



RIGHTS AND RESOURCES INITIATIVE | MAY 2021

*2020 Annual Narrative Report and
Achievements by SPIII Logframe*

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Overview of Progress Achieved in 2020 towards SPIII Outcomes

RRI's ability to achieve its goals in 2020 was deeply affected by the COVID-19 crisis. One of RRI's most important achievements during 2020 was pivoting to respond quickly to the crisis and its fallout on Indigenous Peoples (IPs), local communities, and Afro-descendants. In spite of the crisis and an increasingly hostile local environment in many countries, IPs, local communities and rural women managed to build capacities and achieved breakthroughs in collaboration with RRI partners and collaborators. This report includes a special, fourth outcome detailing RRI's response to COVID-19, apart from the three key outcome categories planned for 2020. Thus, RRI is reporting on four major outcomes for 2020:

- *Outcome 1:* Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and rural women leverage their capacity, leadership, and rights to transform social, economic, and environmental agendas in support of inclusive and equitable development, sustainable land and resource governance, and accelerated climate actions.
- *Outcome 2:* Governments scale-up the legal recognition and enforcement of land and resource rights for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women in those communities, as enabling conditions for democratic engagement, inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and climate change adaption and mitigation.
- *Outcome 3:* Investors and companies at national and international levels adopt international standards and rights-based approaches recognizing customary tenure rights, and work with governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and rural women's groups to (i) resolve land tenure disputes and conflicts; (ii) reduce deforestation and land degradation pressures; and, (iii) support community enterprises and locally determined business and conservation models that enhance livelihoods and sustainability outcomes.
- *Outcome 4:* Channeling effective and timely support to IPs, local communities, and Afro-descendants during the COVID-19 Crisis.

Below is a summary of selected highlights from RRI's achievements in 2020. See the following tables for detailed outcomes.

Outcome 1: RRI's restructuring in 2020 made it more inclusive and responsive to its primary stakeholders, as more rightsholder organizations joined the Coalition as Partners and grassroots collaborators began participating in RRI's global governance and planning process. RRI also supported grassroots mobilizations of women in different countries. For example, in DRC, CFLEDD's support led to incorporation of provisions on women's land tenure security in the new draft of DRC's land policy document, to be validated by the Government in 2021. In India, RRI supported an advocacy campaign to lift COVID-19 lockdown restrictions from communities' collection of forest products, helping millions of tribal and forest women survive the pandemic and retain their livelihoods through collection.

Outcome 2: RRI raised the profile of contributions by IPs, local communities, Afro-descendants, and women to climate change mitigation in Peru and Colombia, by providing critical inputs to the

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) process, promoting a rights-based and gender approach in renewed plans for implementation. RRI also mobilized [a regional process](#) for fulfilling a gap in criteria for self-identification and identification of Local Communities, a critical step to strengthen participation of local communities, Afro-descendants, and women in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the DRC, RRI's efforts led to a unanimous Parliament approval of a new bill on protection and promotion of the IP rights in the country. In addition, a new RRI study on rights-based conservation defined a new path to preserving biological and cultural diversity, gaining enthusiastic reviews from Coalition members, the global conservation academic community, and Indigenous members of the Convention on Biodiversity who plan to employ the report's data in their negotiations within the UN framework.

Outcome 3: In Indonesia, RRI's support was vital in networking and creating capacities for engagement between local and Indigenous communities involved in conflicts with companies over land, helping the *Talang Parit* community in Sumatra to monitor and document violations, and file an objection to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and the National Land Agency to challenge the renewal of a 50-year palm oil concession in its customary territories. In the DRC, RRI's support helped finalize a [long-pending operational guide](#) on creating concession management plans, an essential requirement for communities to begin operating their forestry concessions. Formal adoption of this guide by the Government enables communities to finally start managing their concessions, a milestone in promoting community forestry. At the global level, the Interlaken Group initiated development of new corporate guidance describing principles and indicators for companies to integrate community-sourced data into supply chain monitoring, reporting, and verification frameworks. This new tool sets the stage to link and promote ongoing grassroots monitoring of supply chain impacts, like for Indonesia's *Talang Parit* community, with policy commitments made by global companies and investors.

Outcome 4: In India, RRI's support for grassroots mobilization, media advocacy and political outreach led to [lifting of COVID lockdown restrictions](#) over Minor forest product collection, an essential means of survival for tribal and forest dwellers. RRI Collaborator SESDev, Liberia, raised awareness of pandemic prevention among communities in two counties, and helped them implement an early warning system to track rights violation during the crisis. RRI also worked with the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) to help it fill critical gaps left by the Colombian government in communicating preventative information to communities.

See the following tables for detailed reporting with sub-results and indicators within each outcome. Every institutional achievement is categorized by global, regional, and country level. Hyperlinks within text provide links to reports, online evidence, and media articles. The Annexure compiles reporting from all RRI's Strategic Response Mechanisms (SRM).

Overview of Progress Achieved in 2020 towards SPIII Strategic Objectives

In addition to outcomes mentioned in our Strategic Program III logical framework, to seize new and emerging global opportunities to address inequalities, advance gender justice, and scale-up global efforts over the five-year period (2018–2022) covered by the plan, **RRI aimed to prioritize four cross-cutting Strategic Objectives:**

1. Scale-up global efforts to secure women’s property rights, voice, and leadership within community lands and forests.
2. Strengthen and connect “front-line defenders” to better defend their land and natural resources, and advance their agendas with stronger strategic analysis, communications, and networks.
3. Transform economic development and conservation practices to respect local land rights by “democratizing accountability,” and support locally defined development models and enterprises.
4. Connect, consolidate, and leverage the emerging suite of global instruments to dramatically scale-up the recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ and forest communities’ land and forest rights on the ground.

This section assesses the progress achieved towards reaching these objectives in 2020.

Scale-up global efforts to secure women’s property rights, voice, and leadership within community lands and forests

In 2020, RRI strengthened existing relationships and established new ones to drive implementation of its Gender Justice strategy. It mainstreamed the gender perspective across all of its Secretariat programs, helped Indigenous, Afro-descendant and community women’s networks across the world raise their visibility and agendas in global spaces, and advanced research to help them engage in multi-stakeholder fora.

Building on its previous engagement with Landesa’s [Stand for Her Land Campaign \(S4HL\)](#), RRI joined the campaign’s Steering Committee. In this capacity, RRI brought greater visibility to the relationship between women’s land rights and empowerment by helping to position Indigenous, Afro-descendant and community women’s networks into the campaign’s global communications activities. RRI’s Gender Justice Director published a blog on [Thomson Reuters Foundation News](#) to highlight the situation facing Indigenous and Afro-descendant women in Latin America during COVID-19, and delivered a presentation on this theme at a S4HL webinar for its global community. Further, in November, RRI participated in a discussion on Indigenous and Afro-descendant women’s land rights and rural development as part of the “[Colombia Rural](#)” Summit, a high-level space to debate issues of rural development in Colombia. The event brought together representatives from the private sector, governments, the UN, donors, and others. RRI’s support eventually helped S4HL develop a framework to analyze the effects of COVID-19 on women’s land rights.

RRI also initiated a project in collaboration with CIFOR to promote Indigenous and local community women's representation and engagement in multi-stakeholder fora (MSFs). RRI funded and provided critical inputs into a new CIFOR guide and toolkit for improving the active engagement of Indigenous and local women in MSFs, [Getting it Right: A Guide to Improve Inclusion in MSFs](#). In advance of the guide's launch, CIFOR shared key success factors in ensuring inclusion of Indigenous and local women in MSFs during a presentation at the FLARE Twitter Conference on October 27, 2020. The guide was published in early 2021, and RRI is now supporting CIFOR in widening its reach and use across its regional and country networks. In addition to the guide, RRI is also helping CIFOR finalize other contributions and easily digestible materials in various languages aimed at strengthening Indigenous and local women's voices and contributions in participatory decision-making mechanisms.

RRI also achieved significant progress in advancing women's rights, voices, and leadership at national level and subnational levels in several focus countries. For example, in DRC, RRI financially supported its Collaborators' successful campaign to incorporate provisions on women's land tenure security in the new draft of DRC's land policy document. This was a key step towards ensuring that DRC's ongoing land reform prioritizes women's land rights. In Indonesia, the Association of Indigenous Women of The Archipelago (PEREMPUAN AMAN) piloted an Engendering Participatory Mapping (EPM) methodology to secure Indigenous women's collective governance of land. And in India, RRI amended its existing contract with its collaborator Vasundhara to support its efforts to sustain local communities' livelihoods during the crisis. With RRI's funding and support, Vasundhara conducted nationwide grassroots mobilization, media advocacy and political outreach to persuade the Indian Ministry of Tribal Affairs to [ease stringent COVID lockdown restrictions on the collection of non-timber forest products \(NTFP\) or minor forest produce](#),¹ an activity conducted primarily by local women. The Ministry's instructions to states to purchase these products led to two state governments exempting their collection from lockdown restrictions. Meanwhile in Latin America, RRI produced the first phase of its new research on women-led community enterprises in Latin America, published in early 2021 (see intermediary outcome 1.1), with a second phase underway. Read about this research [in this RRI blog post](#).

Throughout 2020, RRI emphasized the importance of legally recognizing Indigenous, Afro-descendant and community women's rights to use and govern community waters on numerous global fora, based on evidence published in [Whose Water](#), its path-breaking flagship report on national-level legal recognition of community-based freshwater tenure rights across 15 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (see indicators 1.1.4 and 1.2.2).²

¹ Section 2(i) of the Forest Rights Act (India) defines a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants, etc.

² Progress was also made towards investors and companies adopting international standards and rights-based approaches recognizing rural women's rights (more on this in the section on Strategic Objective 3, see indicator 1.1.5).

Within the Secretariat, RRG continued to strengthen its cross-cutting Gender Justice Program by selecting focal points across all its programs, naming a new Program Director, and hiring a Program Associate to ensure alignment. Together, these focal points developed new guiding principles for a better integration of gender justice across RRI programs and increased global-regional coordination. These changes will leverage the RRI Coalition's power to ensure effective integration of gender justice across common priorities and initiatives.

Strengthen and connect “front-line defenders” to better defend their land and natural resources, and advance their agendas with stronger strategic analysis, communications, and networks (see intermediary outcome 1.2).

Despite the acute challenges posed by COVID-related travel restrictions, limited connectivity in many communities, and rising violence and suppression facing human rights activists across the world, RRI successfully strengthened and connected front-line defenders on several fronts.

First, within RRI, a new MOU and the nomination of three rightsholders' representatives as members of the board — Mina Setra of AMAN, Stanley Kimaren Ole Riamit of ILEPA, and Gustavo Sanchez of AMPB — strengthened rights holders' governing role and ability to connect. Their induction also transitioned the RRG Board of Directors into a multilingual body representing Indigenous Peoples and local communities from three priority countries. As part of its efforts to reflect this transition, RRI increased its capacity in multiple new languages as well as in conducting transnational virtual meetings and holding multilingual dialogues on regional and global priority areas that allowed for broader participation and engagement. To help Coalition members transition into this new era of virtual communications, RRI also shared guidance on strengthening their digital security and protecting their online communications from surveillance and other digital threats to their safety. RRI plans to continue ensuring that planning materials and Coalition communications are available to all its Partners, Collaborators, and allies in their languages.

In Asia, RRI's work focused mainly on building communities' legal capacities to respond to increased criminalization and the rollback of rights in India and Indonesia, and address COVID-induced needs and priorities in Nepal and India. RRI knowledge partner Land Conflict Watch (LCW) released a comprehensive study of 703 land conflicts in India, which received widespread coverage in the national and global media and helped shaped the policy narrative around land conflicts and rights. LCW data was cited in India's Parliament and by several politicians participating in the most recent elections, as well as by civil society organizations. LCW was also invited by the Prime Minister's Office to present on the issue of land conflicts and rights. LCW continues to shape the Indian civil society narrative on land conflicts and collective rights including through trainings for journalists reporting on conflicts. Over one hundred media stories cited Land Conflict Watch data in 2020.

In Africa, RRI supported its collaborators' efforts to strengthen communities' ability to voice and promote their agendas in land and forest reforms currently being drafted (DRC) or implemented (Liberia). RRI also supported the International Land Coalition (ILC Africa) and the Open Society Foundation for East Africa in producing a new report on criminalization of land and environmental

rights defenders in East Africa. RRI published the report in early 2021, and with support from both partners, hosted a virtual launch of its findings along with a lively discussion with prominent East African land rights activists and experts. The report drew significant regional and global attention to increased levels of criminalization facing land and environmental rights defenders in East Africa. In March, through the *Land Rights Now* platform, RRI supported a campaign to raise awareness of criminalization of local community members who had been the victim of land grabbing in Uganda during the country's lockdown. This campaign raised awareness of ongoing land grabs affecting community members and helped influence the government of Uganda to issue a moratorium on land concessions during the lockdown.

In Latin America, RRI undertook most of its activities at the regional level and aimed at coordinating action to defend collective rights, counter rollbacks and increasing criminalization of land and environment defenders, and to strengthen coordination among Afro-descendant organizations and networks to acquire and benefit from collective tenure rights. To better support bottom-up advocacy, RRI also launched a regional study mapping territorial disputes between communities and extractive industries in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico from 2017 to 2019. In this study, RRI took an integrated approach to analyzing collective rights violations by extractive industries and infrastructure development in Latin America and their multidimensional and multiplier effects on Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities. RRI partnered with its collaborator SERVINDI to carry out a successful regional communications campaign and webinar to launch the study as well as [Story Maps](#), a new tool that comprehensively tracks land rights violations by extractive industries across Latin America.

RRI also strengthened its rightsholding Collaborators' work and voices through strategic communication outreach, such as by placing [an op-ed by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the outgoing UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), highlighting pandemic impacts on Indigenous and local communities. Another op-ed by RRG's Latin America Program Director in *El País*, one of the largest Spanish-language newspapers in Europe, highlighted the plight of [land defenders in Colombia](#). In India, an RRI-supported campaign led to lifting lockdown restrictions on [communities' forest product collection](#), while [a brief](#) highlighted the role played by collective rights recognition in building tribal communities' pandemic resilience and achieving better conservation outcomes.³

³ FAO's webinar on "*Empowering rural and Indigenous women in action on climate change*:"

<https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1217156192499355653>

COICA's campaign #GritoDeLaSelva: <https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1284172990985449472>

FAO's webinar "Water Tenure Approaches for Securing Rights and Advancing Climate Resilience":

<https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1296160713728286725>

CNTI's webinar: "Pandemia y los territorios Indígenas en disputa: una perspectiva regional":

<https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1318582130142810115>

FLARE's Network Twitter Conference "Reimagining Forests and Livelihoods in Turbulent Times:"

<https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1319355064537042947>

RRI published several analyses in 2020 that frontline defenders were able to use to inform decision-making processes and support advocacy. Launched in September, [*"The Estimated area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendants where their rights are not recognized"*](#) (**"The Area Estimate"**) presents the first comprehensive global baseline of the land area with unrecognized rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples (IPs, LCs, and ADPs). The study showed that IPs, LCs and ADPs exercise customary rights to at least 50% of the land area of the 42 countries studied, with at least 46% of this area that has yet to be recognized. [*"The Opportunity Framework 2020"*](#) is designed as a simple tool to help prioritize and mobilize greater investments to scale-up the recognition of Indigenous and community land and forest rights in 29 tropical forest countries that are part of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). By assessing the adequacy of core enabling factors, namely legal frameworks, political will, and civil society capacity, study results reveal that investments in just eight countries would shift nearly 290 million hectares of lands and forests from public to Indigenous or community ownership. Together, the "Area Estimate" and "Opportunity Framework" form the basis of a new initiative to raise ambition, called the Path to Scale (see indicator 1.3.4). Finally, RRI launched [*Whose Water*](#), a pathbreaking analysis of national laws and regulations recognizing Indigenous Peoples,' local communities,' and Afro-descendant Peoples' water tenure — providing critically needed data points to support rights-holder demands for better legal recognition and protection of their freshwater rights (see strategic objective 1). In addition to its Tenure tracking databases and flagship report on Rights-Based Conservation (see strategic objective 3) RRI successfully supported IP, LC, and ADP advocacy efforts and outreach campaigns to advance their needs and priorities across multiple scales and arenas. For example, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) has sought RRI staff's help to do a "deeper dive" in 16 countries where their partners are actively using the Opportunity Framework in 2021.

AMAN's webinar "Indigenous Youth Homecoming Movement, Ensuring Community Resilience":

<https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1321089009070858240>

IPBES' Pandemic Report: <https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1321885106122989568>

AMPB's fundraising: <https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1329553385494892546>

CNTI's webinar "¿Cómo afecta a las mujeres Indígenas el despojo territorial?":

<https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1331312920051978240>

Forest Trends' webinar: "Free Riding and the Exclusion of #Indigenous Territories from #REDD+ in the Amazon":

<https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1334887608988692483>

WISA's 2020 Online Conference: <https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1336678543237984257>

New "story maps" tool created by RRI's Latin American Coalition to track violation of collective land rights in the region: <https://twitter.com/RightsResources/status/1337402023860375553>

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

RRI’s most important contribution to transforming conservation practices was the production and launch of a flagship report in November 2020, [***Rights-Based Conservation: The path to preserving Earth’s biological and cultural diversity?***](#) (referred hereon as the 30 × 30 report), providing definitive scientific evidence that rights-based conservation is the most pragmatic and economically feasible path to achieving the UN’s global biodiversity agenda, particularly the proposed target of bringing at least 30% of Earth’s terrestrial area into some form of conservation status by 2030. The 30 × 30 report and related *Area Estimate* and *Opportunity Framework* Studies together informed the joint efforts and inputs of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)⁴ and RRI partner, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) for the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) negotiations process.

Other agencies, including global conservation organizations, have also started to use this framework. For example, Moore Foundation has requested that RRI help them develop a rights-based approach to conservation in Peru and Colombia based on these studies (RRI report to be submitted in the fall of 2021). We expect that these processes will ramp up as we approach the CBD and UNFCCC COPs. Another important contribution to transform conservation practices was RRI’s initiation (in collaboration with the Global Landscapes Forum and the Indigenous Peoples Major Group) of the International best practice principles for recognizing and respecting Indigenous Peoples’ local communities and Afro-descendant Peoples’ land and resource rights in landscape restoration, management, conservation, climate action, and development projects and programs (referred hereon as the “[***Gold Standard***](#)”). Following the initial launch of the Gold Standard development process in 2019, the principles were further refined, and a final framework adopted for launch. The principles will be officially launched in the fall of 2021 via the Global Landscape Forum and leveraged across the year to secure endorsement from rights holders and generate commitments by public and private actors and institutions to build momentum for action.

The COVID-19 pandemic shifted RRI’s 2020 – 2021 strategy to advance efforts to strengthen private sector engagement, community-based monitoring, and locally led development initiatives, which contribute to reaching Strategic Objective 3. RRI anticipated leveraging in-country platforms in Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Laos, and Indonesia to catalyze new networks of community, civil society, corporate, and government leaders to advance tenure reforms and implement corporate sustainability commitments. These initiatives were largely postponed in 2020, though their underlying analysis, work planning, and concept notes will support reinvigoration in 2021 and beyond.

Because of travel restrictions, RRI pivoted to prioritize virtual convening and networking. The Interlaken Group organized a webinar series between May and June 2020 entitled *Monitoring*

⁴ Members of IIFB comprise Indigenous Peoples’ representatives from across the world, dedicated to ensuring participation of Indigenous Peoples in the CBD process. They include RRI Partner Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), which is actively involved in advocating for rights-based conservation agenda at a regional level.

Investments and Supply Chains During the C-19 Pandemic: Emerging Practices, Innovations, and Recommendations. Sustained engagement with Interlaken Group leaders and other resource persons led to demands for a new high-level guidance tool describing the emerging principles and practice for integrating grassroots monitoring into private sector due diligence verification processes. This guidance tool (under development) will help support critically needed changes in private sector practice to better incorporate community data on environmental and social impacts into investment decision-making and supplier engagement.

The aforementioned dialogues provided a platform for local and Indigenous representatives to share their perspective directly with corporate, investor, and DFI leaders. Contributions were heard from the Comisión nacional de territorios indígenas (CNTI) on the successful challenge by IPs of the Colombian decree, passed during COVID, which sought to allow “virtual FPIC.” The Interlaken Group also heard perspectives from project affected communities and community monitors in Indonesia, Liberia, and Kenya. The webinars demonstrated that, increasingly, a key value add of the Interlaken Group and RRI Coalition is to provide a “catalyst” for instigating new private sector and community networks and direct connections to advance tenure reforms. In parallel, RRI instigated the development of new analysis and tools to empower communities in investments and advance rights-based approaches.

Building on the 2019 Community-Based-Monitoring exchange in Sumatra, RRI supported an Indigenous community to document local supply chain violations and file complaints to the RSPO, National Land Authority, and oil palm company grievance mechanisms. Also in Indonesia, RRI partnered with Rainforest Alliance’s Accountability Framework Initiative (AFi) and local Interlaken Group participant AsM Law Offices to develop and pilot community-based monitoring frameworks and key performance indicators couched in the commitments of major companies and investors. This framework will be piloted in Indigenous communities in Indonesia and the results used to support dialogue with downstream supply chain actors.

Finally, endorsement was secured from the RRI Network to develop new flagship-level baseline analysis, linked to RRI tenure data, on the legislative, regulatory, and policy conditions required to support rights-based approaches. This analysis will support the “transformation” element of RRI’s emerging Path to Scale initiative to raise donor ambition and target investments to scale up land rights recognition, mitigate climate change, and reduce biodiversity loss.

Connect, consolidate, and leverage the emerging suite of global instruments to dramatically scale-up the recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ and forest communities’ land and forest rights on the ground

Ever since this objective was formulated and integrated in the draft SP3 in 2017 (and prior to 2020), RRI has made significant progress on developing and institutionalizing global instruments and initiatives to leverage key players in securing communities’ tenure rights. For instance, at the time SP3 was adopted, the process of transitioning the Tenure Facility from RRG to the secretariat of the new

institution in Stockholm, Sweden, was still underway. [LandMark](#) (2015) and [Land Rights Now](#) (2016) were also relatively new and being consolidated.

In 2020 the focus was no longer on consolidating an emerging suite of instruments but rather on continuing to leverage these networks and tools — now fully functional — to catalyze changes in the land rights ecosystem despite the impossibility of physically convening participants. RRI also focused its efforts on incubating a new global instrument, the informal Path to Scale and Transformation working group, to mobilize bilateral donors, financial mechanisms, and private philanthropies to scale up financial support for Indigenous and community land rights and conservation, at least to the level to meet global 2030 climate and biodiversity goals — taking advantage of the 2021 climate and biodiversity CoPs.

While RRI did not organize official meetings for [MegaFlorestais](#) in 2020, it held virtual discussions with high-level officials from the United States, Canada, Sweden, Mexico, Brazil, and Peru. This enabled RRI to collect information on the priorities of major forest agencies across the world and conduct a successful series of webinars beginning February 2021 to discuss tenure reform from the lenses of issues most important to them. RRI also continued to support the work of its Partners and Collaborators implementing Tenure Facility rights recognition projects, in India and Nepal (1.3.2) and DRC (1.2.1). In addition, between May and June 2020, the Interlaken Group organized a well-attended webinar series on *Monitoring Investments and Supply Chains During the C-19 Pandemic: Emerging Practices, Innovations, and Recommendations* (see Strategic Objective 3), while continuing to lay the groundwork for engagement through in-country platforms in Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Laos, and Indonesia.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Convening and Engaging the Coalition Virtually

2020 was a critical year for RRI. RRG and members of RRI finalized the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) review and approval process and established the new Coalition. This process would not have been easy in a normal year, and with the pandemic, the challenge was heightened by the switch to virtual-only convenings and engagement with RRI's diverse Coalition members.

