



The Rights and Resources Initiative – Quarterly E-mail Update
April - June 2011

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It has been an active last few months for RRI – full of important events demonstrating why we created RRI 5 years ago and the emerging challenges that we face – including the International Conference on [Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise](#), which helped local leaders catalyze a major shift in direction for government policy in Indonesia. This event was a powerful example of our coalition's ability to listen to and support local initiatives, and then to convene, connect, and communicate their ideas and plans to advance tenure reforms. During the second day of the conference, the head of the Indonesian President's Special Delivery Unit, Pak Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, announced the government's intention to prioritize the needs of forest communities and to "recognize, respect and protect *adat* [customary laws and practices of the indigenous peoples of Indonesia] rights," implementing legislation that has been on the books for ten years. The Ministry of Forestry also agreed to meet with AMAN (*Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara*), the largest alliance of indigenous peoples in Indonesia, and other civil society groups beginning this month to develop a plan to implement this new vision.

In describing Indonesia's century-long struggle over land rights, Pak Kuntoro said, "These conflicts are the result of an accumulation of past mistakes. We cannot let fear of making another mistake from preventing us from taking bold steps forward. Given the momentous task at hand, it will not be easy, but we have to start somewhere." This important declaration is a testament to the long and focused efforts of indigenous, community and civil society organizations including AMAN, HuMa (the Association for Community and Ecologically Based Law Reform), Epistema Institute, Kemitraan Partnership, and FKKM (*Forum Komunikasi Kehutanan Masyarakat*), supportive government leaders from the Ministry of Forestry, and RRI Partners active in Indonesia including Samdhana, Tebtebba, ICRAF, FPP, and RECOFTC, as well as Partners, Collaborators, leaders from MegaFlorestais and other RRI affiliates who came from around the world to play key roles in the conference.

In addition to the conference in Indonesia, the last quarter saw RRI engage with several government agencies in the US, Sweden and Norway, as well as the World Bank on streamlining land tenure in its programming, organize regional participatory mapping conferences in Colombia and Cameroon, and launch tenure awareness campaigns in Nepal.

Over the last few months RRI has also been continuing its "Rethink and Renew" process – the series of activities RRI is undertaking this year to help us assess where we've been, what we've done and learned, and how we should proceed in the coming 3-5 years. In May and June, RRI hosted two 'Blue Skies' exercises, bringing leading thinkers from outside our normal universe to discuss the key forces they see shaping the world between now and 2030. These discussions have already revealed that though the scale of pressure on forests and peoples from agriculture, mining, and infrastructure is increasing dramatically, so is the interest and openness for reforms by some governments and private investors. This input will be combined with what we are learning from our own programs via our annual monitoring and evaluation, as well as the formal Mid-term Evaluation which will be completed by the end of September. All of this will feed into a set of deliberations between Partners at the end of the year as we chart our program for the next phase of our work.

What has taken place in Indonesia shows us the scale and impact of our combined efforts and the Blue Skies meetings are telling us that both the need and demand for all of our work is growing. I look forward

to your input over the coming months on what RRI has done in the past and how we can all improve and extend our work together in the future.

Andy
Coordinator, RRI

P.S. Click [here](#) for links to the suite of new research RRI released at the conference in Indonesia.

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RRI is supporting the International Land Coalition [Land Portal](#). Visit the [Forest Theme Portal](#) today.

Global-Level Strategic Analysis and Action

- RRI provided international context to the Montana chapter of the Society of American Foresters at the annual "**Global Trends in Forest Ownership and Governance**" meeting on April 14 to help inform their global perspective to better understand current domestic trends in forestry. Contact [Claire Biason](#).
- RRI provided recommendations for ensuring that REDD has a positive impact at the Annual **World Bank** Conference on Land & Poverty in Washington DC on April 18-20. RRI urged policymakers to focus on undoing government incentives that encourage large-scale deforestation and to help build a strong government commitment to support forest landscape restoration. Contact [Jeffrey Hatcher](#).
- RRI urged external investors to get involved and contribute to poverty alleviation, agriculture-led development, and economic growth at the Roundtable Discussion on Land Access and Responsible Agribusiness Investment organized by **USAID** and the **Millennium Challenge Corporation** on April 21. Contact [Jeffrey Hatcher](#).
- RRI presented and facilitated group discussions at the first annual International Seminar on Climate Change and Natural Resources Management organized by the **U.S. Forest Service International Programs** (USFS IP) on May 11 to increase the 23 international participants' awareness of the status of forest ownership and the involvement of communities. Contact [Claire Biason](#).
- RRI and Chatham House co-organized the **1st Blue Skies Meeting** on "*Resources, Rights, and Development in a Changing World*" on May 3-4 in London, UK. This high-level meeting discussed trends shaping land use and natural resource governance to 2030 in order to explore the implications of these forces on rights and development in rural and forest areas of the developing world and think about strategies, policies and frameworks for the future. Contact [Jenna DiPaolo](#).
- RRI welcomed two new independent Board members, Jean Aden (formerly of OPIC) and James Murombedzi (UNEP/UNDP) at the May 5 Board meeting in London. Jean currently resides in Washington, DC and James in Liberia. The Board also approved [CED](#) as a new RRI Coalition Partner. Contact [Jenna DiPaolo](#).
- RRI, the **Latin American Studies Institute of the University of Texas** and the **University of the Andes** organized a **Forum on Participatory Mapping in Latin America**, entitled "*Participatory Cartography and Rights to Territory and Resources*" in Bogota, Colombia on June 1-3. This meeting gathered 80 people from all over Latin America, as well as a few participants from Asia and Africa. Participants analyzed the role of participatory mapping as a political process within a larger struggle and strategies for local communities to gain tenure rights over land and resources. Contact [Deborah Barry](#).

