



The Rights and Resources Initiative – Quarterly E-mail Update

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1 October 2008

Dear Colleagues,

It is difficult not to be distracted by the flurry of news and events of the past several months: the ongoing climate change dialogues, the financial meltdown in the US, or the very real tragedies such as the floods in Haiti that caused widespread death and destruction. The good news is that there truly is growing awareness of the importance of rights and tenure issues, and RRI Partners and Collaborators have continued to forge ahead. The long list of reports, meetings and media below belie the more important fact that over the last three months RRI Partners and Collaborators have been strategizing and organizing at national levels, building the basis for our coalition to ramp up and provide much more effective support in the coming years. This mobilization alone gives us one more reason for hope.

Best wishes,
Andy White

Coordination and Communication

- In July, **Forest Peoples Programme and Rights and Resources Group (RRG)** held a press conference with DfID in the House of Commons of the UK Parliament, launching the first two global reports from RRI (see below) and resulting in more than 120 articles in news outlets around the world. RRI called for **recognition and strengthening of the rights of forest peoples, at risk from growing demand for food, fuel and fiber and necessary to effectively address climate change.** The meeting was hosted by MP Martin Horwood, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tribal Peoples, and featured discussion from MP Gareth Thomas, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and DfID. [More>>](#)
- Also in July, **CIFOR** conducted two panels on **improving equity and livelihoods in community forestry in Africa, Asia and Latin America** during the conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC). During the panels, researchers shared the results of studies from Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, India, Nepal, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Ghana. [More >>](#)
- At the IASC conference, **RECOFTC** and **RRG** held a policy forum on forest tenure and violent conflict. Panelists discussed how **poor management and inequitable rights to common resources can lead to conflict, and how secure and equitable tenure rights to the commons can ease social tension** and promote economic and social development. [More >>](#)
- At the IASC conference, **Forest Peoples Programme** and **RRG** organized a policy forum on the **“Clash of the Commons”, to launch the two new studies.** Representatives from FECOFUN, Civic Response, and the Ford Foundation gave comments and recommendations. [More >>](#)
- RRI Partners and the Board of Directors also met for the biannual RRI Governance Meeting, held in Cheltenham, United Kingdom. [More >>](#)

Strategic Analysis

- In the first new global report from RRI, we reviewed the history of development intervention in forest areas and oncoming threats, and proposed a new agenda to advance rights and development in forest areas, and priorities in the current context of climate change. Read more from [Seeing People Through the Trees: Scaling up efforts to advance rights and address poverty, conflict and climate change >>](#)
- RRI also published a sequel to the 2002 report *Who Owns the World's Forests?*, with a new analysis of statutory forest tenure in the world's most-forested countries. The report shows that since 2002 the area of forests under government ownership has continued to decline from 80% to 73% of the global forest estate. The area of forest land designated for use by communities and indigenous peoples has increased 56%. Much of this observed change is due to progress in only a handful of countries. Read more in [From Exclusion to Ownership? Challenges and opportunities in advancing forest tenure reform >>](#)
- A new analysis from Forest Peoples Programme concludes that effective forest tenure reforms must include respect for a wide range of human rights, beyond solely secure property rights, which are frequently absent from sectoral decision-making about forests. Read more in [Beyond Tenure: Rights-based approaches to peoples and forests. Some lessons from the Forest Peoples Programme >>](#)
- A new report from CIFOR analyzes the scale and causes of forest-based conflict. The authors conclude that forest rights and tenure are frequently the cause of conflict, and in many cases clarifying and strengthening rights and tenure is also a critical part of the solution. Read more in [Forest-related Conflict: Impacts, links and measures to mitigate >>](#)
- IUCN published a new issue of *Arborvitae* focused on rights-based approaches to conservation. The issue includes essays from IUCN, Forest Peoples Programme, and RRG and essays from RRI Fellows Liz Alden Wily and Janis Bristol Alcorn. Read more in [Arborvitae 36: Rights-based approaches to forest conservation >>](#)
- Intercooperation, Society for Threatened Peoples Switzerland, and Anthroscape have published a new study analyzing how Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) can be successfully implemented in the Congo Basin. Read their results and recommendations in [Free Prior and Informed Consent and Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin >>](#)