In response, RRG adapted its Coalition engagement strategy in the following ways:

1. Engaging more regularly through webinars and frequent email communications in all key languages.
2. Focusing on language inclusiveness and ensuring all events had simultaneous interpretation.
3. Adjusting meetings to an online format and improving RRG's virtual convening capacity, including through dedicated training on virtual facilitation.

The need to provide RRI Partners and Collaborators with sufficient time to review and provide feedback to materials virtually, and the decision to space out virtual planning meetings to enable greater engagement from participants, led to delays in the compiling of RRI's 2021 program book.

We learned that virtual meetings require more thorough preparation than in-person meetings in order to be as effective and to keep people engaged and interested, especially with a large number of participants. We addressed this challenge by paying extra attention to “meeting fatigue” and to fostering discussion, for example by using breakout groups. Another challenge was to communicate clearly in a multilingual setting as misunderstandings cannot be cleared online as easily as they are in person. Despite our efforts and notable improvement throughout the year—culminating in our largely successful January 2021 online governance meetings—we have yet to fully recreate the sense of proximity and the informal and candid character of our in-person Coalition meetings in a virtual setting. This is a work in progress.

Switching to online convening also had positive sides. For instance, it enabled us to engage more Collaborators than ever before since we were no longer responsible for paying for participants' transportation and lodging. Our discussions were much richer as a result. Moving forward, we will seek to continue this more robust engagement with Collaborators through webinars and ongoing email communication. We will also include an online component to our future in-person gatherings to continue engaging the full Coalition as we were able to do in 2020.

Supporting rightsholders as government responses to COVID exacerbated their isolation and threatened their land and resource rights and livelihoods (see Outcome 4)

Globally COVID-19 led to a decline in the respect of rights on the ground and increased insecurity. The lockdowns affected communities' livelihoods, governance, and health, while in many cases they also weakened democracy and rule of law, resulting in an increase in land-grabbing, criminalization of land and environmental rights defenders, and environmental injustice.

These dynamics are reflected in a brief co-authored by RRI, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and the Coalition for Tenure Justice in Indonesia, [*UNDER THE COVER OF COVID: New Laws in Asia Favor Business at the Cost of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Land and Territorial Rights*](#) (November 2020). The brief specifically examines legislative developments during COVID-19 in India, Indonesia, and the Philippines that undermined sustainable human-environment interactions and Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' broader enjoyment of their rights over their customary territories. In Latin America, as highlighted in an opinion piece by RRI's Latin America and Gender Justice Program Director, we noticed that [*women from Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and other local communities are among the hardest hit by COVID-19. Health inequities and other discrimination render them particularly vulnerable.*](#)

Many Indigenous and community leaders, who were close Collaborators, fell sick from COVID-19. Some lost their lives, such as Luis Fernando Arias, a Colombian Indigenous Leader and senior adviser to the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC). The pandemic also broke

communication among community members, their organizations and their allies, jeopardizing their capacity to react to and anticipate new threats. RRI's Collaborators had to adjust quickly to virtual interactions for communication, decision-making and implementation, often with limited technological capabilities.

Many of the planned activities in 2020 were delayed or canceled because of the pandemic. In many cases, civil society organizations (CSO) workshops, community consultations, and civil society participation in policymaking were not possible due to restrictions on travel and meetings. Political processes significantly slowed down. Across regions, it was difficult to mobilize all the necessary actors to tackle new community land rights issues—some of which were related to extractive industries deemed essential businesses. However, although the pandemic created delays in implementing RRI's programs, especially when these programs included convening in-person meetings, it did not affect RRI's priorities. The pandemic made the urgency of Indigenous Peoples,' local communities' and Afro-descendant Peoples' efforts to defend their territories and pursue their self-determined development and conservation practices clearer than ever before.

One of RRI's most important achievements during 2020 was pivoting to respond quickly to the crisis and its fallout for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples. Despite the crisis and an increasingly hostile local environment in many countries, these communities managed to build capacity and achieve breakthroughs in collaboration with RRI Partners and Collaborators.

Faced with this emergency, RRI pivoted quickly to meet the challenge through the following measures:

- Creation of a rapid COVID Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) to meet emergency demands from grassroots rights holder organizations and their allies.
- Allow amendments and extensions to ongoing grants, which allowed reallocated funds to be devoted to COVID-related work.
- Analyses highlighting COVID-19's impact on the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendant Peoples.
- Rapid transition to secure and reliable virtual communications to stay connected with Coalition members.

We learned about the importance of virtual meetings and knowledge sharing. While country-level political processes slowed, we took advantage of the greater access to technology to plan regional meetings with interpretation. These meetings were cost-effective and useful to improving the capacity and networking of our Coalition.

We also learned about the importance of community monitoring as well as challenges related to it. As CSOs were no longer able to travel to remote, rural communities to provide technical support, they gave advice on the phone. Communities developed capacity on their own to monitor extractive industries on the ground. This year, we will likely hold one knowledge-sharing workshop on community monitoring to build on the learning that came from the Coalition's experience in 2020.

We have reasons to believe that RRI's quick adjustment and flexibility in providing support and funding to rights holders in response to the COVID-19 crisis has helped our Coalition renew and strengthen its relationship with Collaborators across the world. In the future, we hope to be able to show a similar level of flexibility, thus improving communities' resilience and capacity to seize opportunities.

Responding to increasing donor scrutiny over RRI Collaborators' (sub awardees) financial management

In recent years, increasing financial oversight requirements from various donors have led to growing levels of anxiety and inefficiency among RRI rightsholder Collaborators and Partners. For RRG, meeting additional requirements also necessitated substantial staff time and energy and financial resources. As a whole, the RRI Coalition strongly values and upholds sound financial management. However, we want our approach to financial oversight to remain respectful and supportive of local organizations and requirements to be commensurate with risks.

We understand that donors need their contribution to be accounted for, especially public donors that are accountable to taxpayers. We also understand that donors use increased financial oversight to encourage grantees to improve their financial management. However, increased financial oversight has been challenging for organizations like RRI who work with local partners, and for local partners themselves. For instance, some of the organizations that we have been working with for years hesitate to be transparent about aspects of financial management where they could improve, as they fear an imperfect score may damage their reputation and reduce their access to funds. Even a temporary pause in funding while issues are being addressed may render them insolvent if they are operating on tight budgets, as many are. For RRG, this has sometimes made it difficult to collect Collaborators' organizational audits and/or management letters.

We believe adopting the following practices would reduce the level of anxiety and inefficiency among our Collaborators and enable RRG to respond to requirements in a way that fully addresses donors' concerns without causing additional strains on the organization.

1. For RRG: Implement more financial capacity building activities for Collaborators, supported by additional earmarked funds provided by donors.
2. For donors: To the extent possible, ensure that all requirements are included in the award and refrain from adding additional requirements while an agreement is underway.
3. For donors: Introduce a materiality threshold. This notion as applied in audits refers to the benchmark used to obtain reasonable assurance that an audit will detect material misstatements of financial statements. The assessment of what is material—where to draw the line between a transaction that is big enough to matter or small enough to be immaterial—would depend on factors such as the size of the organization's revenues and expenses, the amount of the grant, etc.
4. For RRI and RRG: Donors and Collaborators should work closely together towards changing the way financial oversight is understood by grantees and sub-grantees. Change the narrative so that Collaborators and sub-grantees see financial oversight as encouraging improvement

rather than punishing organizations that have suboptimal practices. This would require close communication among stakeholders (Donors, RRG, Collaborators) and clear understanding of the different steps and consequences. Such an approach would also benefit from practices such as keeping ongoing investigations private until conclusions are reached to limit potential reputational damage to grantees and subgrantees; focusing on education, capacity building and improvement; and if possible, avoiding ceasing disbursements while an investigation is underway—even if it results in organizations having to pay back contributions.

Achievements by SPIII Logframe

OUTCOME 1: Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and rural women leverage their capacity, leadership, and rights to transform social, economic, and environmental agendas in support of inclusive and equitable development, sustainable land and resource governance, and accelerated climate actions.

Linked to SPIII Strategic Objectives 1 and 2

| Sub-results | Targets/Indicators | 2020 Achievements |
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| 1.1 Global efforts to secure rural women's property rights, voice, and leadership within community lands and forests are scaled up. | 1.1.1 A global initiative on gender justice within community lands is established to strengthen advocacy and cross-sector dialogue, advance legal reforms, and support rural women's rights and economic empowerment in land-based investments. | Global: Reorganizing RRI's internal gender justice institutional arrangements and linkages. This effort will help RRI better respond to the needs of social movements and women within Indigenous and local communities, and to the constraints posed by the COVID crisis. It also capitalized on the opportunities offered by global processes of climate and conservation negotiations in 2021. The creation of gender justice focal points across programs helped ensure significant commitment and coordination within and between programs. The restructuring allows RRG and RRI to effectively leverage the power of the Coalition and its allies to ensure that in 2021, Indigenous, local community and Afro-descendent women are able to effectively position their collective rights and demands on global platforms. |
| | 1.1.2 Gender equitable tenure and policy reforms are advanced, in consultation with rural women and community leaders | Africa/DRC: Analysis and advocacy lead to provisional edits on women's land rights in a bill by the Kasai-Central Provincial Parliament, potentially benefitting over 3 million women. RRI member CFLEDD and women's organizations helped reframe customary rules in the province to recognize women's rights in land and forests. CFLEDD completed an assessment of women's access to land through 25 surveys and based on those results, conducted a workshop to finalize the key concerns on land tenure in the Kasai-Central province. This contributed to the land policy document consultation process. It also trained 10 women leaders on community forestry, linking to land tenure security and livelihood strengthening for women. These activities have contributed |

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| | <p>across RRI focus countries.</p> | <p>to the consultation on the national draft land bill, as provincial officials have used this information to incorporate language against gender discrimination into the draft bill.</p> <p>Africa/DRC: Incorporating provisions on women’s land tenure security in the new draft of DRC’s land policy document: This outcome was achieved as a result of RRI member CFLEDD’s creation of awareness about the land policy reform and consultations with rural women for inputs into the policy document in 6 provinces. A final validation workshop will be held in 2021 before the document is adopted by the Government to ensure women’s rights to ownership and participation in decision-making processes over land.</p> <p>Asia/India: Grassroots mobilization, media advocacy and political outreach led to lifted COVID lockdown restrictions over minor forest product collection. RRI members worked with Mahila Kisaan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM), a national network of women peasants’ organizations, and Vasundhara, an advocacy organization, to highlight the impact of COVID lockdown restrictions on collection of non-timber Forest Products (NTFP), which provide a vital income source for tens of millions of tribal and forest dweller women, including cases where women’s forest, livelihood and human rights were violated (See 1.2.1 for more information).</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Piloting Engendering Participatory Mapping (EPM) methodology to secure Indigenous women’s collective governance of land: In Mentawi Islands, Perempuan AMAN, Indonesia, successfully conducted a pilot of EPM, a gender-sensitive approach to participatory mapping. EPM ensures the visibility of Indigenous women’s role and knowledge in villages’ development planning and policy and the broader process of recognition of customary rights. The pilot laid the groundwork to scale up the methodology.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Women’s farmer groups develop Strategic Action Plans on forest governance for government agencies. In Rejang Lebong District, Bengkulu Province, about 50 women in two villages developed their own Forest Area Management Action Plans. They were supported by RRI Collaborator AKAR’s participatory action research that uses the GESIT (gender, ecology and social transformation) methodology. Self-defined action plans and participatory action research have shown to be highly effective in empowering women in managing forests. The regional food security department is supporting women’s groups with IDR 70 million to further develop demonstration plots managed by women on village land and in community forests and house yards. A co-learning approach has also led to weekly study groups for village women to enrich field data.</p> |
| | <p>1.1.3 A Gender Justice Advisory Group is established and effective in supporting</p> | <p>Global: Revisiting the RRI Gender Justice Advisory Group. RRI initiated a revisit of its Gender Justice Advisory Group, which was created in 2018, in order to make it more representative of the new Coalition structure and responsive to the agendas of Indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant women’s movements. The group’s restructuring will be held in consultation with</p> |

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| national initiatives and global engagement. | rights holders and will ensure that it is able to support these networks' emerging global and cross-regional collective land rights priorities and agendas. |
| 1.1.4 Evidence-based analyses on gender and tenure rights empower rural women's networks and support advocacy and reforms at global, regional, and national levels. | <p>Asia/Regional: Stocktaking of long-term efforts to improve gender parity within mass-based organizations in Nepal, India, and Indonesia, including building a database. The stocktaking and database will underpin the rights and gender justice strategies in the region in 2021, including supporting RRI members to coordinate, network, and raise resources to support women's land rights.</p> <p>Global: Advocacy and awareness-raising on the importance of the legal recognition of women's specific rights to community waters and territories within national legal frameworks. Throughout 2020, RRI emphasized the importance of legally recognizing Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and community women's rights to use and govern community waters in numerous global fora, based on evidence from 15 countries published in <i>Whose Water</i> (see Indicator 1.2.2). In addition to a multilingual virtual launch event joined by 130 individuals across the land, forest, water, and gender sectors in 30 countries, another event during the SIWI World Water Week advanced ongoing international processes articulating good governance of water tenure and its relationships with land, forests, and fisheries tenure in a manner that strengthens communities', smallholders', and women's water tenure rights and climate resilience. Evidence and learning from <i>Whose Water</i> further served as the basis for contributions to submissions to a call for input from the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Environment, David Boyd concerning the impact of water pollution, water scarcity, and floods on human rights. It also informed submissions to a call for inputs from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Aguda, on the development of his mandate for 2020-2022.</p> <p>Africa/Regional: In the Province of Kasai-Central in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with support from CFLEDD, RRI evaluated the status of women's land and forestry rights using a survey developed using a participatory approach. Twenty surveys were distributed to women, customary chiefs, and civil society, and the responses helped develop an intervention strategy to secure women's land and forest rights in the province.</p> |
| 1.1.5 Influential investors and companies adopt international standards and rights-based | <p>Global: Interlaken Group Guidance — Including women-specific concerns in Principles to Leverage Community-Based Monitoring for Sustainable Supply Chains and Investments — The Interlaken Group initiated development of a new global private sector guidance tool describing the principles for companies and investors to engage with communities to source local data on social and environmental impacts, and to leverage this data to inform their decision-making. The guidance document will integrate principles and emerging practice for accessing gender-balanced and women-specific data and indicators. This tool is</p> |

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| | <p>approaches recognizing rural women's rights.</p> | <p>expected to be finalized in 2021 and will link with ongoing community-based monitoring pilots in Indonesia. RRG, as the coordinator of the Interlaken Group, developed the concept note and initiated procurement in collaboration with participating leaders.</p> <p>Global: Developing Framework to Support Bottom-up Private Sector Accountability. RRI engaged with AsM Law Offices and Rainforest Alliance's Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI) to translate AFI principles into local indicators of supply chain impacts. The resulting framework and indicators will be linked via AFI to track commitments made by companies and investors for local community monitors.</p> <p>The framework and indicators developed under this activity represent a new tool to be leveraged by the RRI Coalition to verify implementation of corporate sustainability commitments, and pressure companies and investors to adopt approaches that recognize the rights of rural women. Indigenous communities in Indonesia, who are challenged by expanding natural resource concessions linked to the supply chains of Interlaken Group companies, will pilot this framework. RRI instigated this activity based on intelligence emerging from the Interlaken Group, and the results of a 2019 Community-based Monitoring Exchange in Sumatra co-convened with AMAN and FPP.</p> |
| <p>1.2 Front-line defenders of land and resource rights are better informed, supported, and connected to advance their causes.</p> | <p>1.2.1 Indigenous, community and women's networks are better connected to accelerate learning and strengthen their reach and impact.</p> | <p>Global: RRI renewal process strengthens the role of rights holders' networks in the Coalition. After an 18-month consultative process led by RRG and the RRI Renewal Committee, RRI Partners signed a new 5-year Memorandum of Understanding to welcome many more community-based organizations as Partners, greatly increasing the role of IP, LC, and AD communities in the governance of RRI. Through this process, Partners and RRG jointly committed to increasing the roles of grassroots Collaborators in the global planning process while prioritizing these organizations for inclusion as new Partners in the coming years. These shifts informed the new design of the January Governance Meeting and November Global Strategy Meeting to focus more on collective action. RRI also strengthened the inclusion of grassroots level collaborators in decision-making and planning at all levels, including in its governance and global planning processes.</p> <p>Global: Increasing membership of Indigenous and Community rights holders in the RRG Board. New Board Members from rightsholders organizations from different regions joined the Board, including Mina Setra of AMAN, Stanley Kimaren Ole Riamit of ILEPA, and Gustavo Sanchez of AMPB. This, along with the joining of rightsholder organizations as member Partners is an important shift in the nature of RRI Coalition and its governance, creating greater accountability, role, and inclusion for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendants.</p> |

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| | | <p>Global: Improving digital facilitation, language access and online security: Capacity building in digital facilitation skills improved the RRI Network and RRG Secretariat's ability to leverage online meetings as a cost-effective and low-carbon-footprint tool to build virtual connections within Indigenous, local community and women's networks across countries and scales. Over two dozen online events applied effective participatory engagement strategies, including planning meetings, webinars, and new member onboarding. Furthermore, RRG advanced integration of priority languages (Bahasa, Nepali, Hindi) into its multilingual communications, interpreter and translator rosters and meetings. With many partners and collaborators suddenly moving from in-person to remote meetings, digital security has become a major concern. To counter this, RRG has produced a 4-page guide for its members and network on implementing a more secure digital communication strategy. This was shared in early 2021.</p> <p>Africa/Liberia: Creating awareness and community mobilization to pressure Central Government to prioritize Land Rights Act implementation: RRI member LRM generated public awareness and pressure on the government to implement Liberia's Land Rights Act through a series of sessions held in five communities in three counties (Bomi, Margibi and Grand Cape Mount), three sub-regional educational fora, and five focus group discussions. LRM also distributed 3,000 flyers, three banners, and 200 t-shirts, and broadcast 12 regional radio programs informing communities about the Act's significance. Apart from building public awareness of customary land rights, these activities added pressure on the national government to prioritize the Act's implementation.</p> <p>Africa/Liberia: Early warning and response mechanism for monitoring community lands during COVID-19. SESDev, Liberia, leveraged a Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) to raise awareness of COVID-19 prevention by distributing 2,000-posters and flyers to 40 communities in Sinoe and Lofa counties. This allowed SESDev to travel to these communities and share its early warning response mechanism, through which communities can report infringements on their customary lands and receive technical advice. SESDev has kept a database of all community land rights monitoring calls received throughout the pandemic from 40 communities across 4 counties. They provided advisory support to eight communities across three counties. This has allowed communities to be proactive against land grabs labeled essential business by extractive industries and enhance their relationships with civil society organizations working on customary land rights without having to travel.</p> <p>Africa/DRC: Providing multi-sectoral inputs to the Government of DRC on its forthcoming Land Use Planning Policy and Law Reform. RRI member CTIDD helped create a task force of actors from large CSO networks (GTCRR, CFLEDD, DYJEDD and REPALFE) and experts from agriculture, mining, forestry, land, hydrocarbon sectors to jointly prepare a position paper and roadmap to inform DRC's forthcoming Land Use Planning Policy and Law, currently under preparation by the Government. This process enabled civil society, Indigenous and community organizations to monitor and provide critical inputs to the ongoing elaboration on land use planning in the country. See article for more information (French).</p> |
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| | | <p>Africa/DRC: Training public officials on processing community forestry concessions applications: CAGDFT, through training programs and orientation, built the capacity of 15 local officials in Kwilu and Kwango provinces in processing community forestry concessions applications to ensure they can adequately support scaling up community rights recognition in the two provinces. This capacity building will also be leveraged in an ongoing Tenure Facility projects in the two provinces and inform similar efforts in other provinces.</p> <p>Asia/India: Development of instruments and processes for communities' legal empowerment: Legal Resource Center, in collaboration with Vasundhara, developed a toolkit for Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) entitled Righting Wrongs by Writing Resolutions. This toolkit helps communities write petitions and resolutions to official and legal bodies and has been translated in three languages on popular demand. The Legal Resource Center has provided critical legal support to communities, including pastoral communities, for protection of their forest rights in context of a declaration on Critical Wildlife Habitats and multiple rights violations by the Government of India.</p> <p>Asia/India: Lifting of COVID lockdown restrictions on forest product collection by tribal and forest dwellers: RRI facilitated policy advocacy and media campaigns by grassroots groups, leading to the Indian Home Ministry to lift restriction of forest product collections due to COVID. This ensured that tens of millions of tribal and forest dwellers could continue to collect and market forest products vital to their livelihoods and survival during the pandemic. RRI's advocacy group in India provided critical policy inputs to the government on setting of Minimum Support Prices for purchase of forest products by the government as well as on other challenges facing tribal and forest dwellers, such as support pricing for new products. These inputs were accepted by Federal Government. The group also worked with grassroots organizations to highlight core issues of forest rights and COVID; criminalization and violence; impact of afforestation policies; and displacement and environmental impacts of mining and other development activities, effectively raising public and media awareness on these issues. Awareness training programs were also held in at least five states, linking NTFP collection with forest rights.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Coalition for Tenure Justice emerges as a critical actor on land and territorial rights reforms: RRI provided key support to Indonesia's Coalition for Tenure Justice facilitation and communication capacities, strengthening this network of organizations and allies advancing agrarian reform, recognition of Indigenous tenure rights, and social forestry. In 2020, the Tenure Coalition and RRI members analyzed the impacts of new laws detrimental to Indigenous and community land rights. It also connected with other platforms and coalitions for mass mobilization against the new Omnibus Law, which threatens progress made on IP rights, and catalyzed legal challenges against it. In response to COVID-19, the Tenure Coalition supported four new initiatives to distribute pandemic and health information to communities and setting mitigation strategies to ensure community food security.</p> |
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| | | <p>Asia/Indonesia: Emergency financial and legal fund responds to criminalization of land rights defenders. In 2020, RRI continued to support the <i>National Consortium for Agrarian Reform's</i> Emergency Fund system for agrarian defenders. The fund supported campaigns against the criminalization of agrarian defenders and strengthened the existing Legal Aid Network, which has proved highly relevant as during the pandemic period (from March-August 2020), KPA recorded 37 agrarian conflicts, killing two people, and arresting 39. Land occupation and forced evictions are being initiated by plantation and forestry companies despite the food crisis induced by the pandemic. The Emergency fund provided crucial support to the front-line defenders being criminalized during this period.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Communities use legal strategies and training to defend rights. RRI members provided legal analysis and support for litigation to a community fighting a customary land grab by a palm oil company in West Kalimantan; and in litigation to compensate a community whose farming land was used for developing a Grand Prix circuit in Lombok. Three other disputes are being handled by advocates who participated in a legal training by RRI Collaborator SAFIR.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia — Development of methodology to assess the benefits of tenure to community land and resource management, livelihoods, and well-being: The methodology, developed collectively by members of the Coalition for Tenure Justice in Indonesia, will be used in 2021 in pilots across four locations, and strengthen the case for a community rights-based development model in Indonesia.</p> <p>Asia/Nepal: Building a common COVID response for IPs and local communities: FECOFUN, NEFIN, and CIPRED in Nepal have influenced and shaped the Government's response to COVID at federal, provincial and municipality levels, and created a common agenda on addressing issues facing IPs and local communities. A national level consultation was carried out with government at all levels, civil society organizations, and Indigenous and community groups to create a national COVID response platform for advocacy on COVID response. This process, apart from direct benefits to IPs and local communities through favorable state action, also helped strengthen working relationships within Indigenous and community networks in Nepal.</p> <p>Asia/Regional: Strengthening engagement with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact. Since January 2020, RRI has engaged closely with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), a new RRI Partner and a critical Asia-level Indigenous network, to conduct research and advocacy work in support of the IP rights agenda in Asia. RRG staff has provided inputs to AIPP on its submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the 9th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, statements for the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), and research on the impacts of COVID-19 on IPs across the region.</p> <p>Asia/Regional: New engagement with youth IP and community initiatives. At RRI's January 2020 Governance Meeting, Coalition members highlighted their intergenerational efforts to build youth leadership, sustain youth livelihoods, and leverage global/local youth advocacy. Following this lead, RRI organized roundtable discussions with Indigenous and local community</p> |
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youth from Nepal, Indonesia, and India as well as Partners and Collaborators across the region. Key insights, a map of initiatives, and multimedia resources were presented internally within RRG and to Indigenous and community youth representatives to highlight emergent strategies and opportunities. In December, youth leaders gathered to network and identified priority areas for exchange in 2021.

