



ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

2019

Rights and Resources Initiative

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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 women within these communities. 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.

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Letter from the Coordinator

The world has changed dramatically since the end of 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuing social and economic calamity, have touched every aspect of society. Where the virus has reached Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendants, it has already had very worrisome, if not devastating, impacts. Communities who have long faced a litany of challenges including insufficient health services and inadequate government support, now increasingly face growing food insecurity. In a number of countries, the crisis and ensuing lockdowns have provided cover to accelerate land grabbing, violence, and unlawful evictions of communities from their customary lands, while lockdowns and travel restrictions impede efforts by communities and civil society to monitor and protest violations of their rights.

The disproportionate vulnerability of local peoples, and the sudden increase in deforestation in the Amazon and elsewhere as communities are prevented from defending themselves and their lands, make all the more evident the central role the world's Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendants play in protecting the resources we all depend on, maintaining food security and resilience in the face of crisis, and protecting and managing the world's threatened forests and natural ecosystems. It is through this lens that we reflect on RRI's work in 2019 and the continued struggle for the rights and self-determined livelihoods of local communities and Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples.

Four key shifts characterized 2019 and will impact both how we work to mitigate the current crisis and how we prepare to change the world that will emerge from it. First, criminalization of land and environmental defenders, and rollback of previous progress in achieving recognition of rights in several countries, continued to threaten land rights defenders in 2019. Engagement by the RRI Coalition played a key role in stalling threatened rollbacks in India and Indonesia, while workshops to support community-based monitoring, as well as increased efforts to map the effects of criminalization, helped identify the scope of the problem and connect land and environmental defenders with resources. But we know these threats will persist, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

Second, 2019 was a breakthrough year in terms of recognition by the climate and conservation communities that advancing community land rights is a priority strategy to combat climate change and protect biodiversity. For the first time, the global stock-taking reports on climate and biodiversity from IPCC and IPBES recognized this vital connection, citing RRI's research to substantiate this conclusion. By coordinating and supporting an indigenous and community response to the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land, RRI amplified both the findings and demands of rightsholder communities through media coverage and through engagement with key stakeholders in the climate and conservation communities, and effectively defined the report as an endorsement of rights, creating a tool for future advocacy. This broader recognition was reflected in other key commitments RRI garnered at the international level, including in the UK government's Just Rural Transition initiative. Many donors and governments are also recognizing the importance of secure tenure as the basis for mitigating climate change, supporting sustainable livelihoods, and ensuring food security—made even more urgent by the current pandemic.

Third, progress on enacting progressive laws and policies recognizing indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant land rights continued in some countries, laying the groundwork for the recognition of rights at scale in a growing number of countries. In DRC, a decade of engagement by local collaborators supported by RRI, with national and local governments, has now shifted the pendulum toward implementation: 1.2 million hectares of community forest concessions have been granted, and the government has committed to allocating at least 2.5 million by 2023. In Peru, indigenous communities in Loreto province received 66 land titles, with President Martín Vizcarra publicly committing to titling all community lands by 2021. In Nepal, FECOFUN with the support of the RRI Coalition ensured that the 2019 Forest Act included protection for indigenous and community land rights and worked with local actors to achieve enactment of three local government laws recognizing community forest rights and Indigenous Peoples' territorial rights, while advancing dozens more. And in DRC, Liberia, and India, engagement supported by RRI led to legislative and policy breakthroughs recognizing and securing the land rights of indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant women.

Fourth, by the end of 2019, data and experience gathered by the RRI coalition, combined with emerging experience from the Tenure Facility, have made it possible for the first time to identify the scope of unrecognized collective land rights in the world, the cost of securing them, and the benefits to the global struggle against climate change that would accrue from scaling rights recognition. RRI combined and presented these breakthroughs as the “Path to Scale,” a simple, operational framework for identifying the interventions and resources necessary to solve the problem of scaling-up global progress. The Path to Scale provides a single framework for governments, donors, international institutions, rights-holders, and civil society organizations to track global progress and organize and coordinate their efforts to secure rights. The successful agreement on the contours of the next phase of the RRI Coalition—another key milestone in 2019—will enable us to accelerate action and impact on the Path to Scale by orienting government, the climate and conservation communities, and other stakeholders towards investing in recognizing rights, while also strengthening the role of rightsholder groups in guiding RRI’s programs and governance and better positioning the Coalition to exert influence at the national level.

Our Coalition, like everyone else, is still trying to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects on society, governments, the markets, and food systems. As I write, we are taking stock of how our Coalition members are faring, and how we will act together to confront this crisis. In the short term, we at RRG have revised our plans and budgets to optimize our support to frontline defenders. And we have initiated new thinking and analysis about this crisis across the Coalition, in order to better position rights-holder organizations to strengthen themselves and their agenda in the post-COVID world. We did not anticipate this crisis, but our progress in 2019—broadening the base of support, continuing to demonstrate the possibility of progress, and strengthening our own network—put us all in a much better position to confront it. And the current moment has only underscored the urgency of this collective work—both addressing the immediate impacts of the crisis, and shaping the world that will emerge from it for the better.



Andy White

Coordinator

Rights and Resources Initiative



Strategic Priority 1: Scale-up work to confront and counteract the threats of criminalization, violence, and rollback now exacerbated by the rise of nationalist governments

Prevented rollback of rights in key countries and diminished the risk of increased threats to land and environmental defenders

In **India**, legal and political advocacy work 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 could have evicted 10 million forest dwellers. RRI supported legal advocacy work for civil society and government affidavits for the Supreme Court Case, and mobilized the media, including through an opinion piece in the Washington Post. Advocacy also contributed to stronger support from the Minister of Tribal Affairs for the Forest Rights Act, including the withdrawal of proposed India Forest Act amendments that threatened community and indigenous land rights. The Land Conflict Watch Portal, supported by RRI, has become a critical resource for documenting and addressing land conflicts arising out of tenure security in India, contributing to a greater understanding of the need to recognize rights in order to prevent conflicts that damage communities and businesses alike.

