

Africa Work Plan

Regional Overview

A. *Rationale for Regional Engagement*

In Sub-Saharan Africa, there is limited recognition of community rights due to, among various factors, poor implementation of legislative reforms, weak statutory tenure regimes, and a lack of enabling legal instruments. Local communities legitimately claim 70% of land with an estimated 428 million inhabitants considered customary land holders of approximately 1.4 billion hectares (Liz Willey, 2007). At the same time, governments also consider themselves legal holders of land and forest resources, including the sub-soil. A Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) study revealed that in 2013, while no land legally belonged to local communities and Indigenous Peoples, 93.7% of forest land was administered or owned by the government, 5.9% was designated for use by local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and 0.3% was administered or owned by individuals or companies (RRI, 2014).

Communities in sub-Saharan Africa are also facing major challenges related to large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs). The total amount of forest land allocated to industrial concessions is in excess of the total amount of forest recognized as officially owned or used by forest communities. Chinese investments continue to dominate foreign direct investment (FDI), predominantly in the mining and energy industries but also increasingly in the timber and agricultural sectors. Large-scale land-based investments (LSLBI) are up to 16 million hectares (Mha) with a high level of implementation in Central Africa (Land Matrix, 2013). Of the 203 Mha in global land acquisitions approved or under negotiation between 2000 and 2010, more than half of those reported as LSLAs are in Africa.

There are primarily two models of land reform in Central and West Africa: the first model is entirely financed by national public funds or the government's budget, while the second is co-financed by the state and international cooperation organizations (bilateral and multilateral agencies).

To attract more investors and build the national economy, many countries are undergoing major reforms. Since 2009, 13 countries have either revised or developed at least one new legal instrument in their national statutory tenure regimes. While the new wave of reforms intends to move away from their respective colonial legacies (Liberia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Senegal and Ivory Coast), challenges in recognizing local community rights still persist. Oftentimes the reform processes are neither participatory nor transparent (e.g. Gabon and Cameroon.) To enable equal representation, donors sometimes demand participation of a cross section of stakeholders, including civil society. In other settings, (e.g. DRC, Senegal and Liberia) a National Land Reform Commission has been established to guide the processes.

Despite the challenges in the reform processes, Africa's remarkable economic growth is projected to remain above 5% in 2014, with West Africa identified as the fastest-growing sub-region. Nigeria, Africa's largest economy and most populous country, plays a crucial role in advancing the continent's growth. While the nation's consumer and growing capital markets have contributed to Nigeria's image as an investment destination, the country still faces challenges in converting its natural wealth into solutions that address persistent social problems and corruption.

To further accelerate trade and increase investments on the continent, the United States hosted an Africa Leaders' Summit in Washington D.C. in August, 2014. The forum, which also facilitated the convergence of 100 American companies, resulted in \$14 billion investment commitments in diverse African sectors such as banking, construction industry, aviation, water, sanitation, and electricity.

In spite of this international focus on Africa, political and social unrest have continued to undermine economic growth on the continent. For example, popular uprisings against African dictators and the Ebola epidemic in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, have resulted in negative economic impacts, lost outputs, higher fiscal deficits, rising prices, lower real household incomes, and increased poverty.

B. Regional Strategy and Areas of Intervention

In 2015, RRI's priority countries for intervention will include those in which reforms are currently underway. These include the DRC, Cameroon, Senegal, and Liberia. Planned activities will consist of monitoring of progress on land and forest tenure and policy reforms implemented since 2000, developing analyses to inform government roadmaps and civil society advocacy strategies, showcasing lessons learned from other countries, and examining the best options for securing community rights.

To this effect RRI, will collaborate with regional civil society networks that were organized in response to conventional, extractive economic models. RRI will also collaborate with such strategic allies as members of parliament, traditional leaders, and elected officials who play a vital role in the different reform processes and efforts to defend the land and forest tenure rights of local communities. Specifically, RRI will engage with the African Community Rights Network (ACRN), comprising 40 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) focusing on securing forest rights in the Congo Basin and West African forested states. Since 2009, organizations networking under the umbrella of the ACRN have engaged governments, donors, and private sector actors across Africa to advocate for reforms to recognize and respect community tenure of land, forests and resources. Various organizations, including the ACRN as a collective, have used the European Union (EU) framework Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan and the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) negotiations as an opportunity to advance the campaigns for forest sector reform in their respective countries.

RRI's major Report on "Industrial Oil Palm Development. Liberia's Path to Sustained Economic Development and Shared Prosperity? Lessons from the East" (Matthias Rhein, forthcoming), which takes a broader view on industrial-scale crop development and the role of the rural sector in economic development in Liberia, will be used to engage governments in tropical countries such as Liberia, Cameroon, and the DRC on the features and impacts of large-scale palm oil development and the need for alternative economic development models. RRI coalition member organizations at the national level (Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cameroon, Ghana, and the DRC) will develop strategies that support communities around industrial-scale palm oil development and extractive industries and provide alternative thinking on forest management approaches that put people and the environment first and showcase what is possible. Community forest enterprises based on non-timber forest products (NTFPs), primarily those managed by women's groups, will also be promoted.

C. Supporting Documentation and Publications

- Communities, Community Lands & Community Land Rights in Africa. A Discussion Brief for ACRN Members. Liz Alden Wily, ACRN Resource Adviser, Draft 1: 18 September 2014

- Land Matrix, in the International Land Coalition’s 2012 report “Land Rights and the Rush for Land: Findings of the Global Commercial Pressures on Land Research Project” Anseeuw, Alden Wily, Cotula, & Taylor, 2011
- <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21600685-nigerias-suddenly-supersized-economy-indeed-wonder-so-are-its-still-huge>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/09/30/hit-by-ebola-liberia-is-descending-into-economic-hell/>
- The Economic Impact of the 2014 Ebola Epidemic: Short and Medium Term Estimates for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone The World Bank, September 17, 2014
- http://www.lemonde.fr/les-decodeurs/article/2014/11/18/coups-d-etat-transitions-apaisees-comment-les-dirigeants-africains-sont-ils-arrives-au-pouvoir_4518689_4355770.html Matthias Rhein, 2014. Industrial Oil Palm Development. Liberia’s Path to Sustained Economic Development and Shared Prosperity? Lessons from the East. Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)

Table 1: Priority Outcomes; Associated Activities and Outputs; Implementers

Priority Outcomes	Associated Activities and Outputs	Implementers
<p>1. The Africa Community Rights Network (ACRN) member organizations jointly act to secure community rights through a consistent approach of developing guiding principles and an Index made up of a set of criteria to allow analysis of the state of community land rights in African countries.</p>	<p>Activity 1: ACRN members with support from an expert/consultant develop an Index made up of a set of criteria to allow analysis of the state of community land rights in African countries to help ACRN build up consistent campaigns through a sort of "Land Rights Watch" and frequently analyze the state of those rights using the tools developed.</p> <p>Outputs: Guidelines and tools to train communities on land and tenure rights; Campaign on community land rights in Africa; Analytical report on the state of community land rights; Regional ACRN meeting to validate tools</p>	<p>Lead: ACRN (from DRC, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Liberia, Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Republic of Congo) Consultant (Liz Willey), FERN</p>
<p>2. A synthesis report of lessons learned from past legislative reforms is prepared and informs land reform processes in Africa</p>	<p>Activity 2: Synthesize “lessons learned” from past legislative reform processes as a resource for countries currently undertaking reforms in Africa; and present the findings in the ILC global land conference</p> <p>Outputs: Synthesis Report; Panel presentation of findings during International Land Coalition (ILC) 2015 Global Land Forum</p>	<p>RRG: Global Program, consultant/analyst</p> <p><i>See Global Programs, Realizing Rights, Strategic Analysis, Activity 6</i></p>
<p>3. Progress on land and forest tenure reforms in West and Central Africa is tracked and used to inform the strategy in the region.</p>	<p>Activity 3: Monitor progress on land and forest tenure and policy reforms in Central and West Africa and develop a mechanism using transparency and other governance indices; organize a restitution workshop and develop a strategy for its application in the region</p> <p>Outputs: Monitoring mechanism with multiple indices; restitution workshop; implementation strategy document</p>	<p>RRG: Global Program/Africa Program</p> <p><i>See Global Programs, Tenure Tracking, Strategic Analysis, Activity 3</i></p>
<p>4. Members of the national land commission in Senegal (CNRF) and the Ministry of land affairs in Cameroon (MINDCAF) are better</p>	<p>Activity 4: Networking exchange visit of Senegal’s National Land Reform Commission (CNRF) and the Ministry of Land Affairs in Cameroon (MINDCAF) to the DRC in order to learn from and share best practices with the National Land Reform Commission (CONAREF)</p> <p>Outputs: Exchange visit between Senegal (CNRF), Cameroon (MINDCAF) and the</p>	<p>RRG Africa Program, Facilitators, IPAR, CACO, RRI coalition in Cameroon</p>

informed and incorporate DRC's decentralized and participatory land reform best practices.	DRC (CONAREF)	
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Country Overview: Cameroon

