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FORESTED LANDSCAPES FOR EQUITY

# GREEN LIVELIHOODS ALLIANCE

## ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2020 & END REPORT 2016–2020



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**Cover photo:**

Dayak woman collecting bamboo shoots from the forest near the village of Mekar Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia – Irpan Lamago

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## ACRONYMS

<b>ADSPDD</b>	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan	<b>PMEL</b>	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
<b>AE</b>	Agroecology	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank	<b>TBI</b>	Tropenbos International
<b>AFIEGO</b>	Africa Institute for Energy Governance	<b>TBVN</b>	Tropenbos Viet Nam
<b>CADT</b>	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title	<b>TIMBY</b>	This Is My Backyard
<b>CEZA</b>	Cagayan Economic Zone Authority	<b>VFMG</b>	Village Forest Management Groups
<b>CFM</b>	Community Forest Management	<b>WEHRD</b>	Women Environmental Human Rights Defender
<b>CREMA</b>	Community Resource Management Area		
<b>CRMC</b>	Community Resource Management Committee		
<b>CRR</b>	Community Rights Review		
<b>CS</b>	Climate Smart		
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations		
<b>DARD</b>	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development		
<b>D&amp;D</b>	Dialogue and Dissent		
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo		
<b>DSO</b>	Directie Sociale Ontwikkeling		
<b>ECA</b>	Export Credit Agencies		
<b>EHRD</b>	Environmental Human Rights Defender		
<b>ELCAC</b>	End Local Communist Armed Conflict		
<b>EU</b>	European Union		
<b>FFB</b>	Fresh Fruit Bunches		
<b>FLG</b>	Forest and Land Governance		
<b>FoE</b>	Friends of the Earth		
<b>FoEI</b>	Friends of the Earth International		
<b>FPIC</b>	Free Prior and Informed Consent		
<b>GAR</b>	Golden Agri-Resources		
<b>GLA</b>	Green Livelihoods Alliance		
<b>GVL</b>	Golden Veroleum Liberia		
<b>HCSA</b>	High Carbon Stock Agreement		
<b>HRD</b>	Human Rights Defenders		
<b>ICCAs</b>	Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas and Territories		
<b>ICCN</b>	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature		
<b>IGG</b>	Inclusive Green Growth		
<b>IP</b>	Indigenous People		
<b>IPLCs</b>	Indigenous People and Local Communities		
<b>IUCN NL</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature, National Committee of the Netherlands		
<b>JET</b>	Just Energy Transition		
<b>L&amp;A</b>	Lobby and Advocacy		
<b>LGA</b>	Landscape Governance Assessment		
<b>LGU</b>	Local Government Unit		
<b>LIFT</b>	Landscape Investment and Finance Tool		
<b>MAAIF</b>	Ministry of Agriculture (Uganda)		
<b>MHRDD</b>	Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence		
<b>MMDA</b>	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies		
<b>MoFA</b>	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding		
<b>MTDP</b>	Medium-Term Development Plans		
<b>NCIP</b>	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples		
<b>NCP</b>	National Contact Point		
<b>N&amp;M</b>	Natuur & Milieu		
<b>NOPP</b>	National Oil Palm Programme		
<b>NTFP</b>	Non-Timber Forest Products		
<b>PAMB</b>	Protected Area Management Board		
<b>PES</b>	Payment for Environmental Services		





Meeting of the Cocoa Sector Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Platform in the Western North region, Ghana. — Abigail Birago Owusu

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this report we present the final narrative report of the Forested Landscapes for Equity Programme (2016-2020) of the Green Livelihoods Alliance funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report includes a section on 2020 and a reflection on the entire programme period 2016-2020. The Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) is a partnership of Milieudefensie; the International Union for Conservation of Nature, National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL); Tropenbos International (TBI); the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA); and 65 civil society organizations (CSOs) (see Annex 1). The Forested Landscapes for Equity programme aims for the sustainable and inclusive governance of forested landscapes. The GLA works in 16 landscapes in nine focus countries worldwide: **Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Uganda and Viet Nam** (see Annex 3). At the same time, the GLA addresses the global drivers of deforestation and climate change through three thematic programmes: Agro-Commodities, Forest and Land Governance (FLG), and Just Energy Transition (JET).

As 2020 was the final year of the Forested Landscapes for Equity Programme this report combines an analytical narrative progress report on 2020 and a separate chapter which contains the final narrative report for the whole programme period.

### Covid-19 impact and response

2020 was heavily marked by the Covid-19 pandemic which affected all countries, partners and processes. Even though activity plans and ways of communication had to be severely adapted across the board and some activities could not take place at all, GLA partners were still able to achieve impressive results during this final year of the programme, building on the collaborations and relationships that have been developed over the years. This report provides an overview of the key achievements. However, we are also aware that relationships and collaborations may lose strength as the pandemic continues, which requires ongoing attention. In addition, restrictive and repressive measures that were implemented under Covid-19 might not be reversed once the pandemic is under control, meaning that even after the emergency situation has passed, our partners are still dealing with negative consequences. At the same time, partners note that, for example in Uganda, buffer zones, tree cover and wetlands saw significant infringement under Covid-19 as communities searched for livelihood options. Also, as governments are looking for ways to 'rebuild the economy', forested landscapes may face new threats. On the other hand, Covid-19 holds a strong message that we need to change our relationship with nature to avoid future zoonotic outbreaks. Indeed, our struggle to protect and restore forests requires constant reflection on our messages and adaptation to new realities.

A good example how GLA dealt with the changed reality due to Covid-19 is the Covid Response and Adaptation Fund through which IUCN NL supported country partners to adapt to the Covid crisis. This Fund was established to support partners to adapt to the Covid crisis. Partners in **Bolivia, Ghana, Liberia, Indonesia, Viet Nam** and the **Philippines** have been supported through the Fund. Projects included, amongst others:

- Awareness Raising on Covid-19 Protocols and Trainings on Covid-19 and Impact on Forests
- Surveys and field-based researches related to Covid-19
- Digital Security, Communications and Security Support including the provision of communication tools
- Capacity Building related to Communication, Food Security, and Negotiations
- The establishment of Food Gardens and Livelihood Support
- Institutional Support

For example, protective materials were distributed to community partners and staff and information-education campaign materials on Covid-19 were provided to different IPLCs as some of them are not fully aware of the virus and the impact of the virus in their ancestral domain's forest/communities, wildlife, and other natural resources. Due to Covid-19 measures some communities were unable to access markets to buy and sell essential products. Therefore, in the **Philippines**, the Fund supported the establishment of two communal agri farms and start-up capital was provided for a Fish Processing and Pichi-pichi (ricecake) business, where products are also being sold through social media platforms. In **Viet Nam**, PanNature organized field visits to wildlife farms for journalists. The journalists produced media reports and stories to provide the public with better information on wildlife farming and its potential risks to outbreaks such as Covid-19. PanNature also organized a seminar titled "Wildlife farming in the context of zoonotic disease transmission and pressure of species conservation."

Some key learnings on Covid-19 are that:

- Information and awareness raising on Covid-19 is important as information often does not reach IPLCs.
- The indigenous knowledge systems and practices of the indigenous peoples help them cope with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has also helped in reigniting the interest of IPLCs in food gardening and farming to ensure food security. Provision of livelihoods has also been helpful to the IPLCs as access to markets was blocked.
- As learning now has shifted online, it is important for the IPLCs to be oriented on how to use online platforms and access gadgets such as mobile phones and computers.

## Storytelling trajectory

Throughout the programme, we used the methodology of 'outcome harvesting' to identify the key outcomes of the programme. During the final phase of the programme, we realised that we missed important opportunities to translate the outcomes into compelling and inspiring stories of change. The capacity to develop stories of change was indicated by the partners and an important skill to communicate with different audiences.

Therefore, a persuasive storytelling capacity training was designed by RNTC the Netherlands (Media Training for Social Change) together with the GLA alliance members for all country partners. The training consisted of online workshops in three languages – Spanish, English and French – and online individual coaching post-training. A total of 25 partner organisations participated in the training.

All partners organisations were enthusiastic about the training and indicated that they could also put the learnings into practice. This was proven by the fact that 18 videos, 2 podcast series / radio programmes and 2 written stories were made. Some of the organisations replicated the training within their organisations. All productions have been published and shared, targeting communities, local and national governments, CSOs working in the regions and other stakeholders. The productions have been used to raise awareness and lobby on the issue presented, show the work achieved, increase involvement from other community members and as examples and inspiration to replicate the experiences elsewhere. Four of the videos will be showcased at the World Forestry Congress in 2022.

For example, one of the podcasts on women's rights in **Bolivia** was used during a campaign in March to raise awareness on the rights of environmental women defenders. Also, in November 2020, two women's groups in **Indonesia** identified potential businesses after getting inspiration from the story in the documentary film on Indudur women's group: "Storytelling for Impact GLA: It's More Than Candlenut". Two women's groups from Pasir Talang Timur Village named Pastati Jaya, and Women Group in Lubuk Karak named Kelompok Tani Wanita Maju, held a group meeting to discuss lessons learned from the documentary film. Then they continued with the identification of potential businesses and began to develop business management plans and strategies. This is significant because the motivation of the group before the screening of the documentary film in the Indudur Village was low, because it had experienced business failures that triggered a deadlock in ideas and motivation for new business development. The screening of the Indudur Documentary restored the spirit of the group because the inspiration and influence comes from groups that have experienced the same phase as them.

## Green Livelihoods Alliance 2021-2025

In 2020 we worked on the continuation of the GLA beyond the Forested Landscapes for Equity Programme. We expanded the GLA to include new alliance members from Africa, Asia and South America and jointly developed the Forests for a just Future programme for the period 2021-2025, which required the development of a ToC and programme document. The process required us to reflect on the way we collaborate, power dynamics and integrity. As the new GLA programme 'Forests for a Just Future' 2021 - 2025 has been approved by the Ministry we will continue with these discussions to further strengthen our partnership and vision on a just future.

## Central website

In 2020, the GLA invested in developing and launching a [website](#) containing information about the GLA Forested Landscapes for Equity Programme and its successor 'Forests for a just Future' (2021-2025). The reason for setting up the joint website was to increase our reach and bundle our individual communication efforts to enhance efficiency and accessibility of information. It was launched in the final quarter of 2020 and provides key information about the programmes, publications, news items and other relevant material related to the targeted landscapes, policy processes and national and international development.





A sign marking a new community managed forest concession of the community Barumbi-Tshopo, DR Congo. — Tropenbos DR Congo

## 2. TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE OF FORESTED LANDSCAPES IN 2020

The GLA aims for inclusive and sustainable governance of forested landscapes. The ultimate goal is to reduce deforestation and increase respect for the rights of forest-dependent communities. The work of the GLA partners focuses on four key conditions that are required in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable governance of forested landscapes:

- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) have **access to and benefit from land and forest resources** and are thus more inclined to protect forests and use them sustainably.
- IPLCs have **access to decision-making over their land**. The governance of forested landscapes can be inclusive and sustainable only if the interests of all stakeholders are taken into account, including the interests of marginalized forest-dependent groups, such as indigenous people, youth and women.
- **Sustainable practices** are in place that allow current and future generations to benefit from ecosystem services such as climate resilience, food security, water provisioning and biodiversity.
- **Global drivers** of deforestation and climate change are addressed.

This chapter summarizes the main results in these four areas.

The GLA's efforts contribute directly to a number of outcomes in the result frameworks for climate resilience, water and food security of the Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have made references to our contribution to the results framework in the footnotes in this report. In addition, an analysis of GLA's progress in addressing Directie Sociale Ontwikkeling's (DSO's) Dialogue and Dissent indicators 1, 2 and 3 is outlined in Annex 2 and indicator 6 in Annex 1.

### 2.1 Increased access to and benefits from land

The results in 2020, the final year of the programme, show that more IPLCs have been able to gain formal access to land and benefits from land. We also see that policies related to land rights are better enforced, especially when communities are able to monitor illegal activities and their findings are recognised. Litigation is more frequently, and more often successfully, used by partners to demand their rights. These results, as well as the results captured under 2.2 'access to decision-making', often follow from IPLCs being able to organise themselves (more independently and pro-actively) and collaborate better with others, hence increasing their power to influence.

## (Land) rights of IPLCs increasingly acknowledged

In several countries, communities were able to formalise their rights to community land and/or companies saw their concession permits being cancelled or suspended, saving thousands of hectares from logging<sup>1</sup>. In some cases, compensation for lost land was given.

*For example, in **Nigeria**, Okomu Oil Palm PLC agreed to compensate the Odiguetue community farmer Mr. Osagie Aimiogie in an out of court settlement for their illegal invasion and destruction of his farm lands in 2014.*

*In **Indonesia**, the Regent of South Solok, West Sumatra, issued 3 warning letters to an oil palm company that has a conflict with the community of Nagari Bidar Alam, South Solok Regency. This resulted in a ban for the company to harvest until the conflict is resolved. In addition, 50 farmers who received paralegal training are working to protect farmers from having their land taken by palm oil companies in Central Sulawesi. One community activist, Hemsy of Rio Pakava Village, has won his case against the PT Mamuang oil palm plantation to regain his land rights with the issuance of a certificate of ownership by the National Land Agency.*

*In **Liberia**, Milieudefensie and SDI filed a complaint to the High Carbon Stock Agreement (HCSA) group about palm oil company Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL), the Liberian investee of palm oil giant Golden Agri-Resources (GAR). In December 2020, the executive board of the HCSA decided to adopt the findings of the complaints panel and order the palm oil companies to remedy the harms, including restoring over 1,000 hectares of cleared forest, and solve conflicts over land, stop expansion and produce an action plan. Even though this decision is not legally binding, GVL and GAR announced to accept the findings and follow up on the orders. Also, GVL has been brought to the labor court in November and December 2020 over wrongful dismissal of the Butaw victims during their imprisonment. The court has not made its ruling yet.*

*In the **Philippines**, the ancestral domain of the indigenous Agta community of Palau Island was surveyed and delineated by the members of the Agta community and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). The Agta community members also conducted an assessment and initial formulation of the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP). The ADSDPP will help the Agta community to sustainably manage and protect natural resources and set the rules for the sustainable use which form the basis of the Agta's livelihoods. The survey and the development plan are important steps in the process to acquire a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT), which formally recognizes IPs land rights in the Philippines. The process was urgent, as the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) had developed a master plan for tourism development on the island. Without a formal title, there would be little chance that the interests and important sites for the Agta are taken into account in the Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape Management Plan and the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan of the Local Government Unit. The process up to the delineation was marked by many delays caused by the resignation of the chief engineer assigned for the survey, the replacement of the Regional Director of the NCIP and the loss of important documents, which may not have been entirely coincidental given the powerful economic interests of the CEZA. However, as a result of continuous lobby and advocacy, and multi-stakeholder meetings, the Agta of Palau are now acknowledged as a stakeholder in decisions about the future of Palau Island. Their objections to development plans are taken seriously and they are closer to formal rights over the land that has been theirs before the current powerful outsider stakeholders came in.*

## Increased access to benefits of land

Following the conclusions of the Community Rights Review (see chapter 4), formalization of land rights does not automatically result in positive outcomes for forest conservation and livelihoods. The extent to which a community can benefit from formalized property rights depends on whether community members are able to manage, use and protect the resources in line with their needs and ambitions<sup>2</sup>. With formalized property rights, community members may be more inclined to develop an enterprise and invest in productive practices that increase the quantity and quality of products over time, leading to higher incomes. But benefits may also relate to conservation, spiritual values, food security, climate adaptation and self-determination, among other issues. The community has to figure out how to structure benefits so that these are sustainable over time, do not threaten the forest and are consistent with their culture. GLA works on the conditions to enable these processes, such as capacity strengthening and access to external support and credit.

*A successful example was seen in **Viet Nam**, where investments were made to involve, inform and prepare local communities, men as well as women, to participate in decision-making dialogues on land use, research and setting up governance models. This enabled them to enter in dialogue with the Lak Forestry Company to co-manage a land area that they were in conflict*

<sup>1</sup> This contributes to outcome 'Decreased deforestation, enhanced sinks and increased climate resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods (SDG 15/SDG 13)' of the Climate Resilience framework of IGG.

<sup>2</sup> Indicator 'Hectares of forest(ed) land under sustainable forest management or other improved practices contributing to decreased deforestation, enhanced sinks and increased adaptive capacity of ecosystems and livelihoods (total)' of the Climate Resilience framework of IGG.





A sign indicating the property rights of a farm in Buvuma, Uganda - Hans Vellema

over with the Company. An outcome of this process was that the Lak Forestry Company guided local farmers to intercrop indigenous trees into the existing acacia and coffee plantations, so that local people could manage forest land for diversified income sources.

