positioned itself to deliver a more dynamic and country-focused agenda and play a more visible global role in coordinating private sector action in support of secure community land tenure. The Group updated the Land and Forest Rights Guide to mainstream gender protections and considerations throughout the text, completed an update of its medium-term strategy to 2021, and refreshed participation in its Steering Group by adding leaders from private sector and civil society. Additionally, the Group developed and endorsed an impact monitoring framework to be piloted in 2020, positioning the Group to take stock of private sector progress and identify next steps to support secure community land rights.

### **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

1. There is increasing documentation of the risks to land rights defenders of contesting public and private sector investments. Gathering and utilizing data from community-based monitoring initiatives comes with risks to local communities and monitors located near implicated concessions or operations. As this initiative takes shape, RRI will work closely with the Network to develop the appropriate strategy to ensure that risks to local peoples are minimized. This strategy will be designed such that communities are directing how and where data is being used and is properly anonymized. RRI will work closely with experts in the community-based monitoring space, several of whom are Partners, to design this approach.
2. Despite substantial progress to catalyze opportunities for collaboration between the private sector, civil society, IPLCs, and government to further land tenure reforms and improve livelihoods, it became clear in 2019 that the impacts of investments and private sector operations on local peoples remain largely quite stark. Per RRI's strategy for instigating change on the part of the private sector (i.e. felt risk, credible pathways), RRI may be confronted at the country level with opportunities to support collaborative engagement with the private sector and government, but also with the need to support advocacy or campaigns targeting elements of these same institutions. RRI will work closely with Partners, Collaborators, and trusted allies to ensure a strategy is in place to mitigate risks where these conflicts exist. There will likely be options to link, for example, advocacy focused organizations to take forward the campaigning elements of local initiatives, and to which RRI might contribute "behind the scenes". In all cases, RRI will prioritize the demands of its core constituency of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. ■

## **GENDER JUSTICE**

### **High Level Political Engagement**

Seize the global momentum on gender justice to ensure broad-scale support for indigenous and community women's rights to secure community lands, territories, and resources, as well as their equal roles in governing those lands.

### **Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements**

**Achievement 1:** Amplification of indigenous and local women's economic, political, and social contributions at the national and community-level through their participation in global platforms. Successfully securing strategic opportunities for indigenous and community women to highlight their unique contributions to the management and sustainable use of the world's vast network of community-held lands and territories connects the issue of community land rights to the mainstream gender narrative. RRI identified opportunities throughout 2019 to connect indigenous and local community women to existing and emerging global development platforms including: Women Deliver's Annual Conference; Chatham House's 29<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Forest Governance; and the Global Landscape Forum's Gender Constituency.

**Achievement 2:** Continued analytical contributions to the advancement of women's rights in community-held lands and much-needed advocacy tools for women at the national and local-level. Building on the findings and

recommendations from the 2017 analysis, Power and Potential, RRI released a new analysis, Strengthening Indigenous and Rural Women's Rights to Govern Community Lands: Ten Factors Contributing to Successful Initiatives. The report aggregates learning from 18 organizations and distills 10 contributing factors underlying successful initiatives that strengthen women's governance rights within community lands. RRI promoted the findings during the different global platforms (i.e., Global Landscape Forum, Women Deliver conference, Chatham House, and FGMC) sharing best practices with donor and development communities. An RRI blog on the Women Deliver Website shared these findings with the larger gender justice community.

**Achievement 3:** Continued strengthening of indigenous and community women's rights, voice, and leadership at the national-level. In the DRC, RRI collaborator Coalition of Women Leaders for Environment and Development (CFLEDD) submitted to the National Commission on Land Reform (CONAREF) a technical note on the importance of recognizing women's land rights. This note was well received by CONAREF and marked a critical step towards the application of the laws that already claim to protect women's tenure rights. In India, women continue to guard against rollback of rights guaranteed under the Forest Rights Act by mobilizing against discriminatory laws that affect their equal access to land and resources. And in Latin America, the Coalition took the preliminary steps to map and analyze lessons learned by women's groups in economic and entrepreneurial initiatives in Mesoamerica and South America.

### **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

1. Although there is unprecedented global awareness of both IPLC land rights and gender equality, the two have yet to meaningfully intersect. Community land rights and women's rights within those communities are nowhere on the global gender agenda. And despite women being positioned as solutions to climate change, poverty, and food security, indigenous and local women's land rights—foundational to addressing sustainable development challenges—remain on the sidelines of the larger gender discussion. To address this challenge, RRI will continue to build the evidence base that a gender-equitable approach to securing and implementing community land tenure results in better economic, social, and environmental outcomes for all. We also continue to elevate local women's voice in global platforms.

2. RRG contributions will improve if staff are more aware of the implications of their work in advancing gender equality and/or inadvertently perpetuating gender inequality. They should be familiar with gender-sensitive analytical tools and approaches that can have an impact on the lives of indigenous and community women. To address this, RRG has laid the groundwork to conduct a gender audit that will culminate in an action plan (mainstreaming process) and share lessons with the Coalition to spread and encourage best practices. This mainstreaming process will require an institutional commitment and dedicated time and effort to this initiative. ■

## **RIGHTS, CLIMATE, AND CONSERVATION (Formerly Rights and Climate)**

### **High Level Political Engagement**

2019 marks a key turning point for the advancement of RRI's mission and international efforts to secure the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities more specifically. Through sustained engagement with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and its donors, RRI secured high level institutional commitment to initiate the development of an Opportunities Framework for scaling up forest tenure reforms in key REDD+ countries. Thanks to RRI's leadership, the Bank established the first ever cross-sectoral advisory panel to guide the opportunities assessment, mobilize internal commitments, and identify pathways to scale-up rights and earned support from BMZ, BEIS, and CLUA for the Opportunity Framework. Complimentary to this achievement, RRI worked closely with the United Nation's Indigenous Peoples' Major Group (IPMG), the Global Landscape Forum (GLF), and the Forest Partnership Program (FPP) to develop a unified set of rights-based principles for sustainable landscape management and conservation (i.e., the Gold Standard). Together with new research on global

opportunities to advance landscape conservation and restoration via the legal recognition of community managed areas, RRI's 2019 contributions to the rights and climate arena helped to establish a new foundation to accelerate transformative change across scales and geographies.

### **Progress Toward 2019 Strategic Priorities**

**Strategic Priority 2:** Pursuant to its commitment to strengthen the recognition of community-based tenure and governance rights in key national and international climate and conservation initiatives, RRI: (i) secured the support of the FCPF to identify and seize opportunities to scale-up forest tenure reforms in key REDD+ countries; (ii) created the Gold Standard for rights-based approaches to landscape management, conservation and restoration with the support of key international allies; (iii) reinforced the role and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the context of emerging nature-based solutions; and (iv) developed a robust pathway to scaling-up rights and to initiating transformative change as a core strategy to scaling-up climate and conservation ambitions.

**Strategic Priority 4:** Through its engagement on the Gold Standard and the development of the Opportunities Framework, RRI helped to connect and leverage climate- and conservation-focused platforms and initiatives, to better understand and seize opportunities for impact.

### **Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements**

**Achievement 1:** Secure commitment by the World Bank and growing support and interest from key climate-financing institutions to identify and leverage opportunities to scale-up forest-tenure reforms in key REDD+ countries. Achievement has led to a fundamental rethink of RRI's theory of change, so as to better seize the momentum of past investments, leverage existing and emerging opportunities, and drive progress towards the realization of global climate, conservation and sustainable development priorities.