A. Rationale for Country Engagement

Following the enactment of the December 2007 Law No 2007/006, Cameroon has undergone dynamic reforms concerning the National Financial Plan. In November 2009, the adoption of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE, for its French initials) gave high priority to optimizing natural resources, developing large-scale concessions, and attracting prominent investors. These government policies and action frameworks have led to systematic reviews of sectoral, ministerial, and local laws and regulations. For example, the Mining Code was revised in 2010 to enable optimal economic viability for the sector while plans to reform the land law—in order to secure industrial land and promote second generation agriculture—were announced in 2011. Subsequent laws establishing economic zones and land use planning were adopted in 2011, with the latter serving to better coordinate sectoral policies. The Rural Sector Development Strategy Paper (DSDSR, for its French initials) and the 1994 Forestry Law are also under revision.

Although there is little available information on the progress of the land reforms, the aforementioned actions paved the way for the following reform processes in 2014:

- Revision of Mining Code draft law for submission to the November 2014 parliamentary session;
- Validation of the Rural Sector Development Strategy Paper (DSDSR) which could allow for the finalization of the Pastoral Code;
- The expected passing of the framework law on land use planning;
- The final revisions of the draft forestry law;
- The promulgation of the law on investments (although there is lack of agreement between the government and the private sector regarding its content);
- The launch of the national REDD+ strategy with an action plan outline and financing options;
- The decentralization discussions with goals to transfer more decision-making powers and responsibilities to local communities (though there is resistance at ministerial levels concerning the communities' capacities to manage forest resources and land reserves);
- Development of a sectoral action plan to implement the national policy on gender equality.

These various reforms on land, forest, mining, land use planning, decentralization and REDD+ could serve as entry points for advocacy efforts geared toward local communities, women, and indigenous peoples' rights. Furthermore, the promulgation of the framework law on land use planning creates avenues for civil society to help institutionalize participatory mapping.

Further opportunities for intervention present themselves through the openness of administrative and public authorities who have welcomed civil society's and RRI's recommendations. The Network of Parliamentarians for the Management of Forests and Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPAR, for its French initials), as well as the National Council of Traditional Chiefs of Cameroon (CNCT, for its French initials), remain strategic allies and collaborators of the RRI coalition and have been implementing advocacy strategies through their engagement with decision-making authorities and incorporation of civil society proposals in their strategies.

B. Country Strategy and Areas of Intervention

In view of the existing strategic opportunities, the RRI coalition in Cameroon has proposed the following intervention plan:

- Assert the coalition's position in the reform processes through advocacy activities at the various levels of government; Consolidate strategic alliances with CNCT, REPAR and sectoral ministries;
- Carry out analyses to develop position papers for the RRI coalition to include local communities' tenure rights in the reform processes currently underway;
- Engage with the private sector to recognize communities rights in investment projects (e.g. CAMIRON) and in industrial concessions (UFAs);
- Monitor and evaluate progress of the various reforms and develop related advocacy strategies;
- Incorporate gender equality/women's tenure rights and community rights in the national REDD+ strategy development process;
- Secure the rights of local communities, women, and Indigenous Peoples in the current forest law review process;
- Secure the rights of local communities in the implementation decrees of the framework law on land use planning;
- Secure the rights of local communities in the validation process of the Rural Sector Development Strategy Paper (DSDSR);
- Promote an adapted communications strategy that includes community rights and tenure issues.

Table 1: Priority Outcomes; Associated Activities and Outputs; Implementers

Priority Outcomes	Associated Activities and Outputs	Implementers
Outcome 1: The RRI coalition’s proposal is integrated into the land reform process and draft law.	Activity 1: Develop an inclusive proposal for the RRI coalition on land reform Output: Proposal for the coalition on land reform; restitution and coalition validation workshop	Lead: GDA CIFOR, CED, RRI Fellow, RRI coalition, REPAR, CNCT
	Activity 2: Organize two meetings with REPAR working group to consolidate the parliamentarians’ recommendations and action plan to influence the land reform Output: Position document with recommendations from members of parliament; meetings of REPAR working group	Lead: REPAR
	Activity 3: Consolidate the RRI coalition recommendations on inclusion of women’s land tenure rights in land reform process and share with Ministry of Women’s Affairs and female parliamentarians’ network Output: Proposal on women’s tenure rights; advocacy strategy for work with Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Female Parliamentarians’ Network	Lead: REFACOF Cameroon
Outcome 2: The RRI coalition proposals are included in the draft forest law and adopted by the Parliament	Activity 4: Advocate for the inclusion of the coalition’s proposals in forest legislation Outputs: Advocacy strategy; draft law validation by traditional chiefs	Lead: CNCTC, CED RRI coalition
Outcome 3: RRI develops draft decree on land use planning that takes into account local community rights	Activity 5: Carry out legal analyses of framework law on land use planning Output: Legal analyses defining level at which rights of local communities are safeguarded	Lead: GDA CIFOR, CED, RRI Fellow
	Activity 6: Organize a multi-stakeholders dialogue with government officials and influential individuals on land use planning and present coalition’s official position Outputs: Multi-stakeholder dialogue yielding commitment by government and high-level officials; recommendations for institutionalization of participatory mapping and recognition of “community domain”	Lead: Cameroon Ecology RRI coalition
Outcome 4: Mining investment projects (CAMIRON) and industrial concessions (UFAs) include social, economic, and environment safeguards for	Activity 7: Assess the inclusion of communities’ rights in the CAMIRON pilot project and organize a multi-stakeholder dialogue on communities’ rights in investment projects Outputs: Assessment report; multi-stakeholder dialogue; company commitment to develop safeguards and respect local community rights	Lead: CED FPP, Okani, CAFT
	Activity 8: Assess community tenure rights and options for securing community rights around the UFAs and develop a pilot project on community forestry	Lead: Cameroon Ecology

local communities	Outputs: Assessment report of tenure rights of communities in UFAs; pilot project on community forestry	CAFT
Outcome 5: Local case studies inform the drafting of the national REDD+ strategy on issues related to local communities, indigenous people, and women' tenure rights	Activity 9: Assess the inclusion of community rights in the REDD+ Ngoyla-Mintom pilot project Outputs: Assessment report with recommendations	Lead: FPP, OKANI, IUCN-Cameroon
	Activity 10: Assess the inclusion of community rights in the CAMIRON carbon offsetting project Output: Assessment report with recommendations	Lead: CED, FPP, CAFT
	Activity 11: Develop two experimental case studies to validate draft guide on gender-tenure rights and REDD+ and organize a validation workshop Outputs: Case studies reports; guide on gender-tenure rights and REDD+ in Cameroon; a validation workshop yielding recommendations on how guide could inform the national REDD+ strategy	Lead: REFACOF Regional, REFACOF-Cameroon, IUCN
Outcome 6: Rural Sector Development Strategy (SDSR) includes outcome language on local community rights	Activity 12: Draft a proposal on the inclusion of local community tenure rights in the Rural Sector Development Strategy (SDSR) and submit to the technical committee Output: Proposal validated by RRI coalition	Lead: CED RRI coalition
Outcome 7: An effective pool of journalists advocates for local community rights	Activity 13: Organize a workshop with journalists accompanied by field visits in areas where local community rights are violated; develop communication tools for the RRI coalition Outputs: Journalist workshop; field visits; journalists action plan to implement coalition's 2015 strategy; press coverage from press trips; RRI Cameroon coalition leaflet and blog	Lead: CED-IUCN/PACO- REPAR, communication officers from organizations within the coalition
Outcome 8: the RRI coalition has a better progress monitoring system and advocacy strategy is in place for recognition of the rights of local communities in the ongoing major forest and land reform processes	Activity 14: Develop a proposal for the RRI coalition monitoring system/observatory on land and forest reforms in Cameroon Output: Proposal for observatory/monitoring system	Lead: IUCN-PACO, CED, Consultant/MINADEV RRI coalition
Outcome 9: RRI Coalition achieves better internal communication	Activity 15: Organize three meetings with coalition members Output: Meetings; meeting notes	Lead: Facilitator and RRI coalition

Country Overview: Democratic Republic of Congo

A. Rationale for Country Engagement

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has entered a crucial phase in its reconstruction with the implementation of major/mega projects—termed the “Five chantiers”—which rely on Large Scale Land Acquisitions (LSLA), mining, hydrocarbon, and agribusiness. While the projects may bring about major boosts in infrastructure, job creation, education, water, electricity and health, they would also infringe on the forest and land tenure rights of local communities.