A similar example is found in the **Philippines**, where the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) in Quezon approved PIGTEPONEN's (a small enterprise group) application for an Almaciga resin harvesting permit inside the ancestral domain in January 2020. The PAMB is a multi-stakeholder policy making body composed of different government agencies, CSOs, and community representatives, responsible for the management of declared protected areas. NTFP EP Philippines facilitated the process of sustainable development planning ultimately leading to the approval of the permit.

In **Uganda**, a long process of research, developing policy briefs and lobby and advocacy by GLA partners, has influenced the National Oil Palm Programme (NOPP) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF) to stop land grabbing practices. Where the NOPP used to acquire community land by displacing communities in favour of a private investor, from 2020 onwards, the new NOPP stimulates and organises local farmers to grow oil palm as out-growers rather than buying their communal land for large private investors.

In Mudiak Baduo and Lariang landscape in **Indonesia**, GLA partners Warsi and Tropenbos Indonesia facilitated the development and diversification of businesses based on the potential of social forestry. In 2020, communities organized themselves into 20 business groups, 6 of them women's groups. Apart from increasing family income and sustainable management of forests, the female leaders are now also increasingly involved in the decision-making process in the village.

### Adoption and enforcement of policies

Access to (benefits of) land is closely linked to the adoption and implementation of policies that recognise IPLCs rights and protect areas from destructive practices. The examples above and the examples in the end report of the programme (chapter 4) clearly show the impact of the GLA efforts: big industrial projects are put on hold, land is given back to communities and/or compensation is provided and communities are increasingly managing and benefiting from their own land. These are important and big steps, yet we still have a long way to go. Too often, communities fight companies and practices that have already destroyed their lands. More is needed to ensure that this does not happen in the first place. The GLA programme invested in strengthening communities' capacity to engage successfully in lobby and advocacy for supportive policies. Over the course of the programme there have been countless examples of policies being adopted (see Annex 2 DD Indicator 1 and 2). The next step is to focus on the effective and efficient implementation and enforcement of policies. In 2020 we have seen interesting results in this respect, particularly resulting from investments in community monitoring, capacity strengthening and lobby and advocacy.

In **Indonesia**, for example, the Forestry Agency of West Sumatra Province started collaboration with 6 Village Forest Management Groups (VFMG) in 2020 in the use of guardian devices. Guardians are solar-powered devices made from old smart phones, installed in the trees. The devices can detect trucks, motorcycles and gunshots up to 1.5 kilometres away and can detect chainsaws up to 500 metres away. The VFMG in Solok and South Solok have installed guardian devices in the village forest location since 2019, but the devices were not yet linked to the law enforcement system in the forestry Agency. The established collaboration in 2020 enables patrol teams to collect evidence of forestry crimes and report it to the forestry police. These reports can then be followed up more quickly by the forestry police because it has become an integral part of the law enforcement process.

In **Ghana**, the chief of Potroase village expelled about sixty illegal miners who had rented accommodation in Potroase in March 2020. This was the result of monitoring activities by the Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) who confronted and arrested a group of young men who were carrying out illegal mining (galamsey). After a report was made, the Chief decided to expel the miners from their rented premises in the community. A Rocha Ghana played a role in providing capacity building on the Legal Framework for CREMA, Community Action Planning and Rights and Responsibility for medium to high impact mining communities, including Potroase community, which enabled the CRMC to carry out their monitoring activities effectively.

In the **Philippines**, the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Talakag amended their Payment for Environmental Services (PES) ordinance in 2020, after lobbying by STREAMS, a local coalition of CSOs. While the previous ordinance was already enacted for almost six years, it was not yet implemented due to a problem with their LGUs water system. STREAMS supported the LGU in re-drafting the ordinance. Once the Municipality of Talakag implements the ordinance, this will help to restore the headwaters and ensure water sustainability in the river basin<sup>3</sup>.

In North Kivu in **DRC**, partners focused on sensitization of different groups around the in 2019 adopted Human Rights Defenders (HRD) edict such as law enforcement officers, judicial officers and local CSOs and human rights defenders. The sensitization process has facilitated more ownership for its implementation. For example, police officers are now able to qualify the charges against HRDs using the edict as a legal basis. It also supports judges when processing cases related to threats against HRDs.

We achieved important outcomes in **Bolivia** with regards to changing policies and practices that reduce the costs for communities for forest management, as a result of our continued efforts in generating verified information and strengthening local capacities for forest management and timber commercialization. For example, in 2020, the government signed a decree that alters the logging operations of the current forest law, allowing indigenous and peasant communities with approved forest management plans to use a chainsaw to transform logs in the forest instead of having to make large capital investments (and thus depend on private enterprises) to extract logs from the forest to be transformed in a sawmill. Hereto, IBIF presented the government with information from 2 pilot studies in the Chiquitanía demonstrating the relative efficiency of the chainsaw versus the sawmill in community forests (low-impact and low-cost technology), supported the Forest directorate in the formulation of the decree and the implementing regulatory framework and lobbied authorities for the approval and signature of the decree.

## 2.2 Communities have access to decision-making over their land

Increasing IPLCs' access to decision-making over their land is a key precondition for the sustainable governance of forested landscapes and forms the basis of the results and outcomes described under 2.1 above. Over the years, we have seen that CSOs are increasingly able to influence decision-making, which is also reflected in the D&D indicator 3 in Annex 2. The project's capacity strengthening activities enable communities to self-organize, decide and resist destructive practices themselves. We also see that specific groups inside those communities that are often excluded (youth, women), are stepping up to ensure their interests are taken into account. Community and CSO involvement within the public and private sector is becoming more accepted, which increases the possibility for IPLCs to access decision-making over their land.

### CSOs and IPLCs set up formal organisations to represent their interests

A first important step in accessing decision-making is to ensure that IPLCs can represent themselves and are recognised as stakeholders. The GLA contributes to this by supporting the formalisation and self-organisation of groups and coalitions in the partner countries.

In the **Philippines**, a coalition of various Civil Society Organizations (CSO) called STREAMS was established in 2017 to promote a sustainable and healthy environment through policy advocacy, transparency, and community empowerment with support of the GLA. In 2020 the STREAMS coalition was successfully registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission to become a legal non-government organization. This registration was not part of the initial plan and was, therefore, not expected. Yet, this outcome is very significant in terms of the legitimate and effective lobbying influence of the CSO coalition in decision-making processes in the landscape. Further, this institutional development of STREAMS contributes to the TOC's first outcome, which is to establish a strong Coalition.

In 2020, ADHAMA, an alliance of 50 civil society organizations formed in 2019, followed up on the recommendations presented in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report of **Bolivia**. Partners highlighted the recommendations in relation to the current state of affairs in the media, to ensure the recommendations stay on the agenda. Also, the platform, led by GLA partner CEDIB, developed an UPR monitoring agenda for 2021 (including indicators) and built capacities of partners to monitor the recommendations. The results of the monitoring process will be useful for future L&A interventions such as with embassies and international platforms.

<sup>3</sup> Contributes to outcome 'Water resources management at country level' through indicator 'Water is used sustainably and equitably, ensuring the needs of all sectors and the environment' of the Water Results Framework of IGG.



Dumagat-Remontado indigenous peoples, youth, civil society groups, local residents, farmers, fisherfolk, and an urban poor alliance, call to stop the Kaliwa Dam in November 2020 in Infanta, Quezon, the Philippines — Leandro Miguel Novero / STOP Kaliwa Dam Network

Also in **Uganda**, community leaders of all oil palm growing districts formed a platform in 2020 to act as a single collective voice on land rights, injustices and violations by oil palm proponents. Interestingly, this platform was set up after community uprisings to demand better Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) prices as well as infrastructure (roads) showed the power of capacitated communities.

### Communities are able to speak up and are being heard

In most countries and landscapes capacity strengthening activities contributed to communities not only being able to speak up but also to being heard. Their interests and voices are reflected in policies and practices. We see examples where evidence collected by NGOs and communities is becoming recognised in court, proving that communities are increasingly being heard. For example, courts in Sumatra, **Indonesia**, allow the use of evidence collected by the Rainforest Connection's Guardian sensors in order to prosecute illegal loggers.

Another important example of communities successfully speaking up comes from the **Philippines**. The coalition of CSOs advocating against the Kaliwa dam was able to delay the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the government's agency in charge of water privatization and the communities. GLA partners facilitated Indigenous People (IP) to represent themselves in press conferences, dialogues, senate hearings and mobilizations. In November 2020, the IP elders of the Province of Rizal approved a community resolution reaffirming their position against the Kaliwa Dam project. Moreover, when Typhoon Ulysses hit the area, leading to floods and damage of areas near the river, the Municipal IP Mandatory Representative in Tanay, 5 Barangay IP Mandatory Representatives and some elders withdrew their consent to the dam. This was significant as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) earlier attempted to sign a Memorandum of Agreement in support of the project. The change of opinion of the leaders bolstered the case regarding Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as it showed that there is no consensus among the IPs regarding the Kaliwa Dam. Besides this, GLA partners started legal action against the dam and were unexpectedly supported by an Urban Poor group from Manila. This group showed solidarity with the IPs, arguing that the Kaliwa dam will not provide any benefits for the poor. Judgment of the legal cases filed are expected in 2021.

Early 2020, A Rocha Ghana, filed a lawsuit against the Ghanaian government for the planned bauxite mining in the Atewa Forest Reserve (**Ghana**). After this step, the case had to be further substantiated by a number of witness studies, which is work-in-progress. IUCN NL provides advice and is involved in the selection of experts.

In **Liberia**, one of the most successful interventions was training the communities to understand their rights as provided by the 2018 Law Rights Acts. These trainings allowed communities that are affected by Golden Veroleum Liberia and other oil palm companies to demand a legal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Moreover, specific groups inside those communities (youth, women) making demands before signing into agreements. For example, five affected communities around palm oil company EPO are demanding EPO to sign a formal MoU that covers compensation for lost lands and crops, a mapping of their land area EPO has taken, provide employment, and increase their living space as well as social investments. In addition, communities in Kabada and Numopoh are demanding GVL to comply with the commitments in the provisional MoUs before going into a permanent MoU. The MoU committee leaders of Numopoh and Tartweh-Drapoh engaged women, elderly and youth, to have an inclusive position on the MoU negotiations with GVL.

In **DRC**, local GLA partner IDPE and CREDDHO facilitated dialogue between leaders of local communities and the Virunga National Park managers to dispel mistrust and reduce false accusations from both sides in the past. The relationship between the communities and park authorities has long been problematic, causing (land) conflicts. This time authorities from the ICCN



(Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) authorized access to certain sacred sites and accompanied customary chiefs and local notables in customary rites / ancestral ceremonies. The authorities also expressed their wish to interact more regularly to proactively signal any problems regarding developments in the park and thus prevent possible conflicts. These actions are key for the improvement in the collaboration between the groups.

Government authorities in South Kivu in **DRC** have an improved understanding of the content of the decentralization policy of land management and are implementing it at the provincial level. Previously, land management was managed at national level and customary chiefs were excluded from decisions regarding land management, leading to conflicts between large landowners and landless farmers. With the process of sensitization of the decentralization policy, authorities now understand the role that customary authorities must play in the prevention of land conflicts and the need to integrate them into land management decisions. Partners contributed to awareness of the decentralization policy and trained authorities in the content.

## 2.3 Communities, governments and the private sector apply sustainable practices

Ultimately, we aim to promote and ensure the sustainable governance of forested land. Sustainable land governance depends on many preconditions. With the GLA programme, we have been able to make the initial steps towards ensuring sustainable practices by all stakeholders, yet, a lot remains to be done. We expect more results to become visible during the next stage of the GLA programme.

### Improved livelihood and income generating activities

In many communities we see an increase in sustainable livelihood projects and income generating activities.

For example, in **Indonesia**, the Indudur women's group in West Sumatra started producing high quality oil from candlenuts, after support and training by the local University and GLA partner organisation WARSI (See chapter 1).

Several other outcomes were achieved in **Indonesia** related to sustainable practices: for example, by developing ecotourism based on ecological justice in Sungai Kelik Village, West Kalimantan. In South Solok District a people's coffee cooperative was formed. The cooperative almost doubled the purchase price of coffee cherries to farmers. The Baringin Sakti Group in Balai Batu Sandaran Village, Sawahlunto City is capable and skilled in producing Virgin Coconut Oil properly and correctly. In Sungai Besar village two Social Forestry business groups have started to diversify their businesses, i.e. in fishery, goat and honeybee cultivation, thus reducing their dependency on oil palm for their livelihood while at the same time protecting their environment. The groups that start businesses and cooperatives are also more involved in the policy-making process at the village level.

Local farmers and communities in Krong Bong district, **Viet Nam**, have a better understanding about, and apply climate smart (CS)/agroforestry practices. The Krong Bong district Women's Union cooperated with the Farmers' Association to disseminate and transfer knowledge on agroforestry to local farmers. The local farmers did not only set up their own models but also passed on their obtained knowledge and helped others to apply CS/agroforestry practices. Local farmers have set up agroforestry farms of coffee and oranges, and have set up CS/agroforestry models where they intercropped indigenous trees with cassava farms and coffee plantations (on a total area of 14 ha). The Krong Bong district Farmers' Association also guided 8 communes of Krong Bong district to set up their models of sustainable landscapes where indigenous tree species are used to plant surrounding their houses and along village roads.



Training on agroforestry models in Krông Bông district, Viet Nam. — Phan Thi Thuy Nhi

## Governments and companies taking more responsibility for sustainable forest management

Overall, the examples provided above, show that governments and companies are behaving more responsibly when it comes to sustainable forest governance and communities are increasingly able to hold them accountable for harmful/illegal practices. This is often the result of a long-term process of capacity strengthening, building trust, lobby and advocacy and collaboration between different stakeholders.

*For example, in **Uganda**, research proved that monoculture plantations, as implemented in Kalangala, had an adverse impact on food security. Although the research was rejected by oil palm proponents at the start, its impact was large, after it was finally accepted. The National Oil Palm Programme adopted the recommendations in 2020 and now supports other food crops alongside oil palm in Mayuge.*

*In **Indonesia**, the reason behind the success to facilitate social forestry permits in Mudiak Baduo and Lariang Landscapes, is the strong political support provided by the West Sumatra Province Government and Forest Management Units to this program in Mudiak Baduo Landscape. Some key successes were collaboration between local authorities and communities on forest patrol (Mudiak Baduo) and establishment of a cooperation agreement on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) marketing (Lariang).*

*Inspired by the mushroom cultivation facilitation of Tropenbos Indonesia, PT SMA (oil palm company unit), has built 2 mushroom units in two adjacent villages of its plantation, as part of their support for the two villages in increasing income through alternative livelihood. This was an unexpected spin-off of TI activities, which shows at least some social responsibility, yet more work remains to be done to ensure sustainable oil palm across the board.*

*The integration of ecosystem services into the development of Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDP) by district assemblies in the Atewa Landscape, **Ghana**, has been another major outcome. In 2018, workshops were organised for key officials of 5 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) within the Atewa landscape, to train them on how to identify ecosystem services and incorporate them into development planning and implementation. Most of the outputs from the workshops were incorporated into their respective MTDPs and some have been implemented as at November, 2020. By incorporating ecosystem services into MTDPs and being mindful of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the implementation of activities within the districts and municipalities guarantees more sustainable management of natural resources. Also, after a long lobby process led by Tropenbos Ghana, the Forestry Commission finally acknowledged that a long term solution on tree tenure requires the amendment of the law. The next step is to get this amendment realised.*

*During 2020, a note-worthy outcome achieved by Viet Nature (**Viet Nam**) and its partner CSOs is the successful facilitation of FSC certification preparation for 152 small-scale acacia growers in two communes in Dak Lak province. The smallholder group FSC certificate is the first of its kind in Dak Lak province, as well as in the Central Highland of Vietnam, and scalable at landscape level. The cost for the first certification audit and yearly maintenance audit will be borne by the acacia timber off-takers in the value chain.*

*Also in **Viet Nam**, based on the Community Rights Review (CRR), Tropenbos Viet Nam (Tropenbos VN) developed Community Forestry Guidelines (CFM), with recommendations and guidelines for restoration, agroforestry and community based forest management. The guidelines were developed jointly with Dak Lak Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), research institutes and relevant partner CSOs. The guidelines have been accepted by the DARD and are now awaiting the permission by the Provincial Department of Information and Communications for publishing. Once approved, application of the guidelines will contribute to more inclusive and sustainable landscape management.*

*Large companies and banks are increasingly investing in sustainable forest management. For example, two cocoa companies and the World Bank invest a total of 1,2 Million in the implementation of National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) landscape governance framework and in developing a monitoring framework linked to Landscape. Development banks in the Philippines provided seed investments for climate adaptation agro-forestry restoration schemes in the Cagayan de Oro (CDO) River Basin in the Philippines.*

## 2.4 Addressing global drivers of deforestation and climate change

Local, national and international developments are closely intertwined in a globalized world. The GLA addresses the interconnected drivers of deforestation from the local to the international level through three thematic programmes: the Agro-Commodities programme, the Forest and Land Governance programme and the Just Energy Transition programme. Below we summarize the most important achievements for each programme in 2020. For more detailed information, we refer to Annex 3.