**Achievement 2:** Major analytical and operational contributions to the advancement of right-based approaches to sustainable landscape management, conservation, and forest restoration. The Global Landscape Forum was leveraged by RRI, IPMG and FPP to advance high level principles (i.e., the Gold Standard) for rights-based approaches to sustainable landscape interventions and investments. Following bottom-up validation of the draft principles, the Standards will be officially launched in first quarter of 2020. In collaboration with RRI affiliated network IFRI (International Forest Resources and Institutions research program), in-depth analyses of the relationship between global forest restoration opportunities and secure community land rights were conducted across a sample of 113 countries, located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Contributions include the creation of a [Global Forest Landscape Data Portal](#), and realization of two peer-reviewed article submissions to Nature on: 1) the critical role of local people in the context of effective, sustainable and equitable forest landscape restoration efforts, and 2) community contributions to the achievement of carbon, biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods benefits.

**Achievement 3:** The unique convening power of the RRI Coalition was leveraged to produce a high level [Indigenous and Community Response](#) to the IPCC Special Report on Land, co-signed by indigenous and community leaders from 42 countries spanning 76% of the world's tropical forests. The initiative, which received global press coverage, marked the very first time, the international scientific community's recognition of the vital role of secure community and indigenous land rights in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

Successful engagement of the RRI Coalition around the Opportunities Framework and the future of conservation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has created unprecedented opportunities to dramatically scale-up land and forest tenure reforms over the coming decade. While the importance of secure community land rights in the context of climate and biodiversity commitments is finally getting the attention it deserves, the increasing attention of donors, development institutions, and dedicated climate and conservation institutions risk creating unreasonable expectations. To maintain the momentum for transformative change, RRI will need to further develop and

substantiate the pathways to scaling up reforms, strengthen the business case for essential social and economic transformations at the local / national levels, and catalyze greater investments in the efforts to build the enabling conditions, strengthen implementation, and support scaling. ■

## TENURE TRACKING

### Progress Toward 2019 Strategic Priorities

**Strategic Priority 2:** RRI has made significant progress on the Opportunity Framework Analysis and the 30x30 Study, which are designed to take advantage of opportunities to shape key climate, conservation, and restoration initiatives, and to mobilize investment in recognition of community land rights at scale.

**Strategic Priority 3:** RRI produced a follow-on analysis to its gender justice flagship *Power and Potential*, entitled *Strengthening Indigenous and Rural Women's Rights to Govern Community Lands: Ten Factors Contributing to Successful Initiatives*. This report identifies contributing factors behind initiatives that have successfully strengthened indigenous and community women's land governance rights to provide guidance on best practices from the field. This brief will help RRI shape the growing number of international initiatives that aim to ensure women's rights to land by facilitating learning from successful initiatives that have strengthened women's rights to govern community lands. Findings were disseminated in June at the Women Deliver Conference in Vancouver, Canada, enabling RRI to engage a broad range of organizations focused on gender but less focused on the specific land tenure rights of women within community-based tenure systems.

### Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements

**Achievement 1:** Over the course of 2019, RRI positioned its forthcoming flagship report on community-based water tenure (*Whose Water?*) to: a) gain recognition by critical constituencies as a pathbreaking framework for capturing and analyzing Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' freshwater tenure rights, including the rights of indigenous and community women; b) be adopted across an expanded set of countries as a tool for measuring communities' water rights and identifying gaps; and c) influence the global narrative on water tenure. We have done so through:

- 1) Presentation of topline findings, implications, and recommendations from *Whose Water?* at Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) World Water Week.
- 2) Engagement at key events to facilitate institutional learning in advance of the report launch, such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Leaving No One Behind Conference (February 2019), Women and Rivers Congress (February 2019), the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (March 2019), the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference (March 2019), the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) Conference in Peru (July 2019), and Brown Bag events at both ELI and RRI.
- 3) Identification of strategic opportunities to promote adoption of this framework by other organizations, such as the FAO. Samdhana has also expressed interest in applying this framework.

**Achievement 2:** RRI continued to maximize the use of its latest forest tenure data (presented in *At a Crossroads*, published in September 2018). The findings were included in numerous external and peer-reviewed publications. A chapter on "Tenure and Management Rights in Tropical Forests" detailing the distribution of statutory forest rights across the world's most forested low- and middle-income countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America has been peer reviewed and was accepted in June for publication in a forthcoming book on Achieving Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests. RRI Tenure Tracking data was also incorporated into Chapter 7 of the recently released IPCC report.

## **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

1. The primary challenge for meeting Tenure Tracking program outcomes was unexpectedly lower internal capacity beginning in Quarter 2. To mitigate this challenge, timelines for delivery of the full flagship report on community-based water tenure and commencement of the 2020 Land Tenure Database update were delayed. A no-cost extension to RRI's grant from Synchronicity Earth has been approved which extends the timeline for production of advocacy materials related to *Whose Water?* to March 2020.

## **Outstanding Events/Opportunities/Challenges Expected to Impact Progress by End of 2019**

During World Water Week, it became apparent that there was renewed momentum to employ “water tenure” as a lens for questions of water access, use, and governance—particularly for vulnerable people and communities. As a result, FAO will convene an Expert Roundtable on Water Tenure in December. The Roundtable will provide a timely opportunity to begin articulating existing consensus on the core elements of water tenure and initiate a multi-stakeholder, consultative process to inform both the FAO's programmatic work in this area and the development of tools and guidance on the implementation of and respect for water tenure. The Water Tenure Methodology developed by RRI and ELI will form a crucial basis for discussions. It is anticipated that this Roundtable will be followed by a special session co-convened by RRI, ELI, FAO, and AIDA at the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) Congress in May 2020 that will further serve to harness and coordinate the growing momentum for guidance on water tenure. ■

## **COALITION AND STRATEGIC NETWORKS (CSN)**

### **Progress Toward 2019 Strategic Priorities**

**Strategic Priority 2:** RRI worked with the Global Landscapes Forum and the Indigenous Peoples Major Group to develop rights-based principles that should guide all future actions and investments in rural landscapes.

**Strategic Priority 4:** RRI began to rethink the Coalition to facilitate greater synergy between its diverse members and maximize impact; RRI catalyzed more collaboration between the RRI-instigated initiatives. All agreed to work together to take advantage of future opportunities to raise the global level of effort on land rights, learning, coordination, and impact.

### **Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements**

**Achievement 1:** The RRI Rethinking process well underway. With the current RRI Memorandum of Understanding coming to an end in June 2020, an RRI Ad Hoc Renewal Committee was created to shepherd a process of rethinking and repositioning of RRI. The Committee, bringing together key RRI constituencies, worked throughout the year to develop recommendations to adapt RRI's structure to the new global context and enhance its collective impact. A first draft was discussed with the Coalition at the Global Strategy Meeting in October, and a new version will be presented at the Governance meeting in January. There is great appetite for a more simple, open network. With this input, RRI will be poised to draft and implement a renewed Memorandum of Understanding in 2020 that will help RRI emerge more ambitious, effective, and united.

**Achievement 2:** RRI-instigated initiatives strategically coordinated to mobilized support in particular countries and raised the global level of effort on land rights. RRG convened 2 meetings of the 5 RRI-instigated initiatives (the Tenure Facility, the Land Rights Now campaign, LandMark, the Interlaken Group, and MegaFlorestais). They agreed that, together, they form a new architecture of instruments to scale up global action to secure Indigenous Peoples' and community land rights and expressed commitment to leverage future opportunities to raise the global level of effort on land rights and explore bilateral and multilateral collaboration and joint fundraising.

**Achievement 3:** Gold Standard principles for a rights-based approach to sustainable landscape developed. RRI collaborated with the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG), the Global Landscapes



Forum, FPP and others, to develop “Gold Standard” principles to guide future investments in conservation, restoration, and development in rural landscapes and ensure recognition and respect for indigenous and community land rights. This process debuted at the GLF in Bonn and included consultations of local community and Indigenous Peoples, as well as the establishment of relationships with key actors in the conservation and landscape restoration communities. The principles are expected to be launched in 2020 and efforts will continue to secure endorsements, and position these as a key tool to drive greater support for land rights.

