



# Sixteenth RRI Dialogue on Forests, Governance and Climate Change

## Investments, Communities and Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities

OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2014 | HOTEL SONESTA EL OLIVAR

SAN ISIDRO, LIMA, PERU

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE INSTITUTO DEL BIEN COMÚN

### INTRODUCTION

Over the last two decades, the economies of Latin America have grown at varying paces. According to some indicators (CEPAL 2014), this year Mexico, Colombia, and Ecuador will see marked growth, while Brazil, Chile, and Peru will witness a slowdown compared to their past, stronger performances. More broadly, however, the region will continue to face the structural challenges that have historically limited its growth and the equitable distribution of social benefits in the long run. Chief among these challenges is a productive structure highly concentrated in natural resource extraction and export specialization.

Growing commercial ties with China have brought about an affluence of investments, the intensification of commodity extraction, and the designation of new zones for natural resource exploration and extraction. Chinese banking institutions are now among the most dynamic investors in the region, allocating 90% of their investments in natural resources (ECLAC 2013). According to the Inter-American Dialogue, China pledged loans of up to \$98 billion to Latin American countries between 2005 and 2013, funneling the lion's share of these funds into Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, and Ecuador as well as the Pacific Region (China Economic Watch). Additionally, regional and global banking institutions, such as the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) and the recently created New Development Bank (NDB) operated by the BRICS, will continue to serve mega-infrastructure projects.

As investments rise, the pace of land acquisitions is also accelerating, giving way to both alarm and debate at the international level. Studies show that large scale land acquisitions often neglect the potential implications of uncertain land tenure regimes on the ground. In this context, investments could not only spark or exacerbate social conflicts; but could pose major risks to their own financial integrity (The Munden Project 2013-2014). These studies show that insecurity in land tenure is a threat to both the tenure rights of communities as well as the stability of business revenues and investments. Conversely, some multinationals have taken a leading role in generating policies that protect the tenure rights of inhabitants in areas desirable for investments (*Behind the Brands Campaign*). It is important to understand these initiatives, and what they do to promote respect for



human rights. In Latin America, where forest lands are an integral part of the territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the importance of these initiatives cannot be underestimated.

In Central and South America, forest ecosystems cover approximately 21% of the land (940 million hectares) and constitute more than 50% of the world's tropical forests. Communities control or own a little more than 39% of forests (RRI 2014), and legitimately manage 216 million hectares (FCMC 2014) where an estimated 40 million people live—between jungles and forests. Not surprisingly, the region has some of the best examples worldwide of community forest management. There is scientific evidence indicating that collective ownership of forests by communities is more effective than central State ownership or strict protected areas in protecting forests as well as contributing to the economic and social well-being of communities—also known as the rights-based approach to conservation.

The preparatory stage of the Lima Climate Change Conference (COP 20), to be held in December, represents an opportunity to promote initiatives and build partnerships that help bring about constructive mechanisms to manage the impacts of overlapping claims and rights to forest land and resources in Latin America.





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### AGENDA

8.00 – 8.30 | **Registration and coffee break**

8.30 – 8.45 | **Welcome and agenda presentation**

- Omaira Bolaños, *Latin America Regional Program Director, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)*
- Richard Smith, *Executive Director, Instituto del Bien Común, Peru*

8.45 – 9.00 | **Framing presentation** – Andy White, *Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative*

9.00 – 9.50 | **Panel 1 – Assessing Current Challenges: Overlapping Rights, Drivers of Deforestation and Investments**

**Chair:** Julia Cuadros, *Executive Director, CooperAcción, Peru*

**Panelists:**

1. Richard Smith, *Executive Director, Instituto del Bien Común (IBC), Peru*
2. Leonardo Pradela, *Associate, The Munden Project*
3. Fabiola Muñoz, *Executive Director (e), National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), Peru*
4. Paul Little, *International Consultant, USA*

9.50 – 10.40 | **General discussion with the audience**

10.40 – 11.00 | **Coffee break**

11.00 – 11.50 | **Panel 2 – Safeguards, Standards and Climate Change: Diverse Interests Engaged in the Forest Debate**

**Chair:** Connie Campbell, *South America Regional Environment Team Leader, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Peru*

**Panelists:**

1. Kristyna Bishop, *Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank*



2. Paulina Garzón, *Director, Initiative for Sustainable Investments China - Latin America, Ecuador*
3. José Absalón Suárez, *Coordinator Territory and Environment, Proceso de Comunidades Negras, Colombia*

11.50 – 12.30 | **General discussion with the audience**

12.30 – 13.30 | **Lunch**

13.30 – 14.20 | **Panel 3 – Seeking Solutions to Protect Rights and Forests in the Context of Climate Change**

**Chair:** Peter Cronkleton, Senior Scientist, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Peru

**Panelists:**

1. Cándido Mezua, *President, The National Coordination of the Indigenous Peoples of Panama (COONAPIP), Panama*
2. Max Lascano, *Manager of Socio Bosque (SB), Ministry of the Environment, Ecuador*
3. Roberto Persivale, *Partner, Asesorandes, Peru*

14.20 – 15.00 | **General discussion with the audience**

15.00 – 15.15 | **Coffee break**

15.15 – 16.00 | **Panel 4 – The Way Forward: New Approaches, Lessons Learned for a Broader Vision towards COP**

**Chair:** Penny Davies, Program Officer, Ford Foundation, USA

**Panelists:**

1. María Blanca Chancosa, *Cofounder, ECUARUNARI - Confederation of Peoples of Kichwa Nationality, Ecuador*
2. Gustavo Suárez de Freitas, *Executive Coordinator (e), National Forest Conservation Program for the Mitigation of Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Peru*
3. Roberto Espinoza, *Coordinator of the Climate Change Program and Indigenous REDD+, Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDSESP), Peru*
4. Margarita Benavides, *Deputy Director, Instituto del Bien Común (IBC), Peru*

16.00 – 16.30 | **General discussion with the audience**

16.30 – 16.45 | **Closing remarks**

- Andy White, *Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)*
- Margarita Benavides, *Deputy Director, Instituto del Bien Común (IBC), Peru*