The achievements made in addressing the global drivers show that collaboration between IPLCs and international and national networks of NGOs in gathering and using evidence to influence policies at international and national level is very effective.

## Increasing measures against agro-commodities as a source of deforestation

When it comes to agro-commodities, we see that at the **international and regional levels, attention for the negative impacts of agro-commodities is increasing**, as well as the willingness to take measures against this impact. In Europe, we sense a tendency to work on legislation to halt malpractices of companies. We see this reflected in the developments of the EU Action plan on deforestation, but also more broader on the theme of human rights. After many years of focusing on voluntary Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, finally the European Parliament, the European Commission and several governments commit to mandatory human rights due diligence legislation as voluntary measures have not prevented human rights abuses in several sectors.

The thematic agro-commodity programme has also contributed to important results in countries other than the GLA partner countries. Here we learned, amongst others, that the **key to success to resist landgrabs is to support community fights in combination with international emblematic campaigns**. These results show the importance and effectiveness of international collaboration that carries wider than the immediate target countries.

Below is an overview of the most significant results. These results contribute to the Forest and Land Use outcomes and indicators of the Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Deforestation

For Tropenbos International and IUCN NL, an important achievement for 2020 is progress on the EU Action plan against deforestation, as a strong proposal including for due diligence regulation was adopted by the European Parliament in November 2020.

IUCN NL and TBI both supported the public campaign, collaborated in a coalition to mobilise EU citizens and civil society to sign the petition 'Together 4 Forests', which yielded over a million European citizens that spoke out in favor of strong binding legislation against deforestation at EU level. In 2020, the EC launched EU multi-stakeholder platforms to help protect and restore world's forests, which brings together an unprecedented range of stakeholders and expertise and for which both IUCN NL and Tropenbos International have successfully applied for a seat at the table and participated in the first meetings, pleading for minimum criteria and support to producing country conservation practices.

For IUCN NL the lobby was successful towards the Dutch Government and a EU Parliament report. They included data on slow progress on soy delivered by IUCN NL (the European Soy Monitor) and used that data in their plea for EU legislation against deforestation. The European Soy Monitor and the soy benchmark published by IUCN NL have been used by soy platforms and persuade industry to step up their actions. IUCN NL continued working with a multistakeholder coalition (public / private) of platforms in eight European countries, and also contributed to stronger collaboration between international soy initiatives, both with the aim to achieve 100 % conversion free responsible soy.

### Finance

Regulating the financial sector to promote transparency and prevent the financing of deforestation and rights violations remained an important area, using grievance mechanisms, dialogue with the Government of the Netherlands and engagement with the financial sector as intervention methods. Milieudefensie's OECD complaint against ING, which was supported by Southern CSO partners, was accepted by the National Contact Point (NCP) and several ongoing international case study efforts led to responses from individual companies. Robeco extended their exclusion list with additional palm oil companies (incl. Socfin, Socfinaf). ABN AMRO decided to divest part of its international agro-commodity activities.

### Biofuels

Regarding biofuels used for transportation, Milieudefensie focussed its efforts on influencing the implementation of the RED legislation in the Netherlands. This was a joint effort with Natuur & Milieu (N&M) and other NGOs. Milieudefensie and N&M were able to co-write the influential SER advice denouncing the use of biofuels for transportation. The fact that in the newly proposed RED bill the percentage of food crops is frozen at the 2020 level is new and a good direction towards no food crops at all. The proposal to cap the use of used cooking oil is also a good sign and will lead to more priority being given to advanced biofuels. The government will now also highlight the problems around soy.

### UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights

Milieudefensie and IUCN NL increased their efforts in the implementation of risk and security strategies for human rights defenders. The primary interventions focused on working with the NL4UNTreaty coalition to receive the support of the Dutch ministry/minister to push other (EU) countries for a UN binding treaty. Milieudefensie co-organised an expert meeting and provided different political stakeholders with content and advice. As a result, Members of Parliament expressed support in a public meeting for the minister's efforts to organize a progressive, leading group in the EU for the development of the UN





Oil palm plantations in West Kalimantan, Indonesia — Irpan Lamago

Treaty. Also the Dutch ministry has started approaching various Western states to actively involve them in the UN process and Minister Kaag publicly supported mandatory human rights due diligence (MHRDD) legislation.

On the European level, a [petition](#) of almost 850,000 citizens in favour of the UN Treaty and EU corporate accountability legislation was presented to EU and member state decision makers. Furthermore 35 calls for solidarity have been promoted among European groups. Nine EU member states asked the European Commission to draft an EU mandate for the UN Treaty negotiations, which is needed for formal EU involvement. The EU and member states did participate in the 2020 negotiation round.

#### Regional and country level outcomes

The agro-commodity programme also included work in other countries than the 9 GLA countries and achieved some notable outcomes there.

*For example, based on SOBREVIVENCIA's proposal, the Paraguayan members of PARLASUR have presented at the Plenary of the Parliament of **MERCOSUR**, and to the Paraguayan Senate, a proposal for the Law of Restoration and Conservation of the Territories and Ecosystems producing water in the basins of the Great Hydroelectric Dams of the Region. The proposal will also be presented to the Parliaments of the other MERCOSUR countries.*

*In **Cameroon**, the Government decided to cancel the already created forest management unit in Ebo forest, and to suspend the creation of the second one, after resistance from local communities, campaigns by NGOs (also internationally) and pressure from donor countries. Altogether, around 140,000 ha of valuable forest were saved from industrial logging. Also, the Minister of Lands suspended the contract granting Neo-Industry 28,000 ha of land in the Ntem Valley. CED supported a coalition of NGOs to mobilize against the gazettment of the Ebo forest as forest management Unit. CED also supported the resistance of the Ebo people against the project, resulting into widespread publicity of their fight. This shows us that community mobilization and resistance, when well- structured and grounded on law violations, can be very powerful.*

*A landmark, historic event in **Paraguay** was the approval, in early December 2020, by the Paraguayan Parliament, to transfer the land they have occupied since 2005 to the community of Marina Kue. It should be noted that inequality in land tenure in Paraguay is almost absolute and the worst in the world. Land tenure is concentrated in very few landowners, who concentrate 86.5% of the land, while small producers own 4% of the land and there are over 300.000 landless families. SOBREVIVENCIA has led a campaign towards the approval of this transfer, where our main strategic allies along with other 50 CSOs participated. The transfer is now awaiting promulgation by the President, to whom we have presented a very complete set of arguments justifying this promulgation.*

*Through its GLA Rapid Response Fund, IUCN NL supported 'Voices on the Road', an award-winning, independent documentary. This 23-minute documentary gives a voice to marginalised indigenous communities, charting the social and environmental impacts of a road being built through Manu Biosphere Reserve in **Peru**. The movie was featured on many events and prominent environmental film festivals in Latin America, and the outreach of the film and the impact campaign has clearly ignited debate on the issue of road building in Manu and other regions and hold politicians to account, through national and international pressure.*

## Monitoring, exchange and learning for improved Forested Land Governance

To improve Forested Land Governance, we promoted the use of accessible tools for community based monitoring of deforestation and landscape finance and we enabled international exchange, collaboration and learning to increase our impact.

Milieudefensie extended its project for community based forest monitoring with a set of interrelated online tools called TIMBY (This Is My Backyard). Important outcomes have been achieved at national and local level, with evidence from hundreds of community monitor reports and related actions, resulting in dozens of enforcement actions to counter illegal logging, increased payments to communities from social contracts with companies and integration of the monitoring into IPLC governance structures.

*For example, one community in **Mozambique** documented land rights violations and won a legal intervention against an agro-commodities company, where the court ordered the return of the grabbed land to the community. Also, five timby monitors in **Cameroon** sent in 269 timby reports which formed the basis for CED to denounce fifty cases of rights and environmental violations. 17 formal letters were sent to government authorities requesting law enforcement and one case was taken on by an international organisation to campaign against illegal timber trade.*

In addition, there have been exchanges between FoE groups on safety and security and other monitoring challenges leading to improved insights and strategies shared during a scientific and NGO conference. Also, the African Peoples Tribunal was organised by FoE Africa for which 10 cases of rights violations and environmental harm were documented and testimonies were made by community representatives.

The [Landscape Investment and Finance Tool \(LIFT\)](#), developed by IUCN NL and EcoAgriculture Partners, was applied by at least a dozen international organisations and mainstreamed in the [1000 Landscapes Initiative's](#) approach to landscape finance.

IUCN NL continued its support for regional and national capacity strengthening, learning, movement building, networking and policy advocacy activities for Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA) groups in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Latin America. While some activities were delayed or cancelled, partner CSOs and ICCA groups adapted to the new situation as much as possible.

*For example, in **Indonesia** a local ICCA group documented and registered 7 indigenous territories located in 17 spots in Sigi and Poso districts in Central Sulawesi. These areas have been incorporated in the [Tanahkita.id portal](#), the national ICCA registry. The registration and recognition of ICCAs not only heightens awareness of ICCAs but it also contributes to more support for community-based conservation and thus achieve Aichi target 11 of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) on Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs). Partner NTFP-EP **Philippines** reconvened ICCA youth through online platforms and conducted a series of interaction and learning sessions on relevant topics. In **Viet Nam**, the concept of ICCAs is still in its infancy. Partners therefore focused on awareness raising and network building, for example through the production of videos and (online) presentations. As a result, several organizations showed interest to join the Vietnam ICCA working group. Partners also organized a capacity strengthening workshop for mapping and documentation of ICCAs among civil society and government agencies. Due to the hard lockdown in Bolivia, most activities were cancelled.*



TIMBY monitor documents case of illegal logging in Cameroon — Danielle van Oijen

## Making progress towards a Just Energy Transition (JET)

In 2020 the Just Energy Transition programme increased their joint lobby and advocacy work to influence policies and demand policy implementation. In the JET programme, we saw that **bottom-up approaches to building change and community engagement is key for successful advocacy**: All of the JET partners empowered communities to be able to jointly identify challenges to a Just Energy Transition and target policy makers to address these challenges. This approach increased community ownership and supported a ripple effect, which enabled the JET partners in reaching more communities than they would have on their own. Moreover, because the lobby and advocacy efforts were driven by local communities, the government often turned out more responsive as it gave the advocacy demands more credibility. Another key for success is **working on JET related issues in international and national coalitions**, such as in Nigeria, Uganda and the DRC. This enabled organisations to engage in (cross-border) advocacy that increased pressure on their respective governments. Working in coalitions and with local communities was also important for strengthening the security of the JET partners, as it prevented them from working in isolation and becoming an easy target for reprisals.

CSOs in the expanding JET coalition shared case studies of a sustainable JET framework as joint research and advocacy work. This included a.o. a joint research around the impact of the support for fossil fuels by Export Credit Agencies (ECA) on African communities, highlighting the need for ECA fossil phase out. The research results were widely shared internationally and were used in international advocacy and campaign efforts to halt ongoing ECA fossil support, including by the Netherlands. Milieudefensie also supported Mozambique partner JA! in its campaign against ECA fossil support for the **Mozambique** LNG project in Cabo Delgado. This was done via media publications as well as a public call to action towards Dutch ECA Atradius DSB.

Also, ERA/FoEN, FoE Europe and Milieudefensie continued to work closely together to support local communities in **Nigeria** to combat oil pollution. In June, they released the joint shadow report 'No Clean Up, No Justice' together with Amnesty International UK, highlighting the lack of progress of the clean-up of Ogoniland carried out by HYPREP, which is responsible for implementing the recommendations of the 2011 UNEP Assessment report. This publication was the basis for intense media campaigning in Europe and Nigeria and for advocacy initiatives in the Netherlands, Nigeria, and at EU level. The press release for the report was timed to be in advance of the UK Supreme Court Okpabi case against Shell (June), which also supported international media attention for the case. During 2020, the court cases against Shell in the UK and the Netherlands were used as a strategic momentum to raise the public profile of the pollution in the Delta region, and to sustain pressure on the companies and decision makers responsible for implementing the UN Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland. The report 'No Clean Up, No Justice' also generated Parliamentary questions in the Netherlands and led to Nigerian Parliamentarians visiting the clean-up sites, where they publicly denounced the slow progress made and called for HYPREP reform. In February 2020, the Minister of Environment Dr. Mohammad Abubakar, while visiting some cleanup sites in Eleme Local Government Area in Ogoni said the government is planning to re-evaluate the Ogoni cleanup project in order to fast track the cleanup process. Furthermore, FoE Europe used the report to highlight the Ogoni pollution with European Commissioners for Energy and Justice as well as the European Parliament, in order to advocate for corporate accountability legislation at EU level.

Another important result is that due to the Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) campaigning and coalition building, the African Development Bank (AfDB) committed to not finance the EACOP oil project in **Uganda** and **Tanzania**.





### 3. REFLECTION ON KEY ELEMENTS/CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES OF THE GLA THEORY OF CHANGE (2020)

#### 3.1 Gender and inclusivity

Gender equality and inclusivity are important cross-cutting themes in the GLA programme, that received more systematic attention since the Mid Term Review in 2018. In 2020 a gender assessment was done for the programme (see chapter 4 of this report), which provides important lessons for the next phase of the programme. We also continued our activities to promote gender equality in the programme. The GLA Gender Hub had developed plans to organise regional gender exchange and capacity strengthening workshops in 2020, to provide a firm basis for regional networking and exchange on gender transformative change. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, these workshops could not take place. Nevertheless, the plans provided inspiration to develop the gender plans for the next phase of GLA.

In all countries partners committed themselves to become more gender sensitive and responsive, e.g. by engaging gender consultants and paying explicit attention to engaging a minimum number of women in all activities, or that the interests and needs of women, youth and marginalised groups are taken into account.

*For example, in **Ghana**, FoE-Ghana participated in a training workshop organised by Friends of the Earth Togo in December, 2020 on Agroecology (AE) and Community Forest Management (CFM) promotion in Africa: connecting men and women through movement and capacity building, and alliance building in Africa. The objective of this training was to integrate gender justice in the struggle for food sovereignty and in the promotion of Agroecology and community forest management. The workshop also looked at building a movement with women organizations on Agroecology.*

*Miliedefensie continued consulting with women's rights networks in the framework of cooperating on joint initiatives around Just Energy Transition (JET). An international JET & Feminism conference, which was scheduled to take place in 2020, had to be postponed due to COVID-19. Instead, three regional webinars (Asia/ Africa/ Latin America) were organized together with FoEI, during which 100 representatives of indigenous, feminist and trade union organizations shared their perspectives on a feminist just transition. Insights generated during the webinars will be published early 2021. In addition, women's rights organizations within the JET countries understand and advocate for JET, leading, amongst others, to women's movement building for JET in Nigeria.*

*In **Indonesia**, women's participation in Village Forest Management Group and Social Forestry Business Unit (KUPS) was improved. As a continuation of the gender equity and inclusiveness of marginalized groups activities that have been carried out in 2019 in Indonesia, various types of women-led businesses have developed in 2020 (see chapter 2.1). An important additional effect of these business groups is that they enabled women to become involved in the decision-making process in the village. In fact, several representatives of the business groups were selected to become management of the Sirukam village-owned enterprise.*

Tropenbos **DRC** organized workshops and campaigns for specific rights and the role of marginalized groups. They also organised campaigns for the equitable access of women and young people to Natural Resources and land (land rights) reaching more than 150 people in workshops and thousands through media (radio, TV, etc.).

### 3.2 Civic Space and Environmental Human Rights Defenders

Over the past years, we have seen severe restrictions in civic space in most countries. The Covid-19 pandemic has had an additional, mostly negative, effect on civic space. Countries with tropical rainforest have seen the deforestation rates escalate because of the absence of control and law enforcement. At the same time, the lockdowns and other restrictions hindered NGOs and environmental defenders from freely doing their work. In particular Indigenous peoples have seen more cases of land grabbing and violence done with impunity. Also, remote work and the use of social media become more important, which comes with new risks but also brings opportunities. Restrictions of civic space also occur in the digital world, through hacking on online attacks and threats. On a more positive note, the shift towards organising online has also enabled people in remote areas, who are otherwise struggling to attend face-to-face meetings, to engage more, contributing to inclusivity.