In **Indonesia**, building the capacity of key civil society organizations enabled mass mobilizations that successfully stalled a new Land Law that posed significant risks to Indigenous Peoples and local community land rights. RRI 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. Furthermore, in the face of wide scale conflicts and criminalization, about 500 land defenders and community members in 9 provinces received legal aid and assistance through a jointly managed emergency fund administered by the Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA) and supported by RRI.

In **Colombia**, RRI supported the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) and the Ethnic Commission of Peace 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 Peoples and Afro-descendants. As a member of the High-Level Special Instance for Ethnic Peoples (IEANPE), ONIC carried out an advocacy strategy at the national and international levels, and ultimately secured funding of \$490,000 for the next two years from the United Nations Multi-Donor Fund. This financing enables all indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations who are members of the IEANPE to continue their crucial role in monitoring the government's compliance with 97 indicators defined in the Implementation Plan for the Ethnic Chapter for the Peace Agreement. The funding is essential for the IEANPE's role in safeguarding the collective tenure rights of different ethnic groups and the promotion of intercultural dialogue through a gender, generational, and human rights-oriented lens. RRI also supported ONIC through Land Rights Now 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.

In **Brazil**, in response to the Bolsonaro government's regressive actions, RRI supported the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) to undertake an international advocacy campaign across Europe to pressure the European Parliament to act on the Amazonian deforestation crisis and violation of Indigenous Peoples' rights. The campaign visited 12 European countries to directly engage changemakers to not invest in commodities grown on indigenous lands without their consent, and to denounce human rights violations in Brazil. Their messages received widespread attention and resulted in over 200 media articles. RRI Coalition also generated momentum for recognition of Brazilian Afro-descendent rights via strategic convenings to strengthen a regional agenda on territorial rights and advance toward establishing a roadmap for gaining specific representation at the international level as Afro-descendent people.

In **Peru**, RRI support to FECONAU, in coordination with the Institute for Legal Defense (IDL), helped ensure that 14 indigenous communities affected by proposed development actions of Oil Block 200 were fully informed and prepared to go through the prior consultation process. The activity is still ongoing due to a shift in institutional administration and continued changes in the schedule to carry out the prior consultation process from the

Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM) to Perupetro. However, IDL has developed a legal strategy to support FECONAU in engaging specific Peruvian government authorities on what has transpired between MINEM and the affected communities, and submitted a legal action to challenge the prior consultation plan under Perupetro's purview as a part of a political and legal advocacy strategy. After holding informational sessions with IDL on their legal options, the communities developed a communications strategy for media coverage and advocacy tailored to the authorities in Lima in order to build on the momentum generated by IDL submitting the legal action. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the schedule for prior consultation has been delayed further.

Increased protection of land and environmental defenders by raising global awareness and connecting defenders to support mechanisms

As the above section illustrates, criminalization of and violence against land and environmental defenders, and the closing of democratic spaces globally, continued to pose a threat to land rights and land rights defenders globally in 2019. In response to demand from the RRI Coalition and others, RRI convened a global exchange to take stock of indigenous and community initiatives to confront rollback, violence, and criminalization; and define a Coalition strategy for 2020 and beyond. The September 2019 workshop "Protecting and Promoting Democracy: Democratic Governance and Respecting the Rights of Communities" brought together indigenous, Afro-descendant, and women's representatives and their allies from Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the United States to share experiences and build collective strategies.

The event underscored the importance of countering harmful narratives and continuing to advocate at the global level for indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant self-determination and local economic development solutions, while also developing and strengthening partnerships for greater coordination to address violence and criminalization at all levels. In Latin America, for instance, the event catalyzed the alliance between the Afro-descendant movements from Colombia and Brazil, which RRI continues to support as they consolidate a regional strategy to defend their rights and gain recognition as a legitimate interlocutor in national and international fora. In 2020, RRI Collaborators PCN and CONAQ will construct a strategy to strengthen coordination between Latin American Afro-descendant organizations defending their tenure rights and position their identity as Afro-descendants in regional and international decision-making spaces.

The private sector remains a major driver of many of the land-related conflicts that threaten community rights. However, the improved reach of transparency initiatives into upstream supply chains, better remote technology, and more empowered indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant organizations mean that communities have never been better positioned to leverage these tools to support bottom-up advocacy.

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The workshop underscored the reality that a huge gap remains between corporate commitments and local practice. The experience of the host community provided grounding for the event in this respect: their community forests were under pressure from encroaching plantations; water quality was poor from polluted runoff from industrial plantations; and activists faced harassment and intimidation from local companies. These issues stemmed from local plantations that were selling to international companies that had pledged to respect local rights. The workshop demonstrated that communities across the RRI Coalition are not only navigating similar challenges, but are monitoring or engaged with regional and national subsidiaries or suppliers of the same global companies, underscoring the opportunity and need for coordinated, bottom-up advocacy. Based on the lessons and information shared during the exchange, the host community began to work with participating resource persons to leverage locally collected data on environmental quality, along with new information on the sustainability commitments of local operators and buyers, to organize themselves to voice their demands through windows available through commodity roundtables and national-level grievance mechanisms. In parallel, the Interlaken Group agreed to explore the potential of integrating community-generated data on local realities and impacts into due diligence and decision making.