Against this backdrop, DRC has undertaken ambitious political, legal and institutional reforms on forestry, mining, agriculture, and land use planning. Most of these reforms have been informed by the advocacy efforts of the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), with the establishment of a national civil society platform on tenure (CACO, for its French initials). CACO was established to influence the land reform process through the collective action and common vision of the major civil society organizations and networks advocating for the rights of small producers, indigenous people, women, and customary tenure in DRC. RRI currently appears to be the only development partner to provide technical and financial resources to support civil society participation in the land reform process. RRI has also initiated a DRC Tenure Baseline Study (TBS) to build on emerging dynamics and momentum to take forward a stronger pro-poor, rights-based agenda in the land and forest sector. The results of the TBS are being finalized and will be used to inform the national land reform commission (CONAREF, for its French initials) roadmap, the development process of a New Land Law, and the advocacy strategy of CACO.

Major developments occurred in 2014, as RRI worked to promote a land governance framework that was favorable to socio-economic development and also recognized local community and customary tenure rights. Decree No. 14/018, specifying conditions for assigning Local Community Forestry Concessions (CFCL, for its French initials), was signed in August 2014. While the decree also offers a framework for developing decrees on local communities’ domains, it neither confers the status of a legal entity to communities nor specifies whether industrial exploitations are permitted. Furthermore, it makes no mention of Indigenous Peoples. The draft law on Fundamental Principles related to the Rights of Indigenous Peoples/Pygmies (PAP, for its French initials) of the DRC was submitted to the National Assembly in July 2014. Decree 14/019, organizing the procedures for conducting the social and environmental impact assessment studies, was signed by the Prime Minister on 2 August, 2014, though it was contested by civil society due to the lack of proper consultations with various stakeholders. The draft law on the status of customary authority is currently being discussed in Parliament to clarify customary authority, entities, and institutions as well as the modalities for inheritance. A draft application decree of Article 389 of the Land Law pertaining to customary rights has been formulated by CACO, thus filling a legal gap which has not been addressed for over 40 years. The government has also announced a national land use planning reform (the official launch has yet to occur) in order to provide the country with a policy, law, and provincial land use planning schemes.

All these reform processes are opportunities for legal recognition of local community rights and customary tenure. The decentralized and participatory approach of the CONAREF—including the creation of technical sub-committees at the national level, the Technical Secretariat of the CONAREF, and the Coordination Units—will allow national ownership of the land reform process. CACO has become more inclusive with the effective participation of the national confederation of agricultural producers of the Congo (CONAPAC, for its French initials), Indigenous Peoples network for sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the DRC (REPALEF, for its French initials), the natural resources

network (RRN, for its French initials) and a number of other NGOs. In 2015, possible additional funding from ONU-HABITAT and the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) will contribute to the implementation of CACO's strategy.

Country Strategy and Areas of Intervention

Strategy

- Ensure better representation of CACO both at the national and provincial levels; include civil society issues and concerns in the land reform processes at all levels;
- Take stock of private sector actors' impacts on land tenure to inform the process of national land use planning;
- Undertake advocacy actions targeting CONAREF to ensure the effective participation of civil society in the land reform decision-making process at the national and provincial levels;
- Use the Baseline Study results to inform CONAREF's roadmap and CACO's advocacy strategy;
- Harmonize proposals on land issues in various laws and draft bills to influence the land reform process in a collective manner.

Areas of intervention:

- **Civil society participation and representation in the land reform process:** CACO is better structured and well represented at national and provincial levels; Advocacy targeted at CONAREF for increased representation of civil society representatives in the technical sub-committees at the national level, the Technical Secretariat of CONAREF, as well as in Provincial Coordination Units;
- **Advocacy to secure local community rights in the various reform projects:** Land use planning; REDD+; Community Forestry, Agricultural law, draft law on Indigenous/Pygmy Peoples; law on customary authority; etc.;
- **Implement a monitoring system** to ensure civil society proposals are included in the various reforms.

B. Supporting Documentation and Publications

- Boika, Barthelemy. 2014. « Proposition d'Orientations pour un Plan d'influence sur l'Aménagement du territoire en RDC : Comment sécuriser les Droits de Tenure Communautaire et les Sauvegardes y rattachées »
- Matabaro, Jocelyne. 2014. « Note Explicative sur la Tenure : Option de reconnaissance, sécurisation et transférabilité »
- MINLA MFOU'OU, Jeanot. 2014. « Accompagnement du Processus d'Amélioration de la Performance du Cadre Concertation des Acteurs de la Société Civile (Dynamique RRI) sur la Réforme Foncière en République Démocratique du Congo Offre technique »
- Mpoyi, Augustin. 2014. « Draft du Projet de Décret portant règlementation des droits fonciers des communautés locales »
- Mpoyi, Augustin. 2014 « Loi Statut autorités traditionnelle, décret Concessions forestières des communautés locales et décret terres des communautés locales-Note cohérence Juridique »
- Muhindo Valivambene, Alphonse. 2014. « Plan d'influence de la signature des textes sur les forêts de Communautés locales et son appropriation par les OSC impliquées dans le cadre de concertation »

Table 1: Priority Outcomes; Associated Activities and Outputs; Implementers

Priority Outcomes	Associated Activities and Outputs	Implementers
1. CACO is inclusive, structured and operational at national and provincial levels	Activity 1: Draft CACO functioning rules Output: CACO rules and regulations	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF and a consultant
	Activity 2: Organize capacity building workshops with CACO members in three provinces Outputs: Workshops; capacity building activities	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 3 pilot provinces
2. Effective communication between CACO members at the national and provincial levels and with CONAREF	Activity 3: Produce strategy and communication tools for CACO and organize a validation workshop Outputs: Communication strategy; communication tools; validation workshop	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF and a consultant
3. Effective participation of CACO members in the decision-making processes at both national and provincial levels.	Activity 4: Advocate for increase of civil society representation quota in CONAREF Output: Advocacy plan	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF
	Activity 5: Build the capacities of CACO delegates in the land reform bodies at both national and provincial levels Outputs: Capacity building meetings/workshops at national and provincial levels	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF + experts to be identified
4. The national land use planning reform process is officially launched and takes into account local community rights	Activity 6: Produce a stocktaking analysis on the impact of the private sector on land tenure Output: Analytical report	RRN

	<p>Activity 7: Develop a position paper on the need and urgency to officially launch the land use planning reform process</p> <p>Outputs: Position paper submitted to the Ministry of Land Use Planning</p>	RRN, CODELT
	<p>Activity 8: Implement a monitoring system on how CACO's proposals are taken into account in the land use planning reform</p> <p>Outputs: CACO impact monitoring system</p>	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF
5. CACO members validate and take ownership of an advocacy strategy to safeguard local community tenure rights in local community forest concessions	<p>Activity 9: Develop an advocacy strategy on the local community forest concessions, organize a multi-stakeholder validation workshop, and define implementation modalities</p> <p>Outputs: Advocacy strategy; validation workshop; action plan with roles and responsibilities</p>	CREF network RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF
6. Peasants organizations endorse an advocacy strategy on the agriculture reform process that is coherent with other, ongoing reform processes	<p>Activity 10: Draft an advocacy strategy on the agriculture land reform process and assess its coherence with the other reform processes</p> <p>Outputs: Advocacy strategy; report on link between agriculture reform and other reform processes</p>	CONAPAC
7. CACO-commissioned legal and provincial case studies to inform the land reform process are finalized and published	<p>Activity 11: Finalize and publish CACO studies to inform the land reform process</p> <p>Outputs: Case study publications with recommendations and lessons learned</p>	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF, OK /Katanga, CEDEN
8. Indigenous Peoples land tenure rights are documented and showcased to inform the land reform process	<p>Activity 12: Carry out a study on land tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples and advocate for adoption of the Indigenous Peoples draft law in the parliament</p> <p>Outputs: Study document on indigenous issues and on the draft bill before Parliament</p>	REPALEF, LINAPYCO, DGPA, CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC and consultant