*Milieudefensie increasingly works with other FoE groups to support EHRDs in a more structural manner, with relocation of one EHRD and international solidarity on their struggles, including legal and advocacy support, for example to a group of EHRDs in Liberia wrongfully dismissed after protests against an agro-business company (see chapter 2.1). FoEI now has a more firmly established system in all regions for carrying out work in relation to EHRDs. Together the team has built the Internationalist Solidarity System (ISS), a tool developed to better communicate, document, and mobilize effectively on the protection, prevention and achievement of justice for defenders. In 2020, the ISS was increasingly used by groups to organise international support for EHRDs. For example over 200 organisations called upon the government of **Mozambique** to address human rights violations in Mozambique.*

*In 2020 IUCN NL organized a training in **Bolivia** on territorial protection. This issue became more relevant during the pandemic. As a request of EHRD themselves the capacity building activities focussed on the strengthening of territorial protection, which means that local communities develop local protocols to create a solid web of protection in their own territories, to avoid taking EHRD away from their environments and creating more resilience of their resistance.*

*European members of parliament and EU diplomats were activated to contact the **Honduran** government about the disappearance of four indigenous Garifuna social leaders. In the **Philippines** the civic space is becoming more and more restricted as the End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) implementation is heightened in all areas. As a result, red tagging among IPs and CSOs is also heightened. In addition, the Anti-Terror Act was signed into law by the Philippine President in July 2020 and is already being fully implemented. In Antipolo, NTFP-EP Philippines assisted in the dialogue between the military and the IP leaders on November 9, 2020.*

Across the world, women are often excluded from forest governance, limiting access to resources even when they are responsible for households, health and food consumption of entire communities. For this reason, the role that women play defending local community's rights is of crucial importance and the safety of (W)EHRDs to do their work is an important precondition for reducing deforestation. However, (Women) Environmental Human Rights Defenders ((W)EHRDs) continue to be under serious threat because of their work. The safety of (W)EHRDs to do their work is an important precondition for reducing deforestation. In working with (W)EHRDs we learned it is essential that Southern groups are leading in decision making on the interventions and that international solidarity and support for (W)EHRDs in their struggles through financial, diplomatic, legal or campaign interventions can make a big difference.

*IUCN NL increased its attention to supporting (women) environmental human rights defenders in 2020. For example, after killings of indigenous forest guards at Mt. Kitanglad in the upstream Cagayan de Oro river basin (the **Philippines**), IUCN NL supported partner KIN to develop security protocols and a welfare programme. This included the preparation, coordination and conduction of an indigenous peoples consultation on security and risk assessment among the Council of Elders, the Pagalad (tribal guardians) and the Kitanglad Guards Volunteers (KGVs)—all community-based forest protection volunteers. The result was a human security protocol to ensure safety to the different groups, who faced increasing death threats and harassment for being active (W)EHRDs. In DRC, IUCN NL has been supporting its partners with security and legal advice as well as financial support in these critical times.*

*In **Bolivia** the program raised attention about women leadership especially indigenous groups in activism and movement building. Including for example, how gender-based violence (GBV) is disproportionately used against women environmental human rights defenders (WEHRDs) to control and silence them and suppress their power and authority as leaders. Partner CSOs also made a publication and webinars to highlight the issue of women, extractives and how their rights are violated. All this to illustrate how Indigenous women defenders face intersecting and reinforcing forms of GBV due to a long history of racism and socioeconomic and political marginalization.*

### 3.3 Collaboration and Learning

Strengthening collaboration and learning are important elements of the GLA, which is reflected in many of the examples that are described in the previous chapters. Through working together and strengthening our skills and knowledge, we are able to achieve more and better results. Overall, when it comes to capacity strengthening we once again experienced that intensive, longer term technical assistance and support for community groups or local governments is more important than event-based formal training. Training alone does not lead to impact without empowering the target groups to adopt and implement skills and knowledge obtained during the training.

*In addition to the examples already mentioned, IUCN NL, in collaboration with Savia Bolivia, CONTIOCAP and NTFP Philippines organised an interesting exchange between Indigenous communities from **Bolivia** and the **Philippines**. The goal of the activity was to stimulate exchange of experiences, strengthen lobby and advocacy strategies and enhance solidarity between Indigenous People related to the construction of mega hydro dams in indigenous territories. Ten participants from the Philippines participated in the exchange representing indigenous peoples' communities in the country who are involved in lobbying for the recognition of ICCAs (Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas and Territories) in their respective communities. Key lessons from the exchange included the importance of coalition and network building among IPs and local communities, the importance of women empowerment in addressing conservation and sustainable development as well as the need to involve youth to address challenges of out-migrating youth and the associated loss of Indigenous knowledge and practices and future leadership. Some of the key actions representatives from both countries arrived at included (1) Expansion and strengthening of network building initiatives to address aggressive development within ancestral territories and FPIC violations, (2) sustain ICCA learning exchange initiatives to promote solidarity and cooperation among different communities, (3) provide capacity development for women leaders not just in advocacy work but also in the economic development agenda, (4) build second-line leaders at the community, and (5) ensure that traditional knowledge are passed on and continued.*





Yosef, a Dayak elder, in the Tembawang forest, Mekar Raya village, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. — Irpan Lamago

## 4. FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT: TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE OF FORESTED LANDSCAPES FROM 2016 – 2020

### Introduction

If we look back at the past 5 years of the GLA partnership, working with over 60 partners, in threatened landscapes in 9 countries and addressing 3 overarching, international themes, we conclude that we accomplished a lot, not only in terms of capacity strengthening, research, advocacy and policy change, but also in terms of building deeply personal and organizational relationships that last beyond the scope of the project. These relationships, made of trust and shared experiences, hold the key to unleashing the people power that is necessary to establish the changes that we need so desperately for the worlds' forests and the communities that depend on them.

The annual reports of the past 5 years, the mid-term review and the end evaluation, show us how the programme has developed and grown, leading to impressive results. In general, the Theories of Change that were developed at the start of the programme, proved to be in line with reality. It has not been easy to implement a programme of this size and scale, but 2020 has particularly shown that our efforts paid off. When everything changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to build on the past 4 years of capacity strengthening and working together. As a result, we were able to adapt our workplans and ways of communication effectively.

Below we will discuss some of the main overall successes, challenges, lessons learned and best practices of the GLA 2016-2020 programme that we take with us to the next phase of the programme (GLA2 2021-2025) that started as of January 2021.

### a. Main successes and best-practices

#### Capacity strengthening and collaboration leads to more effective lobby and advocacy

The end evaluation<sup>4</sup> as well as the 2020 country and thematic reports elaborate on the successes of the programme. The End Evaluation concludes that *'the programme has contributed to **strengthening Southern partners' capacities** 1) to generate and use verified evidence, 2) to develop clear and strategic interventions for L&A and communication, and 3) to engage with other CSOs and citizen networks, as well as engaging with the public sector to a certain extent.'* The final reports confirm these conclusions, as many partners indicate these capacities as important achievements of the programme. The ability to **generate and use evidence for lobby and advocacy** is highly valued by the GLA partners, who indicate that their advocacy work has become more effective as a result. The programme has also helped to improve understanding and strategies on gender, inclusion and IPLCs. Most clearly, (IPLC) women increased their decision-making power at community level and beyond (End Evaluation), by engaging in decision-making bodies and taking leadership roles at all levels.

<sup>4</sup> Forested Landscapes for Equity; End Evaluation. Wageningen Center for Development Innovation, December 2020

At landscape, national and international level, many **lobby and advocacy outcomes** can be identified. The end evaluation states that *‘the programme’s contributions towards outcomes obtained can be characterised in most cases as being a necessary part of a causal package of many other interventions, external actors and factors, meaning that without GLA the outcome would not have been achieved.’* In some cases it is more difficult to estimate the contribution of the GLA to a certain outcome, which is not surprising. Lobby and advocacy outcomes are almost always a result of a combination of factors that are often outside our control. However, the programme has helped partners to become more aware and strategic when it comes to mapping these factors and building strategies that take context and power structures into account.

The GLA partners have been able to **influence public opinion and build public pressure** effectively. For example, in Nigeria, increased public pressure at national and international level has finally led to the start of the clean-up of Ogoni land, which is closely monitored by local communities. In Bolivia, a country severely affected by forest fires, partners were able to put the protection of forests against agro-extractivism on the public agenda. The public awareness and debate has contributed to changes in forest governance, which ultimately contributes to sustainable management.

In all countries as well as at international level, the programme has **influenced dozens of policies and practices** related to sustainable forest governance, through improved land, forest, biodiversity, energy and agro-commodity laws. An important achievement at international level has been the decision of the European Commission that the cultivation of palm oil, mostly undertaken in Indonesia and Malaysia, results in excessive deforestation and should not be eligible to count toward EU renewable transport targets for national governments.

In many countries, the programme led to increased access to **justice for communities** affected by deforestation. For example, in Nigeria litigation has led to compensation for farmers whose land was destroyed by Okomu Oil Palm PLC. Also in Ghana, local farmers in the Borkorkrom community received compensation payment from a cocoa company following a campaign and publication of infringement on community rights, and in Liberia communities hold GVL accountable to adhere to national and international laws and principles. In addition, **local ownership** over forested lands and land rights have been improved in many countries. For example through the Land Rights Law in Liberia and in increasing the number of social forestry permits in Indonesia.

GLA partners contributed to **delaying large-scale destructive projects**, e.g. mining in Atewa forest (Ghana) and the building of the Kaliwa Dam (Philippines). Although both projects are still threatening the landscape, the delays and increased national and international attention, are important results that should not be underestimated. Partners’ ability to use the media to influence public opinion has played an important role in these achievements.

In terms of roles of partners in the landscapes, we notice that many partners have strong ties with the communities and they support their struggles. This also includes supporting sustainable livelihood options, as a prerequisite for inclusive forest governance. With this strong constituency, the community support is expected and creates the necessary trust and allyship for effective lobby and advocacy activities. As a result of the GLA programme, organisations have grown in further expanding their role as advocates, yet, this can be a balancing act as organisations often also implement government policies. Ensuring **evidence-based advocacy is important and it enables organisations to remain a trustworthy partner** to communities as well as (local) governments. Indeed, collaborations between activist groups and research groups have proven to be useful.

At **international level**, we were also able to influence policies and practices through **collaboration, research and mobilising public pressure**. The GLA investigated investments by Rabobank, ABN Amro and ING in palm oil companies and filed an OECD complaint against ING in collaboration with partner organisations Walhi, SDI and CED. Simultaneously, we ran a public campaign, as part of which 100,000 people sent a card to their bank. This resulted in a number of financial institutions withdrawing from the palm oil sector or from a palm oil company involved in abuses: Aegon Netherlands will stop investing in the palm oil industry and Rabobank will stop investing in the palm oil company Indofood. Lobby and advocacy by FoEI and partners contributed to the recognition of community-based conservation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as percentages of protected area that countries must achieve.

## b. GLA 2016-2020 programme assessments

In 2020, the GLA finalized several assessments of the programme. A (1) landscape governance and (2) tree cover assessment was carried out as part of the monitoring and evaluation system. In addition, a (3) gender assessment and (4) community rights review was done following the recommendations from the mid-term review. Below, we will briefly summarise the main conclusions from each study.

### Landscape Governance Assessment

The GLA programme aimed to strengthen inclusive and sustainable governance of forested landscapes (sphere of interest). To monitor and evaluate developments in the sphere of interest, TBI developed the Landscape Governance Assessment (LGA) as part of the PMEL toolbox of GLA. The LGA is meant to identify changes in governance processes over the course of the GLA programme. Baseline assessments were conducted in 2017 and endline assessments in 2020 in most GLA countries.





Community members of Bukinalwa in Buvuma, Uganda, prepare current landuse map on the ground. — Ecological Trends Alliance

The LGA defines landscape governance as “the set of rules (policies and cultural norms) and the decision-making processes of public, private and civic sector actors with stakes in the landscape that affect actions in the landscape”. We identify four key criteria of landscape governance: 1) inclusive decision-making, 2) culture of collaboration, 3) coordination and 4) sustainable landscape action. Key lessons for successful inclusive governance are:

- Build Capacity and Trust First.
- Provide Clarity about Goals and Expectations.
- Engage the Private Sector.
- Connect to Policy Processes.
- Be Explicit about Interests and Values.
- Consider the Limitations of Interventions Establishing New Arrangements.

On the first criterion, inclusive decision-making, the assessment finds that overall interaction between stakeholders in most landscapes increased and quantitative and qualitative data shows an increase in inclusiveness. The General Nakar landscape in the Philippines was the only landscape that saw a clear deterioration of inclusive governance; the tensions over de Kaliwa Dam project heightened conflict between landscape actors and the lack of transparency in information and decision-making on this project makes other inclusive governance processes, such as accountability, near impossible. However, partners note that even when participation increases overall, this does not mean that all stakeholder groups are able to take part due to practical barriers (e.g. travel time, language) or social barriers (e.g. conflict, lack of confidence). In addition, participation in itself is not enough to ensure equity and accountability. Access to information, transparency, and ensuring that the people at the table fully understand the information, is essential to ensure effective participation.

### Tree Cover Assessment

In the GLA country programmes alone, the GLA aims to contribute to the sustainable management of 11.5 million hectares of forested landscapes. In 2020 we attempted to measure trends in tree cover loss in the landscapes during the 5 years of GLA compared to the long-term trend between 2000-2015, with the help of Global Forest Watch. However, reflecting on the outcomes we found, it can be concluded that with the use of Global Forest Watch it is hardly possible to relate landscape level changes in tree cover loss to project interventions in the short period of time of the project. Nevertheless, Global Forest Watch is useful because knowledge on the location of tree cover and hotspots of tree cover loss support the analysis of causes and the planning of intervention areas in the landscape. A spatial context analysis can provide critical information on a landscape-wide strategy. We are using what we have learned from this tree cover assessment in the set up of the baseline for GLA 2 so we should be able to draw better conclusions on our contributions to forest cover in the next phase of the programme.

### Gender Assessment

In the last quarter of 2020, an assessment of the key GLA gender results was conducted by an external consultant, including best practices and lessons learnt, which serves as a foundation for the gender strategies in GLA 2021-2025. The assessment was conducted through a review of over 35 GLA documents, including general documents, such as evaluation and annual reports, as well as documents focusing on gender. At various stages of the process feedback was provided by members of GLA's Gender Hub.

The overall conclusion is that GLA showed a clear upward trend with respect to addressing gender equality over time, though with a considerable variation of the extent to which specific partners integrated gender into their GLA interventions.



Apparent factors that contributed to the increased attention to gender over time include the gender trajectory that started in 2018 and the subsequent establishment of the Gender Hub within GLA. In this way GLA 2016-2020 laid a good foundation for a stronger gender approach within GLA 2021-2025.

However, the assessment also showed that the fact that no clear gender strategy, activities and indicators were included from the beginning in GLA 2016-2020, resulted in an initial lack of attention and missing data to track progress. It is essential that a systematic gender approach is included from the start of a programme, which includes gender in objective, programming, implementation and M&E. Despite the fact that structural gender activities started relatively late, the partners still reported many achievements, such as women -and other groups- becoming more organized and taking up leadership in GLA activities; women participating in forest governance and related L&A; improvements in women's livelihoods through sustainable practices; women's strategic needs being addressed, with some evidence of transformative change; gender perspectives being better integrated in plans, policies, legislation and/or conventions and improved gender awareness and capacities among stakeholders and partners. However, the assessment also showed that increased attendance of women, does not necessarily result in equal participation. Gender equality and transformational change requires a long-term approach. South-south learning proved to be very valuable to the partners.