To better support bottom-up advocacy, RRI initiated a project to analyze and map the collective impact of rights violations related to territorial disputes between communities and extractive industries in six Latin American countries (Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico) between 2017 and 2019. The georeferenced analysis quantified the scope of rights violations by distinguishing the several types of rights violated in particular cases. It examined a total of 102 cases of private company projects linked to the violation of collective rights, where 1,164 communities were impacted, and 295 individuals suffered attacks or direct criminalization. The cartographic database the project generated will be exhibited via the Story Maps platform, an online mapping tool via ArcGIS, in the second half of 2020. This study demonstrated that rights violations do not only affect individuals or close family circles, but entire communities, and that violations do not occur against one type of right, but several simultaneously.

To increase global awareness of the impacts of criminalization, RRI supported a Land Rights Now mobilization in December calling for an immediate end to the criminalization of land rights defenders. The mobilization inspired public meetings, workshops, and protests around the world—including in Nepal, Mexico, Paraguay, Cameroon, and Thailand. Cases in the Philippines, Colombia, DRC, and Guatemala that were highlighted by the campaign garnered significant attention: digital outreach reached 8 million people on Facebook; a video about criminalization of land defenders was watched 2.5 million times; and over 50,000 people shared one of the spotlight cases. While there is still more to do on this front, recent years have seen a significant increase in global awareness of the threats faced by community leaders.

RRI also provided advice on the launch of Global Witness' report—which helps set the tone for discourse on this issue. The report found a slight decrease in killings in 2018, thanks in large part to activism in key countries by indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant leaders to stem this tide. Yet leaders also reported a steady increase in other forms of persecution and criminalization that threatened their ability to assert their rights and impacted the livelihoods of entire communities. Facilitating the inclusion of Sonia Guajajara as a spokesperson helped ensure that the decrease in murders in Brazil was attributed to indigenous and community advocacy, rather than President Bolsonaro. Criminalization was also a key part of media coverage around the report overall, and RRI ghost wrote an op-ed by UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz—published in the Washington Post—to further coverage of this angle.



Strategic Priority 2: Shape key national and international climate, conservation, and restoration initiatives to fully respect Indigenous Peoples', local communities', and rural women's land rights and governance

Catalyzed momentum behind securing community land rights as a climate solution at the national and global levels, opening a window for future fundraising and advocacy

The IPCC helps set the tone for climate discourse and policy. RRI learned that the IPCC's 2019 Special Report on Climate Change and Land would, for the first time, recognize indigenous and community land rights as a climate change solution. The report cites evidence from RRI and others that securing indigenous and community land rights and capitalizing on their traditional knowledge are critical to the global struggle against climate change, a critical breakthrough in the scientific consensus around indigenous and community land rights.

To open a window of opportunity around this moment, RRI coordinated with the Coalition and allies to produce an indigenous and community response to the report that highlighted the scientific evidence connecting community land rights and combating climate change and called on governments and the climate and conservation communities to take action to scale up recognition of community land rights. The statement—rooted in scientific evidence from RRI and others—was endorsed by organizations from 42 countries spanning 76 percent of the world's tropical forests.

Outreach around the statement ensured that indigenous and community land rights featured as a central element of press coverage, with over 100 articles—including all wire services and the BBC, New York Times, Washington Post, Guardian, Reuters, Le Monde, and El Tiempo—covering this angle. Digital outreach also ensured that these issues received significant attention globally. In particular, a retweet of a video produced by RRI on the impact of indigenous and community contributions to mitigating the climate crisis from Leonardo DiCaprio's personal account expanded social outreach and engagement significantly, signifying a breakthrough of these issues into more mainstream coverage of climate and environmental issues. Outreach to indigenous and community leaders—and champions in the climate and conservation sectors—further amplified these messages.

The importance of women's land rights featured in the report itself—an important recognition that was amplified by the response. Including this recommendation was a direct request from indigenous and community organizations, demonstrating that gender justice has become a core part of the Coalition's agenda. RRI further amplified these findings with a [piece on the Women Deliver website](#). These efforts led to spikes in the conversation around gender justice.

The findings on indigenous and community land rights were absent from the official press materials and received only minor mention in the Summary for Policymakers. They would not have received attention without the response and accompanying outreach. Creating a high-level discourse where otherwise indigenous and community contributions would not 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 agendas. 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 future CBD and COP processes around the 2030 climate and biodiversity agenda. It can also support increased advocacy on the climate and biodiversity fronts at the country level (See "Lessons Learned," page 20.)

Elevated recognition of community-based tenure and governance rights within existing and emerging climate and development initiatives at all levels

RRI coordinated with the Coalition and allies to produce an indigenous and community response to the report that highlighted the scientific evidence connecting community land rights and combating climate change and called on governments and the climate and conservation communities to take action to scale up recognition of community land rights.

RRI contributes to bringing community land rights into mainstream climate and development discourse, and therefore to establishing a critical foundation to accelerate transformative change across scales and geographies. This includes securing the high-level commitments necessary to support rights recognition at scale, and ensuring that community land rights feature in the global biodiversity and climate agendas.

To further influence the global climate and biodiversity agendas, capture emerging global momentum, and inspire a “race to the top,” RRI worked closely with the United Nations 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 to guide all future investments in climate, conservation, and restoration in rural landscapes toward rights-based approaches—the “Gold Standard.” Following bottom-up validation of the draft principles, the Gold Standard will be officially launched in 2020, and used as a basis for engagement with conservation organizations and the CBD on the post-2020 agenda.

As a result of its engagement with the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the FCPF invited RRG to identify opportunities for major investment in securing community lands in member countries and conduct a first-ever analysis of member country “readiness” to secure rights. RRI leveraged this invitation to encourage the Bank to establish the first ever cross-sectoral advisory panel to mobilize internal commitments, identify pathways to scale-up rights, and guide an assessment of opportunities. RRI also garnered support from other major donor governments for this approach to evaluating and coordinating investment in community land rights (see Strategic Priority 4 for more information). RRI also provided feedback to the UK’s Just Rural Transition initiative, encouraging a commitment to indigenous and community land rights. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Summit in September. RRI’s Coordinator participated in the launch event, which featured the importance of community land rights as a climate change solution. This has led to continued opportunities for engagement with the donor government community.