Latin America/Regional: Initiating a roadmap for regional advocacy on joint action to defend collective rights. RRI, in coordination with members CODHES, ONAMIAP, SPDA, CONAQ, and PCN, is filling a gap in documenting rights violations through developing a baseline roadmap that identifies differentiated impacts of these violations on IP and Afro-descendent communities in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. The roadmap uses a gender and generational focus and will strengthen advocacy efforts across the region by developing a standard methodology for monitoring and recording violations. To create the roadmap, RRI members conducted a survey among organizations across the three countries to identify data sources of rights violations and a variety of analysis variables, followed by virtual meetings at national and regional levels to consolidate the baseline. The baseline identified at least 19 different forms of attacks against communities, and 10 contextual factors leading to rights abuses. These include extractive industry activities, deforestation, armed conflicts, agroindustry, and infrastructure projects. The document will be shared in 2021.

Latin America/Regional: Strengthening coordination between Afro-descendant organizations in Latin America. Building upon years of RRI's efforts to support Afro-descendant movements in Colombia and Brazil, RRI joined hands with PCN and CONAQ to achieve greater synergies with other regional Afro-descendant organizations, crafting a joint plan to scale up tenure rights recognition in the region. In 2020, RRI convened a series of meetings among Afro-descendant organizations and leaders from Nicaragua, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Suriname, Chile, and Paraguay. These defined a roadmap for a collective, multiscale strategy to close the gap in the realization of their tenure rights. The [forum](#) identified two groups of countries in different rights recognition phases, requiring different strategies for collective action. For instance, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Guyana, and Suriname have shown uneven progress on enacting legislation on tenure rights, with implementation processes stagnant for decades in some countries. Others, such as Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Paraguay are at an earlier stage of social mobilization for rights, with limited policy development. Collective action in this set of countries requires creating enabling conditions that would help legal frameworks and institutions respond to future land claims. The development of the roadmap is an ongoing process, which was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Another regional forum that focused on rights for Afro-descendant women and youth as well as structural racism and human rights took place in February 2021. RRI is uniquely positioned to support this process due to its expertise and new evidence from its land area and Opportunity Framework studies, which constitute the initial tools to build upon to identify gaps and paths to scale up tenure rights recognition of Afro descendants in Latin America.

Latin America/Colombia: Defense strategy against the nullification of collective titling of the La Boquilla community in Cartagena. RRI is working with Corporation Cultural Cabildo and the OTEC of Javeriana University as part of a legal and advocacy

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| | | <p>strategy to defend the collective title of La Boquilla, an Afro-descendant community in the Cartagena municipality. The community obtained its collective title in 2012 at an emblematic ceremony chaired by President Barack Obama; however, a lower court ruling nullified the collective title in July 2020. RRI's joint strategy includes a comprehensive approach, addressing the socio-environmental factors contributing to protecting the local mangrove ecosystem, in which a community-based tenure is the best option. The plan also includes a legal analysis of rights violations based on the constitutional frameworks that protect Afro descendants' collective tenure. RRI brings a unique value-added to this process by linking collective and community tenure rights and ecosystem preservation and convening trusted actors to contribute their expertise. RRI builds upon the confidence it has gained in the Caribbean region with a previous strategy defending the Barú community's collective titling, making it well positioned to help restore the La Boquilla's title. The ongoing plan began in the final quarter of 2020 and continued in the first quarter of 2021.</p> |
| | <p>1.2.2 Tenure tracking data on forest, land, water, carbon, and gender-justice rights, and management thereof is extended and leveraged as a global reference point for the state of Indigenous, community and women's rights.</p> | <p>Global: New analysis on community-based freshwater rights. In 2020, RRI produced and launched Whose Water, a path-breaking flagship report on the national-level legal recognition of community-based freshwater tenure rights across 15 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The full report presents an innovative comparative assessment of the extent to which 39 legal frameworks across the world recognize freshwater rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities, as well as the specific rights of women to use and govern community waters. RRI hosted a multilingual webinar on August 28, 2020, to present the report's methodology, key findings and implications. The webinar also presented responses from community leaders, practitioners and legal experts from ELI, the Federation of Community Forestry Leaders Nepal (FECOFUN), Forest Trends, International Association for Water Law (AIDA), and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), which illustrated the national-level implications of the report's findings and highlighted the applicability of its methodology in countries beyond the ones studied. Over 130 individuals from 30 countries joined this event. Event recordings, presentations, and a related summary brief are available online in English, French, and Spanish. On August 25, 2020, RRI also co-hosted a virtual showcase event as part of the SIWI World Water Week at Home, in collaboration with ELI, FAO, and the Governments of Sri Lanka, Rwanda, and Senegal. The event positioned <i>Whose Water's</i> methodology and sought to advance ongoing international processes towards articulating good governance of water tenure and its relationships to land, forests and fisheries tenure; strengthening water tenure rights of communities, smallholders, and the women among them; and increasing climate resilience. Evidence and learning from <i>Whose Water</i> have further served as the basis for contributions to submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, David Boyd's call for inputs on the impact of water pollution, water scarcity, and floods on human rights; and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Aguda's call for input on development of his mandate for 2020-2022.</p> |

Global: Update to *Who Own's the World's Land*. Throughout 2020, RRI continued collecting preliminary data to update and expand its Land Tenure Database. The baseline established by *Who Owns the World's Land?* (RRI, 2015) set the stage for a global mobilization to double the land area legally recognized as owned by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities by 2020. Data for 32 countries has been collected, and collection for 17 more countries is on track.

Global: Publication of Landmark analyses demonstrating the global extent of unrecognized community land rights and opportunities to dramatically scale up community-based tenure security. RRI produced two landmark technical analyses in 2020 that lay the foundation for scaling up global investments in rights-based climate, biodiversity and sustainable development priorities. The "[Estimate of unrecognized communities lands and territories](#)" (i.e., the Area Study) presents the first comprehensive global baseline of the land area with unrecognized rights of IPs, local communities, and Afro-descendants. The analysis draws on previous work, emerging evidence, and expert opinion to quantify the minimum area customarily held by communities but legally unrecognized by governments. Covering 42 countries or nearly half of global land area outside of Antarctica, the report finds that IPs, local communities, and Afro-descendants exercise customary rights to at least 50% of the land area of the countries studied, with at least 46% of this area yet to be recognized. Similarly, an independent, expert-led, high-level scan of the status of country readiness for investments to secure community-based tenure rights was used to formulate the "[Opportunity Framework](#)." Designed as a simple tool to help prioritize and mobilize greater investments to scale-up the recognition of Indigenous and community land and forest rights, the report analyzes 29 tropical forest countries that are part of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). By assessing the adequacy of core enabling factors, namely legal frameworks, political will, and civil society capacity, study results reveal that investments in just eight countries would shift nearly 290 million hectares of lands and forests from public to Indigenous or community ownership—dramatically increasing progress made over the last 15 years—benefit over 200 million people and help to secure some 93 billion tons of carbon. This analysis is now being complemented by a deeper dive in 18 countries to take stock of existing operating environments and identify specific entry points for ramping up rights-based investments.

Global: Defining a Path to Scale. Together, the studies on "[Area Estimates](#)" and "[Opportunity Framework](#)" form the basis of a new initiative to raise ambition, called the *Path to Scale* (see section 1.3.4). Report findings and policy implications were summarized in a high-level brief "[Urgency and Opportunity](#)" and jointly launched ahead of the New York Climate Summit via a global webinar hosted by RRI with the support of key spokespeople from both the conservation sector and rights-holding organizations, to make the case for rights recognition as a solution to climate, conservation, and public health. The webinar and report findings received widespread attention from both practitioners and news media, including AFP, Agencia EFE, Radio France Internationale, and The Guardian. These tools fill 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 unrecognized land estimate

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| | <p>and Opportunity Framework have garnered support from BMZ, BEIS, CLUA, and other critical actors in the rights, climate and conservation spaces.</p> <p>Global: Leveraging Tenure Tracking data to inform practitioners, policy-makers and the broader scientific community. RRG staff authored a book chapter on “Tenure and management rights in tropical forests,” for Achieving sustainable management of tropical forests published by Burleigh Dodds Science, alongside contributions from other leading forest management experts. The volume serves as a standard reference for researchers in tropical forest science, international and national organizations responsible for protection and responsible stewardship of tropical forests, as well as the commercial sector harvesting and using tropical forest products.</p> |
| <p>1.2.3 Strategic analyses, tenure data, and lessons from the field are leveraged by RRI Coalition members, governments, investors and the international community to inform decisions, investments, and interventions across sectors and scales.</p> | <p>Global: Strengthening Coalition engagement on new strategic analyses. RRI members contributed data points and expert assessments to a suite of analyses on land tenure, climate and conservation published in 2020 (The Area Study, the Opportunity Framework, and the Rights-based Conservation study). RRG also held several webinars with Partners, Fellows, and Collaborators to discuss findings and get valuable feedback on content and strategies for dissemination and engagement with key actors.</p> <p>Global: Contributions to the NYDF 2020 Progress Assessment. In its capacity as a New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) Progress Assessment Partner, RRI contributed to framing discussions concerning this year’s focus report on progress towards NYDF Goals 3 (Reduce deforestation from other economic sectors) and 4 (Support alternatives for basic needs), as well as the annual update on Goal 10 (Strengthen forest governance, transparency, and the rule of law, while also empowering communities and recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially those pertaining to their lands and resources), both of which were launched on November 19, 2020.</p> <p>Asia/Regional: Regional inputs on rights-based conservation to the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity CBD negotiations. RRG staff worked closely with RRI Partner Asia Indigenous People’s Pact (AIPP) to provide critical evidence and analysis on conservation and Indigenous rights to IIFB for use in Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) negotiations. RRI presented country and regional level data on Asia from its 2020 study on rights-based conservation to IP representatives from various countries in a series of workshops conducted by AIPP and IIFB. These inputs are expected to shape IIFB’s negotiation stance for the CBD COP 2021.</p> <p>Asia/India: Campaign leads to lifting restrictions on communities’ forest product collection. A campaign supported by a COVID SRM, using data collection and analysis led to the Government of India lifting restrictions on forest product collection and marketing and enhancement/fixation of minimum support prices for these products. The advocacy campaign led to the</p> |

hashtag [#CovidAndForestRights](#) going viral in India, and was covered by nearly 60 media publications, including by television. Five bulletins on [Forest Rights and COVID](#) also shared grassroots data collection and analysis, which received both media attention and interest from policy-makers.

Asia/India: Withdrawal of Detrimental order on Forest Rights Act Implementation. Mobilization supported by RRI members and networks forced the Chhattisgarh State Government to [withdraw its order making Forest Department the nodal agency](#) for implementation of community forest resource rights, averting a major threat to village assembly autonomy in Chhattisgarh. This order would have negatively impacted the recognition of community forestry resource rights of more than 20,000 communities.

Asia/India: Inputs provided to three critical government committees on forest rights. India's Ministry of Tribal Affairs has constituted three [critical Expert Committees](#) on [habitat rights of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups](#); [community forest resource rights guidelines](#); and on forest rights of pastoralists. RRI collaborators are actively shaping the committee's recommendations and ensuring that the voices of tribal and forest dwellers are represented. All the three committees have key RRI collaborators as members and are set to shape the future of implementation of Forest Rights Act in India, including recognition of forest rights and framing of community governance impacting over 40 million ha. of potential community forests, and over 170 million tribal and forest dwellers. The committees' reports are expected to be out by May 2021 and will likely be implemented in 2021.

Asia/India: Strengthening legal analysis and advocacy to protect land and forest rights. RRI's interventions on legal analysis led to emergence of a strong legal support ecosystem to support Indigenous and local community rights struggles in India. In 2020, RRI's legal support group supported a [key analysis](#) to inform opposition to a Supreme Court case that challenges the legality of the Forest Rights Act. It also backed preparation of a legal note on the Government's Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, which threatens forest rights of tribal and forest dwellers. The group continues to support several court cases challenging forest and land rights. RRI's analysis is also being used for legal advocacy with the Government and in media articles covering land and forest rights.

Asia/Indonesia: Tanahkita "Our Land" Portal supported and strengthened. RRI continues to engage with the innovative Indonesian [Tanahkita Portal](#), which [combines](#) spatial data on claimed and recognized Indigenous and community lands in different legal categories, including data on concessions as well as conflicts. It provides a critical tool for Indigenous and local communities to represent and advocate for their land and territorial rights in Indonesia. In 2020, the cumulative conflicts covered by Tanahkita portal increased to 473 covering 4.8 million ha. The Tanahkita web portal also integrated 76 ICCAs locations as area under Community-based Conservation and over 3,000 data points related to social forestry, with a total area of 2.5 million ha. in

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| | <p>the interactive map and database. The data in the Tanahkita portal campaign provided the basis for reports on the status of conflict in community-managed areas, and factsheets comparing the achievements of community managed areas with those in conflicted areas. The data was also used for spatial analysis to support advocacy work of the Tenure Coalition, showing how lands claimed by IPs and local communities have been affected by the projects supported by Indonesia’s Omnibus Law.</p> <p>Asia/Regional: Analyzing new laws threatening IP and community rights in Asia during COVID-19. COVID has been used to shrink civic spaces and push through legislation that undermines Indigenous and local communities’ land and forest rights. RRI, along with the Asia Indigenous Peoples’ Pact and the Coalition for Tenure Justice in Indonesia authored a new brief titled “Under the Cover of COVID: New Laws in Asia Favor Business at the Cost of Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’ Land and Territorial Rights.” The brief was launched at the 9th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights and has been translated into five languages. A Bahasa version of the brief was launched separately in Indonesia. The brief received both media and policy-makers’ attention, including an opinion piece in Thomson Reuters Foundation’s Trust.org.</p> |
| <p>1.2.4 Community- and Indigenous-led solutions and contributions to conservation and development challenges are advanced and used to improve progress towards sustainable development and national/global environmental security.</p> | <p>Global: Critical new analysis on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework’s implications for rights holders and the future of conservation. RRI produced and launched the report, Rights-Based Conservation: The path to preserving Earth’s biological and cultural diversity? in collaboration with the Campaign for Nature—providing definitive scientific evidence that rights-based conservation is the most pragmatic and economically feasible path to achieving the UN’s global biodiversity agenda, particularly the proposed target of bringing at least 30% of Earth into conservation by 2030. It shows that over 1.65 billion Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendants live in currently unprotected important biodiversity conservation areas across the Earth and that preventing a global biodiversity collapse through the recognition of their tenure rights would cost less than 1% of the cost of resettling communities (See Section 1.2.4 for further details on the report launch and its importance). The Launch provided a key moment for targeted outreach to the climate and conservation community and global media. The launch is also providing critical and timely data inputs to Indigenous and community organizations participating in delayed climate and conservation negotiations at the UN level, about to resume in early 2021. The timely provision of this data will be important in determining the future of the rights-based conservation agenda. Media outreach around the report—supported by an online press room and social media package—further helped sustain coverage on rights recognition as a climate and conservation solution, generating global media attention from over 20 news outlets including the BBC, Reuters, France 24, Mongabay, MSN, Science Times, Gulf Today, The Wire and many others. RRI will continue the report’s outreach throughout 2021 by breaking down findings at regional and country levels, and conducting discussions targeting conservation donors.</p> <p>Global: Highlighting pandemic impacts on Indigenous and local communities on global platforms. RRI produced and supported placement of an op-ed in Thomas Reuters Foundation’s Trust.org by the former UN Special Rapporteur on the rights</p> |

of Indigenous Peoples, highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples. RRI also compiled resources on the impact of COVID-19 on communities at regional and global levels and shared them across the Coalition network.

Nepal/Asia: Supporting rights-based conservation and livelihoods in Nepal and contributing to ongoing conservation law reforms. The Government of Nepal is in the process of amending its Department of National Park and Wildlife Life Conservation Act 2039, Conservation Area Management Regulations 2053, and developing integrated Conservation Area Management Regulations. These efforts aim to bring the instruments in line with the Local Government Operation Act (2017), which provides local governments jurisdiction over community forests and other natural resources. To leverage this new and important opportunity for IP and local communities' rights over territories and forests within conservation areas, RRI Collaborator CIPRED completed a policy review, shared with community leaders, organizations and the Government. The policy review was accompanied by a pilot project to obtain legal recognition of customary law and practices in conservation area in Tsum Valley in high Himalayas. CIPRED also supported Indigenous leaders from Gandaki Province in submitting an appeal letter to the Chief Minister of Gandaki Province to ensure the legal recognition of customary land tenure rights and cultural practices in the Provincial Forest Act.

Asia/India: Defending forest rights in Protected Areas. RRI networks continue to use legal means, media and political advocacy, and mass mobilization to counter exclusionary conservation practiced in India, often in violation of the Forest Rights Act. One example is the implementation of the Critical Wildlife Habitat (CWH) provision of Forest Rights Act by national and state governments. RRI backed a legal and advocacy campaign by communities and civil society organizations challenging this implementation. This campaign gained two important legal wins. First, a CWH Declaration in Maharashtra was successfully challenged by local groups leading to a [favorable order from the high court](#) directing the authorities to ensure compliance with Forest Rights Act. In the second instance, Kerala's high court passed a judgment affirming the need for recognition of forest rights prior to the declaration of Critical Wildlife habitats. RRI also backed advocacy groups in presenting issues relating to CWH declaration and forest rights before the [MoTA, MoEFCC](#) and state governments such as Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh, where the CWH was used to block forest rights recognition. Forest rights groups and conservation organizations also took up restriction of access of forest dwellers to Protected Areas caused due to [an advisory issued by MoEF to regulate activities in Protected Areas](#) in the wake of COVID. In Maharashtra, the expansion of protected areas without consideration of forest rights was contested through submission of memorandums at various levels of government. This led to a new process to grant community forestry rights to people in Protected Areas. In Totladoh of Pench Tiger Reserve, the [stalled process](#) of granting community fishing rights under Forest Rights Act was reactivated. In Madhya Pradesh, RRI supported community mobilization and monitoring to ensure quick recognition of community forestry rights and resist displacement. In Chhattisgarh, [efforts to displace tribal and forest dwellers from Tiger Reserves](#) is being resisted through ground-level mobilization and political advocacy. See [media coverage](#) and [social media interventions](#) to highlight of atrocities against Van Gujjars in Rajaji National Park. Activists

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| | | <p>have also taken advantage of RRI's 2020 global Rights Based Conservation study to protest exclusionary conservation and demand recognition of rights in protected areas. The campaign was supplemented by creating videos, literature and social media campaign highlighting how communities are able to better conserve biodiversity once their rights are recognized.</p> <p>Asia/India: Challenges to extractive industries. As recent legal developments have revealed, vested interests continue to undermine environmental clearances in India. For instance, illegal coal mining allocation has picked up pace in the Korba-Surguja region, where forest clearances were provided to the mining company in violation of environmental conservation rules. With RRI's support, local organizations organized a series of consultations with community leaders to help them build pressure on the district and state administration. They also used press releases, statements and delegations to make Environment and Tribal ministry representatives aware of the region's rich biodiversity, reminding them of legal commitments to protect community rights. 20 village assemblies also submitted a legal objection to the National Green Tribunal.</p> <p>Asia/India: Development of Adivasi Youth Leadership and launch of a Children's Book and Music Album on Forest Rights. In Tamil Nadu, RRI worked with the Niligiris Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Federation, a team of tribal youth and elders advocating for implementation of Forest Rights Act in the state, which lags far behind in rights recognition. The Federation focuses on the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve where issues of conservation intersect with forest rights. NPVTGF worked with 50 villages to convene 15 gram sabhas (village assemblies), and worked with Adivaasi Drishyam, an emergent Adivasi youth media collective, to launch a music album and a Children's Book highlighting Indigenous issues in six languages, ensuring a wide national audience. Through this initiative, RRI supported more than 25 grassroots youth leaders, majority young IP women. The music and publications are noteworthy for their effectiveness in creating public awareness of the Forest Rights Act, as they combine political and practical messages grounded in Adivasi worldviews.</p> |
| <p>1.3 The international support structure for scaling up the recognition, protection, and enforcement of rural land and</p> | <p>1.3.1 International instruments and initiatives dedicated to the advancement of sustainable land and resource use, tenure reform, and other related goals are better connected and leveraged by</p> | <p>Global: Engagement with UK's Just Rural Transition Initiative. RRI engaged with the UK's Just Rural Transition (JRT), a new international initiative to transform the way in which the world produces and consumes food, halting the rapid degradation of nature and accelerating delivery of global climate and Sustainable Development Goals. The JRT Coalition consists of members from developing country governments, civil society, farmers organizations, and private companies. RRG, at the invitation of the JRT team and FCDO, organized a webinar to help the JRT Coalition understand the importance of secure land tenure within the concept of "justice" and food systems. Engagement with the JRT, coordinated by RRG, is a strategic entry point to influencing the future funding priorities and strategy of major bilateral and multilateral donors with respect to land rights and food security.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Supported Accountability Framework Initiative in Indonesia. RRI facilitated interactions of Indonesian legal firm AsM with the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI), a global collaboration to build and scale up ethical supply chains for</p> |

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| <p>forest rights is consolidated and leveraged by Indigenous and community leaders to advance rights-based approaches and commitments by public and private sector actors.</p> | <p>community leaders, policy actors, and investors.</p> | <p>agricultural and forestry products), to strengthen integration of standards on Indigenous and community food security and access to water and enable Community base monitoring as a source of information to assess corporate respect of standards in Indonesia. This initiative will continue into 2021.</p> |
| | <p>1.3.2 Coordination between the Tenure Facility, the Interlaken Group, MegaFlorestais, and other Coalition instruments is strengthened to advance community rights, policy reforms, and corporate compliance with UNDRIP and the VGGT at national and international levels.</p> | <p>Global: Engaging the MegaFlorestais network during a tumultuous period. The 2020 meeting of MegaFlorestais with the Tenure Facility and the Interlaken Group was postponed due to COVID-19. RRI and MegaFlorestais co-chairs adapted to this challenge by convening a series of country-level discussions with forest agency leaders from MegaFlorestais countries. This engagement revealed enthusiasm for more information to discuss the trends affecting forest governance in the age of COVID-19, climate change, and tenure reform. As a result, RRG is now planning a series of webinars linking MegaFlorestais leaders and private sector figures from the Interlaken Group, starting with the topic of with how forest markets are adjusting to tenure reform demand. These discussions will maintain momentum on this critical avenue to continue engaging governments in pursuit of tenure rights, and also demonstrate that major investors and companies see clear and secure tenure as a boon to land-based investment.</p> <p>Asia/India/Nepal: Supporting Tenure Facility projects for rights recognition: RRI provided substantive inputs to its members implementing Tenure Facility projects in India and Nepal, closely monitoring their work and ensuring the projects were being implemented effectively. RRI also provided detailed conceptual inputs and support to the design and inception of a FECOFUN led Tenure Facility project and supported the design of the second phase of India’s Tenure Facility proposal currently submitted for approval.</p> |
| | <p>1.3.3 Policy learning on tenure reform and the contributions of tenure security to social, economic, and environmental imperatives is documented, disseminated, and leveraged.</p> | <p>Asia/India: Production and launch of a brief highlighting the role of collective rights in pandemic resilience and conservation: A new brief supported by RRI highlighted the increased economic resilience of forest-dwelling communities in India who have benefitted from tenure rights. The brief’s outreach through the RRI blog and social media platforms highlighted case studies featuring communities who were more resilient to COVID’s economic and social impacts as well as more effective at conserving forests, because of rights implementation through the Forest Rights Act of India.</p> |