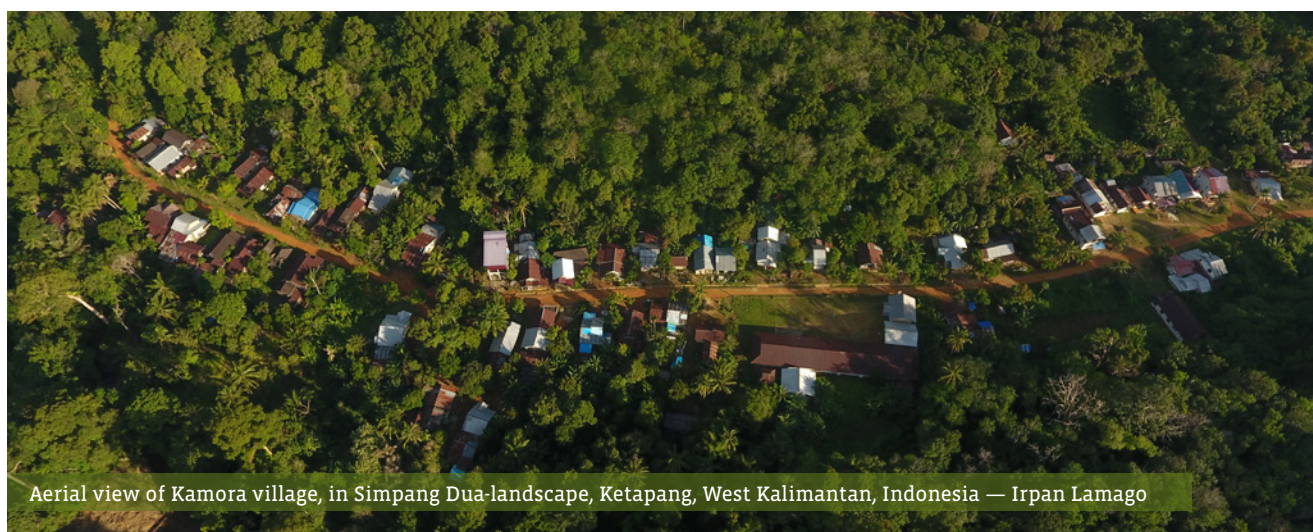
## Community Rights Review

A central assumption of the Theory of Change of GLA 2016-2020 is that *'local control over forested landscapes, local participation in decision-making processes and management, and the application of nature-based approaches to resource management all contribute to inclusive and sustainable governance of forested landscapes'*. Over the last couple of decades, many governments have formalized the forest rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, with the expectation that this would contribute to both conservation and sustainable development. To test our key assumption, we conducted a review to reflect on the experiences with forest tenure reforms so far: Have these reforms led to the desired outcomes? And, what are the conditions for success?

To answer these questions, Tropenbos International and partners conducted a review of community forest tenure models in ten countries: Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam in Asia; DR Congo, Liberia, Nigeria and Uganda in Africa; and Bolivia, Colombia and Suriname in Latin America. The findings of the interviews and workshops have been captured in a set of briefing papers. Each paper provides an overview of the outcomes of the tenure model, the conditions for success, as well as practical recommendations for civil society organizations. The [collection of papers](#) provide a useful resource for anyone interested in how formalized community forest rights can reach their full potential to contribute to conservation, development and social justice.

The review concludes that formalizing the forest rights of IPLCs has the potential to contribute positively to forest conservation and to local livelihoods. Moreover, formalizing tenure is considered a matter of social justice, especially in cases where communities were managing the forest long before the state claimed ownership and a growing number of governments have developed legislation that makes it possible for IPLCs to formalize their forest rights. However, there is still a long way to go. The implementation of laws and regulations is slow, and most of the world's forested lands remain owned and controlled by central governments. And, where community rights are recognized, they may not always lead to tenure security; for example, when they overlap with commercial concessions.

The literature review points to two main dilemmas that come with the formalization of community forest rights. First, there is the risk that formalization will trigger conflicts, and that it may reinforce existing inequalities between local elites and



Aerial view of Kamora village, in Simpang Dua-landscape, Ketapang, West Kalimantan, Indonesia — Irpan Lamago

marginalized groups and between men and women. Second, formalization often takes place in a complex web of different interests, and may involve trade-offs between the objectives of self-determination, forest conservation and livelihood improvement.

Ultimately, the success of community rights in terms of conservation and livelihood outcomes depends on a combination of developments and pressures at the landscape level. The formalization of community rights should be seen as a component of integrated landscape governance, where a range of stakeholders negotiate, cooperate and coordinate activities. A recurring lesson in the literature is that formalization should be developed from the bottom up; local people need to be in the driver's seat, both during and after the formalization process. Throughout this whole time, there needs to be an open dialogue about objectives and expected outcomes between the various stakeholders in the landscape, which will help to determine ways to achieve synergies. This way, governments and CSOs can help to create an enabling environment that empowers IPLCs to develop sustainable forest-based livelihoods.

### c. Challenges and bottlenecks

The GLA Alliance was established on the assumption that organisations with different expertise and beliefs about change would successfully complement each other in lobby and advocacy. Although this assumption has proven to be at least partly correct – collaboration and research strengthens advocacy - we also experienced that **collaboration cannot be forced** (this was also reflected in the Mid-Term Review). It can be challenging to really complement each other and make change the way an organisation works, especially when organisations have a different focus and sometimes viewpoint. The investment needed in relationship building should not be underestimated. This challenge also relates to the way partners were identified at the start of the programme, which happened based on existing relationships between the Dutch Alliance members and the organisations in the partner countries. For GLA2 we learned to establish clear governance structures and communication protocols among partners to avoid conflict and misunderstandings. In some countries, increasing local ownership has proven to be important to improve collaboration dynamics. The time and space to (get to) know each other has helped to let collaboration grow over the 5 years of project implementation.

We also found that, although bi-annual reflection meetings were very good to reflect on the programme and the Theory of Change, more is needed to make sure that the reflections are followed by actual changes in the programme. **Adaptivity is often easier said than done.** We also see that sometimes partners are uncomfortable making changes that are riskier or more innovative. It is important to translate reflections into concrete action and build the trust and open communication that is needed for risk-taking.

Another key challenge that the GLA programme faced relates to **dealing with the strong relations between government and private business interests**. For example, in **Indonesia**, partners emphasize that business representatives and politicians continue to strengthen their relationships and, as a result, they have succeeded in controlling natural resources at grassroot level. An overemphasis on economic growth has overlooked sustainable development. The representatives from government and private sector who attend the Multi-Stakeholder Working Group meetings often have no decision-making power and their verbal commitments differ from the behaviour of the organizations. At the same time, there are few community champions who speak up for the long-term interests of communities, since most villagers work for large-scale companies and it is hard to prove the financial benefits of the introduced sustainable livelihoods due to limited market options. Also, as examples in the **Philippines** show, working with the government can be very challenging as the Philippine government often allows, and is sometimes connected to the encroachment on ancestral lands by businesses and rich people. The Philippine government increasingly uses red-tagging of activists (labeling them as terrorists) to silence their voices and limit their operational space.

Another challenge relates to **dealing with integrity issues at partner organisations**. During the GLA programme there were three cases of partner organisations (in Uganda, DRC and Nigeria) with integrity issues, in relation to finances and/or to governance/leadership. In all cases the GLA, after due processes of thorough 'forensic' investigation, external support or mediation, had to take the decision to stop further collaboration with these partner organisations. In one case the GLA Alliance member had to furnish a large amount of unaccounted funds from its own reserves. These cases remind us of the importance to be aware of possible signs of integrity issues in order to deal with them with the utmost attention. These cases also lead to the question who should bear the risk when engaging with civil society organisations in medium or high risk countries as is stimulated by the Ministry.

A final challenge is **dealing with diversity and conflicting interests within communities**, for example elite capture and involving women and youth. During GLA2 we will pay extra attention to this aspect.

#### d. Lessons and unexpected findings

Over the past 5 years, we learned countless lessons that shaped and redirected strategies over time and influenced the Theory of Change of GLA 2021-2025. Two important lessons that were confirmed over and over throughout the programme are that **policy processes are slow and building effective collaborations and partnerships is hard and time consuming**. We expect to reap more benefits of the 2016-2020 time period within the next phase.

Generally speaking we have observed that our programme contributed to the development of **movements and broad coalitions** between a wide variety of partners, going beyond the immediate GLA partners. For example, in the Philippines and Ghana we see movements against the power of multinational companies that stand up for local communities and women. During this programme we became even more convinced of the important role of movements and broad coalitions in lobby and advocacy and of **the importance of litigation** to achieve our goals. More and more we used litigation and international legally binding instruments like the Universal Periodic Reviews to ensure justice for impacted communities. Related to this, we also learned that holding companies to account works best through binding regulation.

#### Conclusions and recommendations for the next phase of the Green Livelihoods Alliance

The period 2016-2020 of the GLA programme has taught us many lessons. Most lessons led to immediate small or larger adjustments in the programme, which is for example shown by the increased attention for gender as of 2018 and investments in the Community Rights Review as recommended by the Mid-Term Review. At national and thematic level, the programmes were constantly reviewed and adjusted where needed.

GLA 2016-2020 laid a strong foundation of knowledge, experience and evidence that has been used for the formulation of the Forest for a Just Future programme. The growing evidence that IPLCs are able to sustainably govern forested landscapes under the right conditions is an important starting point to achieve more impact during the course of GLA 2021- 2025. Also, gender strategies, objectives and indicators are included from the start, using a twin-track, transformational and intersectional approach with also more structural emphasis on civic space and (Women) Environmental Human Rights Defenders.

Internationally, the climate movement has grown substantially since 2016 and political attention increased, with more and more recognition of the role that forests play in climate mitigation and adaptation. Yet, effective, large-scale climate action is still lagging behind and many solutions presented are either too far in the future, unrealistic or lack a human rights perspective. It is therefore important that we use our knowledge on sustainable forest governance, and how to achieve that, to influence national and international policy debates. Our role in strengthening and facilitating movements at all levels is important to challenge the power and interests that shaped the political and economic systems over the past decades and bring alternative narratives and solutions towards a sustainable future.



FORESTED LANDSCAPES FOR EQUITY

GREEN LIVELIHOODS ALLIANCE  
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2020

 ANNEXES 

## ANNEX 1 – OVERVIEW OF GLA PARTNERS

Country		Thematic Programme	Alliance member	CSOs contracted in the GLA		No. of collaborations (with MoU)	Landscape
				1st tier	2nd tier		
1	Bolivia		TBI	IBIF	AFIN Cicol AFIG OFC AISU OFC Ascensión OFC San Juan	2	Chiquitania region, Santa Cruz
			IUCN NL	PROBIOMA SAVIA Comunidad Sustentable CONTIOCAP			
		JET	MD	Comunidad Sustentable			
2	Democratic Republic of Congo	JET	IUCN NL	ACEDH		10	Virunga National Park and Kahuzi-Biega National Park
			IUCN NL	CREDHIO IFDP IDPE CEPED FECOPEILE			
			TBI	Tropenbos DR Congo	RINEC-Bois ARED Clinique Juridique COCOLPE FLEVICA ICCN SOPALI SEREPSAN APILAF		Tshopo, Mongala and Ituri provinces
		JET	TBI	Tropenbos DR Congo	Women's associations		
		FLG AC	MD	RIAO RDC			
3	Ghana		TBI	Tropenbos Ghana	Taylor Crabbe Initiative (TCI)	7	Juaboso-Bia landscape
			IUCN NL	A Rocha Ghana			Atewa Range Forest Reserve
			MD	FoE-Ghana			National level, and Atewa and Juaboso landscapes
4	Indonesia		IUCN NL	WARSI	LBH Padang, PPO Santiago	25	Mudiak Baduo, West Sumatra Province
				NTPF-EP Indonesia	Consortium SIKLUS (SIKAP, KARSA, IMUNITAS) Consortium ROA (ROA, YPAL, Solidaritas Perempuan)		Lariang Watershed, Sulawesi
			TBI	Tropenbos Indonesia	PMP		Gunung Tarak
		AC	MD	WALHI / FoE Indonesia			

Country		Thematic Programme	Alliance member	CSOs contracted in the GLA		No. of collaborations (with MoU)	Landscape
				1st tier	2nd tier		
5	Liberia	AC / FLG	MD	SDI /FoE Liberia			Sinoe County
			TBI	VOSIEDA			
			IUCN NL	SCNL			
6	Nigeria	JET / FLG	MD	ERA/FoE Nigeria			Edo State, Cross River State, Ogoniland, Rivers State
7	Philippines	FLG	MD	LRC-KSK/ FoE-Philippines	Timuay Justice and Governance	2	Maquindanao Province
			IUCN NL	NTFP-EP Philippines	Mabuwaya Foundation Tanggol Kalikasan		Sierra Madre Landscape
				Samdhana Inst.	KIN SRSLF MBDA CDORBMC		Cagayan de Oro and Tagoloan river basins
				TBI	Philippines Forest Foundation (FFP)		ICSC Haribon ALG Los Baños Forestry Development Center State Universities and Colleges
8	Uganda	JET	IUCN NL	AFIEGO			Murchison
				Friends of Zoka			Northern and West Nile regions
			TBI	Ecological Trends Alliance			Kalangala
9	Viet Nam		IUCN NL	PanNature		2	Serepok River Basin
				VietNature			
			TBI	Tropenbos Viet Nam	Tay Nguyen University Centre for Rural Development in Central Highlands Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (WASI) Women’s Union Ha Noi National University of Social Sciences		
Thematic programmes							
10	Argentina <sup>1</sup>	JET	MD	FoE Argentina Observatorio Petrolero Sur (OPSur)			
11	Brazil <sup>1</sup>	JET	MD	FoE Brazil			



Country		Thematic Programme	Alliance member	CSOs contracted in the GLA		No. of collaborations (with MoU)	Landscape
				1st tier	2nd tier		
12	Cameroon <sup>1</sup>	FLG / AC	MD	CED			
		AC	MD	Synergie Nationale des Paysans et Riverains du Cameroun - Synaparcam			
13	Colombia <sup>1</sup>	JET	MD	CENSAT			
14	Gabon <sup>1</sup>	FLG	MD	Muyissi Environnement			
15	Ivory Coast <sup>1</sup>	AC	MD	Jeunes Volontaires pour L'Environnement (JVE)			
16	Mozambique <sup>1</sup>	FLG	MD	JA! Mozambique			
17	Paraguay <sup>1</sup>	AC	MD	Sobrevivencia			
18	Togo <sup>1</sup>	FLG / AC/JET	MD	Les Amis de la Terre Togo			Forêt Classée de Togodo-Sud
	Focus countries EU and UN	FLG / JET / AC	MD	FoE International FoE Europe	Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) – FoE Malaysia	FoE Sri Lanka FoE Palestine FoE Honduras FoE Uganda FoE Georgia	
		FLG	MD	International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)			
	Asia	FLG	IUCN NL	NTPP-EP	WGII Indonesia NTPP-Philippines PanNature		
<b>Total countries</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>DD6 - # 89 of CSOs included in the SP program (including both 1st and 2nd tier partners) see Annex 2</b>		<b>Collaborations</b>	<b>Landscapes</b>
<b>18</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>53<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>25</b>

**Table notes:**

1. CSO partners contracted by GLA and implementing GLA thematic programmes, but not in GLA focus countries.
2. 142 CSOs are active in the GLA programme: 49 first tier, 40 second tier and 53 collaborating CSOs. NTPP-Philippines PanNature have not been added to the second tier count, as they are already counted in the first tier count.

## ANNEX 2 – PROGRESS ON DIALOGUE AND DISSENT INDICATORS

This annex shows the progress of the GLA on the indicators of the Dialogue and Dissent results framework. The GLA uses outcome harvesting to monitor progress and has operationalized the Dialogue & Dissent indicators (D&D) as the number of harvested outcomes that represent a change in the respective D&D indicators. We explain each score by differentiating between public, private or civil actors and the main result areas within the GLA ToC. The text in this Annex is meant to be published in IATI as a brief overview of the type of outcomes achieved by the GLA in each D&D category.

### DD1- # of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development

**Implementation or enforcement of laws, policies and goals, is a vital step to ensure that our work in fact leads to more inclusive and sustainable forested landscape governance in the landscapes. In 2020, the GLA harvested a total of 117 outcomes that represent improved implementation of laws, policies and practices of public, private and civil actors that significantly contribute to inclusive and sustainable forested landscape governance.**

#### Public actors taking action

A significant part of the 117 outcomes under DD1 concerns public actors enforcing or implementing policies and laws. Most of these outcomes were at the national level, as legislation at international level is often not yet in the implementation phase. For instance, in **Vietnam**, the ministry in charge of forests dismantled a major Vietnamese network of illegal loggers leading to the sanctioning of those concerned. Also in **Ghana**, monitoring activities by the Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) led to the removal about sixty illegal miners who had rented accommodation in Potroase in March 2020 (see chapter 2.1 of the final narrative report).

#### Private actors acting

Several outcomes in this category concerned private actors improving their behaviour. Some outcomes indicate increased action of companies to engage, or to compensate communities. For instance: In **Ghana**, local farmers in Borkorkrom community received compensation payment from a timber company following FoE-Ghana's campaign and publication of the company's infringement on community rights.