A critical part of building global momentum on rights recognition is strengthening the evidence base. In collaboration with RRI Affiliated Network IFRI (International Forest Resources and Institutions research program), RRI conducted in-depth analyses of the relationship between global forest restoration opportunities and secure community land rights across 113 countries. Contributions include the creation of a [Global Forest Landscape Data Portal](#) and 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.

RRI also completed and released findings from its innovative methodology and analysis conceptualizing, comparing, and tracking the extent to which various national-level legal frameworks recognize the freshwater rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as the specific rights of women to use and govern community waters, across 15 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Developed in collaboration with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the study assesses the bundle of legally recognized freshwater rights that are most essential to communities’ water tenure security. Through analysis of 39 legal frameworks across the countries examined, the study finds that considerable legal gaps and administrative burdens hinder communities’ ability to effectively manage and protect their freshwater resources. Communities’ legal rights to freshwater are often dependent on recognition of their land or forest rights and, where this is the case, such frameworks tend to provide stronger legal protection for both communities broadly and women in particular. As a result, the “land-water nexus” is critical for informing effective laws and policies on community resource governance.

Throughout 2019, RRI positioned its forthcoming flagship report on community-based water tenure to influence the global narrative on water tenure. This included disseminating the findings in national and international fora, such as at a showcase event at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) World Water Week in August, enabling RRI to reach key audiences in the water and development communities. A brief, summarizing key findings from the report, was produced and disseminated to support these engagements. RRI was subsequently invited to join consultation around development of the FAO’s Water Tenure and Water Auditing Methodologies. These methodologies aim to improve understanding of water governance challenges within three pilot countries and inform future interventions to support sustainable and equitable water management. Relationships with the FAO and other actors in the land, forest, and water spheres are critical for elevating RRI and ELI’s findings on community-based water tenure; building consensus and increased global awareness around the concept of “water tenure;” and promoting the integration of tenure-based approaches into decision-making processes and initiatives related to forest, land, and freshwater governance. The final report will be published in spring 2020.

Catalyzed support for the implementation of tenure reforms and more inclusive investments among leaders from private sector, civil society, and developing country governments

Multinational companies have failed to meet their commitments around collective land rights and environmental impacts in part because of the difficulty of implementation across sprawling supply chains. This is especially true given that local suppliers are often not subject to the same reputational pressures as multinationals. National contexts often lack a “catalyst” group with the legitimacy to bring together the multiple stakeholder groups impacted by community land rights. The Interlaken Group, instigated and supported by RRI, has positioned itself to fill this void by delivering a more dynamic and country-focused agenda, while continuing to play a visible global role in coordinating private sector action in support of secure community land tenure.

In 2019, the Interlaken Group built on previous engagement at the national level, leveraging the political capital of corporate and investor participants to create new national level opportunities to influence and support national land tenure reforms.

In **Laos**, the Interlaken Group identified a strategic opportunity to leverage the voice of the progressive private sector to influence regulations governing the opening of 600,000 hectares of degraded forest—customarily inhabited by local peoples—to timber plantations. To seize this opportunity, the Interlaken Group held a workshop to assess opportunities for collective action to influence the roll-out of land forestry reforms, and engage and influence Chinese, Vietnamese, and Thai companies that have thus far remained unengaged by civil society. Participants, including representatives from forestry companies, development finance, and other development partners, agreed to develop a shared position document describing the required policy elements that must be implemented by the government of Laos when opening up degraded rural lands for plantations, including prioritizing the land rights and well-being of local peoples. The document will help to focus the collective advocacy efforts of participants with policymakers. The Group was subsequently invited to present the above at an IFC/World Bank convened dialogue in March 2020 with national policymakers on harmonizing land laws and investment regulations, though the event was ultimately postponed due to Covid-19.

In **Kenya**, the 2016 Community Land Act (CLA) provides a legal basis for communities to have their customary tenure recognized by the state. Yet implementation of the CLA has been delayed due to lack of both political will and capacity for implementation within the local, county, and national governments. Community Land Action Now! (CLAN) is a grassroots platform founded in 2018 to advocate for fast and fair implementation of the CLA, and which has served as the primary interlocutor for indigenous, local community, and civil society engagement with the private sector and government in the context of previous Interlaken Group-led engagements in Kenya.

In 2019, CLAN created an investor task force to further develop their private sector engagement strategy. A September 2019 meeting with sustainability staff from the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Nairobi validated the need for a community-led entry point for state and private investors on matters that affect community lands. Crucially, the meeting between CLAN and the EIB represented a rare direct connection between communities and investors who have historically often operated in an environment of mutual distrust. The meeting demonstrated the Interlaken Group’s ability to overcome historical mistrust and build direct links between rightsholders and private sector actors that can catalyze real progress towards acting on opportunities to shift the operating environment towards respecting rights.

CLAN proceeded, with support from EIB, FMO, and CDC Group, to organize an investor roundtable with international and domestic investors in land-based sectors in Kenya. The aim was to identify opportunities to jointly promote implementation of the CLA and establish CLAN as a coordinated community voice and source of information on community lands that might be accessed by the private sector and government. The workshop was scheduled for March 2020, and participation was secured from key investors, companies, and government representatives, but was ultimately postponed due to COVID-19.

The Interlaken Group, instigated and supported by RRI, has positioned itself to fill this void by delivering a more dynamic and country-focused agenda, while continuing to play a visible global role in coordinating private sector action in support of secure community land tenure.