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| <p>1.3.4 Financial and technical mechanisms to support rural community land and resource rights are strengthened and/or developed.</p> | <p>Global: Formalizing the Path to Scale and Transformation. Leveraging new analyses such as the Opportunity Framework, RRG reached out to major bilateral donors, development finance institutions, and philanthropies to advocate for ambitious, coordinated investment in tenure rights recognition as a solution to the climate and biodiversity crises. This approach has thus far gathered support from key bilateral donors, multilateral institutions and private philanthropies, positioning RRI to guide climate and biodiversity funding in 2021 to organizations representing IPs, local communities, and Afro-descendants. RRI aims to act as a convener to promote coordination, learning and action, and support development of a new financial mechanism to mobilize greater effort. This will increase the amount of funding available for middle—and large-scale rights implementation projects and ensure that such investments are efficient, effective, and accountable to grassroots movements.</p> <p>Asia/Nepal: Development of Employment Plans linked to COVID and community Forestry in five municipalities: RRI supported Green Foundation (GFN) through an SRM to leverage its community forest enterprise experience to initiative formulation of <i>Employment Plans</i> in five local municipalities in response to COVID, and to undertake training and capacity building with selected community forestry user groups. To date, GFN has commitments from the five municipalities to implement these plans—four in Lumbini province and one in Karnali Province. While the project focused initially on migrant returnees, it has now been shifted to focus on Indigenous communities and women due to the pandemic’s severe impact on them. An awareness campaign is also underway through radio, local TV and newspapers.</p> |
| <p>1.3.5 Bottom-up, top-down, and horizontal accountability mechanisms are established and leveraged by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and RRI Coalition members to monitor public and private sector compliance with national and international law, and</p> | <p>Global: Advancement of the Gold Standard: Following the initial launch of the Gold Standard process in 2019, RRI successfully advanced the development of the underlying principles, generating momentum and interest from the global conservation community and mobilizing further support from Indigenous and local community groups and networks. The principles for recognizing and respecting Indigenous Peoples’, Local Communities’ and Afro-Descendants’ land and resource rights in landscape restoration, management, conservation and climate actions were further refined and a final framework was adopted for the formal launch. This launch was postponed due to the impacts of COVID-19 on IPMG leadership, however, to date, the principles have been adopted and implemented by the Africa Wildlife Foundation, and at least 10 international conservation organizations have agreed to a joint call to action embedded in the Gold Standard’s. An official launch and greater engagement around the principles is planned for 2021.</p> <p>Global: Interlaken Group agrees to develop a corporate guidance tool integrating community sourced data into corporate monitoring and decision-making framework: The Interlaken Group agreed to develop a new guidance tool describing principles and emerging practice for responsible companies and investors to successfully integrate community sourced data on impacts into their monitoring and decision-making frameworks. This tool will provide a new hook to link local accountability</p> |

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| | <p>support implementation of voluntary commitments on the recognition of rural community tenure and resource rights.</p> | <p>efforts and global companies, and for investors to jointly pressure non-compliant elements of supply chains. This tool is expected to be finalized in 2021.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Leveraging pilot on RSPO complaint and related actions to catalyze accountability mechanisms for community-based monitoring, ensuring investment compliance with international normative frameworks on land rights. RRI built upon efforts initiated at a 2019 Community Based Monitoring Exchange, hosted by an Indigenous community in Sumatra and co-convened by RRI, FPP, and AMAN. These efforts catalyze bottom-up, top-down, and horizontal accountability mechanisms to empower local peoples to monitor public and private sector compliance with international normative frameworks on land rights. In Indonesia, an SRM was mobilized to support an Indigenous community to document environmental and social impacts of palm oil production from concessions linked to major investors and Interlaken Group companies, and to leverage this data to challenge the renewal of a palm oil concession in their customary territories through the RSPO and purchaser grievance mechanisms. This pilot is already generating important lessons on challenges and opportunities to link and leverage community sourced data on environmental and social impacts into existing corporate and state accountability mechanisms. This activity has also been linked to collaboration with AsM Law Offices and Rainforest Alliance’s Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI) to translate the AFI principles into a framework and indicators that can be utilized by communities in the field to document supply chain violations. The activity will yield a simple tool that may be applied and expanded across geographies and sectors to harmonize and coordinate the collection of data on supply chain impacts such that indicators can monitor and verify the implementation of specific elements of corporate sustainability commitments.</p> <p>Asia/India: Creating and supporting a system for monitoring and action on legal threats and opportunities linked to Forest Rights Act: RRI has supported collaborators in India in nurturing a team of lawyers and experts who monitor, intervene in and initiate litigation linked to forest rights on behalf of tribal and forest dwellers. In particular, the group of lawyers has been monitoring multiple legal challenges, cases and rulings in the Supreme Court and High Courts and intervening where possible and required (also see 1.2.3).</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Strengthened lawyers’ network to support legal action on land and territorial rights. In Indonesia, RRI collaborated with the Tenure Coalition and SAFIR to strengthen a lawyers’ network supporting legal action for protecting Indigenous and community land rights and holding governments and companies accountable to law. A number of court cases have been taken up by the network (also see 1.2.1).</p> <p>Africa/Liberia: Development and community distribution of simplified key provisions for draft national oil palm strategy and action plan. In Liberia, RRI supported communities and civil society organizations in contributing and influencing the country’s national oil palm strategy and action plan. RRI collaborator SESDev, as a part of the CSO Oil Palm Working Group, elaborated a document of simplified key provisions of the draft national oil palm strategy and action plan for usage of communities. Community consultation workshops with over 30 participants as well as radio dialogues in four counties helped</p> |
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gather community reactions and inputs. With community inputs, civil society organizations then provided contributions for the Government's oil palm strategy and action plan. All inputs were then submitted to the National Oil Palm Platform of Liberia. The inputs focus on ensuring protection of community rights in the development of Liberia's oil palm strategy and action plan.

Africa/Liberia: Fact-finding mission to verify land grabbing complaints in River Gee and develop advocacy to inform policymaking. RRI collaborator LRM, with financial support through an SRM, conducted a fact-finding mission with the Liberia Land Authority and Ministry of Internal Affairs, leading to government action to oust illegal miners from River Gee County. This mission was in response to complaints by community members of human rights abuses in the form of damage to crops, water pollution, forest degradation, and illegal intimidation of members on customary land in River Gee and Maryland counties. The mission included field interviews with district officials, county officials, Chinese miners, illegal miners, traditional leaders, and members from River Gee and Maryland counties. Finally, a report with recommendations was produced and sent to Senate and House chairs on land matters for action with the aim of protecting communities' rights over their lands. The report led to government action in dispatching a task force to oust illegal miners across the county.

OUTCOME 2: Governments scale-up the legal recognition and enforcement of land and resource rights for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women in those communities, as enabling conditions for democratic engagement, inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Linked to SPIII Strategic Objectives 2 and 4

| Sub-results | Targets/indicators | 2020 Achievements |
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| <p>2.1 Rural land and resource rights are strengthened to support national priorities and international commitments on climate change, economic growth, sustainable development, and poverty reduction.</p> | <p>2.1.1 Country-specific analyses of the tenure rights of IPs, LCs, and rural women are developed and gaps relative to climate and development ambitions (i.e., Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Targets, UNSPF Global Forest Goals, and commitments on human rights) are identified.</p> | <p>Africa/Madagascar: Creation of a database and guidance to inform legal texts on the specific status of community lands. This activity was achieved through studies on existing traditional land tenure systems in Madagascar and inputs to customary land law reforms. RRI collaborator SIF, with financial support from RRG, conducted six studies in the six provinces of Madagascar on traditional land tenure systems. They were used to create a community database and guidance document, which will contribute to the elaboration of legal texts on the specific status of community lands and ensure that the community land law reforms in Madagascar have access to customary land data to inform the process.</p> <p>Asia/India: Analysis of India’s Compensatory Afforestation Program to promote rights-based Forest Landscape Restoration, climate mitigation and conservation. An ongoing analysis of a \$7 billion compensatory afforestation fund (CAF) from the perspective of rights resulted in creation of a website to enhance advocacy around this issue. The goal of the analysis is to advocate for rights-based forest landscape restoration and climate mitigation and support funding them through the CAF, while mitigating the negative impacts of afforestation on rights. It proposes to shift the flow of the funds directly to rights holders (village assemblies) for forest restoration, climate mitigation, conservation and livelihoods. The work on Compensatory Afforestation also resulted in research presented at academic conferences held by FLARE and POLLEN. The analysis also led to media stories on Compensatory Afforestation in Firstpost, Newsclick, Undark and others, and advocacy on social media.</p> <p>Latin America/Regional: Analysis and advocacy to support collective rights-based contributions to NDCs in Peru and Colombia. RRI made important progress towards demonstrating contributions by Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-descendants in achieving climate change initiatives, by bringing critical added value to the process of updating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Peru and Colombia. By promoting a rights-based approach in renewed plans for implementation of the NDCs, RRI’s collaborator AAS of Colombia and ONAMIAP of Peru carried out joint advocacy to include the recognition of collective rights in the updated accounting for both countries’ NDCs to lower carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement. AAS and ONAMIAP developed contextual analyses on the state of the NDCs reporting process, including how different actors participate in fulfilling the NDCs in order to identify gaps in the recognition of collective rights in each country’s</p> |

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| | | <p>NDC updating process. The analysis contributes to crafting a communications strategy through social media, radio spots, and the press, including recommendations and educational materials to raise awareness of the status of IP, LC, AD, and women's rights in the NDCs, including carrying out a virtual webinar. Finally, both organizations identified organizations representing IPs, local communities, and Afro-descendants and their allies to carry out an advocacy strategy directed towards influencing state authorities, including Ministries of Environment, to incorporate their recommendations in the updated NDCs. The final publication of the analysis can be found here.</p> <p>Latin America/Peru: Initiating process to ensure respect for prior consultation. RRI is working with the National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru (ONAMIAP) to defend their right to FPIC in accordance with international standards, as a guarantee to protect the collective and individual rights of Indigenous women since Peru's government is attempting to implement a virtual prior consultation process. This is a unique added value to the defense of FPIC rights in Peru, which applies Indigenous women's perspective to identify the differentiated impacts of women's rights violations. With the support of a legal team, ONAMIAP is developing a technical-legal analysis that rejects the implementation of consultation procedures that are not culturally adequate and bring visibility to the impacts of rights violation on Indigenous territories and Indigenous women. The findings of the analysis will be shared across ONAMIAP's grassroots network and allied organizations to inform a collective advocacy strategy for decision-making bodies in the executive and legislative branches, as well as other public bodies that have a role in guaranteeing Indigenous rights, such as the Ombudsman's Office. ONAMIAP will also share findings from human rights protection organizations to make recommendations to the Government to reject virtual prior consultation or other mechanisms that are not culturally appropriate. Finally, ONAMIAP is implementing a media communications campaign to counteract a government discourse that legitimizes economic reactivation at the cost of Indigenous rights. This project began in the final quarter of 2020 and has closed in April 2021.</p> |
| | <p>2.1.2 Strategic roadmaps—including tools, methods or initiatives—to address policy gaps and accelerate reforms to implement global commitments, and minimize risks are</p> | <p>Latin America/Regional: Strengthening the participation of local communities, Afro-descendants, and women in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. While the "Local Community" term became prominent in the global climate change areas in 1980, there is not yet a consensus of what constitutes a Local Community and who are the subjects of rights under this category. Without resolving this issue, Local Communities cannot claim or exercise their rights. RRI is mobilizing a regional process for fulfilling the gap in clarifying who is the subject of rights. Since 2019, RRI has prompted collective action between Mesoamerica and South American communities to build consensus on a set of criteria for identifying and self-identifying local communities. Led by AMPB, PCN, and CONAQ and RRI, the goal is to incorporate the requirements for self-identification and identification in the legal instruments and declarations of the UNFCCC and the CBD Platforms on Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples as well as multilateral cooperation agencies and governments.</p> <p>In 2020, RRI in coordination with AMPB, PCN, and CONAQ convened two workshops for discussing and reaching consensus on the criteria for identification and self-identification of Local Communities with 40 delegates of grassroots organizations,</p> |

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| | <p>produced and implemented in collaboration with governments, CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, rural women, and climate/development partners and financing instruments.</p> | <p>representing Afro-descendants, forest communities, and women from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and México, along with academics, government officials, and delegates of the support groups of the UNFCCC and CBD Platforms on LCIP. The current consensus on the criteria indicates that “Local Communities” are communities who meet the following criteria or attributes for identification or self-identification: 1) Its members share substantial elements of shared history and life process 2) Its members are self-ascribed to the community and are recognized by it 3) Collective management of their territory in a sustained manner over time and with the prospect of maintaining or strengthening control over their territorial 4) Have an effective governance system to manage their environment and the community responsibilities and rights of the community concerning their territory. The next step to reach a global consensus on the proposed criteria is to develop the discussion process with other Local Communities in Africa and Asia to consolidate the proposed standards for self-identification and identification. RRI’s extended network of rightsholder organizations across the regions facilitates to continue leading this process. By reaching a common criterion of self-definition and identification, RRI contributes to opening a path to realizing their rights at international and national levels, since the lack of these criteria has prevented recognition of tenure rights for thousands of communities worldwide.</p> <p>Africa/DRC: Unanimous approval of Bill on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in DRC. On November 26, a bill on protection and promotion of Indigenous Pygmies Rights in DRC was approved by the National Assembly unanimously. The bill grants education and land rights to Indigenous Peoples of DRC and is the most important protecting legislation for IP rights in DRC. The Bill is now going to be sent to the Senate for a 2nd reading in the next few weeks and then promulgated by the President of the DRC in 2021 (read media coverage here). RRI collaborator DGPA, with SRM support, established a task force of 15 experts who provided inputs to the National Parliament Joint Commission and Mixed Commission on the IP draft law. More than 80% of these recommendations were accepted. It also established a group of 50 Indigenous pygmy experts to develop a strategy for the adoption of the law. The women also participated in the Joint Commission. Civil society organizations advocated for holding an Indigenous day, which gained attention by the President, Parliament, and central government. Six meetings with lawmakers focusing on securing the law, and four ongoing TV programs on IP law and reforms further helped build public and policy-makers’ awareness on the issue.</p> <p>Africa/Liberia: Elaboration of Regulations on the Tribal Certificates as a result of mobilization and advocacy on 2018 Land Rights Act. RRI collaborator LRM, supported by an SRM, advocated for the implementation of land rights regulations that would protect community rights and ensure they can formalize their claims. The activities included seven meetings and work sessions, two workshops, one newspaper article, 4 radio talk shows, and one press conference. The working group held three meetings with the Liberia Land Authority and other partners to ensure the regulations on Tribal Certificate was developed and elaborated. The Regulations on Tribal Certificate is now pending national stakeholders’ validation. The Regulations on Tribal Certificate are expected to be validated in 2021, which will ensure that communities in Liberia can register their customary land with a Tribal certificate.</p> |
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| | | <p>Global: Leveraging new RRI study on estimated area of land and territories with Indigenous and local communities where their rights are not recognized. In a continuation of RRI's 2015 flagship report, which analyzed the state of global tenure security for IPs and local communities, the "Area Estimate" study revisited the issue of tenure and provided the most advance estimate on the areas, both recognized and unrecognized, that Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendants traditionally manage or legally own. In doing so, the area estimate report provides quantified data which can be leveraged at national and international scales, showing particular value in discussions about conservation and area-based conservation. The study brings numbers and power to the argument that rights-based conservation can achieve area-based targets as a conservation strategy in their own right.</p> <p>Global: New study on rights-based conservation defines path to preserving Earth's biological and cultural diversity? The report, formally released November 30, 2020, has already gained wide ranging and enthusiastic reviews from fellows and both partners and collaborators. The work has also gained widespread interest from the academic community at both international and national levels. The study included a human element to current area-based conservation strategies, critiquing their feasibility at the logistical scale should rights not be recognized for the 1.8 billion Indigenous and local communities inhabiting important biodiversity conservation areas. Among other framings, the report adds a cost analysis which compares a "worst-case scenario" of resettlement to the recognition of tenure rights (data obtained from RRI's Area estimate study) showing that even resettling a fraction of the people inhabiting biodiverse spaces would drastically outweigh the cost of tenure rights recognition. These findings were complimented by both qualitative and quantitative analyses which highlight community conservation outcomes, rounding a data-backed narrative discourse. With the release of the report, multiple actors at national and regional scales are being supported to build the rights-based conservation narrative and bring this discourse to the international platform through influencing governments, conservation actors and negotiators of Nationally Determined Contributions. At the regional level, data is being presented to Indigenous leaders and organizations, particularly members of the CBD secretariat and IPBES, to see use the data to support rights-based strategies in global negotiations on preserving biodiversity.</p> <p>Global: Opportunity Framework. This report aims to facilitate greater investment by governments, development, climate, and conservation organizations in projects to formally recognize the land and forest rights of local communities, Afro-descendants, and Indigenous Peoples. It analyzed 29 countries' readiness to undertake tenure reform projects to formally recognize Indigenous Peoples', local communities', and Afro-descendants' rights to their lands, territories, and resources. Five parameters were analyzed including the adequacy of existing legal frameworks, national and sub-national will to enact change or existing provisions and operational capacities within national and sub-national governments as well as rights-holder organizations. Ten countries were found to be ready for large-scale investments, 14 are ready for small to medium projects to implement forest tenure reform and five require enabling support. The report provides the framework for RRI's proposed</p> |
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| | | <p>“path to scale,” which will facilitate funding for actors and countries that can accelerate land and forest tenure reforms and begin implementing rights-based approaches.</p> <p>Combination of the above three studies: Together, these studies highlight the quantitative area requiring the enforcement and recognition of tenure rights, evidence-based framing of rights-based conservation strategies as an enabling condition for environmental and social targets, and a clear scalable strategy towards achieving secure tenure rights recognition and an equitable and just society for all. The combination of these studies creates a powerful tool for all spectrums of civil society including, but not limited to, rights-holder organizations, environmental and social scientists, activists, policy-makers, funders/donors, and governments. With the release of all three documents, their strategic imperative is being both disseminated and contextualized through active discussions with rights-holder organizations and regional and national scales. Multiple briefs are in the process of being designed that combine the regional contexts and priorities highlighted by rights-holder organizations and technical studies with regional targets and objectives. Supporting the release of the Opportunity Framework and Area Study, a succinct policy brief (<i>Urgency and Opportunity</i>) was developed to support national and international actions to advance community-based tenure rights in the context of global health, climate and biodiversity crises. See Section 1.2.2 for further detail.</p> |
| | <p>2.1.3 Convenings on land and forest governance, climate change, and other core development priorities are held at national and international levels to accelerate learning and action on rural land and resource rights.</p> | <p>Africa/DRC: Multi-stakeholder dialogues on including Indigenous and community rights in land-use planning reform. RRI collaborator CTIDD established dialogues between key stakeholders including women, youth, IPs, local communities, experts, and the Ministry of Land Use Planning to incorporate provisions protecting collective rights in land-use planning reform documents. During this activity, CSOs produced a position paper and presented it during the multi-stakeholder meetings. The key provision demands in the position paper included socio-environmental and gender safeguards, equal access to land, and the recognition, ownership, and enjoyment of IPLC rights. These dialogues ensured that Indigenous and community voices were taken into account during the reform process and were well received by the Ministry of Land Use Planning. While incorporated in the draft documents, it is now expected that these rights will be kept in the final reform documents that are adopted by the parliament and approved by the DRC government.</p> <p>Africa/Liberia: Building capacity of forest communities and CSOs to influence community rights and REDD+ benefits. RRI collaborator RRF, with funding from RRG, trained 19 civil society organizations (CSOs) on climate finance and carbon market and 10 forest-dependent communities (407 community members) on REDD+, safeguards, and community land rights. As a result of the training, CSO and community representatives are effectively influencing discussions on the elaboration of benefit-sharing mechanism for REDD+ in Liberia and monitoring implementation of REDD+ initiatives to ensure respect of community rights. They have also conducted impact assessments of REDD+ in each of the 10 communities. The CSO Working Group on REDD+ also participated in the National REDD+ Technical Working Group Conference, capitalizing on an opportunity to</p> |

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| | | <p>advocate for rights-based approaches to REDD+ initiatives. As a result, the Working Group agreed to adopt the localization of the community grievance mechanism.</p> |
| | <p>2.1.4 International development and climate initiatives and financing mechanisms adopt institutional safeguards and standards to encourage country-level scaling of efforts to recognize and enforce Indigenous and community land and resource rights as enabling conditions for more effective action and results.</p> | <p>Global: Tenure rights framed as central to successful implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. 2021-2030 has been designated the “Decade for Ecosystem Restoration” by the UN. In April, RRI submitted its comments for the draft strategy while it was open for review. The final strategy fully incorporated several of RRI’s key submissions, as well as quoting them in two instances. Tenure rights in particular are now framed as a key enabling condition central to the successful implementation of the strategy. The following assertion was integrated in the first page of the strategy, asserting that “restoration” should be seen as synonymous with a “rights-based” approach: <i>“Integrated land-use planning, undertaken in a rights-based manner, where all stakeholders are informed of the full range of benefits to be gained through conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources in their local ecosystems, assists in achieving this balance. Wherever the term restoration is used in the text below, it refers to this type of planning as well as subsequent actions in the ecosystems concerned.”</i> The strategy also acknowledges tenure insecurity on degraded lands (p. 4); mainstreams gender, youth and marginalized groups throughout (pp 10-12 and 22); commits to social justice in restoration planning; adherence to FPIC and VGGT (p. 13); conflict resolution through tenure (p. 23) and the need for tenure reform (p. 25); recognize Indigenous and local knowledge is the starting point for restoration (p. 15); promote research that “provides guidance on critical social matters such as rights recognition, community-based monitoring, transfer of intergenerational knowledge in local languages and inclusive participation of women and youth” (p. 15 and a copy from RRI’s submission); and, create task forces on topics including land tenure, gender, human rights, IPs, youth, etc. (p. 17).</p> <p>Africa/DRC: Initiating REDD+ knowledge sharing and monitoring of Indigenous and community rights. RRI collaborator CTIDD, with financial support from RRG, brought CSOs working on REDD+ together to identify key Indigenous and community rights that need to be respected in REDD+. They created a summary of monitoring approaches and recommendations to improve the implementation of rights. The key rights identified were the right to tenure (land and forestry), FPIC, the right to participation, the right to manage land to carry out development activities, the right to access profits from REDD+, the right to oppose REDD+, the right to follow and evaluate REDD+ implementation, the right to forest carbon market, the right to environmental education, the right to climate justice and gender equity, the right of access to agricultural land, and the right to socio-cultural and religious freedom. The participants submitted their recommendations to the Government and other REDD+ initiatives. In order to monitor these rights, an evaluation sheet will be shared with members of the working group and distributed to stakeholders every quarter. This monitoring is expected to ensure that Indigenous Peoples and local communities have a greater voice and advocacy power in REDD+ implementation.</p> |

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| <p>2.1.5 Political windows to advance collective rights and reduce pressure on community lands and forests are leveraged through RRI's Strategic Response Mechanism.</p> | <p>Latin America/Colombia: Legal strategy and political advocacy to defend and restore titling of Indigenous Peoples' collective territories in Colombia. RRI's support led to a favorable Supreme Court Ruling in 10 cases and withdrawal of Remote FPIC consultation order by the Government of Colombia. While Colombia's Indigenous Peoples have achieved recognition and protection of their territorial rights under its constitution, as of the spring of 2020; at least 932 titling claims were still stuck in bureaucratic limbo despite a government promise to process them all at a 2016 Peace Agreement. To pressure the Colombian National Land Agency (ANT) into processing the land tenure claims, RRI in coordination with RRI Collaborator ASO-CIT (Association of Arhuaco Authorities of the Sierra Nevada) and CNTI (National Commission of Indigenous Territories) implemented a joint SRM strategy along with 12 Indigenous and civil society organizations, and the Government's own Attorney General and Ombudsman. CNTI filed 26 legal actions before the Superior Court of the District of Bogotá against the ANT to resolve 69 outstanding land titling claims. By filing several legal actions at once, CNTI's aimed to reach the Colombian Constitutional Court, which could rule the "Unconstitutional Status of Indigenous Peoples Territorial Rights." Under this ruling, the Court would compel the Government and the ANT to take urgent measures to resolve the outstanding titling claims. This SRM triggered a set of actions from a comprehensive perspective to resolve pending claims and demonstrate the cumulative impact of the Government's refusal to fulfill its obligations to IPs in Colombia. Out of the 26 legal actions, 10 had favorable rulings, which include processing the requests for expanding seven existing Indigenous territories and formally recognizing the establishment of six territories.</p> <p>Despite unfavorable rulings, two cases provided enough pressure on the ANT for it to agree to proceed with the formalization of the involved territories. Of the 10 favorable rulings, two cases were selected by the Colombian Constitutional Court for further review, providing the critical opportunity to reach a ruling of the "Unconstitutional Status of Indigenous Peoples Territorial Rights," which would have sweeping implications for Indigenous Peoples across Colombia that are yet to have their territorial rights recognized. The positive results for these cases were supported by advocacy actions as a part of a communications strategy through press and other platforms to position public opinion on the state of Indigenous territorial rights. In addition to the positive results for processing titling claims, as a part of this SRM, CNTI filed a case against the Ministry of Interior, which manages the FPIC in Colombia. The Ministry issued the administrative order CIR2020-29DMI allowing the use of technological tools (Zoom/Microsoft Teams and others) to implement Prior Consultation rights with the communities during the COVID-19 crisis, despite the lack of internet access many Indigenous Peoples across the country face. With the CNTI's timely and strategic action and support of other IP organizations and the Attorney General, the administrative order was withdrawn.</p> <p>Africa/Uganda: Urgent Action Alert creates awareness of land grabs during the lockdown, contributing to a moratorium on land transactions: In Uganda, RRI supported the development of an urgent action alert from the Land Rights Now platform in collaboration with civil society in Uganda, to raise awareness of accelerated land grabbing and criminalization</p> |
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of land defenders during the country's COVID-19 lockdown. The alert raised global awareness of this trend as part of a larger effort that led to the Government imposing a moratorium on land transactions during the lockdown.