#### Civil actors acting

Outcomes under DD1 also show civil actors taking concrete steps that significantly contribute to inclusive and sustainable forested landscape governance. Several of these outcomes concern empowered communities who have proactively taken actions to safeguard their forests, apply sustainable practices or demand justice or proper compensations from public and private actors.

Communities took actions to safeguard their forests: For instance, LPHD in **Indonesia** is regularly patrolling in the KEE corridor. Regular patrol in village forests will protect the village forest from illegal logging and fires. It also helps to restore the degraded forest through restoration activities. In **Cameroon**, a permanent network of local forest monitors was created in 2020, which is active in documenting evidence of illegal logging. By the end of 2020, around 154 local forest monitors have been trained and equipped with the Timby application, and delivered over 600 reports of environmental and social harms to 6 Friends of the Earth groups that have undertaken over 200 advocacy actions in response.

Communities have also turned to alternative, more sustainable practices of using their land: For instance in **Viet Nam**, local farmers in the Hoa Phong, Hoa Son and Khue Ngoc Dien commune of Krong Bong district set up agroforestry farms of coffee and oranges. Farmer groups of oil palm in two villages in **Indonesia** started to earn additional income from processing alternative products such as pineapple jam and dodol, decreasing their dependency on palm oil. In **Ghana**, farmers in the Juaboso Bia landscape have increased tree cover on their farms to enhance climate smart and sustainable cocoa production.

Outcomes under DD1 show that communities increasingly resist new extraction developments. In **Ghana**, Chiefs and Assembly members in Bia West District have vowed to resist any attempts of illegal gold mining within their jurisdiction. This outcome shows locals willingness and capability to defend their rights against illegal and unsustainable extraction of natural resources. It also demonstrates their ability to self-mobilise to protect activities that threaten their livelihood activities.

## DD2 - # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes, blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development

In 2020, the GLA has harvested a total of 66 outcomes that demonstrate that public, private and civil actors changed laws, policies and norms/attitudes towards more inclusive and sustainable forested landscapes.

### (Local, national and international) Governments changing policies and attitudes

The outcomes on governments adopting policies range from the local to the international level.

At the local level, outcomes include local authorities actively supporting sustainable initiatives or supporting monitoring activities, such as in **Indonesia**:

- The Head of the Sijunjung District Youth and Sports Service (Dispora) provided financial support for ecotourism activities of Nagari Batu Manjular which was initiated by the Nagari Batu Manjular Tourism Awareness Group.
- The village governments of Sungai Pelang and Sungai Besar allocated village funds from the village budget 2020 for village forest monitoring activities. As most parts of the villages of Sungai Pelang and Sungai Besar are in peatland area, the village forest is susceptible to fires especially during the long dry season. Intensive monitoring over the forest is then very important.
- The district government of forested areas Sigi and Poso District in Central Sulawesi facilitated village spatial planning as a part of district spatial planning, through regional planning agencies (BAPPEDA). The village spatial planning, which includes social and cultural aspects, can help the district government with improved district planning, based on local realities and on a participatory mapping process.

At the national level, in the **Philippines**, Member of Parliament IP representative Romeo Saliga drafted and passed a resolution urging the Ministry on Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) to deputize Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples (NMIP) as forest guards within their ancestral lands. This is a significant outcome as there have been moves from the MENRE to create forest rangers from Moro community, who are outsiders in these forested areas, raising tensions with the local community. In **Paraguay**, the Chamber of Deputies and then the Senate, approved the law transferring occupied property to the peasant community of Marina Kue.

At the international level, several outcomes indicated a willingness to draft legislation to halt deforestation on the international political level. The European Parliament adopted a proposal for legislation that supports binding legislation against trade related deforestation. Also, Austria, France, the European Parliament and parliaments in Netherlands, Austria and Belgium all voiced strong concerns with the EU Mercosur trade agreement and the Commission has publicly announced that the deal in its current form cannot go through.

### Private actors pressured to adopt, create or change policies

Private actors are increasingly under pressure to take action to drafting policies or MoUs towards more inclusive and sustainable forested landscapes.

In **Uganda**, the company BIDCO was put under pressure to change their bad practices and to revert their illegalities and abides to all environment safeguards. BIDCO is working with district natural resources department to monitor buffers. Evidence based research exposed the encroachment in buffer zones. Combined with pressure from exchange visits this led to the desired change.

### Civil actors joining forces and drafting combined plans

Civil actors also agreed on actions or adopted plans that contribute to inclusive and sustainable forested land-scape governance. Many outcomes in 2020 under this indicator describe CSOs/NGOs joining forces to work together in their fight against deforestation, both in the national and international context.

In **Indonesia**, 34 farmers in Nagari Padang Gantiang, Sangir Jujuan Subdistrict, South Solok District agreed to form an Agroforestry Group with the name Buah Sakato Farmer Group. With the Agroforestry Group existence, they can manage their rubber production to become a pilot agroforestry project in South Solok District and improve the livelihoods of group members and the surrounding community. In **Nigeria**, a women's movement promoting a just energy transition has begun with strengthening the capacity of women's rights organisations to understand and advocate for a just energy transition, following a training organised by ERA/FoEN. Internationally, more than 20 Brussels based NGOs undertook coordinated actions towards the EU commission's From Farm to Fork strategy on the need to reduce deforestation and stop climate change caused by intensive livestock production and consumption, as well as support agroecological alternatives.



### DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage.

**In 2020, GLA partners contributed to 99 outcomes that demonstrate CSO demands and positions are included in the debate.**

GLA partners are being heard in the local, national and international political debate. This also happens cross continental: Two Southern FOE groups -FOE Mozambique and FOE Honduras gained access to European policy makers and/or relevant European players to advocate against HR violations committed by European corporations or financed by European money. This will lead to increased awareness among EU players on HR violations outside the EU.

At the national level, the voices of CSO partners and the communities they work with are also being heard. In **Liberia**, the Synaparcam community collective works to improve the situation of workers at oil palm plantations. For the first time, local buyers from oil palm plantation company Socapalm (Nestlé, Tractafric, Michelin, Azur) were addressed in campaigns by Synaparcam, after which at least two of the buyers contacted Synaparcam on the concerns raised by Synaparcam.

In the **Philippines**, partners and two local civil society networks were able to mobilize local politicians and community members to speak out against the Kaliwa dam. A congressman announced his willingness to support a Congressional Inquiry on the case and also the provincial board of Quezon passed a resolution giving power to the Governor to act against Kaliwa Dam Project. Also the highest political body of the local Dumagat-Remontado tribe reaffirmed its position against the dam.

Some of the DD3 outcomes describe the voice of women being lifted by the programme: In **Indonesia**, the new appointed management board of Village Forest Management Group (LPHD) Sungai Pelang for the tenure of 2020 – 2025, included a woman representative among its 8 new board members for the first time.

## ANNEX 3 – COUNTRY AND THEME SPECIFIC PROGRESS

1 BOLIVIA – Country Programme		
WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH		
<p>The GLA program in Bolivia seeks to influence the policies and practices of public, private and civil actors that contribute to the inclusive and sustainable management of forest landscapes, through the development of capacities for lobby and advocacy at different levels. The GLA Alliance believes that the Greater Chiquitanía can maintain its valuable ecosystems and provide the people with income, health and well-being. The GLA Alliance has built and supported a network of organizations that are now actively involved in issues related to landscape governance.</p>		
CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The government transition process that began in October 2019 and which by law should have taken 90 days, took a year. Throughout the landscape there has been a long process of political campaigns and conflicts. Partners pointed out that due to the last turbulent electoral conflicts polarization in Bolivia has been accentuated.</li><li>• COVID-19 measures have been very strict and limited the civic space even further. Under the public health discourse the government has militarized streets and has also limited the freedom of expression, since the pandemic period has also been a contested political period<sup>1</sup>. The pandemic measures resulted in a full lockdown from March until September. This has limited partner’s mobility and ability to carry out the planned activities. The pandemic measures were especially harsh on vulnerable groups, such as indigenous communities.</li><li>• Forest fires again hit the Chiquitanía, which added to the extensive drought of 2020. As of October 15, 2020, a total of 2.8 million ha had been burned, of which 376 thousand ha of forests.</li><li>• To mitigate the effects of the above developments, partners constantly monitored the political situation, communicated with local stakeholders and coordinated with local authorities.</li></ul>		
	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2020
1	Management committees support the management of protected areas	The Association of Management Committees for protected areas in the Landscape are now recognized by the SERNAP administration as a valid stakeholder, especially during the 2020 forest fires season. Work is still required on its legal recognition.
2	The ABT applies measures that support the sustainable management of their territories	<p>The Forest and Land Authority (ABT) approved the Administrative Resolution RA-ABT-097-2020, which allows all forest users to use the regionalized forest inventory database to update their forest management plans. This administrative resolution eliminates the high costs of developing a new forest inventory and directly benefits the indigenous communities with expired forest management plans since they do not have the capital to make this investment. Since 2018, IBIF participated in several meetings with the ABT to agree on the technical details for the use of the forest inventory database.</p> <p>The national government issued a Supreme Decree to allow the use of harvesting mobile equipment (chainsaws) by IPs to harvest timber from areas with forest management plans. This measure reduces their dependency on private companies and hence increases their income.</p>
3	The Agro-ecological Platform of the Tropics, Subtropics and Chaco develops tools to market agro-ecological products	The agro-ecological platform developed internal regulations, statutes and forms for granting the agroecological identity seal for 4 groups (fruit and vegetable producers, processors, beekeepers and collectors). The process for the legal registration of the brand of the Agroecological Identity Seal has begun.
4	The media disseminates reliable information related to integrated forest and land management	During the 2020 forest fires crises, partners have been interviewed, as in 2019, by international media and communication platforms, such as Reuters, Mongabay etc. They were able to continue exposing the structural causes of these fires. In the last 3 years, civil society platforms positioned extractivism as a central factor in the public debate to understand the environmental and social context of the Chiquitanía.

1 <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2020/05/12/free-speech-under-threat-bolivia-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

5	Organizations and international alliances issue resolutions and/or decisions in response to complaints of non-compliance by the government	<p>ADHAMA, an alliance of 50 civil society organizations formed in 2019, followed up on the recommendations presented in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report of Bolivia. They highlighted the recommendations in the media, to ensure they stay on the agenda. The platform also developed an UPR monitoring agenda for 2021 (including indicators) and built capacities of partners to monitor the recommendations.</p> <p>The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) included 3 questions in their list of issues on climate change and gender, specifically on how rights of women are safeguarded in relation to impact of extractive activities. The questions were based on evidence from a report presented by CEDIB and other allies. Bolivia will have to respond to these questions in the following session.</p>
6	CSOs, the productive sector (agriculture, livestock, forestry, mining) and the public sector participate in the public debate on the extractive development model	During the quarantine caused by COVID-19, the public debate continued online, to provide coverage of the fires and partners' analysis on this topic. For example, the press covered the impact of fires on air quality, protected areas, and how the burned areas are later converted into industrial agriculture fields.
7	Conscious consumers demand products from sustainable and integrated forest and land management	After restrictions caused by COVID-19 were lifted, the Agro-ecological Fairs began again (once a week). To date more than 110 fairs have been held.

#### REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

- The achievement of results this year has been particularly complex due to COVID-19. The strategies that had to do with coordination and work with local actors had to be adjusted due to the impossibility of visiting the field. However, in most cases local capacities were developed to be able to use tools (zoom, skype, WhatsApp) that allowed communication.
- Extractive activities and policies continued despite the change of government (interim), which were again manifested in forest fires throughout the region. Based on this, the lesson was that when it is possible to find a clear connection between extractivism and fires or deforestation, it is possible to construct a strong narrative and debate about the underlying causes of the fires. The press is an important player and ally when initiating the debate.



## 2

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – Country Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

IUCN NL and TBI worked with nine local partner organizations and eight formal collaborations to combat the destruction and degradation of ecosystems in the Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega landscapes in northeastern DRC and in Tshopo, Ituri and Mongala in the central part of the country. These areas are under threat due to weak governance, illegal exploitation of natural resources, land grabbing, encroachment of protected areas and inadequate forestry laws and policies. Sustainable forest governance is also seriously hampered by corruption and the presence of armed groups. GLA uses multiple and complementary approaches to address these problems. Activities included coalition building, awareness raising and mobilization of all stakeholders (including communities, land-owners, local authorities and cross-border actors), documentation/monitoring of violations, legislative advocacy and the gathering and dissemination of evidence to guide decision-making.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

COVID-19 obviously had an effect on the implementation of activities due to lockdowns and sanitary measures taken, but also in terms of budget. This had an impact on the number of beneficiaries, and on the nature of the activities proposed. Another effect was that there was an increase in human rights violations. It was also an opportunity for the authorities to muzzle CSO actors. Inmates were released for a lack of prison space, creating even more impunity for those committing environmental crimes. A positive effect was the use of new technologies such as remote information triangulation and online collaboration with other African platforms, leading to lower costs and democratization of online forums.

The national political context is explosive following the 2018 post-electoral crisis between the president Tshisekedi coalition and the former President Kabila's alliance. Permanent (open or latent) confrontation between parties impacts state governance such as national currency depreciation and many uncertainties.

There are more discussions among politicians and in the media in relation to land grabbing issues. This has led to further polarization around land grabbing. Partners reacted by trying to harmonize the relationships by participating in activities where authorities and communities come together.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2020
1	National policy and the new land tenure law includes environmental aspects	<p>Government authorities in South Kivu have an improved understanding of the draft edit on the decentralization of land management and are putting it into practice at the provincial level. Partners contributed to trainings and awareness raising among a range of stakeholders.</p> <p>The provincial community forestry board in Tshopo built the capacity of civil servants at the lower Territoire and Secteur levels so that they are able to master the application procedure and acts related to Local Community Forest Concessions (CFCL). Local communities established CFCL managing bodies (via elections) that are functional and include marginalized groups (women, youth and migrants). A woman is leading Bapondi CFCL committee and women are in decision-making positions in 2 other CFCLs.</p>
2	Authorities apply better law enforcement	<p>Partners produced, distributed and popularized 833 copies of an edict on the protection of human rights defenders among members of local landscape protection coalitions in Virunga, police officers and human rights defenders in North Kivu.</p> <p>The disciplinary council sanctioned three magistrates of Kisangani High Court who had rendered an iniquitous judgement stripping more than 300 families of their plots and houses. These magistrates had been corrupted by lands affairs' civil servants and crooked businessmen willing to grabble lands. This disciplinary sanction was taken following the denunciation of 2 CSOs (SADD and OCLG) with Tropenbos DRC support.</p>

3	There is a harmonious relationship between communities and other stakeholders/the government	A dialogue committee supported by local partner CREDDHO, bringing together the local authority - which is the governor's delegate - local leaders and the l'Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), sent a letter to the President of the National Assembly to demand their involvement in the existing conflict among stakeholders. This action resulted from several trainings and coaching in advocacy techniques, but is also evidence of good collaboration between members of the dialogue committee, who all agreed to the letter.
4	Local communities, including women and youth, are involved in landscape protection	<p>GLA partner FECOPEILE organized exchange trips and sharing of experiences on the involvement of women fishermen in the sustainable management of fishery resources in Lake Edward. More than 53 women participated in these very constructive meetings. Now they measure the size of the fish to decrease illegal fishing and confiscation by the ICCN.</p> <p>The Territorial Administrator in Bafwasende removed the checkpoints collecting an illegal hydrocarbon tax in December. The tax was being collected from artisanal loggers and other people who use fuel. This tax was an operational cost for artisanal loggers and its removal was part of the fight against illegality. Its removal helped reduce tensions between stakeholders.</p>
5	Illegal exploitation of natural resources is reduced	<p>With support of micro-credit activities, women in the fishing industry on lake Edward have a more stable income. The support improved fish supply and sales, thus creating a good climate of trust and good collaboration between the Mama of Goma and their homologous in Vitshumbi who supply the fish.</p> <p>About 1000 households in Lisala, Bunia and Kisangani are using improved stoves that they bought or made. Improved stoves reduce consumption of charcoal/timber up to two-thirds.</p> <p>Three local communities are developing cocoa plantations and other income generating activities (guest house, poultry, banana, etc.) to secure their livelihoods while reducing pressure on forests in Barumbi-Tshopo, Bapondi and Bafwamogo.</p>
6	Peaceful cohabitation between indigenous people and protected area managers	Partners IDPE and CREDDHO facilitated dialogue between leaders of local communities and the Virunga National Park managers to dispel mistrust and reduce false accusations from both sides in the past. The relationship between the communities and park authorities has long been problematic, causing (land) conflicts. This time authorities from the ICCN authorized access to certain sacred sites and accompanied customary chiefs and local notables in customary rites / ancestral ceremonies. The authorities also expressed their wish to interact more regularly to proactively signal any problems regarding developments in the park and thus prevent possible conflicts. These actions are key for the improvement in the collaboration between the groups.
7	Stakeholders are involved in regulations enforcement	<p>Local community members and civil servants were trained in monitoring and data collection of artisanal exploitation of timber and mines and monitor violations of environmental laws and environmental crimes which are reported to authorities.</p> <p>Following up on Tropenbos DRC' campaign on legal timber, the governor of Mongala province established a forest control task force whose members were trained by Tropenbos DRC to monitor and enforce forest regulations/laws.</p> <p>Provincial authorities in Ituri, Mongala and Tshopo banned illegal tax collection and deleted illegal check points (in Tshopo province) following RINEC-Bois lobbying &amp; advocacy campaign in 2020.</p> <p>Tshopo Provincial Ministry of Environment planted 3600 fruit trees (36 km) in Kisangani with the support of Tropenbos DRC.</p>

**REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020**

- Activities to improve and restore relationships among communities and the different stakeholders around Virunga national park have turned out to be very important in relation to the threats, such as land grabbing, poaching etc.
- Choosing interested and influential partners is important. This is the case of RINEC-Bois which takes its own initiatives and has impact beyond expectations but also journalists who have decided to continue to report on legality in logging and Just Energy Transition and are able to respond to issues in the media. Similarly, partners improved the dissemination of information, both on paper and through video, to reach a wider audience beyond the intervention area.
- Capacity development has increased our operational ability and our impact. Storytelling improved partners communication skills, notably in producing video with the potential to reach a wide audience.
- In addition, involving beneficiaries in lobbying and advocacy efforts seems to be a very effective approach to make their voices heard by authorities.