In **Malawi**, the government recently set an ambitious agenda to reform its land regulations, passing a suite of ten new tenure laws between 2016 and 2018, including the Customary Land Act (CLA). Implementation of the CLA has implications for existing land-based investments and concessions, ongoing land-related disputes with communities, and the sustainable investment agenda. To address these issues, the Interlaken Group, with support from the World Bank, FAO, and DFID, catalyzed the Platform on Large Scale Land Based Investment (the Platform) in 2018, bringing together representatives from government, companies, communities, traditional leadership, and civil society organizations.

Building on results in 2018, Platform participants collaborated to develop a first joint analytical product, a case study analysis developed by Landesa and Landnet assessing the critical components of the Phata Sugar Growers Cooperative in Chikwawa District. The case represents a promising community-based outgrower scheme feeding into the Illovo Sugar and Coca-Cola supply chains and predicated on secure and clear community land tenure. A workshop—the first national event co-hosted by the Platform—in September 2019 provided stakeholders from government, civil society, traditional chiefs, companies, and development finance with a space to learn about and discuss the case. Notably, few of the individuals at the workshop were aware of it, despite the fact that the constituencies present were precisely those who would benefit from understanding and adopting a model like that of the Phata Cooperative. It is indicative of the barriers to communication between stakeholder groups, even in a country as small as Malawi, which the Interlaken Group might unlock. The workshop also demonstrated the ability of spaces convened by the Interlaken Group to provide a forum for the progressive private sector to influence developing country governments on the importance of land reform.



Strategic Priority 3: 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

Positioned community tenure as a critical component of the global gender justice agenda by amplifying indigenous, local, and Afro-descendant women's voices

RRI cultivates opportunities for women to highlight their unique contributions to the management and sustainable use of the world's vast network of community-held lands and territories in key global fora. Identified as a priority by indigenous and community women within the RRI Coalition, these opportunities result in the integration of women's land tenure into mainstream gender narratives and development practices, both vital to creating the enabling conditions necessary to scale-up the recognition of community land tenure. They also strengthen women's positions within their own communities and organizations.

With support from RRI, Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques (AMPB), an organization that coordinates the work of territorial authorities that administer or influence major forested areas of Mesoamerica, participated in Women Deliver's bi-annual conference where a youth and indigenous leader spoke about the economic, political, and social contributions of women within community held territories. The world's largest gathering on gender equality and the well-being of girls and women, Women Deliver provided an opportunity to amplify indigenous and local women's voices within the larger gender justice community. As a result, collective land rights as a means to advance gender justice continues to gain momentum and new allies. Furthermore, the global exposure prompted AMPB to further prioritize women's roles within their own organizations and territories, strengthening the voices and leadership of women on the ground.

RRI co-led the session "Gender equity in forest and land use policy" at the Chatham House Global Forum on Forest Governance and provided a platform and support to Melania Canales, current president of RRI Collaborator Organización Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas Andinas y Amazónicas del Perú (ONAMIAP) in Peru, to share promising practices with the donor community, government officials, and development practitioners. ONAMIAP's current efforts to strengthen indigenous women's forest and land governance have resulted in communities altering their statutes to recognize women as bona fide community members and adopt quotas for women's leadership on community boards. Elevating the voices of women like Melania bridges the gap between experiences of women on the ground and global development actors and ensures the scaling-up of local-led solutions.

During the UN Climate Summit, RRI connected a delegation of indigenous women networks from Asia and Latin America with new audiences and potential allies, supporting engagement with and learning from women in sectors outside the land field. RRI also supported the participation of indigenous women leaders from Indonesia and Honduras on a panel at the Nature's Climate Hub during the summit. The panel highlighted recognizing indigenous and community land rights as a climate change solution—and in particular, the rights and roles of indigenous and community women.

Lastly, RRI supported a UN Environment Specialist to deliver a "pitch" at the plenary session during the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) in Accra, Ghana. RRI provided key data on indigenous and community women's governance rights. The pitch was an opportunity to reach out to policymakers and practitioners who are less familiar with gender justice issues within the context of restoration and share with them the importance of indigenous and community women's rights and contributions. It was also a starting point for those working in this sphere to begin coalescing around shared messaging.

Ensured scaling-up of land rights is grounded in indigenous, local, and Afro-descendant women's experiences through new analysis

Building on the findings and recommendations from its 2017 analysis *Power and Potential*, RRI released a new brief, *Strengthening Indigenous and Rural Women's Rights to Govern Community Lands: Ten Factors*

Contributing to Successful Initiatives. The brief 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 Global Landscape Forum, Women Deliver conference, Chatham House meeting, and FGMC gender justice workshop, sharing best practices with donor and development communities. In addition, an RRI blog on the Women Deliver website reached gender experts and development professionals, drawing attention to the outsized role indigenous and community women play in managing the world's forests, mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting biodiversity, and maintaining their community's livelihoods, further integrating community land tenure into the mainstream gender justice movement.

As the restoration of degraded forests becomes an increasingly important solution to the climate crisis, RRI is working through the GLF's Gender Constituency to ensure that gender equality, and women's rights and empowerment as defined in global commitments, are effectively and sustainably addressed in emerging global restoration policies and actions. As part of these efforts, RRI's Senior Tenure Analyst participated in the Global Landscape Forum's (GLF) webinar *Beyond Land: Gender equality in restoration*, advocating for addressing gender equality in restoration efforts.

RRI contributed to its Partner Landesa's "Stand for Her Land" campaign, which aims to bridge the gap between law and practice so that women can realize their equal rights to land. RRI ensured that women's collective tenure rights were included in the campaign, and successfully connected organizations in Liberia with the campaign to complement their ongoing effort regarding women's access to land rights in the context of the Land Rights Act.