Country Initiatives

- In Edéa, Cameroon, IUCN, Cameroon Ecology, ICRAF, CIFOR, CAFT, the Center for Environment and Development, and RRG hosted a workshop to share with local communities and policymakers the findings of research on alternative models for tenure and enterprise in Central African forests (a *restitution*). Participants from communities and government reflected on the realities that communities and policymakers face, and identified opportunities for government to implement legal forest policy and land reforms in Cameroon. [More>>](#)
- A new study from RECOFTC finds that despite two decades of state control over forests in Vietnam, traditional forest management systems endure. Under the right supportive conditions, traditional forest management can benefit local communities and protect allocated forests from unauthorized use. Read more in [Forest Tenure Reform in Vietnam: Case studies from the Northern Upland and Central Highlands Regions >>](#)
- In the context of the “new government for New Nepal,” RRI Partners FECOFUN, CIFOR and Intercooperation are kick-starting discussion and forming strategy for a new forest policy in Nepal. Contact [Ghan Shyam Pandey](#) and [Ganga Ram Dahal](#)
- In Bolivia, CIFOR and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Government of Bolivia have completed a draft report identifying opportunities to pilot new models of alternative tenure and enterprise that will advance community forestry and support local livelihoods. Contact [Deborah Barry](#).

Supporting Strategic Networks

- **Indigenous community leaders will take the stage at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to call attention to their communities' struggles to respond to climate change and mitigation efforts.** Changing microclimates are forcing forest communities to adjust their fishing, cultivation and foraging strategies, while heightened concern about climate change is fueling powerful conservation interests that often override local rights and wellbeing. Indigenous community leaders from Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guyana and Indonesia will attend the IUCN World Conservation Congress, with support from RRI, Forest Peoples Programme, and Amazon Alliance. [More>>](#)
- Hosted by Forest Trends and RECOFTC, national **researchers and civil society representatives from the Mekong Basin analyzed the dynamic relations governing forest trade** and industry in the region. [More>>](#)

Coming Up

October 1-2 | Kribi, Cameroon: RRI Cameroon strategy and planning meeting. Contact [Kyeretwie Opoku](#) and [Solange Bandiaky](#).

October 1-4 | Petén, Guatemala: Guatemala policy workshop of the CIFOR-RRI research project *Enhancing Livelihoods and Equity in Forest Communities*. Researchers will share their findings with local partners and grassroots organizations, sharing learning from community concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Forest community leaders from highland and lowland Guatemala and Bolivia will share their experiences with community forest enterprise management. Contact [Deborah Barry](#)

October 4- 14 | Barcelona, Spain: IUCN World Conservation Forum & Congress [More>>](#)

October 8 | Barcelona, Spain: Panel at the IUCN World Conservation Congress: Community Forest Tenure, Governance and Benefits: The Missing Link to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, organized by Amazon Alliance, Forest Peoples Programme, and RRI. [More >>](#)

October 13-16 | Bamako, Mali: Intercooperation and RRI International Workshop: Rights to Property, Access and Management of Natural Resources in the Context of Decentralization and Management in the Sahel. Contact [Nicole Clot](#).

October 15-17 | Oslo, Norway: Conference on Rights, Forests, and Climate Change, organized by RRI and Rainforest Foundation Norway. [More >>](#) Follow the discussion during the conference on the live conference blog, online at www.rightsandclimate.org.