Africa/Nigeria: Support for legal challenges in Cross River State against the Commissioner of Works over sale of community forest. This SRM was a response to the sale of 2,000 hectares of Biakwan Community Conserved Forest in Nigeria by the Commissioner of Works. RRI collaborator Biakwan Light, with financial support from RRG in the form of an SRM, filed cases on September 15 at the State High Courts against Commissioner of Works for posing threats to members of Biakwan community and deploying armed soldiers. So far, there have been three court appearances. Additionally, the NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE) conducted workshops on rights in forest-dependent communities in [five](#) communities that are part of the Biakwan Community Conserved Forest. NGOCE also supported [two](#) community groups to register as community-based organizations. These activities are expected to reverse the sale of the community forest and provide justice to community members who were threatened by armed forces. They also helped communities become more informed and organized to prevent future land-grabbing in the community forest.

Africa/Kenya: Supporting the Kerio Valley community in international mediation with energy company. Following community land rights violations by an oil and gas company, RRG partner KVCO, with financial support channeled by an SRM, held a meeting with the Kerio Valley community organization to define its goals for an upcoming mediation by the Office of the Compliance Adviser Ombudsman (CAO). CAO is an independent accountability mechanism for the International Finance Corporation, which is an investor in the company involved. [Additionally, KVCO held 5 community engagement meetings to explain CAO mediation process and confirm their support and select community representatives.](#) RRI's support is expected to allow for a favorable outcome for the community in the mediation, where community lands will be returned in compliance with FPIC principles.

Africa/Liberia: Providing technical support to local communities in the midst of COVID-19. Also see 1.2.1. This SRM sought to provide technical advisory support on COVID-19 and to address violation of customary land rights during the pandemic. RRI collaborator SESDev, with financial support from an SRM, raised awareness of pandemic prevention by distributing 2,000 posters and flyers in 40 communities in Sinoe,-Lofa, Grand Kru, and Maryland counties. This allowed SESDev to travel to these communities as well and share the early warning response mechanism, through which communities can report any infringement on their customary lands and receive technical advice. SESDev has kept a database of all community land rights monitoring calls throughout the crisis in 40 communities across four counties and has provided technical advisory support to eight communities. This has allowed communities to act against land grabs by extractive industries labeled essential businesses and enhance their relationships with the CSOs working on customary land rights without needing to travel.

Asia/Nepal: Successful advocacy to achieve community forestry tax reform in Nepal. The Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), which represents more than 22,000 Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs), has

challenged taxation of CFUG funds, which would otherwise be supporting forest conservation, education, livelihoods, microloans, and other activities, as per Nepal's Community Forestry Guidelines (2014). To influence different government units and participate in the broader policy-making process, [FECOFUN has mobilized community forestry user groups](#) and also engaged with government stakeholders at various levels of government to harmonize the taxation structure into a single, unified tax policy. An SRM has helped FECOFUN in this ambitious endeavor. As a result of FECOFUN's efforts:

- Nationally, [a 15% tax imposed on Sal and Khair species were withdrawn](#).
- In Province 1, additional 15% taxes imposed on other species except *Sal* and *Khair* were withdrawn
- In Bagmati Province, the provincial government formed a committee to resolve the tax issue.
- The Ministry of Federal Affairs is working on withdrawing a 10% tax required by the Local Government Operation Act.
- Nepal's Finance Minister committed to drop the 25% income tax on CFUGs in the upcoming Finance Act
- FECOFUN is in continuous discussions with the policy-makers and stakeholders of Province 2, Gandaki Province, Lumbini Province, Karnali Province and Sudurpaschim Province. These provinces are in the process of drafting their Provincial Forest Act, and FECOFUN is advocating to remove the tax provision from the new legislation.

Asia/Indonesia: Accelerated Local Regulation Ratification (Perda) for Adat Community Registration in North Sumatra.

HaRi mobilized civil society to advocate for the issuance of a provincial regulation enabling the registration of IP territories in North Sumatra as an innovative way of protecting IP collective tenure rights. This activity will potentially lead to recognition of up to 0.6 million ha. of Adat land, benefitting 5 million people. As a result of the advocacy, on November 23, the North Sumatra Regional assembly (DPRD) approved the CSO draft as a formal DPRD initiative to be passed within three months. A task force will now be set up at provincial level to identify Adat Communities and their territory — comprising up to 30% of North Sumatra's population on up to 600,000 ha of Adat territory. The civil society coalition is working to ensure its representation in this task force. (Read more [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).)

Asia/Indonesia: Strategic support to criminalized farmers' organization in Jambi, Indonesia. YLBHI provided legal assistance to 43 peasants sentenced to up to 2 years of prison for resisting eviction by the WKS company (a supplier of APP Pulp and Paper). YLBHI worked with peasant organizations to ensure [documentation](#) of several [abuses](#) (including land conflicts and abuse of social schemes by the company to extend its operational area, and violation of judicial guarantees in the farmers' prosecution), which will be used to push for review of the license by the Government.

Asia/Indonesia: Mapping community land rights over forest area in Sulawesi's State Production forests and inclusion of draft regulation on IP rights recognition in Regional Assembly agenda. Advocacy for a Regional Regulation for Indigenous People's Rights recognition led to inclusion of a draft regulation in the Regional Assembly's legislative agenda for 2021. If the regional regulation passes, five Indigenous communities will be able to apply for their Adat forest recognition. RRI's support to communities on resolving conflicts with industrial plantation concessions and on community claims from Bantaya

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| | | <p>also led to mapping of community managed area within state production forests. Following the revocation of PT Indoco's license on 27,370 ha by the Indonesian Government, several community groups are now applying for a social forestry program to secure their forest area.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Support for the <i>Talang Mamak</i> community in submitting RSPO complaint and petition to National Land Agency against palm oil industry encroachments (also see section 3.1.3). RRI supported the law firm AsM to work with the <i>Talang Mamak</i> Community in its struggle against a supplier of PT Inecda Palm Oil Plantations encroaching on their customary lands. The support enabled gathering evidence of violations, preparation of legal documents and facilitation of discussions with local authorities and RSPO. The community has now submitted its complaint to the RSPO against SinarMas (Inecda Palm Oil's supplier). AsM's support for the case is timely as the extension of the oil palm concession on land is now being negotiated. RRI's support helped strengthen the community's capacity to advocate for its rights, and an FPIC process on the options open to <i>Talang Mamak</i> was held to address the conflict. AsM is also facilitating the community's complaint against the extension of the concession to the company with the Regional Office of Land Agency in Riau Province. In anticipation of criminalization in response to the complaint, a lawyer has been appointed to provide legal protection to the community. Read more here.</p> <p>Asia/Philippines: Supporting the Guinaang Tribe in its struggle against geothermal exploration on customary lands. Geothermal exploration for a 100-megawatt project by Guidance Management Corporation—Aragorn Power and Electric Corp (GMC-APEC) poses a threat to the ancestral lands of Guinaang, Colayo and Balatok tribes in Pasil, Philippines. Guinaang tribal elders approached Tebtebba for support in unifying the three tribes to collectively demand that the FPIC process be implemented diligently. Past experiences in the area have shown that communities can successfully resist companies' manipulative and divisive methods, which are carried out with the full support of the very government agencies meant to defend Indigenous communities. With RRI's support, before and during the pandemic, Tebtebba was able to ensure the establishment of a Steering Committee with elders and leaders from the three tribes to take on an advocacy role with the government, CSOs, farmers' organizations, faith-based organizations. Tebtebba also led research on adverse impacts of the geothermal project through field-based investigation. However, community meetings and trainings to disseminate knowledge and strengthen capacity for community protocols; draft petitions and resolutions were delayed due to the pandemic. While there is an indication that the geothermal project has stopped, it is not clear whether it is due to the resistance or a partial stoppage during the pandemic.</p> <p>Latin America/Colombia: Collective titling of the Afro-descendant community in the Barú Caribbean Island restored through legal action. RRI successfully restored the collective titling of the Afro-descendant community in the Barú Caribbean Island inhabited by Afro-Colombian communities since the 17th century, when runaway black slaves founded the sovereign territory. In 2017, the community council filed a claim for collective titling before the National Land Agency (ANT in Spanish) for a total of 2,476 ha. While the titling process began in 2018, the ANT issued a resolution in April 2019 (Auto 383), revoking the administrative process for collective titling due to the community's failure to affirm the "state-owned or vacant land" status</p> |
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| | | <p>of the land claimed and the private status of the community land. Since 2018, RRI and its Collaborators OTEC of the University Javeriana, Community council of the Caribbean and Barú, and allies such as the International Organization of Migration IOM, Dejusticia and the Attorney General, embarked on a legal battle to restore the tiling process. The legal struggle addressed the violation of the fundamental rights to territory and the administrative process for collective titling. After a series of court decisions and appeals, RRI successfully achieved the definite court ruling to restore the administrative process for continuing the collective titling. The case is of crucial importance for the tenure rights of Afro-descendant Peoples in the Caribbean region, given the numerous economic measures affecting their traditional livelihood systems, environment, and community-based tenure systems. The restoring of these rights also creates a significant precedent for RRI's goals in advancing and securing the rights of Afro-descendant communities.</p> <p>Latin America/Nicaragua: initiative to secure collective tenure rights of four Indigenous territories in the Autonomous Region of Nicaragua; completion of four draft territorial governance norms through community consultations. In Nicaragua, the clarification of land ownership (known as Saneamiento) is the final step to achieve the legal security of collective land rights as defined by Law 445 of 2002. Since enactment of the law titles for 23 Indigenous lands were granted, however, the conclusion of the titling and legal security processes of Indigenous territories has been stagnant since 2016. A unique window of opportunity emerged to consolidate the saneamiento process from the reactivation of the Interinstitutional Commission of the National Government in charge of supporting negotiations between communities and outsiders inhabiting Indigenous territories.</p> <p>To capitalize on this opportunity, RRI acted quickly to support CADPI (Center for the Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples) with an SRM to consolidate the final phase of legal security and land titling for the territories of the Mayagna Sauni As, Wangki Twi Tasba Raya, Wangki Li Aubra, Prinsu Awala Kum Indigenous Peoples in the Atlantic region of Nicaragua. Through this SRM, RRI is providing critical added value to Indigenous territorial security in Nicaragua by enabling local Indigenous authorities to consolidate their norms for territorial governance systems and collective property, as well as negotiate with non-Indigenous actors in their territories. These are two critical processes and conditions that will help them finalize the “saneamiento” process. The Indigenous authorities have worked in coordination in a series of meetings with the members of the Interinstitutional Commission, representing national military and police, the Attorney General, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Secretary of Development of the Caribbean coast region, and the regional government to consolidate the saneamiento process and enforce agreements with third parties occupying the territories.</p> <p>The activity concluded in March 2021 due to multiple hurricanes hitting the country in fall 2020. At the time of reporting, CADPI had facilitated the completion of four draft territorial governance norms through community consultations and the support of a legal team. It had also secured additional resources from the regional government and local municipalities to expand the</p> |
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| | | <p>legal team and the community consultation process. Finally, CADPI implemented a complementary communications strategy to inform Indigenous communities on the process through radio broadcasts in culturally appropriate languages, a documentary, brochures, transmission of meetings with the regional government, and local television.</p> <p>Latin America/Colombia: Advancing an analysis of gaps in regulatory frameworks for access and legal security of Indigenous territories in Colombia. RRI in coordination with Collaborators SIT—CNTI (Indigenous Secretariat of the National Commission of Indigenous Territories) and the National Land Agency of Colombia (ANT), is engaged in resolving long-standing normative gaps and bottlenecks that have obstructed the titling of Indigenous territories. During the consultation of the Colombia’s National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2020, Indigenous organizations and the National Government reached an agreement, Agreement G16, that focuses on resolving problems with the existing norms and administrative processes related to the constitution, expansion of area, and legal security of Indigenous territories. Currently more than 1713 territorial claims are pending for recognition and titling. With SRM funding, SIT-CNTI, ANT and RRI are undertaking a joint regulatory review process by a technical-legal team, which has established a coordination system to carry out the normative and administrative procedures review based on an agreed upon a work plan. The strategy will conclude in May 2021 and will provide critical recommendations to resolve the bottlenecks preventing an effective process for the formalization of collective property, protection of ancestral territories, and legal security of Indigenous territories.</p> <p>Latin America/Brazil: Supporting Indigenous advocacy to counteract rollback of rights in Brazil. Under the current government of President Jair Bolsonaro, Indigenous Peoples’ rights to their lands have been jeopardized by increasing threats to dismantle or weakened the hard-won legislation that recognizes and protects their collective tenure rights. The President has promoted detrimental changes to environmental and development legislation and state institutions and pledged to open Indigenous territories to private investors and extractive industries. A proposed Law, PL 191-2020, seeks to allow commercial mining, hydroelectric dams, and introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in Indigenous territories, and is under review by the Lower House of Representatives. RRI is working with Partner Instituto Socioambiental, (ISA) in coordination with APIB and COIAB to orchestrate a concerted strategy to pressure the Government to revoke this bill. The aim is to prove the bill’s unconstitutionality due to its impacts on the territorial rights of IPs, their self-determination rights, and their control over their traditional seeds and food production system. RRI is providing key added value to this process by facilitating ISA’s preparation of a legal-technical analysis with Indigenous leaders, which will be used to engage members of Congress and prepare arguments for congressional review. ISA will also disseminate the demands of IP leaders through advocacy and communications campaign which will put additional pressure on the Congress. The congressional review and implementation of this project were delayed by COVID-19, but expected to be completed in 2021. In the meanwhile, ISA has initiated discussions with IP leaders to establish a consensus on their demands and on the messaging of the communications campaign.</p> <p>Latin America/Peru: Strategy for effective prior consultation with Indigenous communities impacted by proposed development of Oil block 200 in Peru. The Peruvian government wants to use an expedited prior consultation (FPIC) process</p> |
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| | | <p>to advance its plan to implement the Block 200 oil exploration project in the Ucayali region ignoring significant impacts on clean water and food security evidenced in records of more than 200 oil spills in the country since 1996. The Ministry of Energy and Mines ignored community leaders' shared position against the project to expedite the consultation process. An RRI SRM supported FECONAU, in coordination with the Institute for Legal Defense (IDL), to ensure that the 14 communities affected by the Oil Block 200 are fully informed and prepared to go through the prior consultation process. IDL developed a legal strategy to support FECONAU in engaging specific Peruvian government authorities on what has transpired between the Ministry and the affected communities. 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. As a result of RRI support and based on their knowledge gained in meetings with FECONAU and IDL, the communities formally solicited that Peru reverse the FPIC process to an earlier phase so the communities can modify the Prior Consultation Plan with the following indicators: a) make the oil exploration and exploitation contract for Block 200 public; b) extend deadlines for the information dissemination and internal evaluation stages of FPIC; c) include an intercultural methodology for consultation (including interpreters in Shipibo-Conibo, Awajún and Asháninca); d) include community support from the Ministry of Culture and the Ombudsman's Office.</p> |
| <p>2.2 Enabling conditions for the advancement of locally led or community-based models and approaches to sustainable resource management, economic development, and biodiversity conservation are established,</p> | <p>2.2.1 A global community of practice on Indigenous and local community enterprise and forestry initiatives is established to develop and pilot initiatives and document lessons learned and policy recommendations.</p> | <p>Global: Conducting Virtual RRI Global Strategy Meetings. RRI's 2020 Global Strategy Meetings were notable for two reasons: 1) they were the first such meetings to be held online; 2) they were also the first such meetings to be held under RRI's new MoU. These factors both enabled RRI to incorporate a diversity of voices into the meetings, which had high attendance from new community-based Partners and a large number of grassroots Collaborators from the regions. These meetings yielded strategies from the Coalition to ensure that community land rights remain a priority in the global development arena and identified grassroots priorities from each region that will inform the design of RRI's 2021 work plans.</p> <p>Global: Planning for new RRI Analysis on rights-based development. RRI Coalition members advised in 2020 planning that it was critical that the Coalition show leadership on the opportunities and challenges associated with advancing rights-based approaches as a critical pathway for achieving climate, biodiversity, and development imperatives. This advice became even more critical in the context of COVID, wherein emerging intelligence from the regions indicated that robust community rights helped to mitigate impacts of the virus. RRG staff consulted with Partners, Collaborators, and thought leaders to develop concept notes describing two pieces of analysis to advance the positioning of rights-based approaches as key to delivering on multiple development goals. The first to develop a framework and methodology to produce national level baselines of the enabling conditions for advancing rights-based approaches. The second to develop the economic case for rights-based approaches, based upon a quantification of the environmental, social, and financial benefits of community governance of rural</p> |

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| strengthened, and promoted. | | lands and resources. These notes will form the basis for collective action and reflection among Coalition members to advance this critical new global analysis in 2021. |
| | 2.2.2 Legal, policy, and institutional mechanisms to support rural or community-based enterprises and resource management are developed, piloted, and documented. | <p>Latin America/Colombia: Highlighting risks of exclusionary economic reactivation. RRI's Latin America Director authored an opinion piece published in leading global Spanish media publication, El Pais, powerfully underscoring the risks of Colombia's economic reactivation plan to human rights in the country. The op-ed made a strong case for grounding the strategy for economic recovery in the rights of communities.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Food sovereignty and tenure security through community-to-community solidarity economies and supply chains. In a novel experiment forced by the COVID crisis, KPA used an SRM to create solidarity between rural communities and urban labor communities through a community-to-community supply chain. This process carried out collective actions to ensure that rural communities were able to donate or sell at agricultural products directly to urban labor who have been hit hard by the pandemic and were facing food shortage. The strategic collaboration created through this process was used to strengthen the coalition between agrarian, labor, environmental and student movements to counter the detrimental Omnibus Law for job Creation. This was combined with a COVID awareness campaign on health protocols and rural food storage systems, and a campaign in favor of resilient IP and community rights-based food production, seeking to influence government response to the food crisis and issuing a Joint Manifesto for meaningful agrarian reform.</p> |
| | 2.2.3 Locally led enterprises, development approaches, and conservation models are identified and promoted by governments. | <p>Asia/India: Campaign leads to lifting of lockdown restrictions on forest product collection. Also see 1.2.3. RRI collaborators and allied networks orchestrated a campaign through media, social media and through direct advocacy with Government to lift the lockdown and restrictions due to COVID on collection and marketing of Non-Timber Forest Products. This ensured that the hundreds of millions of tribal and forest dwellers were able to engage in this critical livelihood activity during the crisis. The campaign also contributed to the Federal Government announcing buyback of forest products from tribal and forest dwellers and enhancing and fixing minimum support prices for a number of forest products.</p> <p>Latin America: Regional: Planning new study on local economic initiatives led by ethnic women to highlight women's role in community economics: RRI is building upon its 2019 analysis on economic and entrepreneurial initiatives led by Indigenous, Afro-descendent, and community women from Mesoamerica and South America as part of a long-term, two-part strategy to demonstrate the critical role women play in their communities' local economies. In the first phase of the strategy, the 2019 analysis identified 89 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-</p> |

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| | | <p>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. As the second phase of the strategy, in 2020, RRI is conducting a case study to do a deeper analysis of how such women-led initiatives contribute to rural economic transformation, the enabling conditions that led to the development of the initiatives, the social, economic, and environmental benefits resulting from the initiatives that have empowered women, and how they have helped women contribute to their communities. The case study is concluded in March 2021 and will provide critical added value to women's grassroots movements by contributing key analysis on women's contributions to local economies and livelihood systems.</p> |
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OUTCOME 3: Investors and companies at national and international levels adopt international standards and rights-based approaches recognizing customary tenure rights, and work with governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and rural women's groups to (i) resolve land tenure disputes and conflicts; (ii) reduce deforestation and land degradation pressures; and (iii) support community enterprises and locally determined business and conservation models that enhance livelihoods and sustainability outcomes.