### **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

1. While CSN redesigned global-scale Coalition meetings to make more time available for small-group feedback sessions and direct interaction between participants, some Coalition members are calling for a larger shift in our operating model and RRI’s vision for the future in light of the ongoing rethinking process. It will be essential to take these requests for a more open RRI network into account both as part of the work of the RRI Ad Hoc Renewal Committee and as we design upcoming Coalition meetings. CSN will continue to support the Committee in the coming months and believes it will be a great avenue to craft new operational modalities to deliver a new vision for RRI. The success of the January Governance Meeting will also be critical to set RRI in the right direction and gain buy-in from Coalition members. To achieve that, the Senior Management Team of RRG will be closely involved in the design and content of the event.
2. No MegaFlorestais meeting was held in 2019 given political changes in Brazil, and there is a high risk the network would lose momentum without a meeting to galvanize energy in early 2020. Discussions are ongoing with the Tenure Facility to hold a MegaFlorestais meeting in Peru in 2020 to demonstrate to forest agencies how tenure reforms can be implemented in practice. Within the next few weeks, support from the Peruvian Forest and Wildlife Service and Ministry of the Environment must be secured to ensure adequate financial and logistical support for this event. This meeting will be a major opportunity to reinvigorate MegaFlorestais and encourage governments to implement reforms at scale.

### **Outstanding Events/Opportunities/Challenges Expected to Impact Progress by End of 2019**

It will be critical to gain greater support from key actors and GLF Charter Members by the end of the year to ensure the successful launch of the Gold Standard Principles. This will require time from several Directors and mobilization of connections. ■

## **STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND DONOR RELATIONS**

### **Progress Toward 2019 Strategic Priorities**

**Strategic Priority 1:** RRI provided direct communications support in key countries (see major achievement #2, below) and worked to ensure that its country-level data is available and accessible to support advocacy. It is clear that the demand for RRI analyses exceeds the ability of staff to provide support for specific engagements, therefore, RRI is spearheading a new “information/asset management system” that includes: a central repository of assets for RRI staff; a public microsite that presents its most used global and national data; and a new suite of marketing materials to introduce new audiences to our work at a high level. The public microsite will debut in time for the January governance meetings.

RRI has also looked for opportunities to raise awareness of the impacts of criminalization globally and in country, including providing advice on the launch of the Global Witness report on murdered land rights defenders—which helps set the tone for discourse on this issue. Facilitating the inclusion of Sonia Guajajara helped ensure that the decrease in murders in Brazil was attributed to indigenous and community advocacy, rather than President Bolsonaro. Criminalization was a key part of media coverage overall, and RRI ghost wrote an [op-ed](#) by Tauli-Corpus in the Washington Post to amplify this message. Additionally, as a co-convenor of Land Rights Now, RRI supported the December 2-9 global mobilization calling for an end to the criminalization of land rights defenders. The global

mobilization spotlighted 4 cases from around, including one from DRC developed in conjunction with RRI's Africa program.

**Strategic Priority 2:** See major achievement #1, below.

**Strategic Priority 3:** RRI capitalized on its relationship with [Women Deliver](#) to highlight indigenous and community women's voices and priorities in the international gender justice community via engagement in the organization's 2019 conference, the promotion of a new guidance on strengthening women's land governance rights, and guest posts on its platforms. This work encourages experts and advocates to incorporate women's land rights in to their work, while also raising the profile of gender justice within grassroots and indigenous networks themselves. For example, participation of a leader from AMPB in the Women Deliver conference resulted in an enhanced commitment to gender justice from men and women leaders across the organization. (Read more [here](#) and [here](#).)

**Strategic Priority 4:** RRI continues to see promise in the Land Rights Now campaign, including through the December global campaign and ongoing in Colombia (see major achievements #2). RRI is also undertaking a redesign of the Interlaken Group website to make information and resources more accessible for participants and reflect the Group's increasing focus on opportunities for engagement at the national level. Lastly, RRI communications support to the 6<sup>th</sup> Tenure Facility Learning Exchange ensured meaningful exchange and learning between the 14 existing projects.

### **Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements**

**Achievement 1:** The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land helped set the tone for climate discourse and policy in 2019. After learning that the report would include recognition of indigenous and community land rights as a climate solution (including citations of RRI's research), RRI mobilized its broad Coalition to produce an indigenous and community response that was endorsed by organizations from 42 countries spanning 76% of the world's tropical forests. Outreach around the statement ensured that indigenous and community land rights—which received only minor mentions in the Summary for Policymakers and no mention in the official IPCC press materials—was a central element of press coverage. Over 100 articles covered indigenous and community land rights as a climate solution. A retweet from Leonardo DiCaprio's personal account expanded social outreach and engagement significantly, signifying a breakthrough of our issues into more mainstream coverage. The microsite RRI created to house the response and social media kit in four languages was visited by 7,602 people this year, with paid promotion on social media continuing to be an effective tool to attract target audiences.

Creating this high-level discourse where otherwise indigenous and community contributions wouldn't have featured at all opens a window for future fundraising and advocacy at all levels to ensure that land rights are part of the sustainable development, climate, and conservation goals. Coalition members are already using the IPCC report as a critical point of reference in their advocacy; the response fed into engagement with the nature-based solutions stream of the UN Climate Action Summit; and it can support engagement with the CBD and COP processes in 2020 around the 2030 climate and biodiversity agenda. This success is attributable to RRI's broad Coalition, analytical rigor, strategic communications, and the trust of its indigenous and community Partners, Affiliated Networks, and Collaborators.

**Achievement 2:** Communications tactics support efforts in key countries. RRI has directly supported efforts in several countries. In India, this included supporting an [op-ed](#) in the Washington Post by RRI Board Member Arun Agrawal and additional media and social outreach responding to a Supreme Court decision to evict 5-10 million forest dwellers. The Court quickly put a stay on the order of eviction. RRI also supported a campaign led by APIB across 19 cities in 12 European countries to directly engage changemakers and ask them not to invest in commodities grown on indigenous lands without their consent, and denounce the human rights violations in Brazil.

A small grant awarded by Oxfam to RRI, LA Collaborator ONIC, and Land Rights Now proved a key source of support for indigenous and ethnic communities in Colombia by amplifying their demands for implementation of the peace accord and protection of social leaders. RRI took advantage of the third anniversary of the signing of the peace

accord and a national meeting of the indigenous guard group to: 1) provide communications capacity building to community leaders; 2) support a national-level communications campaign to showcase communities' role in the peace process; 3) support a forthcoming op-ed by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz on the murder and criminalization of indigenous activists in Colombia; and 4) utilize the RRI and Land Rights Now networks to apply pressure on the government to implement its commitments.

**Achievement 3:** Both of the above created opportunity to better position indigenous and community land rights, within the donor community, as a feasible solution to some of the world's most pressing climate and development challenges resulting in immediate and future funding. The combination of global efforts to elevate awareness via the IPCC report, and continued measurable progress at the country-level, created the space and opportunity to slightly shift RRI's narrative from a focus on *why* land rights matter, to *how* to scale impact. At a time when the world is facing the possibility of missed climate and biodiversity targets and as we move into the last decade of the SDGs, RRI is well positioned to demonstrate a feasible path forward and to mobilize the funding necessary to scale-up IPLC land rights.

### **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

1. Balancing the competing needs of urgent/timebound priorities with the need to create the materials necessary to cultivate new donors is a constant challenge. For fundraising and global positioning, describing RRI's niche and impact are increasingly important—both independent of and in connection to the many initiatives and institutions we in many instances helped create. RRI has not traditionally prioritized the marketing materials needed for these engagements. Previously, “how we talk about RRI” has not been the priority; instead, we have focused on advancing messages about the centrality of indigenous and community land rights to key audiences. RRI is tackling these challenges in several ways (see major accomplishment #3, above), and prioritizing effort on this front in 2020.
2. Due to constraints in human resources, budget, and time, we have had limited capacity to use methods that would help us narrow our audiences; understand their situations, perceptions, beliefs and intended actions; and formulate and test approaches. In light of this situation, energy has been spent in better understanding and engaging three audiences that have been prioritized by the RRI Coalition: traditional women's rights advocates, the scientific community, and youth.