9. A proposal on how to integrate free prior informed consent (FPIC) on large-scale land investment is developed	Activity 13: Review current legislation, practices and procedures on land in forestry concessions and propose an agreement that integrated FPIC principles and processes Outputs: Legal analysis report; proposal for forest concession agreement that respects FPIC	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 1 consultant
10. An agreed draft decree of local communities' land rights is developed by CACO members and accepted by CONAREF	Activity 14: Organize consultations and a validation workshop with CACO members at national and provincial levels on the draft decree on local community's land rights, officially submit to CONAREF Outputs: Draft decree on local communities' land rights; consultations face-to-face and via email; validation workshop	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 1 consultant
11. CACO effectively monitors the land reform process	Activity 15: Designate someone to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the land reform roadmap and share relevant information with CACO on a regular basis Outputs: Land reform monitoring system	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 1 consultant
12. Alternative dispute resolution procedures for land-related conflicts are documented, analyzed, and showcased	Activity 16: Take stock, document, and showcase existing land conflict resolution procedures at the local level Outputs: Stocktaking report	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 1 consultant
13. CACO members assess implementation of the 2015 strategy and discuss upcoming strategy.	Activity 17: Organize a national workshop in Kinshasa for CACO to assess activities for 2015 and define the Action Plan 2016 Outputs: National workshop; workshop report	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF
14. The DRC Tenure Baseline Study (TBS) results are consolidated, adopted by the national land commission and its technical working group, and	Activity 18: Organize a three-day experts workshop (with ten experts) Outputs: Workshop; workshop report of discussion by panel of experts	RRG (Africa and Global Programs) and the DRC national land commission (CONAREF)

validated through a national workshop	<p>Activity 19: Organize two-day meeting with land commission (CONAREF) technical committees</p> <p>Outputs: Meeting; Statement of commitment/ adoption from CONAREF technical committees to TBS results</p>	RRG (Africa and Global Programs) and the DRC national land commission (CONAREF)
	<p>Activity 20: Organize a national validation workshop</p> <p>Outputs: Multi-stakeholder workshop; TBS results validation and adoption to inform land reform roadmap civil society advocacy strategy</p>	RRG (Africa and Global Programs) and the DRC national land commission (CONAREF)

Country Overview: Liberia

A. Rationale for Country Engagement

Why are we engaged in this country? Liberia has the largest forested area remaining in West Africa. It holds the potential to become a leader in Central and West Africa in upholding customary land and forest rights of communities and establishing more pro-poor enterprise models. Key civil society non-governmental organizations (NGOs) rely on RRI to raise their own profile nationally, which in turn gives credence to the grassroots reform campaigns that they support. Leveraging this influence can lead to greater government commitment and adoption of stronger environmental standards and community rights by a growing number of international investors.

B. Country Strategy and Areas of Intervention

The New Land Policy (NLP) includes new provisions for customary land, among which is the elevation of customary rights to an equal level with statutory rights. This makes State land a residual category: land is owned by communities unless demonstrated otherwise. The NLP, in combination with the 2009 Community Rights Law (CRL), not only provides an overarching framework for foreign direct investment (FDI), REDD+, Voluntary Partner Agreement (VPA) strategies, and local land/forest governance systems, but also has the potential to influence reforms across West Africa. The landmark deal to stop deforestation signed between Norway and Liberia at the United Nations Climate Change Summit in New York in September, 2014, provides an opportunity for civil society to monitor the implementation process and ensure that local communities are fully protected.

The 2014 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak has exacerbated delays and introduced tremendous new obstacles in the law-making process, in mobilizing communities, and in engaging relevant national and community stakeholders. RRI has seriously considered the safety of all our collaborating organizations and individuals in Liberia during this continuing epidemic. RRI is assisting in strengthening civil society organizations in order to ensure their continued subsistence and enable them to achieve RRI's objectives once the crisis has subsided.

Plan for 2015

Once the epidemic is halted and a recovery begins to take hold, RRI Collaborators and Partners will follow up on the implementation of 2014 activities related to the subsequent passage of the Land Rights Act, the Land Rights Law making process, the Constitutional Review, REDD+, and FLEGT/VPA processes, all of which were delayed due to the Ebola outbreak. RRI planning meetings will also be held to re-strategize in the context of new challenges and opportunities for advancing the rights of communities.

Country Overview: Senegal

A. Rationale for Country Engagement

Senegal is historically known for complex legislative and regulatory frameworks which have often proven difficult to implement. The regime that came to power in 2012 has undertaken a series of reforms that included land, forest, the Mining Code, the Pastoral Code, and the communalization of Territorial Collectivities/Act III of decentralization. In addition to reforms at the legislative and institutional levels, the government has implemented land reform initiatives. One example is the Project for Inclusive and Sustainable Development of Agribusiness in Senegal (PDIDAS), a World Bank-funded initiative in northern Senegal, which has initiated a development project of community agricultural areas to prepare young people in the agricultural sector. PDIDAS stands out by testing a certain number of legal and technical tools of local governance and land security (the Land Use and Allocation Plan (POAS), the Irrigated Land Charter, and land registers and manuals) which will fuel reflections on land reform.

All government initiatives on land reform are based on the “implicit” policy of the promotion of investments and private property. The government is increasingly opting for the intensification of agriculture through the plan Senegal Emergent (Emerging Senegal Plan-PSE), which is based on seeking synergy/complementarity between commercial agriculture and agribusiness. Community lands continue to be given to investors on the basis of non-transparent procedures defined by the government, with no safeguard for protecting their rights; the phenomenon of large-scale land acquisition continues as well.

2014 was marked by important developments in relation land reform processes. A new president of the National Land Reform Commission (CNRF) was appointed and a technical committee to accelerate the process of land reform was established. The President of the Republic officially launched the Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE) and requested several sectoral ministries to complete the concept of 27 priority projects of the Plan and carry out 17 identified reforms. The draft Pastoral Code is currently being reviewed. Because of the advocacy actions of civil society and the National Council for Rural Consultation and Cooperation (CNCR), the proposal for a land approach which guarantees the interests of the different parties (local collectivities and populations, investors, state) was viewed as a launch pad to implement the Inclusive Agribusiness Development Project (PDIDAS). In the process Local Collectivities maintain control of land management with investors having to sublease. Additionally the state will play the role of mediator, supervisor, system regulator, and will ensure that the interests of all parties are protected.

This revival of the land reform process constitutes an opportunity for RRI not only to rethink the methods of involvement of non-governmental players in the consultations that have been started, but also to extend the field for reflection on the issues of pastoral land, decentralization, land use planning, traditional and community rights, the model of the PDIDAS land plan. To this effect RRI and one of its collaborators, IPAR, carried out studies on the different questions relating to land reform and presented the findings at a restitution workshop that chaired by the president of the CNRF, and attended by civil society. The findings and recommendations of these studies are translated into policy briefs which will support the positions within the CNRF, and serve as a basis for the advocacy strategy of civil society.

B. Country Activity Strategy and Areas of Intervention

The strategy for 2015 is structured around actions to strengthen the synergies of the CSOs involved in questions of reforms, to enable them to harmonize their vision and their intervention strategy. This will

allow them to speak with one voice to carry out advocacy actions in order to influence the implementation of PDIDAS and the National Commission on Land Reform to respect the rights of tenure of local communities, livestock farmers/pastoralists, and small rural producers.

Thus the areas of intervention in 2015 will focus on three points:

- Strengthening the synergy of action by Civil Society to make the different processes of reform (Act III of decentralization, the Pastoral Code, forestry code etc.) consistent
- Support for implementation of the PDIDAS to influence land reform in Senegal ;
- Advocacy, based on research evidence, in relation to the National Commission for Land Reform, the government, technical and financial partners, sub-regional institutions.