Linked to SPIII Strategic Objectives 3 and 4

| Sub-results | Targets/Indicators | 2020 Achievements |
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| <p>3.1 Pre-competitive networks are convened at national and global scales to foster dialogue between investors, companies, governments, IPOs, and CSOs on tenure risks, the resource rights of rural communities and women, and responsible land governance and business models.</p> | <p>3.1.1 Pre-competitive networks are established in priority countries to strengthen stakeholder engagement and support the implementation of tenure tools and safeguards, including the VGGTs and other human rights standards and guidelines.</p> | <p>Global: Interlaken Group National Level Engagements instigated new networks between communities, companies, and policy-makers, to engage with tenure reforms and rights-based approaches. National-level Interlaken Group workshops in Kenya, Liberia, Malawi and Laos were organized for March 2020, but postponed due to COVID-19. In Kenya, a new initiative was introduced to create a new dialogue between the Community Land Act Now platform and international investors in land-based sectors like renewable energy and agriculture to jointly implement the Community Land Act. In Liberia, RRI leveraged the Interlaken Group network to support the Civil Society Working Group on Oil Palm to influence the national strategy on palm oil. Building on 2019 engagement in Laos, the Interlaken Group was invited to collaborate with development partners and forestry companies to advise the Government of Laos on regulations under the Forest Law and Land Law. In Malawi, the Platform on Sustainable Land-based Investment organized a field visit of development partners, policy-makers, and private sector leaders to Kasungu District to observe the challenges of idle estate lands and landless tenants, which yielded recommendations for jointly developed analysis and corporate training materials to advance implementation of the Customary Land Act; follow up to the January 2020 field visit was postponed. Though delayed, these initiatives instigated new network connections between communities, companies, and policy-makers, and mobilized these stakeholders to work collectively to advance tenure reforms and rights-based approaches. RRG coordinated the Interlaken Group and worked closely with country coalitions to design interventions.</p> |

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| | <p>3.1.2 Country-level engagement of the Interlaken Group is expanded to accelerate the transformation of business practices.</p> | <p>Global: Improving the Interlaken Group website design: The Interlaken Group’s website was upgraded to create a dedicated space to share learning and materials related to the Group’s country-level engagement. The design improved accessibility and readability of the critical resources provided by the website.</p> <p>Global: Expanding national level engagements of the Interlaken Group: See 3.1.1. Pre-competitive networks of corporate, investor, community, and government leaders in Kenya, Liberia, Laos, and Malawi worked together under the Interlaken Group to implement ongoing tenure reforms and VGGT principles while facing delays due to COVID-19 restrictions. RRG provided coordination support for all national level engagements.</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: Connecting the Interlaken Group with AsM Law to facilitate dissemination of IG standards. This effort by RRI facilitated adoption of IG standards by corporate at operational level; and the consideration of community-based monitoring in the assessment of corporate commitment (VGGT, Business and HR) fulfillment.</p> |
| | <p>3.1.3 Community-led accountability mechanisms are established to monitor public and private sector commitments, and strengthen compliance with legal and voluntary tenure standards and safeguards.</p> | <p>Asia/Indonesia: Mobilizing RSPO Complaint by a community in Indonesia. See also 2.1.5. RRI mobilized an SRM to support the <i>Talang Parit</i> community in Sumatra to develop and file an objection to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, National Land Agency, and corporate grievance mechanisms to challenge the renewal of a 50-year palm oil concession in the community’s customary territories. The complaint is supported by data sourced by the community on the concession’s environmental and social impacts, and documents supply chain linkages of the concession holder with major global companies and investors who have committed to respect human rights and reduce deforestation. The concession holder supplies palm oil to companies and investors linked to the Interlaken Group and other private sector sustainability initiatives. The complaint was developed and filed in 2020 and dialogue among the different stakeholder groups is ongoing. The community is unable to leverage the Indonesian judiciary system to challenge the concession renewal because of an unsuccessful legal challenge and decision in the early 90’s. If this challenge is successful, the community will have pioneered the use of CBM, supply chain mapping, and private sector accountability mechanisms to secure their land rights and/or negotiate compensation. (Read more here.)</p> <p>Asia/Indonesia: New Framework to scale-up community-based monitoring. Also see 1.1.5. RRI partnered with Rainforest Alliance’s Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI) to help AsM Law Offices develop a framework and indicators for community-based monitoring of supply chain impacts on local food security in Indonesia. RRG leveraged the Coalition’s local and international connections, linked with the Interlaken Group, and mobilized finance to catalyze this project. The framework and indicators are based upon definitions described in the Accountability Framework, which lays out</p> |

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| | | <p>definitions for the environmental and social elements of corporate deforestation reduction and sustainability commitments. The AFI serves as a “bridging mechanism” between global corporate commitments and local level accountability. The project builds on the CBM Exchange held in 2019 in Sumatra, which was co-organized by RRI, FPP, and AMAN. The project will be piloted in the communities that hosted the 2019 workshop and are affected by suppliers of Interlaken Group and AFI-linked companies. The framework and indicators developed in Indonesia are designed to be expanded and refined for application in other geographies and sectors. They represent a mechanism to coordinate local data gathering and support collective action across the RRI Coalition’s CBM activities.</p> |
| | <p>3.1.4 The Interlaken Group expands its reach and influence to new sectors and constituencies, and strengthens engagement and coordination with other public-private platforms and international initiatives.</p> | <p>Global: COVID Webinar Series by the Interlaken Group. The Interlaken Group organized a webinar series from April to June 2020 to identify, assess, and show leadership on land and sustainability issues facing companies, investors, and communities in the COVID era. The series was entitled: <i>Monitoring Investments and Supply Chains During the C-19 Pandemic: Emerging Practices, Innovations, and Recommendations</i>. Resource persons and leaders from national-level Interlaken Group platforms contributed to each discussion, including SESDev (Liberia), CNTI (Colombia), AsM Law Offices (Indonesia), Community Land Action Now! (Kenya), Golden Veroleum Liberia, PepsiCo, FMO, Forest Peoples Programme, Earthworm Foundation, and NEPCON. Webinars were well attended by all stakeholder groups, and yielded demand for a high-level guidance product to define principles for monitoring, due diligence, and FPIC in a new operating environment where travel to the field will be restricted. The new guidance document, under development for 2021, will provide a natural linkage to support engagement with related corporate sustainability platforms and public-private platforms like, for example, the Consumer Goods Forum’s Forest Positive Coalition and ongoing landscape initiatives in Indonesia, where companies, investors, and governments are seeking to monitor and validate the sustainable impacts of these initiatives. The webinars additionally provided inspiration on how to convene and mobilize the Group through virtual means and leveraged this flexibility to engage new constituencies. The virtual format enabled local community and CSO resource persons from Liberia, Kenya, Indonesia, and Colombia to speak and engage directly with an audience of corporate and investor leaders. RRG provided overall coordination support for the Interlaken Group and delivery of the webinar series, using its relationships at national and international level and across stakeholders to ensure support for the agenda and initiative.</p> |
| <p>3.2 Credible tools and instruments to advance rural land and resource rights, diminish investor/company</p> | <p>3.2.1 Tenure risk investment screens and due diligence protocols are developed and</p> | <p>RRI initiated a new project with AsM Law Offices and the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI) in Indonesia to develop a community-based monitoring (CBM) framework to assess the local environmental and social impacts of land-based supply chains and investments. The framework suggests a set of simple indicators that may be collected and monitored by communities or companies, and are anchored in elements of corporate commitments elaborated in the AFI. This approach and framework may be applied across sectors and geographies and represents a critical new community-led</p> |

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| <p>exposure to tenure risks, strengthen local enterprises, and enhance sustainable resource governance are developed, adopted, and promoted by companies, governments, and CSOs.</p> | <p>adopted by companies, investors, governments and CSOs.</p> | <p>'screen' against which to evaluate sustainability performance. The framework will be piloted in 6 Indigenous communities across Indonesia in 2021 and will be presented in forums like the Interlaken Group, Consumer Goods Forum, and Palm Oil Collaborative Group in order to raise interest and adoption among strategic companies.</p> |
| | <p>3.2.2 Strategic analyses and tools are developed and used by companies, investors, communities, and governments to address land tenure problems.</p> | <p>Africa/DRC: Finalizing Operational Guide for communities to help them create management plans for forest concessions. RRI collaborator CODELT consulted legal and technical experts to provide feedback on a draft operational guide for communities on managing their forest concessions. The guide will be critical in helping communities finally begin operating on their community forest concessions. CODELT's efforts included a series of stakeholder consultations, leading to recommendations for the finalization and national validation of the guide. The final guide was handed over to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development on August 27, 2020, who then signed a decree to impose the guide's enforcement. With the guide now signed into law and being implemented, communities in the DRC will be able to quickly and effectively develop their management plans — an essential condition to apply for forestry concessions, ultimately increasing the number of forestry concessions under community management in the country. See media coverage here and here, or read RRI's blog post for more information.</p> <p>Africa/Gabon: Advocacy for effective mapping methodology that incorporates customary lands into consultations on Gabon's National Land Allocation Plan. RRI collaborator Brainforest conducted a workshop for civil society organizations on the importance of participatory mapping. It then developed a report on effective participatory mapping approaches from the region. The participants validated key participatory mapping methodologies and submitted an advocacy report to Gabon's Climate Council, National Parks Agency, Forestry Ministry, and French Development Agency. It is expected that with further advocacy, follow-up, and participation in a national workshop, these recommendations would be taken into account, which will ensure that the mapping process protects customary land rights.</p> <p>Global: Interlaken Group Guidance — Principles to Leverage Community-Based Monitoring for Sustainable Supply Chains and Investments. Also see 1.1.5 and 3.1.4. The Interlaken Group initiated development of a new global private sector guidance tool describing the principles for companies and investors to engage with communities to source local data on social and environmental impacts and leverage this data to inform their decision-making. The guidance document will integrate principles and emerging practice for accessing gender-balanced and women-specific data and indicators. This tool is expected to be finalized in 2021. It will link with ongoing community-based monitoring pilots in Indonesia, and inform national level Interlaken Group engagements in Liberia, Kenya, and Laos, where companies are similarly seeking</p> |

to assess the impacts of sustainability policies on local peoples and environments. RRG, as coordinator of the Interlaken Group, developed the concept note and initiated the procurement process in collaboration with participating leaders.

Latin America: New regional study and Story Maps platform to track collective impacts of rights violations in Latin America. To better support bottom-up advocacy, [RRI launched a regional study](#) on the multidimensional and multiplier effects of violations of collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities by extractive industries and infrastructure development in Latin America. The study took an integrated approach to analyzing collective rights violations, concluding that when a collective territory is affected, there are multidimensional impacts on the communities that inhabit it, including social, cultural, territorial, economic, and environmental impacts. In addition, multiplier effects of violating rights extend to adjacent communities and populations, with cumulative impacts in the short and long term. The study mapped territorial disputes between communities and extractive industries in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico in 2017-2019.

The georeferenced analysis quantified the scope of rights violations by distinguishing the several types of rights violated. 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 was uploaded into a [didactic Story Maps platform](#), an online mapping tool created via ArcGIS in collaboration with the Amazon Conservation team, ACT. The interactive platform demonstrates that rights violations don't just affect individuals or close family but entire communities, and that violations do not occur against one type of right but affect several rights simultaneously. RRI partnered with its collaborator SERVINDI to carry out a [communications campaign](#) to launch the study and Story Maps, and held a [webinar](#) including [key voices](#) from Indigenous, Local Community, Afro-descendant, and women's grassroots organizations.

Asia/India: Land Conflict data collection and analysis influence India's land and forest policy. The issue of land conflicts is critical in India from the perspective of investments and private sector, affecting over Rs. 19.7 trillion (\$270 billion) worth of public and private sector investments. RRI knowledge partner [Land Conflict Watch \(LCW\)](#) released a [comprehensive study](#) of 703 land conflicts in India, which received widespread coverage in the [national](#) and [global](#) media and helped shaped the policy narrative around land conflicts and rights. LCW data was cited in India's Parliament and by several politicians participating in the most recent elections, as well as from civil society organizations. LCW was also invited by the Prime Minister's Office to present on the issue of land conflicts and rights. LCW continues to shape the narrative on land conflicts and collective rights including through training of journalists reporting on conflicts. Over one hundred media stories cited Land Conflict Watch data in 2020.

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| | | <p>Asia/India: Publication of Forest Rights Act Odisha Atlas. RRI collaborator Vasundhara worked with the Government of Odisha to prepare the first ever official atlas of the potential areas eligible for recognition under Forest Rights Act community and individual rights provision as applied in the state of Odisha. This atlas was released by Union tribal affairs minister Arjun Munda on February 27 and estimates 27,818 square kilometers (2.78 million ha.) over which Community Forest Resources rights could be recognized in Odisha. The Official atlas creates the framework and targets for recognition of community forest rights in Odisha, and is likely to be replicated in other provinces.</p> |
| | <p>3.2.3 Locally controlled enterprises and economic development models are identified and promoted by investors and companies.</p> | <p>Interlaken Group National Level Engagements promote alternate rights-based approaches. Also see 2.2.1 and 3.1.1. National-level Interlaken Group workshops in Kenya, Liberia, Malawi and Laos were organized for March 2020 but postponed due to COVID-19. Each of these initiatives is now concerned with identifying and promoting rights-based approaches as alternative or complementary to existing operational or investment models. In Liberia for example, the Interlaken Group was mobilized to support the Civil Society Working Group on Oil Palm to convene companies, investors, and policy-makers to influence the articulation of the National Oil Palm Strategy such that community-led models and out-grower arrangements featured prominently in the approach and associated policies. These initiatives will be adjusted and advanced in 2021.</p> |
| | <p>3.2.4 The IAN Investment Tool is leveraged to support ESG risk management at the global and national levels.</p> | <p>This was previously led by TMP Systems consulting group under a grant from FCDO that ended in 2019. TMP developed a tenure risk assessment platform for companies called IAN. As we do not manage the platform, no progress can be made towards this indicator. It would have been better to word the indicator less specifically to be around leveraging local data to support ESG risk management at global and national levels.</p> |

OUTCOME 4: Channeling effective and timely response support to IPs, local communities and Afro-descendants during COVID-19

Overview: Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendants are among the most vulnerable victims of the COVID-19 crisis, as they already face entrenched inequalities, stigma and discrimination. Insufficient access to basic health care, sanitation, and limited internet for online education platforms are some of the structural problems impacting communities' capabilities to cope with this pandemic. However, when communities enjoy their right to self-determination, they have shown tenacity in creating culturally appropriate and community-led responses to crises, even COVID-19. Tenure insecurity curtails communities' power to implement well-established strategies like voluntary isolation, which would prevent the spread of virulent pathogens. Furthermore, without secure tenure, communities' territories are at risk of being targeted for their rich reservoirs of natural resources as governments look to cushion economic recessions by expanding extraction. Finally, the pandemic has led to a decline in the enforcement of laws on the books, an increase in land-grabbing, and criminalization of IPs and local communities fighting for their rights over the socio-ecological systems they steward. Thus, beyond its public health implications, COVID-19 is a "threat multiplier" on lands without secure tenure.

Faced with this emergency, RRI pivoted quickly to meet the challenge through the following measures:

- Creation of a rapid COVID Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) to meet emergency demands from grassroots rightsholder organizations and their allies.
- Allow amendments and extensions to ongoing grants, which allowed reallocation to be devoted to COVID-related work.
- Analyses highlighting COVID-19's impact on the land and resource rights of IPs, local communities and Afro-descendants.
- Rapid transition to secure and reliable virtual communications to stay connected with Coalition members.

RRI approved 14 special COVID SRM projects for \$340,000. Their outcomes and activities are detailed below, along with other program initiatives on COVID-related issues. Many of these initiatives were dual purpose, meaning they led to outcomes that not only responded to COVID-19 but also to RRI's core mission and strategic themes.

RRI/RRG Institutional: RRG responded to the crisis quickly in terms of institutional and official functioning as work shifted to virtual spaces through adoption of online communications tools. RRG also ensured that its ability to support partners and collaborators as well carry out core functions were not compromised. Major benchmark events, i.e., Board meetings; Partners' meetings; planning meetings at country and regional level, as well as the Global Strategy meeting were carried out virtually. Several webinars and online thematic meetings (e.g., the Interlaken Group Meeting and the launch of various studies) shifted to online mode. Internally, RRG staff worked with RRI members to generate data, analysis and priorities linked to COVID, and devoted a considerable amount of staff time to COVID-linked issues. RRG also provided effective support and flexibility to its staff given the high-stress environment generated by the pandemic.

Global: Highlighted impact of COVID-19 on IPs and local communities in global fora: Supported production and placement of [an op-ed](#) by former UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples on the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples in Thomas Reuters Foundation's Trust.org. Compiled and shared resources for the Coalition on the impacts of COVID-19 on communities at regional and global levels.

Asia/Regional: Analysis on Detrimental Laws passed under the cover of COVID launched: COVID has been used to shrink the civic space and push through legislation which undermines Indigenous and local communities land and forest rights, human rights and the environment. To summarize detrimental laws passed during COVID, AIPP, the Tenure Coalition, and RRI authored a brief entitled "[Under the Cover of COVID: New Laws in Asia Favor Business at the Cost of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Land and Territorial Rights](#)". The brief was launched at the 9th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights by AIPP and has been translated into five languages. The Coalition for Tenure Justice, Indonesia, launched the Bahasa version of the brief in a separate event in Indonesia, and it has received both [media](#) and policy attention. A [blog](#) on the brief in Thomson Reuters has also been published.

Asia/India: COVID and Forest Rights: A campaign supported by a COVID SRM using [data collection and analysis](#) led to Government [lifting restriction on forest product collection and marketing](#) and [enhancement/fixation of minimum support price](#) for forest products. [#Covidandforestrights](#) trended in India and was covered in nearly 60 media publications, including TV. Grassroots data collection and analysis were shared in five [Forest Rights and COVID Bulletins](#), which received both media attention and interest from policy-makers.

Global: Interlaken Group COVID Webinar Series— The Interlaken Group organized a webinar series in April—June 2020 to identify, assess, and show leadership on the land and sustainability issues facing companies, investors, and communities in the COVID era. The series was entitled: *Monitoring Investments and Supply Chains During the C-19 Pandemic: Emerging Practices, Innovations, and Recommendations*. Resource persons and leaders from national-level Interlaken Group platforms contributed to each discussion, including SESDev (Liberia), CNTI (Colombia), AsM Law Offices (Indonesia), Community Land Action Now! (Kenya), Golden Veroleum Liberia, PepsiCo, FMO, Forest Peoples Programme, Earthworm Foundation, and NEPCON. Webinars were well attended by all stakeholder groups, and yielded demand for a high-level guidance product to define principles for monitoring, due diligence, and FPIC in the new operating environment where travel to the field will be restricted. The new guidance document, under development for 2021, will provide a natural linkage to support engagement with related corporate sustainability platforms and public-private platforms like, for example, the Consumer Goods Forum's Forest Positive Coalition and ongoing landscape initiatives in Indonesia, where companies, investors, and governments are seeking to monitor and validate the sustainable impacts of these initiatives. The webinars additionally provided inspiration on how to convene and mobilize the Group through virtual means and leverage this flexibility to engage new constituencies. The webinars' virtual format enabled local community and CSO resource persons from Liberia, Kenya, Indonesia, and Colombia to speak and engage directly with an audience of corporate and investor leaders. RRG provided overall coordination support for the Interlaken Group and delivery of the webinar series, leveraging its relationships at national and international level and across stakeholder groups to ensure support for the agenda and initiative.

COVID Strategic Response Mechanism Interventions

Latin America/Regional: Communication and Response Strategy for the Amazonian COVID-19 Emergency (COICA). The COVID-19 pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon region. To urgently support Amazonian Indigenous communities to respond to the virus, RRI is working with Partner the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin (COICA) through a SRM, which is enabling COICA to fill critical gaps left by governments across the region to communicate preventative information to communities and better understand the spread of the virus in Indigenous populations. RRI's action has strengthened coordination of COICA's organizational leadership through establishing a separate operational arm of COICA known as the *Amazonian Emergency Operations Committee*, which is responsible

for promoting and maintaining coordinated Indigenous emergency response management across COICA's 9 countries and informing advocacy efforts for government action. COICA has also initiated the development of a regional online platform for monitoring the spread of the virus in Indigenous communities with real-time information provided by COICA's 9 national level organizations. The analyses generated by the platform will then be used to inform capacity-building activities for Indigenous leaders' decision-making for their communities, advocacy actions, as well as a communications strategy across COICA's 9 countries in culturally appropriate formats.

Latin America/Colombia (ONIC): Contingency Plan for Monitoring, Containment, and Isolation of Indigenous Peoples in Response to the Current Health Emergency.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on Indigenous Peoples in Colombia and the government has not responded properly in preventing the spread of the virus to Indigenous populations. RRI worked with the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) through an SRM, which enabled ONIC to fill critical gaps left by the Colombian government to communicate preventative information to communities and better understand the spread of the virus in Indigenous populations. The SRM funding helped ONIC expand its [Territorial Monitoring System \(SMT\)](#), which systematizes real-time data collected from ONIC's 50 grassroots organizations. [ONIC disseminated this information](#) across numerous communications mediums in culturally appropriate formats including [radio broadcasts in Indigenous languages](#), videos, social media, and the press to inform communities on preventative actions they can take. ONIC's information has reached broad audiences, including international news outlets, regional outlets, and [national level media](#), for a total of more than 4,900 different publications (see timelines of press releases below). RRI has helped position ONIC as a key interlocutor to communicate the impacts of the virus, setting a key example for other Indigenous organizations to track the spread and impact of the pandemic in Indigenous populations. This resulted in ONIC bringing greater visibility to the structural inequities in Colombia's response to the pandemic, facilitating dialogue and information sharing with the national and regional governments to prompt and guide them in the attention to Indigenous communities. Below are links to national, regional and international media articles covering this achievement:

- https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1455600/ONICSalvandoVidas.-Informe-100-das-situacin-de-riesgo-y-atencin-de-la-pandemia-en-los-pueblos-indgenas-en-Colombia.-Seeguimiento-de-medios-de-comunicacion-abril-2020/#vars!date=2020-04-17_05:31:00!
- <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1456094/ONICSalvandoVidas.Informe-100-das-situacin-de-riesgo-y-atencin-de-la-pandemia-en-los-pueblos-indgenas-en-Colombia.-Seguimiento-de-medios-de-comunicacion-mayo-2020/>
- https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1456208/ONICSalvandoVidas.-Informe-100-das-situacin-de-riesgo-y-atencin-de-la-pandemia-en-los-pueblos-indgenas-en-Colombia.-Seeguimiento-de-medios-de-comunicacion-junio-2020/#vars!date=2020-06-01_07:45:21!
- <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1456209/ONIC-Salvando-vidas.-Monitoreo-Medios-de-Comunicacin-mes-de-julio/>
- <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1466577/ONIC-Salvando-Vidas.-Monitoreo-Medios-de-Comunicacin-agosto/>
- <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1484048/ONIC-Salvando-vidas.-Monitoreo-de-medios-de-comunicacin-mes-de-septiembre/>
- <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1516062/ONIC-Es-tiempo-de-SalvaGuardarNos.-Monitoreo-de-medios-de-comunicacin-mes-de-octubre/>
- <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1558691/ONIC-Salvando-vidas.-Monitoreo-de-medios-de-comunicacin-mes-de-noviembre/>
- <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1568183/ONIC-Salvando-vidas.-Monitoreo-de-medios-de-comunicacin-mes-de-diciembre/>

Latin America/Colombia (PNC/Hileros): Connectivity, communication, and data management strategy to respond to the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on Afro-descendants in Colombia and the government has not responded to the particular needs of their communities. RRI worked with Collaborator, Process for Black Communities of Colombia (PCN) through a SRM, which enabled PCN to fill critical gaps left by the Colombian

government to communicate preventative information to communities and better understand the spread of the virus in Afro-descendant populations. PCN's quick action facilitated the creation of a database with disaggregated information by gender and age group on the spread of COVID-19 in Afro-descendant communities which is based upon real-time data collected from PCN's 115 grassroots organizations. PCN has used the information collected [to generate analyses](#) on the spread of the virus including information on the unique challenges faced by Afro-descendant communities in Colombia. The analyses also included community-based responses to the pandemic including strengthening territorial governance systems and use of traditional medicine, and preventive actions. PCN disseminated this information across different communications mediums in culturally appropriate formats through their social media and the press [via a press conference](#) which has improved territorial responses and decision-making in Afro-descendant communities across the country. The press conference was also directed towards national authorities and regional governments, included participation from the Ministry of Health and other government representatives at different levels, and was a key advocacy action bringing greater visibility to the structural inequities in Colombia's response to the pandemic to prompt and guide them in the attention to Afro-descendant communities. Through this SRM, RRI helped position PCN as a key interlocutor to communicate the impacts of the virus through the production of real-time data.