### **Outstanding Events/Opportunities/Challenges Expected to Impact Progress by End of 2019**

- A forthcoming suite of materials designed to introduce RRI and the issue of indigenous and community land rights to new audiences, include an introductory slide deck and script for presenting to these audiences, will ensure that RRI is presented consistently and compellingly and facilitate time savings by senior RRG staff and RRI Coalition members.
- The ongoing redesign and restructuring of the Interlaken Group and Rights and Resources Initiative websites will help demonstrate to a variety of audiences why community land rights are such a critical issue will be completed by January; as will the English version of the new microsite designed to facilitate much easier interaction with RRI data from thematic and country entry points (LandToolkit.org -- Spanish, French, and likely Portuguese to follow in early 2020). ■

## **TENURE FACILITY SUPPORT**

### **High Level Political Engagement**

- The Tenure Facility was established as an independent institution with total handover of operational, financial, and administrative functions from RRG to the Tenure Facility Secretariat in Stockholm.

- The Tenure Facility is now well known in international forums. (More than 10 presentations given in various international fora.)
- Tenure Facility projects identified and prepared by RRG staff earned political support and achieved major breakthroughs in Peru, India, and Colombia.

### **Indicators of Progress/Major Achievements**

**Achievement 1:** Critical assistance to Tenure Facility project implementation and formulation in Mali, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Colombia (CNTI), DRC, Kenya, and Nepal.

**Achievement 2:** The 2019 Tenure Facility Learning Exchange was a major success with over 100 participants and more than 15 representatives from 12 governments participating in addition to project proponents and donors.

**Achievement 3:** A breakthrough Regional Workshop of Land Institutions for Securing Communities' Land Rights in Africa was organized in Madagascar. Over 100 participants representing land commissions and similar states agencies leading land reforms as well as representatives of CSOs from 13 countries participated in the workshop. The Prime Minister of Madagascar gave the inaugural address.

### **Challenges and Strategies to Overcome**

As the Tenure Facility is now fully independent with its own staff, leadership, and Board, there is a risk that the Tenure Facility deviates from the role and operating procedures elucidated in its foundational design documents. The Tenure Facility was designed to be an independent financial mechanism that builds on the capacities and contributions of RRI. Any deviation from this careful design creates risks of overlap with RRI's mission and operating modalities, as well as confusion among Partners, Collaborators and potential project proponents. Further, formally supporting Tenure Facility project implementation through a financial and operational relationship constrains RRG's ability to effectively deliver its mission as an independent body with its own operating modalities and goals.

The Boards of both the Tenure Facility and RRG have been apprised of these risks and challenges, and there is ongoing dialogue among the staff of both institutions. The RRG Board has decided not to continue an operational and financial relationship with the Tenure Facility in 2020. RRG and Tenure Facility staff are exploring measures to ensure complementarity of roles and functions, in line with design documents guiding operational functions of each organization, and in service of our mutually supportive missions.

RRG will continue to support local organizations to identify new, potential Tenure Facility projects, and remain engaged with existing Tenure Facility project proponents, as well as supporting and leveraging the RRI Coalition to build and maintain the enabling conditions that are foundational to the success of Tenure Facility projects, though as a fully independent institution with no financial obligations to the Tenure Facility. RRG and Tenure Facility staff will continue to collaborate on fundraising to ensure mutual support and clear messaging on respective roles to all donors.

### **Outstanding Events/Opportunities/Challenges Expected to Impact Progress by End of 2019**

- Initiated a process of joint fundraising between RRI and the Tenure Facility.
- Explore measures to ensure complementarity of roles and functions, in line with design documents guiding operational functions of each organization, and in service of our mutually supportive missions.
- Continue to identify potential Tenure Facility projects and build on the creation of successful conditions in countries by RRG staff where Tenure Facility projects exist. ■

### Annex 3: Report on 2019 Strategic Response Mechanism

The Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) is designed to enable flexible, rapid response to unforeseen but strategic opportunities. It complements the annual planning process by providing funding (up to US\$100,000) that rapidly responds to specific situations, allowing RRI to be effective in shifting political landscapes. SRM proposals are evaluated and approved through a simple, accelerated process. In order for an activity/project to qualify as an SRM, the activity must meet all five criteria: 1) exploits a political window of opportunity; 2) supports a critical moment in a social mobilization process; 3) exploits higher-risk opportunities and could expand RRI relationships; 4) is a new or newly expanded activity; and 5) is dependent on incremental funding/connectivity at the right strategic moment to produce outcomes.

In February 2018 the RRI Board resolved to adopt temporary measures for funding of SRM proposals during 2018, including limiting the individual SRM funding to US\$50,000 per activity to address the limited funding available to meet the demand for SRM funds requested. Due to limited funding available during 2019 the Board extended these measures for FY 2019.

In 2019, the RRI Board authorized a budget of US\$435,000 for SRM activities. The actual amount committed for SRM activities that were approved and contracted during 2019 (as of December 9, 2019) was US\$390,563. RRG is currently in the process of reviewing additional SRM requests recently received, and, will report on these activities in the next SRM update.

As of December 9, 2019, RRI has supported 14 SRM activities, including 4 that were contracted in 2018. The following table provides a summary of each of these SRM activities and the results that have been reported to date.

Proponents	Country / Countries	SRM Projects and Objectives	Status	Evidence of Achievement	Amount (\$)
CTIDD, in collaboration with GTCRR, CFLEDD, DYGEDD and REPALEF	DRC	<p><b>Project:</b> Secure the use, management, and ownership rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the New DRC Land Use Planning Reform</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Advocate for respect and securitization of the rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples throughout the land use planning reform process in DRC.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Contract End Date:</p> <p>31 Aug 2019</p>	<p>The SRM achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successfully established a permanent space of dialogue between government and civil society organizations on the land use planning reform process.</li> <li>• Prepared and submitted position notes on securing land use, management, and ownership rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples through the land use planning reform process.</li> <li>• Established a CSO common taskforce for a coordinated engagement of CSO on the land use planning reform process.</li> <li>• As a result of these efforts, the Ministry of Land Use Planning expressed the political will to incorporate CSO recommendations from the technical notes into the land use planning policy document.</li> </ul>	<b>38,674</b>
CAGDFT	DRC	<p><b>Project:</b> Sensitize local authorities and community members of Kwilu Province on the implementation of the community forestry process</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Prevent devaluation of community forestry; empower communities to apply for local community forest concessions (CFCL's);</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Contract End Date:</p> <p>30 Sep 2019</p>	<p>Results included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training sessions organized by CAGDFT for local authorities on their roles in the execution and coordination of the community forestry process, which enabled local authorities to process community applications effectively and in a timely fashion.</li> <li>• Training sessions organized for communities and the technical support provided to them, which enabled the community of Kingwaya village to compile requisite application materials and submit the request for a CFCL to the local officials, who confirmed receipt.</li> <li>• A CFCL of 1755 hectares is in the process of being granted to communities of Kingwaya, securing their rights to that land perpetually.</li> </ul>	<b>48,338</b>