C. *Supporting Documentation and Publications*

- Andre, Daniel. 2004. "Analyse De La Gouvernance Foncière Au Sénégal", RRI/IPAR
- Dr. Alissoutin, Rosnert Ludovic. 2004. "Note D'orientation Sur L'importance De La Prise En Compte Des Droits Fonciers Communautaires Dans Le Processus De Réforme Foncière" RRI/IPAR
- Dr. Aziz Sow, Abdoul. 2004. "Note Sur La Gouvernance Foncière A L'aune De La Nouvelle Politique De Décentralisation Et D'aménagement Du Territoire Au Sénégal", RRI/IPAR
- Dr. Toure, Oussouby. 2004. "Etat Des Lieux De La Problématique Du Foncier Pastoral Au Sénégal" RRI/IPAR
- Pr. Traore, Samba. 2014. "Analyse Critique Des Différentes Etudes Produites Par Le Gouvernement, Les Acteurs Non Etatiques Et Les Partenaires Au Développement Sur Le Foncier Et Portant Sur La Place Réservée Aux Droits Collectifs Fonciers" RRI/IPAR

Table 1: Priority Outcomes; Associated Activities and Outputs; Implementers

Priority Outcomes	Associated Activities and Outputs	Implementers
<p>1. Synergies between civil society organizations engaged in land reform process are strengthened and diverging proposals are harmonized</p>	<p>Activity 1: Research on local rights and land tenure regimes Outputs: Analytical report</p>	<p>Lead: IPAR</p>
	<p>Activity 2: Consultation meetings among national civil society platform on land (CRAFS- « cadre de réflexion et d’action sur le foncier » and the national council of peasant organizations (CNCR- « Conseil national de concertation et de coopération des ruraux”) to discuss civil society position on land reform. Outputs: Consultation meetings; meeting notes</p>	<p>Lead: CNCR, CRAFS, IPAR, Groupe Reformons le foncier</p>
	<p>Activity 3: Strengthen civil society platforms involved in land reform process Outputs: Multi-stakeholder dialogues</p>	<p>Lead: CNCR, CSOs</p>
	<p>Activity 4: Support media to ensure quality coverage (broadcasts, investigations, reports) on land rights. Outputs: Media publications</p>	<p>Lead: IPAR, Medias, CNCR, CSOs</p>
<p>2. The PDIDAS land plan respects local rights and is presented as a model to inform the land reform</p>	<p>Activity 5: Support local actors for an effective implementation of PDIDAS agreements on local land rights. Outputs: Ongoing coaching support for local actors; capacity building</p>	<p>Lead: IPAR CNCR</p>
	<p>Activity 6: Implement advocacy campaign for inclusion of local rights in land reform process. Outputs: Advocacy campaign</p>	<p>Lead : CNCR</p>

	<p>Activity 7: Establish a monitoring system on the implementation of the PDIDAS agreement on local land rights.</p> <p>Outputs: Monitoring system on PDIDAS</p>	Lead : CNCR
3. The National Land Reform Commission (CNRF) recognizes community rights as an important issue to take into consideration in the land reform process	<p>Activity 8: Capitalize on best practices from local models for securing community land rights.</p> <p>Outputs: Best practices study</p>	Lead : IPAR
	<p>Activity 9: Hold a dialogue to harmonize civil society organization proposals on land reform process.</p> <p>Outputs: Multi-stakeholder dialogue</p>	Lead: CNCR CSOs, CRAFS, Groupe Reformons le foncier, IPAR, CNRF
	<p>Activity 10: Organize awareness-raising sessions on rights of local communities with members of parliament, journalists, religious groups, CSOs, women's and youth's networks.</p> <p>Outputs: Meetings with key stakeholders</p>	Lead: IPAR CSOs, media, members of parliament

Country Overview: Mali

A. Rationale for Country Engagement

While the political climate in Mali has been in a system of flux over the past couple years, it also presented opportunities to bring issues in land and tenure at the center of national debates. As a result, laws and policies pertaining to decentralization, local governance, peace and security have been reviewed and drafted. 2012 ushered in major insecurities that paralyzed the government, national institutions, and the development sector, while the 2013 election introduced a democratic government that paved the way for the return of Development and Financial Partners and the consequent resumption of development initiatives that had been interrupted by the crisis.

2014 witnessed a variety of development of initiatives and reforms on legislative and institutional plans. An important developmental aspect in this respect was the implementation of decentralization recommendations by the National Assembly. To this effect, the Malian State began a review of forestry policy with goals to decentralize and trigger faster economic growth in the agricultural sector.

Major land reforms were also launched; the Agricultural Land Policy and the Agricultural Land Law were developed and approved at ministerial level and submitted to the National Assembly for a vote. The State established a Working Group to develop proposals on Agropoles. Such actions provided entry points for RRI coalition to collaborate with the High Council of Collectivities to draft legislation on local conventions for the management of natural resources. In addition, a draft decree aimed at transferring the management of natural resources from the State to Local Collectivities was also developed.

The peace and reconciliation dialogue initiated by the government also created a space to begin conversations on natural resources management and tenure rights of local communities, with special focus on pastoralists. Yet another significant development was The Pan-African project the Great Green Wall which entered its operational phase in Mali further threatening the tenure rights of local communities concerned with the reforestation strip. To address the concerns that ensued, Helvetas helped establish the “Alliance for the Great Green Wall in Mali,” bringing together state actors, Local Collectivities, and civil society. The resulting conversations centered on ways in which the rights of local communities could be better reflected in the orientation and implementation phases of the project.

Opportunities thus presented themselves for RRI to strategically engage in Mali as follows:

- Advocate for the acceleration of texts on decentralized management of natural resources
- Engage the government and the private sector on issues in mining and land grabs
- Monitor draft bills at the National Assembly
- Strengthen relations with the High Council of Territorial Collectivities (HCC)
- Ascertain that the new laws and policies recognize the rights of local communities, women and marginalized groups.

B. Country Strategy and Areas of Intervention

After gauging the existing opportunities for strategic action, RRI coalition developed the following strategy for 2015:

- Support civil society in advocacy efforts to ensure more transparency in the governance and respect for local community rights in land, forestry, agribusiness rights.
- Advocate for a review and harmonization of the forestry law and policy; push for the decentralization process to recognize the rights of communities, particularly women's tenure rights on non-timber forest products (NTFPs); clarify the status of "tree tenure."
- Consolidate recommendations from studies related to land conflicts and tenure questions.
- Ensure that the reconciliation process reflects the tenure rights of local communities, women, and pastoralists.
- Create alliances between civil society and the High Council of Territorial Collectivities (HCC) to effectively transfer power from the State to the Local collectivities; advocate for the adoption of laws that recognize local conventions in natural resources management. Prepare a position paper on the issues and topics.

In order to implement its strategy, the coalition has proposed the following areas of intervention:

- **Land governance:** Set up citizen monitoring mechanisms against large scale land acquisitions (LSLA); advocate for the rights of tenure of local communities in the Agricultural Development Policy, the Agricultural Land Law, the Agropoles, and capitalization on local land commissions (COFOs).
- **Forest governance:** Champion the rights of tree tenure and promote non-timber forestry products in forestry policy and forestry law. Set up citizen monitoring mechanisms on signed lease agreements between the State and private companies for protected forests.
- **Dialogue, peace and national reconciliation:** Prevent and manage conflicts linked to poor natural resources governance; Implement recommendations proposed by research studies.
- **Decentralization:** Push for the adoption of laws on Local Conventions and official decree that outlines the transfer processes.

C. Supporting Documentation and Publications

List any RRI or non-RRI publications that provide important context for RRI's strategy and interventions.