Latin America/Peru (AIDSESEP): Development and Implementation of a Georeferenced Health Alert System for Peruvian Indigenous Peoples. The COVID-19 pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on Indigenous Peoples in Peru and the government has not responded to the particular needs of Indigenous communities to support them in preventing the spread of the virus through their populations. RRI worked with the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDSESEP) through an SRM, which enabled AIDSESEP to fill critical gaps left by the Peruvian government to communicate preventative information to communities and to generate reliable data to better understand the spread of the virus in Indigenous populations. RRI's SRM strengthened AIDSESEP's [online territorial early warning and alert system \(CIPTA\)](#) to incorporate real-time data on the cases of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. RRI also facilitated greater articulation between AIDSESEP's local federations, 9 regional organizations, and Indigenous communities through enhanced internet capacity and technical workshops with Indigenous leaders to collect and manage the data provided by the communities and upload it into CIPTA. AIDSESEP used the information collected to generate differentiated analyses on the spread of the virus, which informed the creation of radio broadcasts in Indigenous languages to inform communities on preventative actions they can take. As a result of this SRM, AIDSESEP is providing the data from CIPTA directly to the [Peruvian Ministry of Culture](#) to guide government responses to the pandemic for Indigenous communities.

Latin America/Regional (AMPB): Strengthening the Response Capacities of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Mesoamerica. This SRM began in December 2020 and will be reported upon in 2021.

Nepal/Asia (FECOFUN): Creating an example of community-based COVID response, illustrating the critical role of community rights-based organizations in creating resilience against disasters and crisis. FECOFUN developed COVID response plans and advocacy which are being used by Governments and community forestry users' groups. This support dovetailed with FECOFUN's extraordinary contributions to Nepal's COVID response using their own funds and the resource of the CFUGs. As the COVID pandemic emerged in Nepal, more than 500 CFUGs mobilized their social, financial, and human resources for COVID-19 response. As of May 2020, 252 CFUGs invested close to USD 170,000 cash support for COVID-19 directly supporting over 152,700 poor and vulnerable people. Over 1400 CFUGs offered their office buildings and meeting halls to use as venue for quarantine. RRI's SRM support was also used for video conferences and online meetings both internally and with external actors, such as the Government, the

Human Rights Commission, and NRM based institutions, etc. Advocacy through radio, TV, and SMS messaging reached about 5 million people. FECOFUN also supported distribution of masks, sanitary materials, and food, as well as material support.

Asia/Nepal (GFN): Development of Employment Plans linked to COVID and community Forestry in five municipalities. Green Foundation Nepal leveraged its community forest enterprise experience to formulate *Employment Plans* with five local municipalities in response to COVID, and to undertake training and capacity building with selected community forestry user groups. Till date, GFN has commitment from 5 municipalities for implementing such plans—four in Lumbini province and one in Karnali Province. While the project was more focused initially on migrant returnees, given the higher effect of COVID on Indigenous communities and women, the focus was shifted to them. Linked awareness program is also underway through radio, local TV and newspapers.

Asia/Indonesia (KPA): Food Sovereignty and Tenure Security through Community-to-Community Solidarity Economies and Supply Chains. KPA created [solidarity between](#) rural communities and urban labor communities through a [community-to-community supply chain](#). This process carried out collective actions and coordination to ensure that rural communities were able to donate or sell agricultural products directly to urban labor who have been hit hard by the pandemic and were facing food shortage. The strategic collaboration created through this process was leveraged for strengthening the strategic coalition between agrarian, labor, environmental and student movements to counter the detrimental Omnibus Law for job Creation. This was combined with COVID awareness campaign, health protocols and rural food storage systems, and the mobilization was also used to carry out campaign in favor of resilient IPLC rights-based food production and seeking to influence government response to food crisis through issuance of Joint Manifesto for genuine agrarian reform.

Asia/India (Vasundhara): Supporting community forest rights in response to COVID-19 in India. An SRM channeled to India helped ensure support for community forest resource rights to secure livelihoods in response to COVID 19. Activities include research on COVID and forest rights issues, including assessment of the impact of COVID and lockdown on tribal communities and analysis of policies affecting rights and livelihoods of tribal communities during COVID; and advocacy and engagement with governments including information dissemination and media campaigns and engagement with the ministries and governments. This COVID SRM supported a campaign using [data collection, analysis](#), media, [social media](#) and political advocacy, which led to the government [lifting restriction on forest product collection and marketing](#) and [enhancement/fixation of minimum support price](#) for forest products. [#Covidandforestrights](#) trended in India and was covered in nearly 60 media publications, including TV. Grassroots data collection and analysis were shared in five [Forest Rights and COVID Bulletins](#), which received both media attention and interest from policy-makers. This campaign was the only major mobilization which linked forest rights with COVID issues and was highly effective in shaping federal and state governments' policies. Additional COVID work in India included supporting migrant workers to return to their homes, ensuring enrollment in employment schemes, and skill building for livelihood options.

Africa/Cameroon (REFACOF): Project to Combat Coronavirus in Rural Communities of the Littoral and Central Regions of Cameroon. Fifteen villages and over 600 people received awareness training on COVID-19 prevention through community sensitization, posted materials, and radio broadcasts. A survey was conducted in the villages that demonstrated that most communities do not believe that the pandemic could cause them to fall ill. REFACOF produced an advocacy document for local authorities for better health systems in rural areas as well as continued COVID-19 education and funding by municipal authorities.

Africa/DRC (CRI and CAGDFT): Support for local communities in combating COVID-19 and strengthening livelihoods in Bulungu territory. This SRM helped local communities build their resilience in the fight against COVID-19 through awareness campaigns, capacity building on sustainable production techniques in Kwilu Province, Bulungu territory and Kingwaya village, and support for local communities in Kingwaya to organize themselves through a community forest concessions management body. The project also supported awareness-raising meetings with opinion leaders and community radio stations. CRI organized seven sensitization meetings with the territorial entities of health, environment, agriculture, and heads of villages in Mbanza and Mbonga Kakesa. It also held eight trainings on agricultural techniques with women, men, and young people in the province of Bulungu. 85% of the participants were women. CRI additionally drafted a ministerial decree for permission to distribute community lands and supported local communities of Kingwaya to be structured into CFCL management bodies. While support from a 2019 SRM had helped the same communities set up community forest concessions management bodies, this activity ensured that these management bodies are functional and sustainable in the long term.

Africa/Liberia (SesDev): Providing technical support to local communities during COVID-19. This SRM sought to provide technical advisory support on COVID-19 and to address violation of customary land rights during the pandemic during the lockdown in Liberia. RRI Collaborator SESDev raised awareness of COVID prevention by distributing 1000 posters and flyers in 20 communities in Sinoe and Lofa counties. This allowed SESDev to travel to these communities as well and share an early warning response mechanism, through which communities can report any infringement on their customary lands and receive technical advice. SESDev has kept a database of all community land rights monitoring calls throughout the pandemic in 40 communities across four counties. This has allowed communities to act against land grabs by extractive industries labeled essential businesses and enhance their relationships with the civil society organizations working on customary land rights without needing to travel.

Africa/Central African Republic (CADD): Action plan to combat COVID-19 in the community forests of Lomba and Mbunza-Boffi in the Central African Republic. Centre d'Appui pour le Développement Durable (CADD) provided essential materials to the local and Indigenous communities of Lomba and Mbunza-Boffi to enable them to prevent and curb the spread of COVID-19 and build resilience against socio-economic crises. Key activities included raising awareness of the virus across 14 villages, and technical and advocacy support to improve communities' agricultural resilience and food production.

Africa/Central African Republic (CIEDD): Support for local communities and Indigenous populations in Southwestern CAR in the fight against COVID 19. Update on progress will be reported in 2021 as contract began December 1, 2020.

Finance and Administration: Report on 2020 Activities

COVID-19 had a major effect on the RRI Secretariat's operations. Once RRG decided to close its office for the welfare of staff (following government recommendations and best practices), the team took steps to facilitate the abrupt switch to all-virtual operations. This was easier than might have been expected, because RRG already had some experience with remote work, since its Montreal staff and others living abroad were already doing so. Additionally, most DC staff works from home on occasion. However, not all the DC staff was prepared for a long period of working at home, so RRG distributed equipment and supplies as needed to facilitate a remote online working environment. It further took steps to make the office as safe as possible for the limited few who had to occasionally enter the office. RRG also replaced as many remaining manual processes as possible to move to an electronic format.

To facilitate staff interaction, RRG implemented Microsoft Teams for file sharing/communication and provided all staff with Zoom licenses to facilitate team and coalition web conferencing. The remote environment also encouraged other IT improvements including a new VPN system for more rapid access to the office server, upgrading to Windows 10, implementing two-factor authentication security, and data backup. It also improved its ability to remotely manage in office hardware, including upgrades of server software and emergency power-down software.

Regarding fundraising, RRG succeeded in obtaining important new sources of funding (Quadrature, BMZ) and extending or obtaining additional funds from existing donors (Ford, Wellspring and FGMC). It also secured funding via the Federal government's PPP emergency support provision, establishing a fundraising committee and formally designating support staff for each donor lead.

As part of upgrading its services to program teams, RRG moved its cash disbursement process away from a more labor-intensive system to an online platform that will eventually synchronize with bank wire and ACH processing systems. This allowed RRG to replace a largely vacant clerical accounting associate position with a higher-level position that provides more value to program teams, including centralization of subgrant tracking. It also created a new position of Senior Manager, Program Administration, to assist the staff with contract preparation and supervision.

RRG conducted a staff engagement survey and a proprietary culture survey to better understand its staff's motivations and concerns. As a result, it improved all job descriptions and rolled out multiple trainings, including on anti-harassment, using Zoom, and online meeting facilitation. With most Coalition/Board meetings now online, RRG integrated online interpretation into its Zoom platform.

As directed by the Audit Committee, RRG engaged a new audit firm and onboarded it successfully. The firm trained associates in understanding how internal controls relate to the audit, and on their contributions to the control processes. Throughout the year, the FA team also worked with RRG senior management to codify a process to conduct recruitment for a new President. Following a global request for proposals, RRG contracted an executive recruitment firm to conduct an organizational assessment in late 2020 and begin a global search in early 2021.

ANNEX: Full Report on 2020 Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) and 2020 COVID-19 Response Program

The Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) is designed to enable flexible, rapid response to unforeseen but strategic opportunities. It complements RRI's annual planning process by providing funding (up to US\$100,000) that rapidly responds to specific situations, allowing RRI to be effective in shifting political landscapes. Due to limited funding available for SRMs since 2018 and to meet the demand for SRM funds requested, the RRI Board resolved to adopt temporary measures, including limiting individual SRM funding to US\$50,000 per activity.

SRM proposals are evaluated and approved through a simple, accelerated process. For an activity/project to qualify as an SRM, the activity must meet all five criteria: 1) exploits a political window of opportunity; 2) supports a critical moment in a social mobilization process; 3) exploits higher-risk opportunities and could expand RRI relationships; 4) is a new or newly expanded activity; 5) is dependent on incremental funding/connectivity at the right strategic moment to produce outcomes.

In January 2020, the Board authorized a budget of US\$445,000 for SRM activities. Additional funds were later made available via budget reallocations of 340,614 triggered because of the COVID 19 pandemic's impact on RRI's activities, as well as the availability of new grants. This additional funding was crucial to allow RRI to respond to our Partners and Collaborators need for emergency support to deal with the crises created by the pandemic.

Recognizing that the crisis created by COVID-19 posed tremendous threats to RRI's constituencies as well as their representative organizations — both directly due to their vulnerability to the virus, and indirectly due to the increased difficulty to protect, protest, and advocate for their rights, a portion of SRM funds was further allocated on a temporary basis to create a new program within the SRM, titled the "COVID-19 Response Program (C-19RP)" for execution during FY-2020. RRI crafted specific criteria and processes for this program to help IPs, local communities, and Afro-descendent organizations and their allies address the most immediate challenges posed by COVID-19, with an even more rapid internal approval process to expedite delivery of funds to recipients.

Of the 30 SRMs which were issued in 2020 for a total of US\$785,614, 16 were standard SRMs and 14 were C-19RP SRMs. The following tables provide a summary of each of these SRM activities and the results that have been reported to date. In addition to supporting the 30 SRMs issued in 2020, four SRMs that were contracted in 2019 were also supported during 2020.

STATUS OF ALL 2020 STRATEGIC RESPONSE MECHANISM (SRM) PROJECTS

| Proponents | Country/ies | Project Title and Objectives | Evidence of Achievement to Date | STATUS/Dates | Amount (\$) APPROVED |
|---|-------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| LBH (Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation) | Indonesia | <p>TITLE: <i>Strategic support to criminalized farmer organization in Jambi, Indonesia</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: provide legal assistance to Serikat Mandiri Batanghari (SMB) farmers' organization in Jambi, Indonesia, particularly to SMB peasant and community members being criminalized.</p> | YLBHI provided legal assistance to 43 peasants criminalized for resisting their eviction by WKS company (supplier of APP pulp and paper group) backed by security forces. All of them were sentenced to jail up to 2 years (except one released in cassation). YLBHI worked with peasant organizations to ensure documentation of several abuses (from land conflict, abuse of social scheme by the company to extend operation area, to violation of judicial guarantees in the prosecution) is used to push for review of the license by the MoEF. They also published a book which will become the counter narrative of the farmer communities which were slandered and present the facts of the land conflict and criminalization. | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.01.20 2020.10.30</p> | 9,998 |
| CIPRED/ FECOFUN/ NEFIN | Nepal | <p>TITLE: <i>Legal recognition of customary laws and practices in Tsum Valley, Gorkha Nepal</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: to advance</p> | Nepal is in the process of amending the Dept. of National Park and Wildlife Life Conservation Act (DNPWC) 2039 as well as the Conservation Area Management Regulations 2053 and developing into Integrated Conservation Area Management Regulations, to bring these in line with the Local Government Operation Act (2017) which provides local governments jurisdiction over community forests and other natural resources. To | <p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>2020.05.21 2021.05.31</p> | 29,780 |

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| | | and ensure Indigenous Peoples' rights in conservation areas in Nepal. | leverage this new and important opportunity for recognition of IP and LCs' rights over territories and forests within conservation areas, CIPRED has completed a policy review, and shared with community leaders and organizations. They are also in the process of preparing a report based on fieldwork in Nubri Valley. Indigenous leaders from Ghandaki Province submitted an appeal letter to the Chief Minister and other relevant ministries of Ghandaki Province to ensure the legal recognition of customary land tenure rights and cultural practices of IPs in the Provincial Forest Act and plan for continued policy advocacy with relevant government agencies and community leaders, elected bodies at federal, provincial and local levels for the development of local laws that recognize Indigenous peoples' customary laws and practices for sustainable natural resource management traditional livelihoods. | | |
| Hutan Rakyat Institute (HaRi) | Indonesia | <p>TITLE: <i>Accelerating Local Regulation Ratification (Perda) on Adat Community Registration in North Sumatra Province, Indonesia</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: ensure that the Final Draft of Adat People Registration Regulation (Ranperda) is acceptable with the multistakeholders in North Sumatra (Indigenous Communities,</p> | HaRi mobilized civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for the issuance of a provincial regulation enabling the registration of IP territories in North Sumatra as an innovative way of protecting IP collective tenure rights. The advocacy was successfully conducted, and on November 23, 2020, the North Sumatra Regional assembly (DPRD) — 8 out of 9 political fractions— approved the CSO draft as being a formal DPRD initiative to be passed within three months. A task force is to be set up at provincial level to identify the Adat Communities and their territory — potential of 5 M people or up to 30% of North Sumatra population occupying 500 – 600,000 ha of Adat territory!—and the civil society coalition will ensure that CSO are members of this task force. | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.06.05 2020.12.31</p> | 22,650 |

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| | | Academics, Media, Legislatures, and Executives), and endorsed by the Local parliament (DPRD) as the Provincial Regulation (Perda) in 2020. | | | |
| Bantaya | Indonesia | <p>TITLE: <i>Encouraging the Expansion of Community Land Rights Over Forest Area in Sulawesi, Indonesia</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: protect forest rights in 12 villages of West Sulawesi by mobilizing grassroots inputs to a policy dialogue process between communities, government, and an industrial forest company.</p> | Village (12) and sub-district (3) consultations held with communities to discuss conflict with industrial plantation concession. Maps of community managed areas within State production forest show that 90% of area occupied by the community is planted with long-term productive trees (cocoa, hazelnut, durian, coconut). Meanwhile PT Indoco license has been revoked on 27,370 ha by MoEF as the company never started operations. Copy of the license revocation has been distributed to the community and district government to prevent any manipulation by the company. Several community groups are preparing to apply for Social Forestry program to secure their occupation in forest area, using either Adat Forest, Community forest or Village forest. Bantaya has been advocating for a regional regulation on IP recognition that has now been included in the regional assembly legislative agenda for 2021. If the regional regulation is passed, 5 Indigenous communities are ready to apply for their Adat Forests recognition in 3 villages in Tapalang District and 2 villages in Kalumpang District. | <p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>2020.08.11 2020.12.31</p> | 9,994 |

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| <p>FECOFUN The Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal</p> | <p>Nepal</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Policy Advocacy to Achieve Community Forestry Tax Reform in Nepal</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: improve community forestry governance and safeguard community conservation and self-determined development through the resolution of multilayered taxes on community forestry by way of strong advocacy across three levels of government.</p> | <p>FECOFUN, which represents more than 22,000 Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs) has challenged the impact of taxation on CFUG funds, which would otherwise be supporting forest conservation, education, livelihoods, microloans, and other activities, as per Nepal's Community Forestry Guidelines (2014). To influence different government units and participate in the broader policy-making process, FECOFUN has worked with government stakeholders at various levels to harmonize the taxation structure into a single, unified tax policy. As a result of FECOFUN's efforts: 1. Nationally, removal of 15% tax on Sal and Khayar species; 2. In Province 1, removal of additional 15% taxes imposed on other species; 3. In Bagmati Province, the provincial government is in continuous discussions with the Federal government, and have formed a committee; 4. The Ministry of Federal Affairs is engaged to remove the 10% tax required by the Local Government Operation Act; 5. Nepal's Finance Minister has committed to drop the 25% income tax in the upcoming Finance Act; and 6. FECOFUN is in discussions with the policy-makers and stakeholders of Province 2, Gandaki Province, Lumbini Province, Karnali Province and Sudurpaschim Province. These provinces are in the process of drafting their Provincial Forest Act, and FECOFUN is campaigning to remove tax provision in those policies.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.08.17 2021.03.31</p> | <p>49,010</p> |
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| <p>AsM Law Office with AMAN INHU & Nagari Institute</p> | <p>Indonesia</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Advocacy in Talang Mamak Indigenous Peoples Cases</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: ensure that 1) Talang Mamak Indigenous Communities, especially Talang Parit, influence legal and human rights mechanisms to protect their rights, namely the renegotiation of the Land Use Permit (HGU) for oil palm plantations on their land in Indonesian Legal System, and 2) Talang Mamak Indigenous Communities, especially Talang Parit, will effectively defend their rights in market mechanisms, especially the RSPO. Activities include: Building the capacity of the Talang Parit to advocate for their rights and socializing, communicating, and refining the struggle for land rights of the Talang Mamak IP; as well as a</p> | <p>This SRM support enabled evidence gathering of abuses, consolidation of the community, preparation of legal documents and facilitation of discussion with local authorities and RSPO. The community has submitted their complaint to the RSPO. Support to the Talang Parit is timely as the extension of the oil palm concession on their land is being negotiated. This is a two-pronged strategy to defend Talang Mamak rights through the RSPO complaints process and the National Land Agency. So far, the capacity of the Talang Parit to advocate for their rights was strengthened, an FPIC process conducted on the options open to Talang Mamak Community to address their conflict with PT Inecda Plantations, and a meeting facilitated for community representatives to meet RSPO in Jakarta. Evidence was gathered through Community based Monitoring and a case filed to the RSPO also SinarMas (as Inecda is its supplier). The support is instrumental to ensure that Talang Mamak community gained confidence to proceed with an RSPO complaint against the PT Inecda palm oil plantation. AsM is also facilitating the community's complaint against the extension of the concession to the company with the Regional Office of Land Agency (BPN) in Riau Province. In anticipation of criminalization of the community in response to their RSPO complaint, a lawyer has been appointed to provide legal protection and the media will be mobilized.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.07.03 2021.02.28</p> | <p>37,827</p> |
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| | | two-pronged advocacy strategy through RSPO complaints process and National Land Agency. | | | |
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| CODELT | DRC | <p>TITLE: <i>Finalization of Operational Guide for Elaboration of the Simple Management Plan of Forest Concessions in DRC</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: The objective of the project is to scale-up community forestry by finalizing an Operational Guide for the elaboration of simple management plans for the forest concessions of communities.</p> | <p>The Operational Guide for the elaboration of Simple Management Plans needed for the process of application, granting, and management/exploitation of Local Community Forest Concessions (CFCL) in DRC was finalized and transmitted to the Minister of Environment. The guide is now signed into Law. The Minister of Environment personally attended the national validation meeting. To date, 75 community forest concessions are already granted covering around 1.2 M ha of forestlands, but none are yet effectively exploited by communities because of the lack of Simple Management Plans (SMPs). These SMPs are complex to elaborate and the Operational Guide will guide communities in their elaboration.</p> <p>This success also paves the way for the TF project launched in DRC in Sept 2020, and others. The TF project will help secure 300,000 ha of community forestlands by 2023. And the Operational Guide is a key tool for the successful implementation.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.05.25 2020.08.30</p> | 21,402 |
| Dynamique des Groupes des Peuples Autochtones " (DGPA) | DRC | <p>TITLE: <i>Urgent Advocacy for the Passage of the Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in DRC</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: advocate for the definition and implementation of a legal framework of reference focused on</p> | <p>The advocacy campaign in 2020, contributed to the DRC National Parliament approving the bill on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. Among other provisions, the Bill recognizes and secure the customary land rights of Pygmies, including their rights to Free Prior Informed Consent and to participate in the country political life. The Bill will be sent to the Senate for a second review — and will be, later on, submitted to the President to sign it into Law. It is a great victory for IP communities</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.07.20 2020.12.30</p> | 30,000 |

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| | | the promotion and protection of IPs' rights in the DRC to ensure environmental and socio-economic justice and legal equity in their favor and to secure and protect their ancestral lands and territories. | considering their vulnerability and the discrimination they face in the country. | | |
| Biakwan Light, a Community-Based Organization in Boki LGA, Cross River State, Nigeria | Nigeria | <p>TITLE: <i>Emergency Support for Court Cases Against Cross River State Commissioner of Works over the sale of 2000 ha. Biakwan Community Conserved Forest</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: provide emergency support for court cases against Cross River State Commissioner of Works over the sale of 2,000 hectares of Biakwan Community Conserved Forest in Bokie LGA, Cross River State.</p> | To date, the legal case has been filed with the Federal High Court of Nigeria on September 15 th and three appearances have been made. Four communities, Biakwan, Biajua, Buanchor, and Olom have been engaged by the NGO <i>Coalition for Environment</i> to raise awareness on rights of forest-dependent communities and to assist registering them as community-based organizations. The court case has been dropped after the Cross River State Commissioner withdrew his claim over the community conserved forest. | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.08.01 2020.12.27</p> | 9,979 |