## 3

## GHANA – Country Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

Two of Ghana's biodiversity hotspots i.e. Juaboso-Bia (JB) and Atewa were targeted under GLA programme. The targeted landscapes have suitable conditions of forest and cocoa production, with well reported mineral deposits including gold, and bauxite. The rich and diverse resource base of the targeted landscapes serve the needs of several individuals, households, businesses (local and international) and governments. The quest to satisfy these needs at maximum, and the largely unaligned interests among actors in these targeted landscapes often results in overexploitation and unsustainable use of resources including illegal logging and mining, poor agricultural practices, etc. This is further exacerbated by weak enforcement of sector related laws, inequitable and skewed benefits sharing for resources, limited locals participation in natural resource decision making, etc. It is in response to this that the GLA Ghana Programme aimed at developing capacities of state actors, non-state actors (communities, Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) and Hotspot Interventional Area (HIA) governance structures, traditional authorities, CSOs, etc.) and private actors to become responsible regulators, stewards and users of natural resource.

Whereas our interventions at the landscape level were tailored to shape local practices within the targeted landscapes, national level actions principally focused on influencing or informing policies that determine actors conduct across the country.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

Ghana held parliamentary and presidential elections in December 2020. This presented both risks and opportunities for the GLA programme. For political expediency, a new government could easily be pushed to take actions that are detrimental to the environment and natural resources. For instance, law enforcement against illegal logging and mining is often relaxed during this period. The main opposition leaders' public declaration that, when he wins power, all jailed galamsey operators (illegal miners) will be granted amnesty further re-emphasised this point. On the other hand, this also presented an opportunity for CSOs to project a 'green manifesto', to be a standard for measuring the extent to which the political parties through their manifestos have committed to environmental sustainability and green development.

A Land Bill has been passed into an Act, which is likely to have a relationship with the proposal for the Amendment of the Concessions Act, 1964. This could require that the proposal is revisited and revised to cater for relevant provisions under the Land Act. The programme has therefore started engagements with Taylor Crabbe Initiative towards such a revision. Also, the government has established committees to govern the implementation of the Bauxite development in the various target areas, which included the Atewa area. This is an indication that the government is still determined to mine Atewa. For this reason, partners have relentlessly continued to campaign and advocate against mining Atewa.

The current government's community mining programme provides alternative livelihood to communities that have been displaced due to galamsey (illegal small-scale mining). It is suspected that some illegal miners could hide behind the community mining programme to operate. The programme has built the capacities of the CBOs and the communities to be able to identify the illegal operations and raise red flags to stop them. IUCN has passed a motion for the protection of the Atewa forest against mining. Some CSOs and private individuals have taken a court action against the state. This is unprecedented in the environment space in Ghana. There are now a few small-scale mining operations in the JB landscape, which was not the case when the GLA programme started, and isolated cases of galamsey in both Atewa and JB landscapes. Some communities understand the need to protect their resources from illegal mining and have taken the initiative to stop illegal mining in their communities.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2020
1	Biodiversity resources and ecology are protected and secure in cocoa-forest landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Resource and Environmental related CSOs have developed a Green Agenda for adoption by Political Parties in their campaign manifestos</li> <li>Farmers in Elluokrom and Asuontaa have revegetated river banks to protect, and improve water resources within their enclave (Beginning July 2020)</li> </ul>
2	Mining and logging operations in cocoa-forest landscapes conform to national laws and to international standards or best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent forest monitors in the SW and JB landscape caused the arrest of over a hundred forest illegal perpetrators including one FSD staff, with four successful prosecutions</li> <li>Chiefs and Assembly members in Bia West District have vowed to resist any attempts of illegal gold mining within their area (August 2020)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A third-party Certification Sustainability Expert investigated the operations of John Bitar Company in Nsowakrom community to ascertain whether wood products sold to a buyer are sourced from communities with reported human right violations (10/06/2020) Some local farmers in the Borkorkrom community have received compensation payment from JCM following campaign and publication of infringement on community rights. Chief of Potroase expels about 60 illegal miners to halt gamamsey activities in the community.</li> <li>An illegal hunter from Saaman community turned citizen scientist (field assistant to visiting researchers) and converts 5 other hunters.</li> <li>Six more communities in the JB landscape have negotiated and received SRAs as timber rights benefits to communities (e.g. Clinic at Bredi, Kojokrom ICT Centre)</li> <li>Farmers at Fanteakwa district have adopted climate-smart agricultural practices</li> <li>Atewa West District Assembly successfully compels Xtra Gold to reclaim a 7-acre mined out land, in June 2020</li> </ul>
3	The cocoa sector adopts and applies climate smart practices and landscape standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers in JB landscape have increased tree cover on their farms (old cocoa farms, cocoa farms under rehabilitation, etc.) to enhance climate smart and sustainable cocoa production (beginning of the year 2020).</li> <li>REDD+ Safeguards manual consultatively developed by National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) and CSOs to ensure local actors (farmers, vulnerable groups, etc.) are not made worse off with implementation of REDD+ initiatives (2020)</li> <li>Juaboso-Bia HIA has become a model for developing other HIAs (i.e. Goaso and Nkawie HIAs) to enhance inclusive and participatory natural resources governance and adoption of climate smart practices</li> <li>Bodi, Essam, Adjoafua, Enchi and Bibiani-Anwiaso-Bekwai Cocoa districts now have Cocoa Multi Stakeholder Platform (CMSD) for inclusive stakeholder engagement, deliberation and consensus building on topical cocoa issues (August 2020)</li> <li>JB HIA now have byelaws to transform cocoa farming methods and landscape conservation measures to create positive and sustainable environmental practices (October 2020)</li> </ul>
4	Tree tenure is reformed to make benefit sharing more equitable in cocoa-forest landscapes	CSOs have agreed on, and submitted options on tree tenure and benefit sharing reforms to MLNR for the amendment of the Concessions Act
5	CREMAs are legalized, institutionalized, effectively utilized and upscaled	CREMAs in Ghana nationally assessed/evaluated for enhanced CREMA policy and practice (2020)
6	A functional CSO coalition is in place and advocates for inclusive cocoa-forest governance	CSO coalitions (Legal Working Group, KASA) use their knowledge of relevant forest and mining laws to support their work at the organizational level, in addition to the national level actions usually taken up by the coalitions e.g. the development of the environmental manifesto for adoption by political parties, which the GLA partners are championing through the KASA platform

#### REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

In 2020, the last year of the programme, capacity development generally did not take the form of 'training-like activities'. Partners built on capacities that have been acquired over the years and focused more on the application of those capacities to achieve the desired outcomes. Through the capacities acquired in lobby and advocacy TBG, for instance, engaged chiefs and Assembly members in the area on the need to resist gamamsey and promote conservation actions. The capacities acquired in the areas of forest and mining laws as well as effective communication were brought to use. Also, the skill of process facilitation and constituency mobilisation were useful in mobilising CSOs for advocacy actions. CSOs were mobilised to put together an environmental agenda to influence the plans of the political parties as 2020 was an election year.

In our advocacy actions, a key strategy that worked well was making the appropriate information available to the target that is expected to change. In the Juaboso-Bia landscape, when Assembly members were educated on climate change and the effects of committing productive lands to galamsey, they avowed to oppose such activities in their electoral areas and also resist the act at the district level when it comes up for deliberations at their respective district Assemblies. Chiefs of Bia, have also declared that they will not entertain galamsey in their communities, with the Essam chief already sacking some people that attempted the act in his community.

To motivate women to participate in programme activities and take part in key decision-making processes, timing for activities were strategically scheduled at times and on days that were suitable for women and young people. In some instances, women were particularly targeted for capacity building to enable them to actively participate in decision making. Most of our actions have deep involvement of local communities since they live close to the natural resources (forests, water bodies etc) and so have direct influence on what happens to the forests. Individuals were for instance selected from the communities and trained as community monitors under the CSO-led Independent Forest Monitoring, which resulted in a number of infractions receiving attention of various forms, including prosecution.

Every achievement of the programme for the year 2020 and before, has been with a great contribution of cooperation at different levels. Outputs from our actions have a greater buy-in and owned by the civil society fraternity in the environment and natural resources sector when they are developed through consensus by all relevant CSOs. For instance, the Green Agenda developed to influence the political parties' programme was owned by all CSOs in the sector because it was collaboratively done. Partners have been able to work smoothly and even where funding from one partner would have made it impossible to achieve certain milestones, the cooperation among partners led to pulling resources together for the common goal.



## 4

## INDONESIA – Country Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

**NFTP-EP Indonesia** and its two local partners - Consortium SIKLUS and Consortium ROA - work in Sigi and Poso Districts of the Lariang Landscape (1,5 M ha). This area is selected due to a high level of threat and vulnerability in natural resources management. NFTP-EP Indonesia has facilitated community based non timber forest products enterprise (CBNEs) as a basis to improve community livelihoods and built an online market to reach a wider market. NFTP also lobbied district governments to mainstream local products based on culture through the Lore festival.

**Tropenbos Indonesia (TI)** works in Gunung Tarak Landscape, West Kalimantan Province. The landscape has a big exposure to various threats including expansions of oil palm plantation, unsustainable agriculture practices and mining at the expense of traditional land-uses. Forest and peat swamp fires have caused health issues, high economic losses, and transboundary tensions with neighbouring countries. TI has facilitated participatory mapping and village land-use planning to strengthen natural resource governance through asset-based village development planning, establishing Village Business Unit and improving local control through Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)'s Social Forestry Program (SF), building collaboration between local community groups with large-scale oil-palm plantation and Gunung Palung National Park to protect forests. TI supports inter-village collaborative actions for hydrological restoration in peat-swamp landscape to prevent recurrent fire.

**WARSI** works in Mudiak Baduo Landscape, West Sumatra. Agriculture is the main community's livelihood. Some parts of the landscape are occupied by mining companies, timber plantations, oil palm and tea plantations. The various management activities have given pressures which triggered natural disasters such as floods and landslides and destroyed water resources and other sources of community economic and livelihoods. Degraded environment also continues due to illegal logging and mining. At the same time, conflicts arise over natural resources. WARSI adopt a strategy to carry out the project intervention involving local communities, private sector, and local and national government. The community placed as the main actor since they have local wisdom and knowledge in natural resources management involving their land ownership.

**WALHI** works at the national level and in three landscapes supported by WALHI Regional Executives, i.e., WALHI Central Sulawesi in Lariang Landscape, WALHI West Kalimantan in Gunung Tarak Landscape and WALHI West Sumatra in Mudiak Baduo Landscape. Each landscape has different characteristics; however, expansion of oil palm plantations and mining are the major threats. WALHI conducts Lobby and Advocacy (L&A) at the national and regional levels, encourages legal action against corporations that conduct environmental crimes. Several cases of forest and land fires have been brought to court. We also encourage community-based forest management through SF and Customary Forest schemes. WALHI and MD put international pressure to financial institutions who channel funds to oil palm plantation and mining industry.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

The programme was impacted by COVID-19 during the initial months of this year (2020). However, around mid-year, the situation began to improve. All Indonesian partners have been trying to catch up the delayed activities with some adjustments made based on the COVID-19 health protocol. Due to COVID-19, many governmental restrictions were imposed. In Bogor, West Java province, where the TI and NFTP offices are located, the strict restriction is still valid until today and most staff work from home.

In Lariang Landscape, the decline in community income due to large-scale social restrictions have intensified forest farmers to encroach into the forest. On the other hand, the situation has strengthened solidarity of indigenous people to restore traditional zoning for women livelihoods, like the Bonde and Pampa systems in Napu mainland and Kulawi plains. In Gunung Tarak Landscape, the shrinking activities of large-scale oil-palm plantation has increased cases of illegal logging. TI has used the unfavourable situation to organize national webinar series on 'Managing the remaining Indonesian forests' which have successfully attracted university students, scientists, decision makers, private sector and NGOs.

We see that the enactment of the Omnibus Law on Job Creation (UUCK) is a threat to the environment. The regulations that facilitate investment are not only not oriented towards work creation, but instead strengthen the land-based extractive industry and ignore environmental protection and human rights.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2020
1	Spatial planning becomes more equitable and sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The district governments of Sigi and Poso through regional planning agencies have incorporated villages' spatial planning which include aspects of social, cultural, and potential areas as part of the district spatial planning. (NTFP).</li> <li>Eight villages in Gunung Tarak have mapped their village boundaries through Participatory Mapping (PM). (TI) Three villages in West Sumatra have conducted Participatory village mapping and spatial planning. (WALHI)</li> <li>Village governments have used the results of PM to develop village micro spatial planning as a basis for village program including social forestry program etc., with gender and youth inclusiveness. (TI)</li> <li>Two of four villages have referred to the Micro Spatial Potential database as the basis for preparing the Village development planning. (WARSI)</li> <li>South Solok, Solok, Dharmasraya, Sijunjung Districts (Mudiak Baduo Landscape) and Kayong Utara District (Gunung Tarak Landscape) have conducted Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as a basis to develop District Spatial Planning. North Kayong Regent, Mr Drs. Citra Duani has provided support and a positive response to the importance of SEA in guarding sustainable development in Gunung Tarak landscape. (WALHI)</li> </ul>
2	Government, the private sector, communities and CSOs coordinate interventions and investments at a landscape level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Management Unit (KPH) Sintu Maroso has agreed to promote non timber forest products of social forestry in Poso District and to market the products through KPH outlet in Palu, Central Sulawesi. (NTFP)</li> <li>The Financial Service Authority (OJK) of Central Sulawesi Province in synergy with the local government has committed to support IPLC in the province to have financial access to support non-timber forest products business such as palm sugar, rubber, rattan, etc. (NTFP).</li> <li>Ketapang District has issued the decree No. 294/2020 on the establishment of a multi-stakeholders Secretariat in managing sustainable natural resources where TI has been appointed as Secretary.</li> <li>The Department of Industry, Trade, and Cooperatives of Poso District and Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari (YPAL) as the representative of communities in Lariang Landscape committed to promote NTFP products and ecotourism development. (NTFP)</li> <li>PT KAL (large-scale Palm Oil Plantation) has started collaboration with Laman Satong Village Government to manage HCV 657 as orangutan ecotourism destination site. Gunung Palung National Park (GPNP), PT KAL and Laman Satong Community have conducted join patrols to protect HCV areas, Laman Satong Village Forest which shares boundaries with GPNP. (TI)</li> <li>PT KAL acts as end-buyer of sustainable community-based business products (mineral waters, vegetable, rice) in Laman Satong, Kuala Satong and Kuala Tolak Villages. (TI)</li> </ul>