Lastly, RRI's engagements at SIWI World Water Week emphasized the critical role of the land-water nexus in protecting women's rights to use and govern community freshwater resources. Evidence from its forthcoming flagship on water tenure shows that laws regulating community-based freshwater rights are typically gender-blind, with just one-third of legal frameworks protecting women's specific rights to participate in freshwater governance. Where such provisions do exist, they most frequently stem from frameworks recognizing communities' land or forest tenure rights. These findings suggest that land and forest laws may play an outsized role in establishing gender-sensitive protections for indigenous and community women's rights to use, benefit from, and participate in the governance of freshwater.

Advanced indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant women's rights, voice, and leadership at the country level

In **DRC**, after conducting multi-stakeholder dialogues and consultations engaging women, customary chiefs, provincial parliaments, and governments in five provinces on indigenous and rural women's land rights and the land reform process, RRI collaborator Coalition of Women Leaders for Environment and Sustainable Development (CFLEDD) submitted to the National Commission on Land Reform a technical note on the importance of recognizing women's land rights. As a result, the draft land policy document was revised to include provisions securing the rights of indigenous and rural women to land ownership, inheritance, participation in land governance decision-making processes, and community-level dispute resolution mechanisms.

In **Liberia**, RRI collaborator Liberia Reform Movement (LRM), as part of the Civil Society Working Group on Land (CSO-WG Land), engaged with the Liberia Land Authority around the drafting of the regulations for the landmark 2018 Land Rights Act on customary rights. As a result, finalized and adopted regulations recognize the rights of indigenous and rural women as members of their community, able to participate in land governance decisions and management bodies. They also recognize the rights of all women, whether married or not, to own land privately, jointly, and collectively.

In **India**, women forest dwellers' leadership and voices were vital in responding to the threat to the Forest Rights Act by a Supreme Court Order, which could have resulted in the evictions of 10 million Adivasis from their customary lands. Responses included meetings, participation in local, state-level and national mobilizations and protests, poster campaigns, and a Twitter campaign. Ultimately, the order was stayed in the Supreme Court as a result of the response. Additionally, advocacy organizations successfully ensured gender disaggregated data would be available at various district and state levels, which formed the basis for studies on gender and forest rights by research centers and civil society. A national convention on women's forest rights was also held in November 2019 to create a platform between civil society, community members, policy makers and media on the issue of women's participation in natural resource management, which created an advocacy space for tribal women leaders.

In **Latin America**, RRI commenced an analysis on economic and entrepreneurial initiatives led by indigenous, local, and Afro-descendent women from Mesoamerica and South America as part of a long-term strategy to demonstrate the critical roles women play in their communities' local economies. The analysis identified 75 cases in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru across an array of sectors, such as food service/security, ecotourism, artisanal goods, textile craftwork, fashion, beauty, communications, education, entertainment, finance, and health. The study found that the creation of women-led businesses was often in response to a social, political, economic, or environmental gap, need, or opportunity. The initiatives aimed to address many issues, such as poverty, ethnic and racial discrimination, ethnic pride, gender inequity, political representation, illiteracy, domestic violence, deforestation, and expropriation of collective territories. RRI will build on this work in 2020, conducting a deeper analysis of how such women-led initiatives contribute to rural economic transformation.



Strategic Priority 4: More effectively connect and leverage the growing community of organizations and initiatives supporting the recognition of indigenous and local community land rights to seize opportunities and strengthen impact at national and global levels

Advanced a feasible path to securing over 400 million hectares of community land by 2030

Since RRI's inception, over 150 million hectares of forest in over 30 countries has been secured for communities; at least 14 countries have passed progressive legislation recognizing collective forest rights; and numerous court cases have been won in favor of rightsholders. As the field of organizations working toward realization of indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant land rights has matured, RRI is playing a critical role in shifting the narrative from “why” community land and resource rights are important to global development and climate goals, to “how” they can be scaled.

RRI's forthcoming “Opportunity Framework” analyzes 29 tropical forest countries to identify opportunities to scale-up recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' land rights. It assesses the status of the “enabling factors” that must be in place for rights to be legally recognized: adequate legal frameworks, political will, and civil society capacity; and is complemented by a deeper dive in 18 countries to take stock of existing operating environments. This tool fills a critical space in the field by enabling donors and partners to easily identify opportunities for high impact investments aligned with their own priorities and project portfolios. The Framework has garnered support from BMZ, BEIS, CLUA, and other critical actors in the rights recognition space.

With the enabling environment for rights recognition established in many countries—in large part thanks to members of the RRI Coalition—small and medium scale projects are demonstrating proof of concept for the Path to Scale. The Tenure Facility has made significant gains on this front, supporting communities to advance their rights recognition over 6.5 million hectares of land in just two years in the 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 has resulted in significant impacts, pointing to an immediately feasible Path to Scale land rights globally.

Tenure Facility projects identified and prepared by RRG staff earned political support and achieved major breakthroughs in Peru, India, and Colombia. This work is the Path to Scale in practice. In **India**, the Tenure Facility project supported by RRI leveraged the learning from RRI-supported pilot projects for initiating recognition of community forest rights in more than 2,000 villages across six states, impacting more than a million rightsholders while training and orienting thousands of community members, CSOs, and government representatives. RRI supported advocacy to generate political will in two state governments (Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh) for scaling up community forest rights, helping to sustain momentum for implementation of rights recognition on the ground by the Tenure Facility and others.

RRI led development of a learning exchange in Bogota, Colombia in October, to share learning on how to implement rights recognition on the ground, share promising practices and lessons learned, and continue to strengthen support for critical allies. Over 100 people attended, including representatives from 12 governments alongside project proponents and donors. The exchange and its aftermath illustrated the complementarity of RRI's work to create the enabling environment, with the Tenure Facility's support to projects implementing rights on the ground. For instance, a team of government officials from India that attended the conference influenced their government on their return, leading the Minister of Tribal Affairs to hold a series of meetings with state governments as well as issue instructions for scaling-up implementation of the country's Forest Rights Act.