- RRI presented the outcomes of the 1st Blue Skies Meeting in London and discussed how various mega-trends may affect the green sector to the **Royal Swedish Academy of Forestry and Agriculture's (KSLA) Committee on International Forest Issues** and the **Secretariat for International Forest Issues** at a one-day seminar titled "*Global trends – implications on the development and use of natural resources*" at KSLA on June 8. International participants explained how they perceive these new trends and how their countries/regions are affected by them. Contact [Claire Biason](#).
- Participants at RRI's "***New Ideas to Scale-Up Investments to Reduce Deforestation, Increase Restoration, Energy and Employment***" in Washington DC on June 17 developed a preliminary set of promising ideas to scale-up public and private investment in sustainable forest, agricultural and energy production in the forest areas of developing countries that advance the goals of REDD, as well as strengthen the rights and livelihoods of rural people. Contact [Jeffrey Hatcher](#).
- An RRI-facilitated panel reached the following conclusions at the Oslo REDD exchange organized by **Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI)** and the **Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)** on June 23 and 24: 1) The tremendous experimentation and innovation unleashed by REDD is to be welcomed but with the full knowledge that there should be no experimentation with the rights of the people, and 2) Performance based payment systems are good but should also be linked to the performance on implementation of safeguards. Contact [Jeffrey Hatcher](#).

Country and Regional-Level Analysis and Action

Asia

- **FECOFUN** launched a social campaign during the week of April 28-May 4 against the corruption in the natural resources sector (specifically in relation to forests), demanding immediate government action against known corruption. Contact [Bharati Pathak](#) or [Tulashi Adhikari](#).
- **FECOFUN, COFSUN, NEFIN**, district community forestry representatives and Nepali media, launched an awareness campaign and fact-finding study to mobilize local communities against the Guarishankar Conservation Area Declaration and associated GCA Management Regulation at the Guarishankar Conservation Area. Contact [Bharati Pathak](#) or [Tulashi Adhikari](#).
- NRM Confederation member organizations, including **FECOFUN** and RRI Collaborators **HIMAWANTI** and **COFSUN**, shared experiences and opportunities for cross-collaboration on program implementation, including development of a strategic plan for FECOFUN and establishment of a widespread database system to enable better communication between local, district and national member groups. Contact [Bharati Pathak](#) or [Tulashi Adhikari](#).
- In India, the **Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD)** held a National Consultation on Land Grab Issues from June 11-12, highlighting a cross-section of issues ranging from mining and infrastructure development, to the implementation of India's 2006 Forest Rights Act, as presented in an RRI-supported study. The study demonstrated clear linkages between community lands and local livelihoods, and concluded that appropriate safeguards are needed to prevent government transfer of these lands to industrial interests. Contact [Viren Lobo](#).

Africa

- The "***Participatory Mapping and Macro-Zoning in DRC***" workshop in Kinshasa on April 27-28 (co-organized by RRI and **Réseau Ressources Naturelles**) gathered representatives from the government, civil society and the private sector, as well as forest tenure analysts from other

African countries to agree upon a final declaration and discuss various tenure models. View [more information](#). Contact [Claire Biason](#).

- In Mali, **ICRAF** organized a workshop focused on local tools and examples for advocacy and the promotion of local conventions in natural resource management with other Sahelian countries. The workshop served as a platform for sharing experiences among countries, and participants developed a guide on steps for developing local conventions and implementation processes. These tools will be used in calling upon the High Council of Collectives and the Unit to Support Deconcentration and Decentralization to develop regulations on transfer of authority to communities and decentralization. Contact [Antoine Kalinganire](#).
- In Cameroon, key stakeholders validated a legal position paper produced by the members of parliament on land/forest rights and tenure of local communities and indigenous peoples with the intent for the position to be adopted into legal texts. This high level workshop organized by ICRAF produced enhanced synergy among coalition members, policy makers and communities towards pushing local and indigenous community rights, and women's tenure rights, with a clear position paper to advocate for local community claims and indigenous people's historic rights, as well as women's tenure rights in Cameroon. Contact [Serge Ngendakumana](#).
- **Cameroon Ecology** held a national workshop on participatory mapping, attended by about 50 participants from the central and regional administration of targeted ministries, mayors, representatives of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. The maps shed light on land occupancy, use, conflicts, rights and use of forest resources by local communities and IPs in the main forested areas in Cameroon, with the focus on forest lands claimed as State property, including forest reserves and national parks. The workshop produced key recommendations to be developed into a road map for the Ministry of Forests to use in implementing its new national land planning law as well as the key technical administrations in their different land use programs. Contact [Cécile Ndjebet](#).