- Groupe Pivote Droit et Citoyenneté de la Femme (GP/DCF)/ Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI). 2014. « Etude Diagnostique de L'Intégration des Migrants Agricoles et des Pasteurs dans les Zones Convoitées du Sud du Mali »
- HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation/ Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI). 2014 « L'Etude sur la Situation de Reference sur le Trace de la Grande Muraille Verte (GMV) Mali»

Table 1: Priority Outcomes; Associated Activities and Outputs; Implementers

Priority Outcomes	Associated Activities and Outputs	Implementers
1. Local communities and women’s tenure rights are included in the Agricultural Land Policy, the Agricultural Land Law, and the Agropoles	Activity 1: Advocate for the inclusion of local community rights in the drafting process of Agricultural Land Policy, the Agricultural Land Law, and the Agropoles. Outputs: Draft law and policy; Agropoles’ proposals with tenure rights outcomes language	Lead: HIS, RRI coalition
2. Local land commissions (COFOs) lessons learned are available to local and central government officials and are used to inform the Peacebuilding process and the Decentralization Law	Activity 2: Produce a Guide on best practices and lessons learned from the establishment of local land commissions (COFOs). Outputs: COFO Best practices and lessons learned report	Lead: HIS RRI coalition
3. Communities engage with mining companies and private investors on social and environment safeguards	Activity 3: Organize public debates on large scale land acquisitions, mining, and local community rights. Outputs: Public debates; multi-stakeholder dialogues	Lead: TONUS RRI coalition
	Activity 4: Establish a monitoring system with local communities for private reserves (forêts amodiées) lease agreements. Outputs: Monitoring system; community actor engagement; community awareness of fair social contract standards	
4. Women producers effectively participate in decision-making and are recognized in the rules and regulations on non-timber forest products (NTFPs)	Activity 5: Advocate for the participation of women producers in drafting law on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). Outputs: Advocacy strategy; female representation in drafting process	Lead: Sahel Eco RRI coalition

5. The review of the 2010 forest law is enacted	Activity 6: Advocate for the review of the 2010 Forestry Law in order to include community forest tenure rights and clarify NTFPs and tree-tenure. Outputs: Roadmap document for review of 2010 Forestry Law	Lead: HSI RRI coalition
6. The national commission on peace and reconciliation agenda includes natural resource governance, resource rights and conflicts	Activity 7: Monitor how the RRI coalition proposals are integrated into the work of the National Commission on Peace and Reconciliation. Outputs: RRI impact monitoring system	Lead: GPDCF RRI coalition
	Activity 8: Organize a local/regional workshop on peacebuilding process and community rights in Mali. Outputs: Multi-stakeholders dialogue/workshop	Lead: GPDCF RRI coalition
7. The Law on local conventions (CVL) is adopted and the Decentralization degree is issued, affirming local conventions prior work	Activity 9: Advocate for the adoption of the decentralization decree on natural resources and for the adoption of the Law on Local Conventions. Outputs: Advocacy meetings; communications campaign strategy	Lead: RLD RRI coalition
8. National climate change policies and strategies integrate gender and community rights	Activity 10: Advocate for the effective integration of community rights and gender in Mali climate change strategies and policies; Collect and document local knowledge on climate change.	Lead: Reso Climat RRI coalition
	Outputs: Advocacy strategy for integration of community rights and gender in climate change policies and strategy; Report on local knowledge on climate change	Lead: Reso Climat RRI coalition
9. The Territorial Collectivities and local communities are involved in the Great Green Wall (GGW) implementation phase	Activity 11: Organize information sharing workshop with Territorial Collectivities and local communities on the GGW and advocate for their effective participation in the implementation phase. Outputs: Workshop; advocacy strategy	Lead: HSI RRI coalition and the Mali Forest Service

Country Overview: Burkina Faso

A. Rationale for Country Engagement

Burkina Faso experienced a decisive turning point in its political history following a popular uprising on October 30, 2014 against President Blaise Compaoré who sought to modify the Constitution to extend his 27 years in power. The resulting resignation of Blaise Compaore introduced a transition government under a military regime, with Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Zida as its head. Following pressures from the international community and the Burkinabé civil society, the military established a transitional government composed of civilians with Michel Kafando, Burkina's former Ambassador to the United Nations, as President. While the transitional government is mandated to help restore social cohesion and national unity, members will not be eligible to run for the presidential and legislative elections slated by the end of 2015. The current political climate is thus precarious for developing advocacy strategies to influence new laws and policies. For one thing, forest and land governance reform processes are not high on the priority list of the current transitional government.

Before the political crisis, a number of reform projects were underway in 2014. The National Assembly was in the process of reviewing a draft mining legislation that not only favored local communities' rights but promoted corporate social responsibility. Furthermore, Burkina's accelerated economic growth approach had also entered its operational phase with the first pilot Agropole project created in Bagré and the drafting of the National Accelerated Economic Growth Policy. The Forest Investment Program (FIP) pilot projects have started to be implemented. In addition, a national civil society platform on REDD+ was established and the REDD+ readiness plan (RPP) has been validated, while the National Agency for the Commercialization of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) was created to promote small and medium enterprises as well as women's entrepreneurs. In the current uncertain political climate, it is highly unlikely that the transitional government will prioritize the advocacy strategies and reforms that were underway under the Compaore regime.

Prior to the political crisis in Burkina, the national civil society platform on forest land tenure, TENFOREST which happens to be RRI's main collaborator, had adopted the following strategies during its planning meetings in September 2014: 1) influence draft laws and policies at the national level; and 2) engage with local elected officials and communities to promote decentralization. Within the current context of political uncertainty, TENFOREST and RRI will have to redefine its advocacy strategy.

Despite the weak legislative and institutional structures in Burkina, there are still a number of opportunities to secure the rights of communities at the local levels. For instance the decentralization process initiated in 1993 enabled the transfer of 9 state-owned domains to Territorial Collectivities in 2014 putting local elected officials in charge of managing natural resources (including land and forests). In addition, the Regional and Communal Development Plans are being revised to take into account the tenure rights of local communities, women, and vulnerable groups. The legal recognition of local land certificates (APFs) and local land charters are options for securing collective and community land rights.

B. Country Strategy and Areas of Intervention

Despite the current political turmoil, strategic opportunities still present themselves at the local levels for TENFOREST and RRI to advance land and tenure rights. These include:

- Advocacy efforts to secure land tenure rights of local communities through local land charters and small producers /peasants (“paysans modèles”), and women collective land rights with local land certificates (attestations de possession foncière- APFs)
- Dialogues with and local elected officials to integrate gender equality and climate change issues in Communal and Regional Development Plans (PCDs and PRDs)
- Creating alliances for effective participation of civil society in the REDD+ process and advocacy for gender mainstreaming and advocacy for community tenure rights
- Ensuring that local communities and women’s rights are taken into consideration in the Forest Investment Program
- Promote women’s enterprises on non-timber forest products (NTFPs)

When the country returns to stability, TENFOREST and RRI intend to resume advocacy efforts to advance national laws/reforms, including the draft mining law. It is foreseeable that 2015 ushers in a National Reconciliation and Reform Commission as part of the transition and peace process. If such were the case, RRI could support TENFOREST on any strategic opportunities with funds from its Strategic Response Mechanism.

Table 1: Priority Outcomes; Associated Activities and Outputs; Implementers

Priority Outcomes	Associated Activities and Outputs	Implementers
1. Women’s groups possess legal local land certificates (“Attestations de possession foncière”- APFs)	Activity 1: Carry out advocacy actions to enable women to acquire local land certificates (APFs). Support the compilation of applications and acquisition process. Outputs: Advocacy campaign for legal acquisition of 5 APFs; Compilation of 30 applications	Lead: TENFOREST
2. Small producers/farmers’ rights are included in the local governments’ economic development plans	Activity 2: Organize awareness-raising sessions with decision-makers at the local level in order to integrate the rights of small producers/ farmers (“paysans modèles”) and create alliances among local actors. Outputs: Awareness-raising campaign to advance rights of 15 small producers/farmers; Alliances with local decision makers	Lead: TENFOREST
3. Best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of local land charters and communal and regional development plans (PCDs and PRDs) are highlighted as local models for securing community rights	Activity 3: Highlight best practices on local land charters. Outputs: Best practices document on acquisitions of local land charters	Lead: TENFOREST
	Activity 4: Highlight best practices on local development plans (PCDs and PRDs). Outputs: Best practices document on PCD and PRD inclusion of gender, climate change, and tenure rights	Lead: TENFOREST
4. The mining law is adopted by the National Assembly and its application decrees includes women’s and local community rights	Activity 5: Advocacy for adoption of mining law and inclusion of women’s and local community rights in application decree. Outputs: Advocacy campaign targeting National Assembly and government	Lead: TENFOREST
5. The National Accelerated Economic Growth Policy and the Bagré Agropole project integrate local community rights	Activity 6: Knowledge and information sharing with local communities and local decision-maker advocacy campaign concerning National Accelerated Economic Growth Policy. Outputs: Public information campaign among local communities living in the area of the Bagré Agropole project; Advocacy strategy directed toward decision makers in 3 local governments	Lead: TENFOREST