Building the enabling environment for securing community land rights beyond the countries where RRI has

In India, the Tenure Facility project supported by RRI leveraged the learning from RRI-supported pilot projects for initiating recognition of community forest rights in more than 2,000 villages across six states, impacting more than a million rightsholders while training and orienting thousands of community members, CSOs, and government representatives.

historically engaged was also a focus in 2019. With signatories from 13 countries in the Africa region, the newly created Network of African Land Institutions for Community Rights (ALIN) is positioned to play a key role in providing political support for the implementation of laws recognizing indigenous and community land rights in 2020 and beyond. ALIN was launched at the closing of the Regional Workshop of Land Institutions for Securing Communities' Land Rights in Africa, held in Madagascar in May 2019. Instigated and co-organized by RRI, the regional workshop capitalized on recent legislative land and forest gains across Africa for the expansion of tenure rights for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women within those communities, as well as growing political will to support this agenda in a number of countries in the region. ALIN, an intergovernmental platform to scale implementation of indigenous and community land rights, is positioned to seize on this momentum to catalyze opportunities to build the enabling conditions for implementation and scaling of indigenous and community land rights in the region.

In order to effectively support the shift from “why” to “how,” the RRI Coalition undertook a fundamental rethinking of its structure, strategy, and theory of change as part of the drafting of a new Memorandum of Understanding. This process has better positioned RRI to adapt to the changing ecosystem it helped instigate in order to achieve recognition of rights at scale. Throughout 2019, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Renewal of RRI brought together key constituencies to reflect on RRI's position in the world and consider how the Coalition structure might be revised. At the October Global Strategy Meeting in Bogota, Colombia, the committee presented a discussion paper outlining how RRI should adapt to serve as a more open network that continues to facilitate coordination in priority countries and regions while driving the global agenda on land rights.

The most significant change is that former Affiliated Networks—largely indigenous and local community organizations—are being invited to join RRI as Partners, increasing the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Coalition governance. These changes will ensure that RRI is even more responsive to the agendas of increasingly active and sophisticated community rights movements, advancing the Coalition's mission to advance the land, forest, and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendants and promote their self-determined sustainable, social, and economic development. RRI is on track to renew its Memorandum of Understanding in 2020 as a more effective and united Coalition.

Catalyzed breakthroughs in recognition and implementation of indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant land rights

Years of building the enabling conditions for rights recognition have paved the way for projects that support implementation of rights on the ground. These successes provide a model for future scaling-up of rights recognition.

In **DRC**, RRI supported the communities of Kingwaya Village in Kwilu Province to apply for rights recognition to a community forest concession of 1,753 hectares; the title was granted in December 2019. This breakthrough comes after RRI has engaged with the DRC government for almost a decade to instigate land reform processes that create the enabling conditions to advance collective tenure, including a legal framework that enables communities to secure their forestland through Community Forestry Concessions. Implementation began in 2018, and to date 65 community forest concessions covering a total of 1.2 million hectares have been granted, a critical advance for both livelihoods and protection of DRC's forests and carbon sinks. The DRC government has committed to allocating 2.5 million hectares of forestland for communities through community forest concessions by 2023, opening a path for significant scaling in the future.

In **Nepal**, RRI Partners and Collaborators engaged to ensure that the Forest Act, which was passed in 2019, included protection for indigenous and community land rights. The community forestry federation FECOFUN, an RRI Partner, has been carrying out advocacy to ensure that the forest rights of communities and Indigenous Peoples are protected, as the provinces and municipalities are moving forward to enact new forest laws as required by the constitution. RRI is working closely with FECOFUN and indigenous organizations to ground a Tenure Facility project that will support enactment of local government laws to recognize community forest rights and Indigenous Peoples' territorial rights in 100 local governments. Model laws have been drafted and are being discussed with local government leadership; two local governments have already passed laws supporting community forest rights.

In **Peru**, Native Communities in the Loreto Province received 66 land titles, strengthening livelihoods and communities' ability to resist illegal logging on their territories. During his speech at the handover ceremony, Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra said his government's goal was to title all communities in Peru by 2021. This success built on work in Peru supported by RRI, including networking through MegaFlorestais—an informal network of public forest agency leaders dedicated to advancing indigenous and community land rights—to gain the trust of top forestry officials who were essential to the project's success.

In defense of the Barú community in **Colombia**, RRI supported the preparation of a well-documented legal action against the National Land Agency (ANT) to restore the titling administrative process previously withdrawn by the Agency in April 2019. The first court ruling recognized the right of the community to due process for the claims to land rights and ordered the ANT to respond to the Barú Community. The case was elevated to the Supreme Court of Justice after the appeal from the ANT. This court ruled that third parties, such as those from the tourism and hotel industries that may have an interest in the outcome of the titling process, be permitted to participate in the legal proceedings. The case is set to be resolved in 2020. In order to continue the Barú community's case through a new wave of litigation, RRI is providing support through its Strategic Response Mechanism to maintain the community's legal defense. 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.

In **Kenya**, RRI supported civil society through the Community Land Action Now! platform (CLAN) to support fast and fair implementation of the Community Land Act. The Act was passed in 2016, with regulations finalized in 2018. CLAN has put in place a working group on private sector engagement and launched a website and social media campaigns around the implementation of the CLA. 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.

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 Land Rights Act, 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.