		secure rights over lands in Kingwaya village in the Nko sector of Kwilu province.			
<b>Katiba Institute and Collaborators: CIPDP, SIPP, FPP, FIPN</b>	Kenya	<p><b>Project:</b> Secure forest peoples' customary tenure in Kenya using a window of opportunity presented by the Mau Taskforce, three key court cases, CLAN mobilization, and EU WaTER and UNDP REDD+ Projects</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Secure land of the Sengwer peoples to 200,000 hectares of ancestral forest lands, advance recognition and restitution of up to a further 500,000 hectares of land claimed by Kenya's other forest peoples.</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Contract Extended to: 30 Mar 2020</p>	<p>The SRM actions originally scheduled to conclude in early December 2019 had to be extended since some of the court cases are behind schedule in the judiciary and will not be heard until the first quarter of 2020. Additionally, the taskforce has extended its term until the end of January 2020. Actions to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabled legal support and representation in Kenyan courts (to secure precedent setting court decisions) for Sengwer and Ogiek of Mt. Elgon communities in addition to contributing to the Mau decision Task Force to enable positive change.</li> <li>• Three court cases have received legal support including supplementary affidavits of community members and experts, draft statements and updated court files, and the facilitation of community members to appear in court.</li> <li>• Cases have contributed to communities' memorandum which was submitted to the attention of the Kenyan Government Task Force on the Implementation of the Decision of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights on the case of Ogiek on Mt. Elgon.</li> <li>• Mau Task Force visited the Sengwer, Mt Elgon, and Kapsolwony, where community members made oral and written submissions about conservation and management of their forests.</li> </ul>	<b>39,441</b>
<b>RFUK and Collaborators</b>	CAR	<p><b>Project:</b> Making community forests work for local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the Central African Republic.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Contract End Date: 18 Dec 2019</p>	<p>This project advanced the implementation of the community forests legal framework by supporting 11 villages in participatory validation of their Simple Management Plan (SMPs), who will soon submit their application to the forest ministry. In addition is building capacity on decision-making processes to ensure FPIC and advocate toward the revision of the community forest framework for more coherence with the land allocation policies and to incorporate practices and</p>	<b>49,550</b>

		<b>Objective:</b> Scale up community forestry implementation by implementing and testing the legal administrative processes necessary to obtain CF titles.		capacities of local and indigenous communities.	
<b>OTEC and Collaborators: Barú Afro-descendant Community Council, IOM-USAID, DeJusticia</b>	Colombia	<p><b>Project:</b> Legal-environmental strategy to restore the collective titling process of the Barú Community Council.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Defend afro-descendant community of Barú right to territory in Cartagena, Colombia, through a legal-environmental and advocacy strategy to re-establish the collective titling process by the ANT.</p>	<b>Completed</b> Contract End date: 30 Nov 2019	<p>A well-documented legal action against the National Land Agency (ANT) administrative order was prepared. If successful, the strategy could result in a historical victory restoring the Barú community's collective rights and titles, setting a precedent providing legal grounds for other Afro-descendant communities under similarly nebulous collective tenure situations. Because of the judicial recess in December, the case will be submitted in early January 2020.</p> <p>A study compiling collective tenure information on the island, including the reconstruction of the property and cartographic information of the area occupied by the community was completed to complement and strengthen the preparation of the legal action. The study also analyzed the state of the natural resources essential for community livelihoods.</p> <p>An advocacy strategy through the community's network of allies in the State and CSOs was implemented and this has strengthened integration of groups across the Colombian Caribbean, and a media campaign about the case is also planned to be launched in early 2020 to avoid it getting drowned out by the November/December 2019 media coverage of the protests in Colombia.</p>	<b>49,931</b>
<b>ONIC</b>	Colombia	<b>Project:</b> Defense of Collective and Territorial Rights Through a Technical-Budgetary and Advocacy Strategy to Achieve the	<b>Completed</b> Contract End Date: 15 Dec 2019	The deteriorating security situation in Colombia over the past few months has complicated ONIC's capacity to carry out the political advocacy as planned. ONIC completed the technical budgetary proposal and established key allies within the Congress. However, the regressive actions of the Duque administration and its explicit lack of interest to implement the peace accord have been a major	<b>34,980</b>

		<p>Implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the Peace Agreement</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Support ONIC in helping the Ethnic Commission of Peace (IP-Afro organizations) to engage with the Colombian government to secure the allocation of funds in the national budget for 2020 to implement the Ethnic Chapter of the peace accord, which constitutes the safeguarding mechanism for the protection of collective tenure rights of indigenous and afro-descendant peoples.</p>		<p>challenge to the success of this SRM. Congress has cut budgetary appropriations for 2020 across social programs, including to agencies responsible for the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter. ONIC's allies in Congress advised to wait until 2020 to present their proposal for technical guidance and budget allocation for inclusion into the 2021 budget.</p> <p>ONIC coordinated the presentation of the technical budgetary strategy before the High-Level Space of Ethnic Peoples (IEANPE) to discuss next steps for political advocacy in 2020 utilizing the technical budgetary strategy. 13 state institutions, 9 foreign embassies, 3 multilateral organizations, 9 congressional representatives, and 2 commissions were invited to participate in meeting, however attendance was affected by the social unrest. ONIC will share key points from the meeting with IEANPE and an abbreviated version of the technical-budgetary strategy with the invitees to maintain their engagement by socializing the strategy.</p> <p>Links to evidence:</p> <p><a href="https://onic.org.co/noticias/70-destacadas/3087-gobierno-nacional-incumple-los-acuerdos-pactados-con-los-pueblos-y-organizaciones-indigenas-en-el-plan-nacional-de-desarrollo-2018-2022-y-a-la-minga-nacional-2019">https://onic.org.co/noticias/70-destacadas/3087-gobierno-nacional-incumple-los-acuerdos-pactados-con-los-pueblos-y-organizaciones-indigenas-en-el-plan-nacional-de-desarrollo-2018-2022-y-a-la-minga-nacional-2019</a></p> <p><a href="https://onic.org.co/comunicados-onic/3073-primer-informe-de-cumplimiento-del-capitulo-etnico-en-el-marco-de-la-implementacion-del-acuerdo-de-paz-en-colombia">https://onic.org.co/comunicados-onic/3073-primer-informe-de-cumplimiento-del-capitulo-etnico-en-el-marco-de-la-implementacion-del-acuerdo-de-paz-en-colombia</a></p> <p><a href="https://onic.org.co/comunicados-onic/3056-capitulo-etnico-en-el-acuerdo-final-de-paz">https://onic.org.co/comunicados-onic/3056-capitulo-etnico-en-el-acuerdo-final-de-paz</a></p>	
<b>FECONAU, IDL, FPP</b>	Peru	<p><b>Project:</b> Strategy for an effective prior consultation of indigenous communities affected by proposed development</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Contract Extended to: 30 June 2020</p>	<p>The outcome for influencing the FPIC process for FECONAU and the communities affected by Block 200 remains to be determined. The Minister of Energy and Mines (MINEM) decided to suspend the consultation process, with consequential changes to the timeline for</p>	<b>9,992</b>