Latin America

- On May 26-27, the ***Second Workshop on Climate Change, Financial Mechanisms for Emissions Reductions, and the Role of Communities*** in Bogotá, Colombia heightened the understanding of the impacts of national REDD plans in Colombia on afro-descendent and indigenous communities, as well as provided space for these communities to influence REDD processes in the country. This event brought together an established group of Afro-descendant and indigenous leaders, mainly from the Pacific coast, to meet with government representatives about the progress of Colombia's R-PP submission to the FCPF. Afro-descendant communities in Colombia were able to form links with **COICA**, and they plan to share international spaces for advocating for community rights in REDD at the international level. View [more information en español](#). Contact [Omaira Bolaños](#) or [Margarita Florez](#).
- The final course in the series "***Certification in Territorial Governance: Economic and Territorial Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the Autonomous Regions of Nicaragua***" at the **University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (URACCAN)** has completed with the support of **ACICAFOC**. The 37 participants developed knowledge and skills in governance of territories, including themes on indigenous cosmovision, autonomy, legal frameworks and defense of territorial rights, economic and natural resource governance, and managing territorial dynamics and external investment in territories. Contact [Iliana Monterroso](#) or [Jadder Mendoza](#).

Publications

- **RRI Fellow Owen Lynch** produced an essay which identifies, summarizes and analyzes leading international and national laws and judicial cases recognizing or otherwise supportive of

native/aboriginal title. The study, [Mandating Recognition: International Law and Native/Aboriginal Title](#), establishes that the trend in international law -- as conventionally understood, as well as customary international law, as evinced in the domestic law of a growing number of nation-states -- is moving towards mandating the legal recognition of native/aboriginal title. Contact [Owen Lynch](#).

- Featured in **Transparency International's** recent [Global Corruption Report: Climate Change](#), is a chapter authored by RRG staff members, Jeffrey Hatcher and Luke Bailey. The chapter (6.2), [Governance in the world's tropical forests: Where will REDD+ land?](#), details the potential of REDD+ to improve forest governance through increased funding for governance reforms, greater scrutiny of national forest sectors and the creation of new opportunities for forest communities to claim their rights from central governments. Contact [Jeffrey Hatcher](#).

Recent and Coming Up

11-15 July: Lombok, Indonesia: Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: Experiences and Opportunities for Asia in a Changing Context. Contact [Nayna Jhaveri](#).

25-29 July: Montana, United States: Rethinking Forest Regulations workshop. Contact [Claire Biason](#).

26-28 July: Edéa, Cameroon: Regional workshop on gender, tenure and rights in Africa. Contact [Cécile Ndjebet](#) and [Valérie Couillard](#).

27-28 July: Bamako, Mali: Regional workshop on pastoralism, tenure and climate change in Africa. Contact [Rokia Diarra Konaré](#).

5-9 September: Monrovia, Liberia: 2012 RRI Africa regional planning meeting. For informational on all African country planning meetings please contact [Marina France](#).

7-8 September: The Hague, The Netherlands: Tenth RRI Dialogue on Forests, Rights and Climate Change: Common Approaches to Dealing with the Challenges of Food Security and Climate Change in Forests and Agriculture. Contact [Claire Biason](#).

16 September: Monrovia, Liberia: National stakeholders' workshop on REDD. Contact [Jonathan Yiah](#).

28 September: Washington, D.C., United States: Re-Imagining Conservation Dialogue. Contact [Deborah Barry](#).

10-11 October: Bogor Indonesia: 2012 Asia regional planning meeting. For informational on all Asian country planning meetings please contact [Naomi Basik](#).

12 October: London, United Kingdom: Eleventh RRI Dialogue on Forests, Rights and Climate: Status and Role of Public and Private Finance to Reduce Forest Loss and Degradation. Contact [Claire Biason](#).

17-21 October: Lombok, Indonesia: MegaFlorestais 2011. Contact [Claire Biason](#).

21-22 October: Madison, Wisconsin, United States: Land Tenure and Forest Carbon Management Workshop. Contact [Jeffrey Hatcher](#).

24-28 October: Lima, Peru: 2012 Latin America regional planning meeting. For informational on all Latin American country planning meetings please contact [Rose Davis](#).

8-11 November: Washington, D.C., United States: 2012 RRI Global Programs planning and Board Meeting. Contact [Jenna DiPaolo](#).

17-20 January 2012: Washington, D.C., United States: RRI Governance and Board Meetings. Contact [Jenna DiPaolo](#)

Spotlight

Click [here](#) to view the suite of research presented by RRI at the International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise held in Lombok, Indonesia July 11-15

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<http://www.rightsandresources.org>