6. Effective participation of TENFOREST in the national REDD+ process and inclusion of gender and community tenure rights in the draft national REDD+ strategy	Activity 7: Organize a trip to another country to learn and share experience around national REDD+ processes, mechanisms, and actors. Outputs: Exchange trip; trip report; capacity building training with government officials and civil society actors	Lead: TENFOREST
	Activity 8: Carry out advocacy campaign targeting Ministry of Environment for inclusion of gender and tenure rights in the draft national REDD+ strategy. Outputs: Draft national REDD+ strategy with gender and tenure rights language	Lead: TENFOREST
7. National Agency for the Commercialization of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) promotes women entrepreneurs	Activity 9: Advocate for consideration of women entrepreneurs' interests in the National Agency for the Commercialization of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP). Promote NTFPs. Outputs: Advocacy campaign targeting National Agency; Promotion campaign for NTFPs	Lead: TENFOREST
8. A strategy and an action plan are drafted to advocate women's groups/associations' rights and interests in rules and regulations on NTFPs and their promotion as alternative economic development models	Activity 10: Draft a strategy and an action plan on women- tenure rights- and NTFPs in Burkina Faso. Outputs: Strategy and action plan on women and NTFPs	Lead: REFACOF Burkina Faso

Country Overview: Ghana

A. *Rationale for Regional engagement*

Ghana has a unique land and tree tenure system. Land and tree resources are regulated by both statutory and customary laws and institutions. Also, a majority of land is owned and managed under customary law which is recognized by statutory law. About 10 percent of total land area in Ghana is designated as forest reserves. Most of the remaining land area consists of farmlands which also have substantial forest resources and are mostly made up of scattered trees on agricultural fields, secondary forests regenerating from agricultural farming, riparian forest strips, and sacred grooves.

The government has initiated a tree tenure reform process with funding from multi-donor budgetary support. The tenure reform process and agenda is disjointed, driven largely by a narrow focus on trees and not connected with the wider and fundamental issues of land. The incoherent and narrow focus of the current reform processes has the potential to re-enforce marginalization of forest communities and unjust forest management and lead to resource related social conflicts. Already, there are reports of clashes between communities on one hand and government, private plantation developers and often chiefs on the other hand as a result of land grabs for various plantation initiatives.

A national consensus on tenure implies a number of options: that Ghana moves towards centralized state control of forest resources or that community rights are strengthened within the current arrangement by appropriating more ownership and management rights to local communities. This can be done through a case by case analysis of tenure arrangements in the country and prescription of solutions within a broader government policy and legislative framework. The focus needs to be on achieving coherence at the level of law and policy in the forest sector that re-enforces good governance as well as fair and just tenure arrangements.

The multi-donor budgetary support from the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Union (EU) to the government of Ghana will fund among others a review of the tree tenure and benefit sharing arrangements in the forest sector. The review is to advance on the requirements of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and the REDDplus. For instance, one of the key reform agenda items of the Ghana-EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) is reform of forest policy and legislation for affirmation of local forest tenure and of different stakeholder rights, particularly farmers in different types of forests. It also includes the clarification of the respective scope of local (including customary) and national institutions in forest management to: (a) sustain forests; (b) develop and exploit forests (both timber and non-timber). The narrow focus of REDD+ in defining and allocating carbon rights and its incoherence with regards to the tree tenure agenda of the VPA have the potential of undermining forest governance as there is no inter-connectivity. They are ineffective at resolving such fundamental challenges as land and tree tenure, the risks of reinforcing the status-quo, and further entrenching socially unjust forest governance practices in Ghana.

B: Country strategy and areas of intervention

In 2015 the forest rights movement in Ghana will seek to influence the reform process to deliver real benefits to forest communities by broadening the scope to include land tenure reforms and push for forest tenure reforms that strengthen community rights.

The overall strategy of the intervention is to drive a coherent process and content of tenure reforms that strengthen the rights of forest communities. We are also seeking to conclude a series of studies culminating in a comprehensive knowledge framework on the land and tree tenure situation in Ghana while providing practical and empirical evidence to support advocacy for coherent tenure reforms that strengthen the rights of forest communities. This is expected to result in a well-focused and informed civil society engagement and input into the government-led reform process. It will also ensure that tenure reforms are coherent and deal with both land and tree tenure issues and that the outcome of the reform agenda entrenches community rights.

The intervention will document the current land and tree tenure situation in Ghana and options for reforms that strengthen rights of communities. Based on the background knowledge generated, Policy and legal briefs will be developed and used to engage duty bearers (government, traditional authorities) to seize the opportunity of reforms by government to achieve the desired outcome. The intervention is designed to put civil society in a proactive and advanced position to take advantage of the government-led reform process to entrench community rights.

Table 1: Priority Outcomes; Associated Activities and Outputs; Implementers

Priority Outcomes	Associated Activities and Outputs	Implementers
1. Secure and strengthen forest communities' land tenure rights in Ghana's policy and legal reforms	Activity 1: Conduct a study to understand the existing tenure arrangements across the country Outputs: Analytical report	Civic Response
	Activity 2: Expert interviews and focal workshops with selected stakeholders to advance tenure reforms Outputs: Report from stakeholder interviews	Civic Response
	Activity 3: Engage media to advance land and tree tenure reforms and put the agenda in the public domain Outputs: Media publications including press statements and briefs	Civic Response
	Activity 4: Develop policy and legal briefs Output: Policy and legal briefs	Civic Response Client Earth
	Activity 5: Engage with the Parliament Select Committee on Lands and Forestry, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), other relevant institutions on REDD+ and FLEGT/VPA processes to feed into policy and legal review Outputs: Policymaker meetings; policy and legal briefs	Civic Response, Forest Watch Ghana, Client Earth, FLEGT/VPA Contact Group

Annex 1: Table of Country and Regional Program Africa Activities/Actors/Budget
2015 Budget by Activity - Detail

Activities to achieve priority outcomes

Actors

**Proposed
Budget
(Funded)**

Cameroon			
1	Develop an inclusive proposal for the RRI coalition on land reform	Lead: GDA CIFOR, CED, RRI Fellow and the RRI Coalition, REPAR, CNCT	\$20,000
2	Organize two meetings with REPAR working group to consolidate the parliamentarians' recommendations and action plan to influence the land reform	Lead: REPAR	\$25,000
3	Consolidate the RRI coalition recommendations of how to include women's land tenure rights in the land reform process and share with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and female parliamentarians' network	Lead: REFACOF Cameroon	\$25,000
4	Carry out legal analyses of the framework law on land use planning	Lead: GDA CIFOR, CED, RRI Fellow	\$10,000
5	Organize a multi-stakeholders dialogue with government officials and influential people on land use planning and present the coalition's position officially	Lead: Cameroon Ecology RRI Coalition	\$30,000
6	Assess the inclusion of communities' rights in the CAMIRON pilot project and organize a multi-stakeholders dialogue on communities' rights in investment projects	Lead: CED FPP, OkANI, CAFT	\$50,000
7	Assess community tenure rights and options for securing community rights around the UFAs and develop a pilot project on community forestry	Lead: Cameroon Ecology, CAFT	\$31,000
8	Assess the inclusion of communities' rights in the REDD+ Ngoyla-Mintom pilot project	Lead: FPP, OkANI, IUCN-Cameroon	\$8,000
9	Develop two experimental case studies to validate the draft Guide on gender-tenure rights and REDD+ and organize a validation workshop	Lead: REFACOF Regional, REFACOF-Cameroon; IUCN	\$30,000
10	Organize a strategic workshop with journalists and fieldtrips in areas where local community rights are violated ; and develop communication tools for the RRI coalition	Lead: CED-IUCN/PACO-REPAR, communication officers from organizations within the coalition	\$28,000
11	Develop a proposal for the RRI coalition monitoring system / observatory on land and forest reforms in Cameroon	Lead: IUCN-PACO, CED, Consultant/MINADEV RRI coalition	\$23,000
12	Organize Three meetings with Cameroon coalition; one meeting inviting key experts to discuss the main position papers and the reform monitoring system project proposal	Lead: Facilitation RRI coalition, experts, RRI Fellow	\$8,000
Cameroon TOTAL:			\$288,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)			
1	Draft CACO functioning rules; produce a strategy and communication tools	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF and a	\$15,000