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| Liberia Reform Movement (LRM) | Liberia | <p>TITLE: <i>CSO Working Group Rapid Assessment in River Gee and Maryland Counties' Violation of Customary Land Claims</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: undertake a fact-finding mission to verify the complaints, work along with LLA to address the problems, conduct mini workshops on legal protection for communities, and use the findings to inform policy making and advocacy.</p> | <p>The joint fact-finding mission with Liberia Land Authority (LLA) and the CSO Working Group on Land was conducted by consulting with district officials, country officials, illicit miners, traditional leaders, and communities from River Gee and Maryland communities. A report with recommendations was then produced and submitted to Senate and House chairs on land which led to government action in dispatching a task force to remove illicit miners across the two counties. Additionally, the joint mission improved the relationship between LLA and the CSO Working Group on Land, allowing for further future collaboration regarding land conflict and Land Rights Act regulations. The activities have also created a precedent for a monitoring and intervention strategy for customary land based on field recommendations.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED 2020.07.17 2020.10.01</p> | 8,185 |
| KVCO Kerio Valley Community Organization | Kenya | <p>TITLE: <i>Oil Exploration Dispute Mediation</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: The long-term goal is to establish a meaningful relationship between Delonex and Tullow Oil (the oil companies operating in the Kerio Valley) and the local communities, in order to allow the parties to avoid conflict,</p> | <p>A Steering Committee meeting was held to draft key strategies and priorities. The outcomes of the steering committee meeting included a mediation strategy document which indicates a work plan for community engagement, a community pamphlet about oil and gas, and a memorandum of understanding for engagement. KVCO also conducted five community engagement meetings to raise awareness about the CAO mediation process and hold consultations about the MOU for the mediation. The meetings ended up with all the community members supporting the MOU and KVCO's mandate to proceed with negotiations with elected community representatives acting as observers to the process. Ten community representatives were democratically elected.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED 2020.09.01 2020.12.15</p> | 9,911 |

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| | | environmental problems, destruction of community resources, resolve past grievances and to create a working relationship going forward. | The next steps are to finalize on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Delonex and possibly Tullow, and proceeding into the mediation sessions/meetings overseen by the CAO. | | |
| ANT | Colombia | <p>TITLE: <i>Strategy to Advance the Analysis of Gaps and Needs to Adjust Regulatory Frameworks for Access and Legal Security of the Indigenous Territories of Colombia</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: Support to Land Agency Legal capacity to ensure Collective Legal Actions on the implementation of Constitutional and Legal Rights of Indigenous Peoples to their land and territories. Colombia's National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2020 is approved by a national consultation process.</p> | With this SRM, RRI helped form the technical-legal team, which has established a coordination system to carry out the normative and procedural review in collaboration with SIT-CNTI, the ANT, and RRI along with an agreed-upon work plan. The legal team is currently carrying out the normative review process, which will be concluded in March 2021 and because of the normative review, will provide critical recommendations to be implemented by the Colombian government to resolve the bottlenecks to the administrative procedures for the formalization of collective property, the protection of ancestral territories, and the legal security of Indigenous territories. | <p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>2020.10.05 2021.05.31</p> | 21,597 |

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| <p>ISA and Collaborators APIB and COIAB</p> | <p>Brazil</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Strengthening Indigenous Advocacy to Counteract Rollback of Rights in Brazil</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: civil society and Indigenous organizations develop legal and technical arguments to carry out advocacy actions to demand the rejection of PL 191/2020 (seeking to allow commercial mining, hydroelectric dams, and the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in Indigenous territories) from Congress; and ensure that the proposals of IPs are considered in decision-making in Congress.</p> | <p>This SRM is supporting a concerted strategy to pressure the government to revoke the bill and prove its unconstitutionality due to its impacts on the fundamental rights of IPs to their territories, their self-determination rights, and their control over their traditional seeds and food production system. RRI is providing key added value to this process by supporting ISA's preparation of a legal-technical analysis with Indigenous leaders, which it is using to directly engage members of the congress and prepare arguments for the congressional review. ISA will also disseminate the demands of the leaders through an advocacy and communications campaign to influence public opinion and put additional pressure on the congress to revoke the bill. Congress' review of the bill and the implementation of the project were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and is now expected to be completed in March 2021. ISA has initiated discussions with Indigenous leaders to establish a consensus on their demands and the messaging of the communications campaign. In addition, they have defined key issues, technical arguments, and advanced in systematizing the experiences of IPs with mining projects in other countries to build a comprehensive analysis to defend Brazilian IPs against the passage of this bill.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.09.17 2021.03.31</p> | <p>29,893</p> |
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| <p>ASO-CIT (Association of Arhuaco Authorities of the Sierra Nevada) in collaboration with CNTI (National Commission of Indigenous Territories) in alliance with 12 Indigenous and civil society organizations and the government's own Attorney General and Ombudsman</p> | <p>Colombia</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Support for Collective Legal Actions on the implementation of Constitutional and Legal Rights of Indigenous Peoples to their land and territories</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: advance towards the declaration of the "Unconstitutional Status of IPs' Territorial Rights" by the Colombian Constitutional Court, thus ordering the National Government to create policies to resolve the historical claims and demands on Indigenous territorial rights; and consolidate the technical-legal arguments for the defense and monitoring of legal actions filed in the Superior Court of the District of Bogotá that contain 69 Indigenous territorial claims.</p> | <p>26 legal actions were filed at once before the Superior Court of the District of Bogotá against the ANT to resolve 69 outstanding land titling claims with the goal for the cases to reach the Colombian Constitutional Court to prove the government's lack of compliance with the mandates of the Constitution so that the Constitutional Court could then rule the "Unconstitutional Status of Indigenous Peoples Territorial Rights." Under this ruling, the Constitutional Court would compel the national government and the ANT to take urgent measures to resolve the outstanding titling claims. Out of the 26 legal actions, 10 had favorable rulings, which include processing the requests for expanding 7 existing Indigenous territories and formally recognizing the establishment of 6 territories. Despite having unfavorable rulings, 2 cases provided enough pressure on the ANT for it to agree to proceed with the formalization of the involved territories. Of the 10 favorable rulings, 2 cases were selected by the Colombian Constitutional Court for further review, providing the critical opportunity to reach a ruling of the "Unconstitutional Status of Indigenous Peoples Territorial Rights."</p> <p>CNTI also filed a case against the Ministry of Interior, which manages the FPIC in Colombia. The Ministry issued a decree allowing the use of technological tools (Zoom—Microsoft Teams, and others) to implement FPIC with Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities during the COVID-19 crisis, despite the lack of internet access for many IPs across the country. The legal case includes the request for a "total prohibition of any prior consultation process via online in the present or in the future." With</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.04.01 2020.11.30</p> | <p>49,950</p> |
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| | | | <p>the timely and strategic action of the CNTI and the support of other IP organizations and the Attorney General, the Decree was withdrawn.</p> | | |
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| <p>CADPI (Center for the Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples)</p> | <p>Nicaragua</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Securing Collective Tenure Rights of Four Indigenous Territories in the Autonomous Region of Nicaragua</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: strengthening the governance and territorial protection of the Indigenous territories of Mayagna Sauni As, Wangki Twi Tasba Raya, Wangki Li Aubra, Prinsu Awala Kum, on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua by developing internal norms of the governance system, territorial planning, and communal property; through a process of community participation, dialogue, and negotiation.</p> | <p>Through this SRM, RRI is providing critical added value to Indigenous territorial security in Nicaragua by enabling the local Indigenous authorities to consolidate their norms for territorial governance systems and collective property and negotiate with non-Indigenous actors in their territories, which are two critical processes and conditions that will enable them to finalize the “saneamiento” process. The Indigenous authorities have worked in coordination in a series of regular meetings with the members of the Interinstitutional Commission integrated by the national military and police forces, the Attorney General, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Secretary of Development of the Caribbean coast region, and the regional government to consolidate the saneamiento process and enforce agreements with third parties that occupy the Indigenous territories. The activity concluded in 2021. At the time of reporting, in December 2020, CADPI facilitated the completion of four draft territorial governance norms through community consultations and the support of a legal team. They also secured additional resources from the regional government and local municipalities to expand the legal team and the community consultation process. Finally, CADPI implemented a complementary communications strategy to inform Indigenous communities on this process through radio broadcasts in culturally appropriate languages, a documentary, brochures, transmission of meetings with the regional government, and local television.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.05.22 2021.03.31</p> | <p>49,601</p> |
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| Hileros/PCN (Consultant) | Colombia | TITLE: <i>Baru legal defense (to avoid rollback of previous actions financed through a previous SRM)</i> | <p>The goal to restore the collective titling process that was abruptly canceled by the National Land Agency, ANT, in April 2019 was achieved. The RRI coalition composed by Baru Community Council, OTEC-Javeriana University, Attorney General, PCN, and its leader and lawyer Silvio Garces (the leading creator of Law 70 of 1993 for the collective rights of Afro-descendant Peoples in Colombia) Dejusticia and the close support of RRG staff, coordinated and embarked in a legal battle against the decision of the ANT, part of which was financed by this SRM.</p> <p>Titling of the Baru community is essential to continue as this is an emblematic case for the collective rights of Afro-descendant Peoples in Colombia. The Baru people inhabited the island since 1590 when runaway slaves created the first free territory or Palenque. Consolidating this case was essential for RRI to continue in the fight to pursue the collective titling of Afro-descendant Peoples in the Caribbean region of Colombia.</p> | CONCLUDED 2020.03.24 2020.08.31 | 4,500 |
| TOTAL CONTRACTED | | | | | 394,277 |

STATUS OF 2020 COVID-19 RESPONSE PROGRAM (C-19RP)

| Proponents | Country/ies Impacted | Objectives and Activities | Evidence of Achievement to Date | STATUS/ Activity Dates | Budget US\$ |
|---|----------------------|---|--|--|------------------------|
| ONIC National Indigenous Organization of Colombia | Colombia | <p>TITLE: <i>Contingency Plan for Monitoring, Containment, and Isolation of Indigenous Peoples in Response to the Current Health Emergency</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: strengthen the development of the contingency plan for the containment and isolation of Indigenous Peoples of Colombia in response to the current health emergency</p> | <p>This SRM enabled ONIC to fill critical gaps left by the Colombian government to communicate COVID-19 preventative information to IP communities and enable better understanding of the spread of the virus in Indigenous populations. This SRM also facilitated the creation of ONIC's Territorial Monitoring System (SMT), which systematizes real-time data collected from ONIC's 50 grassroots organizations based on the spread of the virus in their communities. ONIC used the information collected to generate biweekly bulletins with analyses on the spread of the virus including information on which communities were at the highest risk of infection. ONIC disseminated this information across numerous communications mediums in culturally appropriate formats including radio broadcasts in Indigenous languages, videos, social media, and the press to inform communities on</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.05.20 2020.12.31</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> |

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| | | | <p>preventative actions they can take. ONIC’s information has reached broad audiences, including over 370 international news outlets, over 383 regional outlets, and over 1200 at the national level. RRI contributed critical added value to supporting ONIC’s Indigenous response to the virus across Colombia, which is having a major impact in ensuring community survival through the pandemic while also defending their territorial rights. Meanwhile RRI helped position ONIC as a key interlocutor to communicate the impacts of the virus through the production of real-time data, setting a key example for other Indigenous organizations to track the spread of the virus. This resulted in ONIC bringing greater visibility to the structural inequities in Colombia’s response to the pandemic, which has facilitated advocacy and dialogue and information sharing with the national and regional governments to prompt and guide them in the attention to Indigenous communities.</p> | | |
| <p>PCN/HILER OS Process of Colombian Black</p> | <p>Colombia</p> | <p>TITLE: Connectivity, communication, and data management strategy to respond to the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic</p> | <p>This SRM enabled PCN to fill critical gaps left by the Colombian government to communicate COVID-19 preventative information to communities and better</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.05.22</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> |

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| <p>Communitie s</p> | | <p>OBJECTIVE: strengthen the capacity of the PCN, to respond to the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the implementation of a connectivity, communication, and data management strategy at the national level</p> | <p>understand the spread of the virus in Afro-descendant (AD) populations. RRI's facilitated the creation of a database with disaggregated information by gender and age group on the spread of C-19 in AD communities which is based upon real-time data collected from PCN's 115 grassroots organizations. PCN used the information collected to generate analyses on the spread of the virus including information on the unique challenges faced by Afro-descendant communities because of the pandemic, such as increases in violence against community members from extractive industries and gender-based violence. The analyses also included community-based responses to the pandemic including strengthening territorial governance systems and use of traditional medicine. PCN disseminated this information across different communications media in culturally appropriate formats through their social media and the press. A press conference to inform communities, was also directed towards national authorities and regional governments, and included participation from the Ministry of Health and other</p> | <p>2020.12. 31</p> | |
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| | | | <p>government representatives and was a key advocacy action bringing greater visibility to the structural inequities in Colombia’s response to the pandemic to prompt and guide them in the attention to AD communities. RRI contributed critical added value to supporting PCN’s AD response to the virus across Colombia, which is having a major impact in ensuring community survival through the pandemic while also defending their territorial rights. Meanwhile RRI helped position PCN as a key interlocutor to communicate the impacts of the virus through the production of real-time data.</p> | | |
| <p>COICA Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon basin</p> | <p>LA Regional/(9 countries members of COICA)</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Communication Strategy for the Amazonian Emergency</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: COICA strengthens its capacities as a coordinating body for Indigenous organizations in the Amazon for emergency situations.</p> | <p>This SRM, which is enabling COICA to fill critical gaps left by governments across the region to communicate COVID-19 preventative information to communities and better understand the spread of the virus in Indigenous populations. The pandemic’s impact on the staff of COICA’s organization has significantly delayed the implementation of the project. Many of COICA’s leaders have contracted the virus, with some tragically losing their lives.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.06.18 2021.03.31</p> | <p>\$30,000</p> |

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| | | | <p>The project is now expected to conclude in March 2021. So far, RRI's action has strengthened coordination of COICA's organizational leadership through establishing a separate operational arm of COICA known as the Amazonian Emergency Operations Committee, which is responsible for promoting and maintaining coordinated Indigenous emergency response management across COICA's 9 countries and informing advocacy efforts for government action. COICA has also initiated the development of a regional online platform for monitoring the spread of the virus in Indigenous communities with real-time information provided by COICA's 9 national level organizations. The analyses generated by the platform will then be used to inform capacity-building activities for Indigenous leaders' decision-making for their communities, advocacy actions, as well as a communications strategy across COICA's 9 countries in culturally appropriate formats.</p> | | |
| <p>AIDSESP Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo</p> | Peru | <p>TITLE: <i>Development and Implementation of a Georeferenced Health Alert System for Peruvian Indigenous Peoples</i></p> | <p>Through this SRM, AIDSESP developed a COVID monitoring system that is integrated into their existing online territorial early-warning platform,</p> | <p>CONCLUDED 2020.08.27</p> | <p>\$25,400</p> |

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| de la Selva Peruana | | OBJECTIVE: generate data on the Indigenous populations affected by COVID -19, with information provided by AIDSESEP's base organizations, that fills the information gap about the pandemic for Amazonian IPs in Peru. | which uses data provided by AIDSESEP's federations. The information in the platform is used to generate preventative information for IP communities and the Ministry of Culture has committed to use the data they have collected because of the project. Therefore, AIDSESEP is filling a critical gap left by the government by generating their own real-time information on the spread of the disease in Indigenous communities. | 2020.12.31 | |
| AMPB Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests | Regional — Mesoamerica | TITLE: <i>Strengthening the Response Capacities of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Mesoamerica.</i> | This SRM began in December 2020. Expected results of the activity to be reported in 2021 include: Result 1: Communities' capacities to respond effectively to the potential threats of the pandemic are strengthened based on the appropriate contexts of their territories; establishing dialogue and coordination with national public health authorities. Result 2: Communities are properly informed through culturally appropriate communications and information dissemination actions in native language based on the realities of their territories; contributing to their response to the health emergency. | IN PROGRESS 2020.12.16 2021.08.01 | \$30,000 |

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| <p>SESDev: Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development (Liberia)</p> | <p>Liberia</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Providing technical support to local communities in the midst of COVID-19</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: leverage the opportunity of COVID-19 response to communities to provide technical advisory support that communities critically need during this pandemic, which otherwise would have been difficult to deliver due to restrictions on movement and social gatherings in Liberia.</p> | <p>There has been awareness-raising in Sinoe and Lofa counties through dissemination of COVID-19 prevention posters. There has also been continuous community monitoring of threats to customary land in all 40 communities in 4 counties. SESDev has provided technical assistance to communities witnessing violations of their customary land rights largely due to activities by extractive industries and now has a database to continue to monitor the situations.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.07.01 2020.11.30</p> | <p>\$29,950</p> |
| <p>CADD (Centre d'Appui pour le Développement Durable)</p> | <p>CAR</p> | <p>TITLE: Action plan to combat COVID-19 in the community forests of Lomba and Mbunza-Boffi in the Central African Republic</p> <p>OBJECTIVE: provide information and essential materials to the local and Indigenous communities of Lomba and Mbunza-Boffi to enable them to prevent or curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and to be resilient in the face of the socio-economic crisis.</p> | <p>CADD raised public awareness of coronavirus and means of prevention in 14 villages. Additionally, they provided agricultural equipment and inputs to increase local food production. An agricultural engineer supported communities improve yields and food security by providing training and assisting with crop calendars and established a list of training needs.</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.07.01 2020.12.15</p> | <p>\$29,471</p> |
| <p>REFACOF (The African Women's Network for Community)</p> | <p>Cameroon</p> | <p>TITLE: Project to Combat Coronavirus in Rural Communities of the Littoral and Central Regions of Cameroon</p> | <p>Fifteen villages and over 600 people received awareness training on covid-19 prevention through community sensitization, posted</p> | <p>CONCLUDED</p> <p>2020.07.01</p> | <p>\$29,963</p> |

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| Management of Forests) | | OBJECTIVE: help rural communities fight the coronavirus pandemic in the Littoral and Central Regions of Cameroon. | materials, and radio broadcasts. A survey was conducted in the villages that demonstrated that most communities do not believe that the COVID-19 pandemic could cause them to fall ill. REFACOF produced an advocacy document for local authorities for better health systems in rural areas as well as continued COVID-19 education and funding by municipal authorities. | 2021.02.11 | |
| CRI collaborating with CAGDFT (Center for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests) and with communities and local authorities | DRC | TITLE: Support of local communities in combating COVID-19 and strengthening their livelihoods in Bulungu territory OBJECTIVE: support local communities to build their resilience in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, support the livelihoods of local communities through capacity building on sustainable production techniques in Kwilu Province, Bulungu territory and Kingwaya village, and support local communities in Kingwaya to organize themselves through a CFCL management body. | The awareness-raising meetings with opinion leaders and community radio stations were effective. CRI organized 7 limited sensitization meetings with the territorial entities of health, environment, agriculture, and heads of villages in Mbanza and Mbonga Kakesa. CRI also held 8 trainings on agricultural techniques with women, men, and young people in the province of Bulungu, and 85% of the participants were women, 10% men, and 5% young people. CRI additionally drafted a ministerial decree for permission to distribute community lands and supported local communities of Kingwaya to be structured into CFCL management bodies. With support from a 2019 SRM, the same community set | CONCLUDED 2020.07.20 2020.11.15 | \$29,000 |

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| | | | up a CFCL, but this activity ensured that management bodies made the CFCL functional and sustainable in the long term. | | |
| CIEDD Centre pour l'Information Environnementale et le Développement Durable | CAR | TITLE: <i>Support for local communities and Indigenous populations in Southwestern CAR in the fight against COVID-19</i> | <p>Update on progress will be reported in 2021 as contract began December 1, 2020.</p> <p>Expected results include: Result 1: Educate 500 households from Moboma and Gouga municipalities about the COVID-19 pandemic, its symptoms, manifestations, and preventative measures. Result 2: Distribute seeds of corn and peanuts to 500 households to meet their own food security needs and to trade at local markets. Result 3: Draft an advocacy note that highlights community rights in the national pandemic response plan and submit to national authorities including the National Committee to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p> | IN PROGRESS 2020.12.01 | \$26,429 |
| KPA Consortium for Agrarian Reform | Indonesia | TITLE: Ensure Food Sovereignty and Tenure Security through Community-to-Community Solidarity Economies and Supply Chains in the context of COVID-19 Crisis OBJECTIVE: support long- | In a novel experiment forced by the COVID crisis, KPA leveraged this SRM and other support to create solidarity between rural communities and urban labor communities through a community-to-community supply chain. This process leveraged | CONCLUDED 2020.07.01 2020.12.31 | \$30,000 |

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| | | <p>term food sovereignty and Tenure Security by building alternate rural community— urban community supply chain and solidarity during COVID crisis and beyond.</p> | <p>collective actions and coordination to ensure that rural communities were able to donate or sell at agricultural products directly to urban labor who have been hit hard by the pandemic and were facing food shortage. The strategic collaboration created through this process was leveraged for strengthening the strategic coalition between agrarian, labor, environmental and student movements to counter the detrimental Omnibus Law for job Creation. This was combined with COVID awareness campaign, health protocols and rural food storage systems, and the mobilization was also used to carry out campaign in favor of resilient IPLC rights-based food production and seeking to influence government response to food crisis through issuance of Joint Manifesto for genuine agrarian reform.</p> | | |
| <p>FECOFUN Federation of community Forestry Users Nepal</p> | <p>Nepal</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Immediate Response Activities in response to COVID-19 Pandemic</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: respond to the COVID crisis through advocacy and awareness raising to safeguard local communities and IPs.</p> | <p>The COVID response draft plan has been prepared and shared with the selected local governments and community forestry users’ groups. This work builds on much of FECOFUN’s already existing work, through own funds, which has included: Allocating</p> | <p>CONCLUDED 2020.07.01 2020.12.31</p> | <p>\$29,622</p> |

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| | | | community houses and buildings for COVID self-isolation (1411 buildings); Video conferences and online meetings both internally and with external actors like the government, human rights commission, NRM based institutions, etc.; Awareness raising through radio, TV, SMS message, etc. reaching about 5 million people. | | |
| GFN— Green Foundation Nepal | Nepal | <p>TITLE: <i>Forest-based livelihood generation to build post-COVID resilience</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: combat COVID 19 pandemic crises through support to forest communities through forest-based enterprises, policy advocacy and awareness campaign, with an overarching focus on migrant returnees, and local and Indigenous women and youth.</p> <p>This project leverages GFN’s community forest enterprise experience in response to COVID-19 through the formulation of Employment Plans with five local municipalities; training and capacity building with selected community forestry user groups; and COVID awareness raising.</p> | To date, GFN has commitment from 5 municipalities—four in Lumbini province and one in Karnali Province. Plans will be drafted by end 2020. While the project was more focused initially on migrant returnees, they have a higher incidence of COVID-19 so Indigenous communities and women will be a greater focus. Awareness program is also underway through radio, local TV, and newspapers. This project will continue through 2021. | IN PROGRES S 2020.09. 01 2021.07. 31 | \$29,64 1 |

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| <p>Vasundhara National facilitator of community forest rights recognition processes</p> | <p>India</p> | <p>TITLE: <i>Supporting community forest rights in response to COVID-19 in India</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE: ensure support for recognition of community forest resource rights to secure livelihoods of forest communities in response to economic distress caused by COVID 19. Activities include research on COVID and forest rights issues, including assessment of the impact of COVID and lockdown on tribal communities and analysis of policies affecting rights and livelihoods of tribal communities during COVID; and advocacy and engagement with governments including information dissemination and media campaigns and engagement with the ministries and governments.</p> | <p>This COVID SRM supports a campaign using data collection and analysis which led to the Government lifting restriction on forest product collection and marketing and enhancement/fixation of minimum support price for forest products. #Covidandforestrights trended in India and was covered in nearly 60 media publications, including TV. Grassroots data collection and analysis have already been shared in five Forest Rights and COVID Bulletins, which received both media attention and interest from policy- makers.</p> | <p>CONCLU DED</p> <p>2020.07. 01 2021.02. 28</p> | <p>\$11,86 1</p> |
| <p>TOTAL CONTRACTED</p> | | | | | <p>\$391,3 37</p> |

About the Rights and Resources Initiative

The Rights and Resources Initiative is a global Coalition of 21 Partners and more than 150 rightsholders organizations and their allies dedicated to advancing the forestland and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, local communities, and the 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 their rights and self-determined development. 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, D.C. For more information, please visit www.rightsandresources.org.

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