October 17 | Bamako, Mali: RRI Mali strategy and planning meeting. Contact [Kyeretwie Opoku](#) and [Solange Bandiaky](#)

October 21-22 | Bangkok, Thailand: RECOFTC national seminar on Community Forestry: Livelihood Security and Climate Change in Thailand. Participants will share lessons from their experiences in forest resource management in Thailand, and focus on next steps for increasing cooperation between the Community Forest Assembly of Thailand and national stakeholders. Contact [Somying Soontornwong](#)

October 22 | Kathmandu, Nepal: FECOFUN and RRI kick-start meeting to strategize for new forest policy in Nepal. Contact [Ghan Shyam Pandey](#)

October 27-31 | Brasília and Manaus, Brazil: MegaFlorestais Meeting hosted by the Brazilian Forest Service, US Forest Service, and RRI, and including leadership from forest agencies from the largest forest countries around the world. Contact [Brooke Kennedy](#)

October 29-30 | Interlaken, Switzerland: Intercooperation International Workshop: Forests, Landscape and Governance. Contact [Jane Carter](#)

October | Petén, Guatemala: RRI Guatemala strategy and planning meeting. Contact [Alberto Chinchilla](#) and [Andrew Davis](#)

November 6-8 | Kathmandu Nepal: Global Alliance of Community Forestry, regional meeting for Asia. Contact [Ghan Shyam Pandey](#)

November 9-11 | Lalitpur, Nepal: 5th National Community Forestry Workshop in Nepal, organized by FECOFUN, RECOFTC and the Nepal Department of Forests. Participants will analyze lessons learned from past experience with community-based forest management in Nepal, and identify unfolding opportunities for shaping the future of community forestry in Nepal. [More>>](#) Or contact [Ghan Shyam Pandey](#)

November 10-14 | Belém, Brazil: ForLive Amazon Conference [More>>](#)

November 12 | Kathmandu, Nepal: RRI Nepal strategy and planning meeting. [More >>](#) or contact [Thomas Enters](#) and [Brooke Kennedy](#)

November 17-18 | Vientiane, Lao PDR: RRI Lao strategy and planning meeting. Contact [Thomas Enters](#) and [Brooke Kennedy](#)

November 20 | Kunming, China: RRI China strategy and planning meeting. Contact [Thomas Enters](#) and [Brooke Kennedy](#)

November 21-22 | Kunming, China: RRI Asia regional strategy and planning meeting. Contact [Thomas Enters](#) and [Brooke Kennedy](#)

November | Monrovia, Liberia: RRI Africa regional strategy and planning meeting. Contact [Kyeretwie Opoku](#) and [Solange Bandiaky](#)

November | Sudan: IUCN Livelihoods and Landscapes and the Forest National Corporation of Sudan will facilitate the first national conference on Participatory Forest Management in Sudan. Contact [Edmund Barrow](#)

January 13, 2009 | Washington DC, United States: RRI informal Donor Support Group Meeting. Contact [Megan Liddle](#)

January 14-16, 2009 | Washington DC, United States: RRI Governance Meetings. Contact [Megan Liddle](#)

March 2-6 2009 | Yaoundé, Cameroon: RRI and ITTO International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: New Opportunities for Livelihoods and Wealth in Central and West Africa. [More >>](#) or contact [Augusta Molnar](#)

Spotlight

[Arborvitae 36: Rights-based approaches to forest conservation](#)

IUCN

[Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin](#)

Intercooperation, Society for Threatened Peoples, Anthroscap

[Forest Tenure Reform in Vietnam: Case Studies from the Northern Upland and Central Highlands Regions](#)

RECOFTC and RRI

[Seeing People Through The Trees: Scaling up efforts to advance rights and address poverty, conflict and climate change](#)

RRI

[From Exclusion to Ownership? Challenges and opportunities in advancing forest tenure reform](#)

RRI

Stay up to date with the Rights and Resources Initiative—visit our [website](http://www.rightsandresources.org) to learn more about current activities, upcoming events, and publications. (<http://www.rightsandresources.org>)