		<p>actions of Oil Block 200, Ucayali, Peru</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Inform communities and provide legal advice on the implications of the oil project and available legal mechanisms to defend rights. Legal and communications strategy advances the FPIC process and applies pressure to the government.</p>		<p>the FPIC process. The new estimated dates for the FPIC process are between January and June 2020. Actions to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a legal strategy to support FECONAU in engaging specific Peruvian government authorities. However, MINEM lacked the logistical capacity to carry out the FPIC process for several major oil concessions including Block 200 and passed the responsibility to Perupetro, the state oil firm charged with contracting oil exploration activities. Perupetro on the other hand, does not have the necessary agreements with affected communities to proceed with the consultation, and consequentially, the process for Block 200 was suspended for the time being. Although the suspension should buy more time for FECONAU and IDL to engage with the communities, they are now forced to reconsider their legal strategy vis a vis Perupetro.</li> <li>• FECONAU and IDL are confronting major political and economic forces in Peru with limited resources and MINEM's transfer of FPIC responsibility to Perupetro assures an extended legal battle and greater challenges for protecting collective land rights in Peru, where there will be a need for increased support of their efforts.</li> </ul> <p>Links to evidence:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gacetaucayalina.com/2019/11/loreto-minem-reconoce-incapacidad-para-implementar-consulta-previa-en-el-lote-192.html">https://www.gacetaucayalina.com/2019/11/loreto-minem-reconoce-incapacidad-para-implementar-consulta-previa-en-el-lote-192.html</a></p>	
<b>Vasundhara and Collaborators</b>	India	<p><b>Project:</b> Defending forest rights claims and community conservation in India</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Generate key information to defend the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and related tenure security of millions of</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Contract Extended to: 31 Dec 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal and political advocacy work in India has contributed to the stay in the Supreme Court case, halting evictions that could have affected up to 10 million adivasis and forest dwellers.</li> <li>• SRM-supported legal advocacy work contributed to civil society/government affidavits for the Supreme Court Case.</li> <li>• Political and media advocacy supported by this SRM contributed to the withdrawal of amendments to the Indian Forest Act that would have undermined and subverted the Forest Rights Act and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.</li> <li>• SRM support for advocacy helped to amplify mobilization and media presence to defend the FRA. This included more than a</li> </ul>	<b>49,663</b>

		forest-based communities from the February 2019 Supreme Court decision diluting the FRA and potentially providing justification for widespread evictions.		<p>dozen media articles which helped to develop a pro-FRA discourse. The SRM has also supported major studies on rejection of claims which will be submitted by the petitioners in the ongoing hearings in the Supreme Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SRM also supported grassroots-level advocacy and capacity building including that of Adivasi petitioners involved in the Supreme Court case.</li> </ul> <p>Links to evidence:</p> <p><a href="https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/ifa-amendments-push-back-reforms-in-india-s-forest-governance-1560884349553.html">https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/ifa-amendments-push-back-reforms-in-india-s-forest-governance-1560884349553.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/03/20/indias-supreme-court-is-displacing-millions-modi-government-must-reverse-decision/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/03/20/indias-supreme-court-is-displacing-millions-modi-government-must-reverse-decision/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/02/22/india-orders-staggering-eviction-million-indigenous-people-some-environmentalists-are-cheering/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/02/22/india-orders-staggering-eviction-million-indigenous-people-some-environmentalists-are-cheering/</a></p> <p><a href="https://thewire.in/environment/top-wildlife-scientists-ask-for-cancellation-of-sc-tribal-eviction-order">https://thewire.in/environment/top-wildlife-scientists-ask-for-cancellation-of-sc-tribal-eviction-order</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/stay-on-forest-eviction-with-rap-on-government/cid/1685972">https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/stay-on-forest-eviction-with-rap-on-government/cid/1685972</a></p> <p><a href="https://newscentral24x7.com/indian-forest-act-amendments-draft-narendra-modi-govt-tribal-rights-human-rights-activists/">https://newscentral24x7.com/indian-forest-act-amendments-draft-narendra-modi-govt-tribal-rights-human-rights-activists/</a></p>	
<b>FECOFUN</b>	Nepal	<p><b>Project:</b> Securing of Community Forest Rights and strengthening inclusive governance and local livelihoods in Nepal</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Leverage FECOFUN's presence in over 100 local government</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Contract End Date:</p> <p>31 Dec 2019</p>	<p>As a part of the SRM, RRI Partners and Collaborators engaged with the enactment of the national Forestry law to ensure the protection of indigenous and community rights in the Forest Act passed in 2019. They also engaged with provincial and local governments to ensure that pro-community forestry laws are enacted at the provincial and local levels, with two local governments passing forest laws supporting community forest rights.</p>	<b>45,510</b>

		<p>offices to ensure community forestry is supported by Nepal's new government. Preliminary negotiations and intelligence show that the Federal government alone could be persuaded to allocate between \$5-10 million for community forestry, including community forest enterprise. At the provincial level, FECOFUN will engage with seven governments to ensure that they pass forestry laws which support community forestry.</p>		<p>The federal government has allocated approximately \$1 million to community forest enterprise with a central role for FECOFUN for budget 2020-2021. Using the SRM support, FECOFUN has effectively fought efforts to increase taxes on community forestry through widespread mobilization of community forestry user groups.</p> <p>Links to evidence:</p> <p><a href="https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/cfugs-launch-protests-against-overlapping-taxes/">https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/cfugs-launch-protests-against-overlapping-taxes/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nepalitimes.com/from-the-nepali-press/taking-away-forests-from-communities/">https://www.nepalitimes.com/from-the-nepali-press/taking-away-forests-from-communities/</a></p>	
<b>Tebtebba</b>	Philippines	<p><b>Project:</b> Strategic response to external threats of proposed geothermal project to the customary tenure rights and ancestral domain of the Guinaang, Colayo and Balatok tribes in Pasil, Kalinga, Philippines</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Address the threat of the geothermal project through Information, education campaign on indigenous</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Contract End Date: 30 June 2020</p>	<p>This contract was issued on 1 September 2019. Progress to date includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified members of steering committee. Initial meeting scheduled for first week of December 2019.</li> <li>• The SRM is supporting awareness raising of the geothermal project, which has sparked interest in addressing the threat.</li> <li>• SRM has started to address the tension within project-affected communities through reconciliation, negotiation, and collective efforts to address the common threat.</li> </ul>	<b>24,514</b>



		peoples' rights and genuine FPIC process towards building consensus, develop community protocols to strengthen customary governance to lands and territories, and increase tribes' awareness on alternatives in harnessing community resources.			
<b>2019 Total Committed (as of December 9, 2019)</b>					<b>390,563</b>

### 2019 SRMs under consideration for commitment prior to December 31, 2019

<b>Rainforest Gabon in collaboration with "Gabon Ma Terre Mon Droit" and "Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour l'Economie Verte"</b>	Gabon	<p><b>Project:</b> Civil society advocacy for the development of an effective mapping methodology as part of the CAFI Project</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Support development of a civil society advocacy document on participatory mapping as contribution to the government commission in charge of elaborating the national land use plan as well as to the national Climate Council. The SRM aims to ensure that their recommendations are included in the development of the national methodology for implementation of participatory mapping within the CAFI framework.</p>	Awaiting Board ExCo approval	<b>24,077</b>
<b>FECOFUN</b>	Nepal	<p><b>Project:</b> National Policy Workshop of Provincial Parliamentary members on Community Forestry</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Hold a strategic meeting of all the parliamentary members of the Natural Resource Management Committees of seven provinces, along with FECOFUN members, to influence provincial forest acts and community forestry.</p>	In preparation	<b>9,878</b>
<b>2019 SRMs total budget under consideration for commitment prior to December 31, 2019</b>				<b>33,955</b>

## SRMs issued in 2018 active in 2019 (applied to 2018 budget)

<b>Village Focus International (VFI) / Land Information Working Group (LIWG)</b>	Laos	<p><b>Project:</b> Support CSO efforts to integrate sustainable land-based investment and responsible agricultural investment (RAI) principles into the National Land Law revision in Lao PDR.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Form a “Focal Group” that including representatives from government, CSOs, private companies, and development partners working on responsible investment and community land rights in Lao PDR to influence policy and legal framework revision processes to strengthen communities’ land tenure security.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Contract End Date:</p> <p>25 Feb 2019</p>	<p>This SRM’s objective was achieved. One of the main channels for dialogue on land issues between policymakers and civil society in Laos is the Land Sub-Sector Working Group, LSSWG. This SRM supported the creation of a multi-stakeholder “Focal Group on Sustainable Land-Based Investment” under the LSSWG, including the Investment Promotion Department (Ministry of Planning and Investment), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Centre for Development and Environment, GIZ, MRLG, Oxfam, as well as VFI and LIWG.</p> <p>Outputs produced during the SRM contract include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOR of the Focal Group and list of planned members (within the TOR)</li> <li>• Policy briefs, based on existing literature review and recommendations for sustainable land-based investment in Lao PDR</li> <li>• Briefing Note on Turning Land Into Capital: Assessing a Decade of Policy in Practice</li> <li>• <a href="#">Briefing Notes</a> handed out at the Inter-session on the Land Law</li> </ul>	<b>48,936</b>
<b>FECOFUN</b>	Nepal	<p><b>Project:</b> Engage with and build capacity of local governments in Nepal to support community forestry.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Convene, train and orient local government representatives on the community forestry issues to ensure that the interests of the</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Contract End Date:</p> <p>31 Dec 2018</p>	<p>Through this SRM, RRI engaged with newly elected government officials in the context of Nepal’s transition to a three-tier government structure. Results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held one national-level, and three regional-level forums with various government officials, FECOFUN, Green Foundation Nepal’s leadership, forestry experts, and other CSOs to clarify the role of local government officials and FECOFUN under the new government structure. It was decided that sustainable forest</li> </ul>	<b>48,811</b>

		Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) are protected and enhanced in the local government regulations and policies; create model community forest laws to empower CFUGs and remove regulatory barriers; and initiate implementation of the model laws within their jurisdiction.		<p>management and forest protection will be nationally led by FECOFUN. Discussions were also held around technical implementation of the local level model at the regional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft of model Forest Law for local government was prepared.</li> <li>• Ten municipalities were selected to participate in the implementation of the model community forest law, and five local governments collaborated with the mayors and deputy mayors to prepare for implementation.</li> <li>• An awareness-raising event was held in Kathmandu, attended by the Federal Minister of Forestry, where details around restructuring the forestry sector to be more oriented towards local and indigenous communities were discussed in depth.</li> <li>• The “Women First Campaign” was attended by over 200 women from CFUGs, CSOs, and government officials. The campaign celebrated the contributions that women have made to forestry in Nepal and focused on knowledge sharing about the draft Forest Rights Law and the specific caveats for women’s individual and collective forest rights.</li> </ul>	
<b>CONAQ / PNC</b>	Brazil Colombia	<p><b>Project:</b> Foster governmental commitments toward the collective titling of Quilombola and Afro-Descendant community lands in Brazil and Colombia.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Influence the drafting of a plan to resume the collective titling processes of Quilombola communities’ land in Brazil as</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Contract End Date: 31 Dec 2018</p>	<p>The SRM advanced identification of the main issues needed to reach an agreement with the government toward the collective titling of Quilombola communities. However, due to changes in the national government and President Bolsonaro’s regressive policies regarding indigenous and Afro-descendant collective land rights, CONAQ determined that political conditions are not conducive for a dialogue with the new government to develop a concrete roadmap.</p>	<b>44,896</b>

		instructed by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court ruling on the constitutionality of Decree 4887.			
<b>RAKATA Training Center and Collaborators</b>	Indonesia	<p><b>Project:</b> Strategic support for creating co-management forest systems within protected areas and national parks.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Support development of co-management agreements and systems for protected areas in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and local communities and the private sector in protected areas of Indonesia.</p>	<p><b>Suspended</b></p> <p>Contract End Date:</p> <p>30 June 2018</p>	<p>This project was slated to end in June 2018, but communication with implementers was an ongoing challenge leading to the project suspension. Reported results include the initiation of several projects across Indonesia with the objective of developing inroads into government-community co-management of forests in national parks. The five national parks where work was undertaken included Lore Lindu National Park, Naususu in the Mount Mutis Nature Reserve Area, Taman National Park, Mount Ciremai National Park, and Komodo National Park. At Lore Lindu, RAKATA conducted meetings and initiated work with youth in the context of invasive species, and captured supporting images using drones. At Naususu, Rakata conducted meetings with Indigenous Peoples and local communities related to renewable energy and introduction of freshwater technology (ramp pump), linking to eco-tourism. At Taman National Park, Mount Ciremai National Park, and Komodo National Park, RAKATA collected information and data that focused on community livelihoods related to potential for renewable energy and produced recommendations.</p>	<b>65,904</b>



## Annex 4: Criteria for RRI Engagement

### RRI Criteria for Determining “Strategic,” “Value Added,” and “Synergistic”

#### 1. “Strategic”

Strategic thinking is often guided by asking the right questions. These include questions like:

- “Does this move us closer to achievement of our shared goals?”
- “Is there a policy decision that will be made within the next year? Two years? Five years?”
- “Will the activity have policy relevance at the national level?”
- “Does the activity influence the positions and behavior of key decision makers?”
- “Will the potential outcomes be significant for forest tenure and poverty alleviation?”

RRI criteria to determine that an activity is “strategic” include:

- a. Takes advantage of (or creates) a new political opportunity.
- b. Brings multiple actors together to achieve the goals of the Coalition.
- c. Considers the external environment and builds on what is being done by various other actors without duplicating those efforts.
- d. Neutralizes opponents’ narratives, or provides a new narrative for rallying supporters and new key constituencies.
- e. Influences key decision makers at country and regional levels, and opens up opportunity for direct dialogue between civil society, local communities, and/or Indigenous Peoples and their governing bodies.
- f. Creates or takes advantage of new events/institutions to influence “non-traditional” players or processes
- g. The probability of achieving a distinct outcome within a short time frame is high.

#### 2. “Value Added”

RRI operates within a program structure that is at once nimble and clearly focused on specific policy outcomes. As a Coalition, all involved expect that the collective accomplishment toward specified shared goals will exceed the sum of what the Partners and Collaborators could achieve independently. RRI’s value added is more than just capacity building and educating. Actual value added will be determined by an activity’s (or set of activities’) measurement against the following criteria:

1. Achieved effective policy reform at national level to: create commitment, or recognize and establish rights, or enjoy rights or prevent rollback.
2. Created a domino effect by bumping one country into a process because of actions visible or demonstrated in another country.
3. Forced linkages beyond the “comfort zone” by linking individuals and or networks which would not link under business as usual.
4. Enables a further level of analysis (e.g. cross border political, economy, market and investment).

#### 3. “Synergistic”

In the RRI Coalition, synergy is expected to flow from the collaboration. And as it does, the objective becomes more achievable. Effective synergy leads to “value added” results.

For RRI's purposes, "synergistic activities" can be defined as activities that:

- Combine global, regional, and national programs/activities/key players to maximize influence on policy.
- Take advantage of the inherent comparative advantage of various actors comprising the Coalition and interested in the goals of the Coalitions (Partners, Collaborators, Affiliated Networks, RRG, and others);
- Ensure that viewpoints, efforts, and aspirations of civil society organizations, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples are heard at the national, regional, and global levels.

In addition, activities in RRI priority countries must meet a fourth criteria—to contribute to a national level change with respect to Indigenous Peoples, communities, and/or rural women's land and resource rights. ■

## Annex 5: 5-Year Strategic Objectives for Strategic Program III (2018-2022)

### Strategic Objectives

To seize new and emerging global opportunities to address inequalities, advance gender justice, and scale up global efforts over the next five-year period (2018-2022), RRI will build on proven strategies and programs to prioritize four new strategic objectives:

1. **Scale up global efforts to secure women's property rights, voice, and leadership within community lands and forests.** Women are at the forefront of the struggle for land and forest rights, and are disproportionately affected when communities' land rights are not respected. However, the vast majority of laws are unjust with regard to women's rights within communities, a reflection of the political and social marginalization of women in various countries across the world. Securing these rights is both a matter of gender justice and a key to protecting entire communities and achieving progress on global development and climate goals. RRI is acutely aware that even within communities, women often have an inferior status in terms of property rights, access, and governance. RRI will champion approaches to work with indigenous and community leaders to better enable them to prioritize marginalized women. Within this context, RRI also seeks to do the following:
  - a. Spearhead the development of a new global initiative on gender justice in community land rights at the forthcoming International Conference on Community Land and Resource Rights (October 2017, Stockholm, Sweden). This effort to bring justice into the dominant global narratives on Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' land rights will center on the intersection of women's rights to community land, governance, and enterprise;
  - b. Inform national-level advocacy efforts for gender-equitable policy reforms, particularly in DRC, Liberia, Peru, Colombia, India, Indonesia, and Nepal. In addition, RRI aims to increase awareness in the international development community of the benefits of securing recognition for women's rights within collective tenure systems by leveraging new global data on women's tenure rights; and
  - c. Enhance capacities of RRI Coalition members and other women's networks to effectively promote gender justice within the land and forest rights agenda through the formal establishment of the RRI Gender Justice Advisory Group. This Advisory Group will meet in 2017 to define a gender strategy for the next five years (2018 – 2022) and outline national- and regional-level priorities. This group will also guide the development of the new global initiative proposed above, define its work program, and create platforms to engage critical constituencies at multiple scales.
2. **Strengthen and connect “front-line defenders” to better defend their land and natural resources, and advance their agendas with stronger strategic analysis, communications, and networks.** Information is increasingly consumed in short form, so clear and consistent data-based messages that speak directly to the target audience are an important tool to ensure that new analyses influence both the global narrative and critical country reform processes. This is especially important given the continued rise in the influence of social media as a means of sharing news and amplifying impact. In this context, RRI will strengthen and expand its tenure tracking of land, forest, carbon, and women's rights, and establish a baseline on community water tenure. It will also ensure that national-level data and messaging from these analyses is available and accessible for national-level outreach and advocacy. In addition, RRI aims to more aggressively engage influential but currently un-supportive constituencies, broker relationships between unlikely allies, and overcome the reverberations of closed policy circles and “[filter bubbles](#)” that inhibit reach to critical constituencies and decision makers. Specifically, RRI will:

- a. Map and connect networks to facilitate communications and mobilization; share learning on strategic communications and new technologies; reach out to new constituencies focused on women's rights, climate, etc. to highlight the connections to community land rights; and facilitate exchanges between local organizations and networks to build relationships and influence national agendas, regional priorities, and global narratives and actions;
- b. Strengthen global tenure baselines on community land rights, forest tenure, carbon, and women's rights to community lands, and develop a similar baseline on community water tenure. RRI will use these tested frameworks to track and report on global progress on land-, resource-, and gender-related Sustainable Development Goals.
- c. Develop targeted data-based messaging and engagement opportunities at national, regional, and global levels that strengthen the voice of community and indigenous leaders and showcase community-driven solutions to critical social, economic, and environmental problems; and
- d. Strengthen RRI's knowledge management and accessibility of critical data and messaging on a host of issues relating to the benefits of secure community tenure (see preliminary efforts on this front [here](#)), as well as on the lessons regarding the implementation of tenure reforms in collaboration with the International Land and Forest Tenure Facility. For example, RRI will analyze the strategies and advances of Tenure Facility projects for lessons on how to further upscale tenure rights recognition.

**3. Transform economic development and conservation practices to respect local land rights by “democratizing accountability,” and support locally defined development models and enterprises.**

Transforming market, political, and conservation systems to respect local land rights requires aggressive engagement with companies and investors, more informed and empowered local communities that can identify and manage their own models, and policies and regulatory environments that equitably promote local development initiatives against large scale land acquisitions and investments. Given the multitude of new corporate and government commitments, the vast “implementation gap” between stated ambitions and measurable actions, and the general inadequacy of public accountability mechanisms, RRI will bolster efforts to “democratize accountability” by supporting community-led monitoring of both public and private sector commitments and investments. More specifically, RRI will:

- a. Expand engagement via the Interlaken Group to the country and operational levels, prioritizing strategically influential countries, sectors, and companies that will lead and accelerate broader adoption and transformation;
- b. Support the development of new locally-led or community-based economic and conservation models, and work with governments, investors, corporations, and development organizations to ensure their implementation through multi-level networks aimed at driving progress on these fronts;
- c. Facilitate the establishment and expansion of community-led “early warning systems,” such as the SMS-based system used by AMAN in Indonesia, and the mapping of supply chains to enable community monitoring of public and private sector activities and investments, monitor their performance in real time, and hold public and private sector actors accountable; and
- d. Encourage the development of a new community of practice to advance community enterprises, including collaboration with the Farm and Forest Facility and other leading research organizations and forest owner associations.

**4. Connect, consolidate, and leverage the emerging suite of global instruments to dramatically scale up the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and forest communities' land and forest rights on the ground.** The many new strategic instruments and initiatives related to community land rights together offer a strong platform for action. Many of these, such as the REDD and FLEGT programs, the NYDF, the Forest and Farm Facility, and the commodity roundtables, have committed to supporting the recognition of community land rights. Others, including the [International Land and Forest Tenure Facility](#), the [Interlaken Group](#), [MegaFlorestais](#), the Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights ([Land Rights](#)

[Now](#)), and [LandMark](#) are designed to complement and form the basis of a new global support structure for community land rights. In the next five years, the RRI Coalition will focus on the facilitation of this emerging “ecosystem” in which these instruments are connected and leveraged to maximize rights realization by promoting shared learning, connection, and coherence in country programs. Each speaks to a different constituency and addresses a challenge hindering the widespread acceptance of secure community land rights as a lynchpin of the Sustainable Development Goals. These instruments, working with the national tenure coalitions spearheaded by RRI in priority countries, as well as the initiatives, institutions, and commitments created outside the RRI Coalition, can wield much more power, influence, and impact once connected at both the national and global levels. To harness the collaboration and potential of this ecosystem, and leverage the niche of each, RRI will:

- a. Convene and connect the growing number of instruments and initiatives to advance Indigenous Peoples’, local communities’, and rural women’s land rights via the biannual international conference series on community lands and resource rights, as well as develop a new high-level partnership of committed supporters to monitor progress, facilitate collaboration across initiatives, and accelerate progress;
- b. Instigate strategic coordination between the Tenure Facility, the Interlaken Group, MegaFlorestais, RRI-established national tenure coalitions, and other platforms in specific developing countries to advance projects that map and register community forest territories, reform policies, and advance corporate compliance with UNDRIP and the VGGT. This type of coordination began in early 2017 in Cameroon where the Tenure Facility pilot project hosted a joint meeting of the Interlaken Group and the Cameroonian national industrial association to identify steps that national suppliers should take to meet international standards; and

Advance collaboration between the instruments on the technical and policy levels to provide mutual support and learning. For example, LandMark is positioned to become the common, publicly accessible data hub for community maps and corporate concessions, facilitating transparent monitoring by all corporate compliance, and data for advocacy for the Global Call to Action’s Land Rights Now campaign. The Farm and Forest Facility is mobilizing support for producer organizations and strengthening their advocacy. MegaFlorestais aims to learn from the experiences of the Tenure Facility and become more directly involved in sharing lessons on the implementation of tenure rights, offering an opportunity to expand influence far beyond the limited investments of the Tenure Facility in developing countries. ■



## About the Rights and Resources Initiative

The Rights and Resources Initiative is a global Coalition of more than 200 organizations dedicated to advancing the forestland and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and the women within these groups. Members capitalize on each other's strengths, expertise, and geographic reach to achieve solutions more effectively and efficiently. RRI leverages the power of its global Coalition to amplify the voices of local peoples and proactively engage governments, multilateral institutions, and private sector actors to adopt institutional and market reforms that support the realization of rights. By advancing a strategic understanding of the global threats and opportunities resulting from insecure land and resource rights, RRI develops and promotes rights-based approaches to business and development and catalyzes effective solutions to scale rural tenure reform and enhance sustainable resource governance.

RRI is coordinated by the Rights and Resources Group, a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC. For more information, please visit [www.rightsandresources.org](http://www.rightsandresources.org).

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