**Annex 1: Table of Country and Regional Program Africa Activities/Actors/Budget
2015 Budget by Activity - Detail**

	Activities to achieve priority outcomes	Actors	Proposed Budget (Funded)
	for CACO, and organize a validation workshop	consultant	
2	Produce a stocktaking analyses on the impact of the private sector on land tenure; develop a position paper on the need and urgency to officially launch the land use planning reform process; and implement a monitoring system on how CACO's proposals are taken into account in the land use planning reform	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF	\$10,000
3	Develop an advocacy strategy on the local community forest concessions, organize a multi-stakeholders validation workshop, and define the implementation modalities	CREF network RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF	\$30,000
4	Draft an advocacy strategy on the agriculture land reform and assess the coherence with the other reform processes	CONAPAC	\$5,000
5	Finalize and publish CACO studies to inform the land reform process	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF, OK/Katanga, CEDEN	\$47,000
6	Carry out a specific study on land tenure rights of indigenous people and advocate for the adoption of the indigenous people draft law in the parliament	REPALEF, LINAPYCO, DGPA, CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC and consultant	\$10,000
7	Review current legislation, practices and procedures on land in forestry concessions and propose an FPIC-type of agreement	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 1 consultant	\$7,000
8	Organize consultations with CACO members at national and provincial levels on the draft decree on local community's land rights and a validation workshop, and officially submit to CONAREF	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 1 consultant	\$11,000
9	Designate someone to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the land reform roadmap and share relevant information with CACO on a regular basis; and serve as liaison between RRI Facilitator- RRG and CACO	CODELT, RRN, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 1 consultant	\$5,000
10	Take stock of existing land conflict resolutions procedures at the local level and showcase	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF and 1 consultant	\$5,000
11	Organize a national workshop for CACO to assess activities for 2015 and define the Action Plan 2016	RRN, CODELT, CONAPAC, REPALEF	\$80,000
12	Tenure Baseline Study: Organize a three-day experts workshop; Organize a two-day meetings with the land commission's (CONAREF) technical committees; Organize a national validation workshop	RRG (Africa and Global Programs) and the DRC national land commission (CONAREF)	\$80,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): TOTAL			\$305,000

Annex 1: Table of Country and Regional Program Africa Activities/Actors/Budget
2015 Budget by Activity - Detail

Activities to achieve priority outcomes

Actors

**Proposed
Budget
(Funded)**

Liberia			
1	The RRI Collaborators resume activities and re-engage with government officials, legislators, communities and women's platforms, on processes related to the Land Policy, the Community Rights Law, the Constitution Review, FLEGT/VPA and REDD+ processes	Green Advocates (GA), Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI)	\$100,000
Liberia TOTAL:			\$100,000
Senegal			
1	Research on local rights and land tenure regimes	Lead : IPAR	\$20,000
2	Organize consultation meetings between the national civil society platform on land (CRAFS) and the national council of peasant organizations (CNCR) to discuss the civil society position to inform the land reform	Lead : CNCR	\$18,000
3	Strengthen civil society platforms involved in the land reform process	Lead : CNCR	\$17,000
4	Support the media to ensure quality productions (broadcasts, investigations, reports) on land	Lead : IPAR	\$20,000
5	Support local actors for an effective implementation of the on the PDIDAS agreements on local land rights	Lead : IPAR	\$20,000
6	Carry out advocacy actions for the inclusion of local rights in the land reform process	Lead : CNCR	\$15,000
7	Establish a monitoring system on the implementation of the PDIDAS agreement on local land rights	Lead : CNCR	\$15,000
8	Capitalize best practices of local options for securing community land rights	Lead : IPAR	\$25,000
9	Hold a dialogue to harmonize civil society organizations' proposals on the land reform process	Lead: CNCR	\$20,000
10	Organize awareness-raising sessions with members of parliament, journalists, religious groups, CSOs, women's and youth's networks	Lead : IPAR	\$30,000
Senegal TOTAL:			\$200,000
Mali			
1	Advocate for the inclusion of local community rights in the drafting process of Agricultural Land Policy, the Agricultural Land Law, and the Agropoles	Lead: HSI RRI coalition	\$15,000
2	Produce a Guide on best practices and lessons learned from the establishment of local land commissions (COFOs) to inform the future Land Law	Lead: HSI RRI coalition	\$20,000

Annex 1: Table of Country and Regional Program Africa Activities/Actors/Budget
2015 Budget by Activity - Detail

	Activities to achieve priority outcomes	Actors	Proposed Budget (Funded)
3	Organize public debates on large scale land acquisitions, mining, and local community rights	Le TONUS RRI coalition	\$20,000
4	Establish a monitoring system with local communities on private reserves (forêts amodiées) lease agreements	Le TONUS RRI coalition	\$20,000
5	Advocate for the participation women's producers in the drafting the law on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	Lead: Sahel Eco RRI coalition	\$30,000
6	Advocate for the review of the 2010 Forestry Law to include community forest tenure rights, clarify NTFPs and tree-tenure	Lead: HSI RRI coalition	\$20,000
7	Monitor how the RRI coalition proposals are integrated in the National Commission on Peace and Reconciliation; Organize a local/regional workshop on the peacebuilding process in Mali and community rights	Lead: GPDCF RRI coalition	\$30,000
8	Advocate for the adoption of the decentralization decree on natural resources and for the adoption of the Law on Local Conventions	Lead: RLD RRI coalition	\$20,000
9	Organize information sharing workshop with Territorial Collectivities and local communities on the GGW and advocate for their effective participation in the implementation phase	Lead: HIS RRI coalition and the Mali Forest Service	\$20,000
Mali TOTAL:			\$195,000
Burkina Faso			
1	Carry out advocacy actions to enable women acquire local land certificates (APFs) and support the compilation of applications and acquisition process	Lead: TENFOREST	\$40,000
2	Organize awareness-raising sessions with decision-makers at the local level in order to integrate the rights of small producers/ farmers ("paysans modèles") and create alliances local actors	Lead: TENFOREST	\$20,000
3	Capitalize best practices on local land charters	Lead: TENFOREST	\$10,000
4	Capitalize best practices on local development plans (PCDs and PRDs)	Lead: TENFOREST	\$10,000
5	Carry out raising awareness and information sharing with local communities and advocacy actions towards local decision makers on the National Accelerated Economic Growth Policy	Lead: TENFOREST	\$10,000
6	Draft a strategy and an action plan on women- tenure rights- and NTFPs in Burkina Faso	Lead: REFACOF Burkina Faso	\$25,000
Burkina Faso TOTAL:			\$115,000
Ghana			
1	Conduct a study to understand the existing tenure arrangements across the	Civic Response	\$18,000

Annex 1: Table of Country and Regional Program Africa Activities/Actors/Budget
2015 Budget by Activity - Detail

Activities to achieve priority outcomes

Actors

**Proposed
Budget
(Funded)**

	country		
2	Develop policy and legal briefs	Civic Response Client Earth	\$9,000
3	Engage with the Parliament Select Committee on Lands and Forestry, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), other relevant institutions to feed into policy and legal review Develop policy and legal briefs	Civic Response, Forest Watch Ghana, Client Earth, VPA Contact Group	\$23,000
Ghana TOTAL:			\$50,000
Regional			
1	ACRN members with support from an expert/consultant develop an Index made up of a set of criteria to allow analysis of the state of community land rights in African countries to help ACRN build up consistent campaigns through a sort of "Land Rights Watch" and frequently analyze the state of those rights using the tools developed	Lead: ACRN Consultant (Liz Willey), FERN	\$55,000
2	Synthesize "lessons learned" from past legislative reform processes as a resource for countries currently undertaking reforms in Africa; and present the findings in the ILC global land conference	Lead: Global Program (GP)/ Expert/Analyst	<i>See Global Programs, Realizing Rights, Strategic Analysis, Activity 6</i>
3	Monitor progress on land and forest tenure and policy reforms in Central and West Africa and develop a mechanism using transparency and other governance indices; organize a restitution workshop and develop a strategy for its application in the region	Lead: GP/Africa Program	<i>See Global Programs, Tenure Tracking, Strategic Analysis, Activity 3</i>
4	Networking exchange visit of Senegal's National Land Reform Commission (CNRF) and the Ministry of Land Affairs in Cameroon (MINDCAF) to the DRC in order to learn from and share best practices with the National Land Reform Commission (CONAREF)	Lead: RRG Africa Program and Facilitators	\$35,000
Regional Activities TOTAL			\$90,000
Total Activities: AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMS			\$1,343,000