In **Panama**, a Land Rights Now campaign supported the Naso Tjër Di Indigenous People to demand that the government recognize their land rights. A law to recognize the Naso Comarca had previously been passed twice by the legislative assembly but vetoed by the President, who cited the Comarca's overlap with protected areas. While the government still has not approved the Comarca, in December of 2019 the Ministry of Environment passed a landmark resolution paving the way for rights recognition. It recognized that Indigenous Peoples' claims to land predate the protected area system in Panama, and that respecting their rights is integral to forest conservation. Critically, it also recognizes the primacy of international law in setting the state's obligation with regard to indigenous rights. This resolution is a key milestone in the struggle to secure rights, and removes one of the fundamental obstacles that has limited recognition and the full enjoyment of rights to date.



Lessons Learned and Reflections

A number of critical lessons affected RRI's work and impact in 2016.

First, RRI learned that in order to truly maximize the impact of its analytical work, it should produce fewer analytical reports but allocate more time and resources to amplifying outreach. In 2016, RRI produced fewer analytical pieces, and focused more on enhancing the visibility of its research through a variety of global outreach channels, while simultaneously adapting it to better support the work of Coalition members within national contexts. Strategic partnerships, timed with the expansion of the RRI Coalition, also amplified impacts and minimized costs. For example, an RRI-led alliance with the World Resources Institute and the Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC) leveraged data from all three organizations to create an [unprecedented baseline](#) of the amount of carbon stored in community forestlands. Together, RRI, WRI, and WHRC used this research to raise awareness of the importance of community land rights at international events like COP22. Additionally, RRI created accessible packages of content and key messages for use on social media and national advocacy work in countries from DRC to Indonesia (see page 12 for more).

A key part of this learning was the need to ensure that messages and data were usable by RRI Partners and Collaborators and other key constituents. The production of targeted, audience-specific products provided RRI stakeholders with materials tailored to their countries, fields, and needs. RRI also began to recognize the benefits of better connecting its analytical work with its broad network by building out its digital communications strategy. This included a Coalition-wide [messaging repository](#) to make key data available to all constituents; a restructured and more user-friendly website; paid social media promotion; and shareable visual data for easy use by the media, key spokespeople, and national-level advocates. RRI is implementing these new strategies to maximize the impact of its forthcoming gender flagship report, [Power and Potential](#), this spring.

A second lesson was that RRI could better address the needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities by expanding and strengthening its global network. RRI's revised Memorandum of Understanding (2015) reaffirmed the value added of the Coalition structure, and RRI has since expanded to address weaknesses and add critical voices. RRI's new Affiliated Networks category adds important grassroots networks and allows the Coalition to be more responsive to the needs of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women's groups (in terms of focus, speed, and tactics). At this year's global scan meeting, RRI saw real benefit to having Partners, Affiliated Networks, donors, and Fellows together in the room to discuss key challenges and emerging trends. As RRI focuses more energy and resources at the regional and country level, new spokespeople and stronger national networks will help amplify the Coalition's impact.

Third, RRI learned that it could better position national coalitions and focus on higher-level policy transformation by reducing its number of focus countries. The 2015 Mid-Term Evaluation and subsequent conversations with staff and donors identified the inefficiencies of engaging in too many countries and failing to fully utilize the Coalition to achieve high-level policy and market transformations. At the end of 2015, RRI therefore decided to scale back from 15 to seven focus countries. This decision was confirmed by the high level of productivity and impact in 2016, as noted by the Independent Monitor (see page 6). This also allowed RRI to deploy recent tools and platforms (the Interlaken Group, Tenure Facility, and Land Rights Now initiative) at the country level. Coupled with national level networks and strategies, these tools complement and reinforce one another to drive change.

Finally, RRI reaffirmed the value of a flexible approach to respond to unforeseen opportunities, and therefore must seek new sources of funding for Strategic Plan III. Given the complex and highly political nature of tenure reform, RRI was designed and structured to capitalize on emerging opportunities to secure land tenure and prevent rollback. One of the most effective ways RRI has been able to do this is via the SRM, which allows the rapid deployment of funds as unforeseen opportunities arise. Increasing the percentage of RRI's 2016 budget allocated to the SRM was not only well received by the Coalition, but also led to significant impacts at key moments around the world (see page 16 for more).

RRI's SRM is an essential component of its ability to achieve such a large impact with a relatively small budget. As climate, political, and economic shocks are likely to increase in the future, the importance of a responsive and flexible system of support to local actors will only grow. With the recent growth in earmarked funding of RRI's budget (from 20 to 50 percent of its total grant allocations between 2015 and 2016), the Coalition will need to be proactive and innovative in expanding its donor base to ensure that it can continue to offer this kind of flexible funding. Efforts to develop this capacity and make progress on this front began in December 2016. A number of critical lessons affected

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2019 Financial Results

Overall revenue declined between 2018 and 2019, largely due to completion of work related to the Tenure Facility and its full spin-off to an independent operating entity. In late 2019, RRG received a new, three-year commitment from the German Government (BMZ), however, government revenue is recognized in years in which expenses are incurred with grant activities commencing in January 2020. The organization diversified its revenue base as well, welcoming funding partnerships with four new private donors. And although revenue was not realized in 2019, the groundwork was laid with additional donors expressing interest in the Path to Scale and subsequent Pathway Alliance. We expect those efforts to bear fruit in 2020. Expenses also decreased from 2018 to 2019 due to the spin-off of the Tenure Facility. Subgrants and agreements, combined with technical assistance from regional staff, continue to make-up the largest expense, signaling the continued strengthening of the field and a focus on national-level activities. As projected in 2018, total net assets in 2019 decreased as funds committed to Tenure Facility projects were dispersed to subgrantees and unspent funds returned to donors to be redirected to the organization as an independent entity.

The above is based on unaudited financials. Audited financials and a more in-depth analysis will be sent to donors and posted on the RRI website before June 30, 2020.



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