3	Oil palm growers sustainably manage their concession, while traders/buyers conduct sustainable trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer groups of independent smallholder oil palm plantation (ISPs) in two villages in a peat-swamp ecosystem have implemented better farming models, the use of organic fertilizer, fishpond, convert unproductive oil-palm with pineapple and mixed crop of oil palm with pineapple or dragon fruits. (TI)</li> <li>50 people who have received a paralegal training have been active in fighting for their land, such as the case in Central Sulawesi where the community protect their land from oil palm expansion. (WALHI)</li> <li>The Regent of South Solok, West Sumatra has issued a warning letter 3 times to PT. Ranah Andalas Plantation, an oil palm company that has a conflict with the community of Nagari Bidar Alam, South Solok Regency, resulting in a ban for the company to harvest until the conflict is resolved. (WALHI)</li> <li>Community activist, Hensi of Rio Pakava Village, Central Sulawesi, has won his case on a lawsuit by PT Mamuang oil palm plantation and get back his land rights with the issuance of a certificate of ownership by the National Land Agency (BPN). (WALHI)</li> </ul>
4	Communities protect the forest and use it for sustainable local livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since August 2020, Pandan weaver communities in 2 villages in Sigi district, Central Sulawesi have produced better quality products with the improvement on their capacity of Pandan weaving. (NTFP) Also, Forest Honey harvesters in Lonca village, Sigi District, have practiced and used sustainable harvesting of forest honey to have a good harvesting and better products. (NTFP).</li> <li>The Social Forestry Business Groups (KUPS) established and assisted by TI have been able to access the government (MoEF) grants to develop local livelihoods. (TI)</li> <li>In Mudiak Baduo Landscape, 20 business groups have been successfully developed, 6 of them are women's groups, and 9 groups have had transactions and financial recording mechanism. (WARSI)</li> <li>The Forestry Agency of West Sumatera Province through the forestry police has started collaboration with 6 VFMG in forest security based on the Guardian application in July 2020. (WARSI) The Forestry Agency through FMU Solok and the Forestry Police conducted joint patrols with VFMG in the Sirukam Village forest area based on guardian detection in October 2020. (WARSI)</li> <li>The Village Government of Sumpur Kudus has issued a Warning Letter which contained a ban on logging in the protection block of the village forest to two loggers on July 6th, 2020 in Sumpur Kudus village. (WARSI)</li> <li>Kopi Rakyat Loeboe Gedang has received a certificate from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights and has collaborated with PT. Kapal Api, a producer of Arabica coffee, markets the product with plait packaging made by a women group in Gunung Tarak Landscape. (WALHI)</li> </ul>
5	Local communities have a greater involvement in sustainable forest and land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, Tomehipi village has achieved SF permit to manage the village forest with an area of 135 Ha. (NTFP) The village champions of Pematang Gadung have finally come into agreement to re-submit the Social Forestry permit application of 7,156 ha, after long facilitation failure due to their preference on using their peat-swamp forest for illegal gold mining. (TI) The District Governments of Solok, Sijunjung and Solok Selatan have incorporated Social Forestry issues into their district development plans. (WARSI)</li> <li>22 VFMG has developed and secured the Village Forest management plan and annual plans. (WARSI)</li> <li>The village head of Padang Gantiang, Sangir Juju District, South Solok Regency has issued a Nagari regulation to protect watershed areas (WALHI).</li> </ul>



## REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

Capacity development is the key enabling condition to achieve the outcomes. Of course, capacity building is not limited to training, we learned that intensive technical assistances and facilitation to community groups or local government is more important rather than just organizing event-based formal training..

L&A has largely proven successful when dealing with community groups and local governments aiming to strengthen their Natural Resources Management, including enhancing local control over their natural resources in conditions where trust has been established through intensive engagement with key champions. L&A at district level is mostly successful when it is aimed to enrich resources or strengthen existing government policy. L&A to the central government works well when we aim to enhance the quality of technical or scientific content of government regulations. However, our L&A has been less successful when we tried to stop the passing of the Omnibus Bill (National) and in exposing bad mining practices into forest (Lariang), both in part due to COVID-19.

A majority of GLA Indonesia activities is closely involving and targeting IPLCs. We learned that in landscapes, where forest cover is still high and large-scale companies have not yet entered, IPLCs are keen to select nature-based solutions to enhance their livelihoods. In areas where forest cover is controlled by large-scale oil-palm plantations, and IPLCs livelihoods are secured as oil palm laborer, IPLCs' spirits to protect their remaining forest has been rising, as they want to use their forest as source of environmental services.

## 5

## LIBERIA - Country Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

**SCNL** focus did not change during 2020. Additionally, SCNL worked on the community being fully engaged as they hold their leadership accountable and responsible for sustainable agriculture programs. This is the result of many awareness creation and advocacy trainings. Moreover, SCNL supports communities around Sapo National park to improve park management and prevent destructive activities such as mining in the park. SCNL also supports alternative livelihood projects that should lead to increased income and development, awareness on biodiversity concerns, and engage duty bearers on the implementation of the resolution signed by stakeholders on the Sapo National Park.

**VOSIEDA** supported the Liberia Forest Media Watch (LFMW) and the Independent Forest Monitoring Coordination Mechanism (IFMCM). Since the formation of the LFMW, VOSIEDA has provided small grant support to enable the group to conduct short studies and produce short stories on trending forestry issues in Liberia. The LFMW comprises of independent forest journalists from electronic and print media institutions, including FPA, Daily observer, Global News Network, news newspaper, OK FM, local reporters and freelance journalists. The LFMW also presided over the hosting of the weekly forest hour show on OK FM and four local or community radio stations.

**SDI** works with communities that are impacted by Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) palm oil plantation with a focus on communities with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the Sinoe Landscape. SDI creates awareness on land and community rights for forest dependent communities, builds their capacity on national and international laws and principles that seek to enhance the rights of indigenous people. SDI trains and supports over 20 community monitors. Additionally, SDI organizes face to face dialogues between GVL and the communities and uses grievance mechanisms at the national and international levels to hold GVL accountable. SDI also provides legal support to communities. SDI takes the lessons learned and positions from the communities to the national level to influence the Land Rights Law implementation and the development of the draft palm oil strategy of Liberia. SDI facilitates the national CSO Palm Oil Working Group to ensure that NGOs stand stronger and united to influence policies and palm oil companies.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

- The inflation in Liberia is extremely high. This means that day to day costs for families and communities have risen considerably. This has several impacts. The government budget is reduced and salaries of government agencies and sectors are not being paid in time. The implementation of the Land Rights Law is delayed because of lack of resources. Also, the costs for civil society to work in Liberia are higher, as prices for communication and fuel have all risen considerable. Lastly, the people of Liberia are struggling to survive. This has already led to protests against the current government and also a shift in priorities where economic benefits in their collaboration projects with civil society have become more important.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the implementation of activities and face to face meetings were delayed and there were also limitations in the amount of participants that attended forums, trainings, and meetings that were organized in the project communities. There were strict government restrictions that prohibited public gatherings and limited movement of people from March-August.
- The government of Liberia now has a draft oil palm strategy. The drafting of the strategy was led by the Ministry of Agriculture that is strongly supported by the private sector. When completed, this process will provide new opportunities for halting deforestation and human rights violations in the sector and promoting a transition towards community-based agriculture and forest management.

**What effect did this have on the implementation of the program and reaching the goals in the ToC? What did you do to use or mitigate the effects of the changes?**

For SCNL and VOSIEDA there were no changes in the implementation of the program. We were able to execute the project for at least 90%. We made alterations by adding more tangible livelihood activities that led to the construction of two processing facilities. Although most of the activities were delayed during the COVID-19 restrictions, our activities ran into full gear when these government restrictions subsided.

SDI distributed COVID 19 prevention materials in Sinoe where the GLA project is mainly focused and two other counties (Bomi and Grand Cape Mount) located in the north west of Liberia. During the distribution of these COVID 19 prevention materials, SDI used the time to create awareness on how COVID 19 can be prevented and what to do if you contract the virus.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2020
1	Communities are making demands on government and concessionaires in the implementation of policies and laws on forest and land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since September 2020, five affected communities around EPO have had interaction with EPO and are demanding EPO to sign a formal MoU that covers compensation for lost lands and crops, a mapping of their land area EPO has taken, provision of employment, and an increase in their living space as well as social investments.</li> <li>Since September 2020, three communities requested a legal review by HPA (Heritage Partners &amp; Associates (lawfirm)) of the MoU with GVL. Upon completion of these legal reviews, the MOUs should be signed and probated, thereby making the MOUs binding between GVL and the three communities.</li> <li>In December 2020, MoU committee leaders of Numopoh and Tartweh-Drapoh engaged different groups in society: the women, elder and youth, to have an inclusive position on the MoU negotiations with GVL.</li> <li>Since October-December 2020, based on the HPA review of the commitments in the provisional MoU, communities (Kabada and Numopoh) are now saying GVL needs to comply with those commitments first in the provisional MOUs before going into a permanent MoU.</li> <li>Numopoh community is demanding that the land conflict with Duo-Wolee-Yanee community is solved before the permanent MoU is signed.</li> <li>Since November 2020 to now, GVL has been brought to the labor court in November and December 2020 over wrongful dismissal of the Butaw victims.</li> </ul>
2	New legislation in the agricultural sector that protects communities' rights is enacted	Since December 2020, CSO POWG has held country level and regional consultations and officially submitted communities and CSO perspectives on the draft oil palm strategy to inform and influence the National Oil Palm Strategy development.
3	Providing alternative livelihood options for communities affected by the SAPO declaration	<p>SCNL developed a two years business plan for the livelihood programs in the eight project communities in March 2020.</p> <p>SCNL established a cassava and a rice processing facility for the eight project communities in the landscape in November 2020. The equipment was placed in two clusters (Chewlue &amp; Chebioh's Towns), and a Rice Mill was installed in Chebioh's town facility and the Cassava processor was installed in Chewlue facility.</p>

#### REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

**SCNL:** Community members are taking ownership of the programs/initiatives without requesting for pay/salary for sustainability, which is a factor of success from our many collaborations. The long term outcomes of the project have started showing up. Communities have started standing up and demanding payments for land used by monoculture and forest concessions. Communities themselves are leading activities that promote sustainable livelihood activities. In addition to these, CSOs are leading the development of policies that will bring reform in the agriculture ecosystem of Liberia. After several years of building trust and collaboration, significant progress under all the long term outcomes in our Theory of Change have been observed mostly where community engagement is taking a peak.

The strategy of developing and rolling out our Gender & Safeguard Policy worked well, because this policy helped to engage the communities from a more professional standpoint and created avenues for community members to share their grievances with us in case they had any. Community leaders themselves are suggesting women and people with disability to participate in public discussions relevant to community development. Another successful strategy was the training of community members in the areas of advocacy and lobby, the improved method of cassava and lowland swamp rice production, and the involvement of more women and youth in project activities. SCNL has learned that when you involve the community in the development of the project activities, the sustainability of project outcomes can be assured.

**SDI:** Communities are taking bigger responsibilities and are demanding GVL and other oil palm companies to have a legal MoU and compel all parties to implement their sides of these agreements. They have been ensuring that communities and CSOs concerns are incorporated into national developmental policies. For example, the CSO-OPWP had consultations with communities in both the western and south-eastern parts of the country to have their views and aspirations enshrined in the National Oil palm Strategy of Liberia. Moreover, communities and specific groups inside those communities (youth, women) are making demands before signing into agreements.

SDI has learned that collective actions by community members acting to defend their land rights are the most powerful and are likely to succeed in protecting forests, avoiding human rights violations and improving land tenure. One of the most successful strategies implemented in 2020 was training the communities to understand their rights as provided by the new 2018 Law Rights Act. These trainings allowed communities that are affected by GVL plantations in Sinoe to take a deep breath and say: 'Hang on, we don't need to sit and watch anymore seeing our lands being conceded to concessionaires without any tangible benefit.' This moved the communities to demand a legal MOU and ask other stakeholders to support the communities to have a MOU with GVL that will be good for all parties.

**VOSIEDA** organized the Independent Forest Monitoring Coordination Mechanisms. Through the IFMCM, and with the Civil Society Independent Forest Monitors as lead partner, a new forest monitoring technology referred to as Real Time Monitoring Forestlink technology is currently in place. Through the IFMCM, 24 community based independent forest monitors were trained from twelve forests where active logging is ongoing. Successful strategies were the introduction of a Radio Advocacy Platform 'Forest Hour' to educate and raise awareness on forest issues; the formation of journalists into an organization to assess and produce short reports on forest issues; and the training of community members to serve as forest monitors. We learned that taking forest issues to the public increases pressure on relevant stakeholders.



## 6

## NIGERIA - Country Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

The GLA program in Nigeria focuses on the impacts of crude oil extraction and large-scale palm oil plantations in Nigeria. The core focus of the work is to 1) influence the government and businesses to develop and implement policies that protect natural resources and their inclusive and sustainable governance; and 2) to halt the expansion of palm oil plantations and land grabbing and halt or slow the pace of dirty energy.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

The year 2020 witnessed a lot of contextual changes largely induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Nigeria a lockdown was declared on March 26th and restrictions on gatherings and travels were imposed, which only started to ease in June. As a result, most of the planned activities had to be rescheduled. However, by the end of June, with no end in sight to the pandemic, some of the restrictions were lifted gradually and people were able to gather again for meetings - though not more than 50 persons were allowed in such gatherings initially. Most of the activities were therefore carried out between June and October. Some of the activities, such as the reflection & learning meetings were done virtually. Some other activities, such as the media briefing and capacity building on gender mainstreaming were done in two locations to enable more coalition members to participate and enhance the reach of the reports. Also, COVID-19 protection devices, such as face masks and sanitizers for participants, were provided.

As a result of a leadership crisis, unclarity about the formal leadership at ERA / Friends of the Earth Nigeria emerged at the beginning of October 2020. As a consequence Milieudefensie decided to suspend disbursements under the contract for the Nigeria country programme and the JET programme. Milieudefensie has drafted a Plan of Action on how to best deal with the leadership crisis at ERA, which we shared with MoFA on November 26th. The first phase of the Plan of Action covers the actions needed in order to conclude the Nigerian country programme and the JET programme. With the receipt of the remaining outstanding audits from ERA in mid-April Milieudefensie has been able to approve all audits and thereafter the final settlement with regard to the Nigerian country programme and the JET programme has been made, therewith concluding those two programmes.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2019
1	There is increased public awareness and understanding of problems related to crude and palm oil production at the local, national and international levels.	<p>In February 2020, the Minister of Environment Dr. Mohammad Abubakar, while visiting some clean-up sites in Eleme Local Government Area in Ogoni, said the government is planning to re-evaluate the Ogoni clean-up project in order to fast track the clean-up process.</p> <p>The Minister said that the Federal Government was worried about the slow pace of work by the contractors handling the remediation and acknowledged the need for comprehensive review and changes to be undertaken in order to accelerate the pace of work. He said some changes would need to be made in the areas of procurement and timelines for the remediation. He also stressed the need to follow the UNEP recommendations without deviation for the clean-up to be successful. This was a direct result of ERA's advocacy and campaign work on the failing clean-up process.</p>
2	<p>The Nigerian government is changing policies and laws towards protecting community rights, holding companies accountable for their impacts and ensuring the implementation of these policies and laws.</p> <p>CSOs campaigning on crude oil and palm oil expose impacts and enforce land rights.</p>	<p>On September 9, 2020, members of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change as well as the House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change conducted a joint oversight visit to some clean-up sites in Ogoni land, facilitated by ERA/FoEN. This visit was a direct outcome of the shadow report "No Clean-up, No Justice" and its accompanying international media campaign. The shadow report was a joint effort of ERA/FoEN, Milieudefensie, FoE Europe and Amnesty, and critically assessed the status of the clean-up in relation to the recommendations of the 2011 UNEP report.</p> <p>On November 15, 2019, ERA/FoEN visited the National Assembly in Abuja to request that they provide oversight on the Federal Government agency responsible for the Ogoni clean-up Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project's (HYPREP) clean-up of Ogoni land in order to ensure a proper clean-up is done. The Chair of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change, Senator Hassan Mohammed Gusau, granted the request and made a commitment to provide oversight and visit the clean-up sites in 2020. During the oversight visit, the National Assembly</p>

		parliamentarians queried the slow pace of work and urged HYPREP to improve. They also asked questions about the quality of the clean-up, the contractors' qualifications and HYPREP's contracting process, budget, timelines and remediation process technicalities. They highlighted the relevance of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency's (NOSDRA) involvement in the clean-up process monitoring and evaluation and certification. The committees said they would continue to engage with HYPREP to ensure a proper clean-up is done.
3	Companies and investors end harmful plantations projects and abide Nigerian laws.  Litigation is used to stop/ delay new and existing crude oil/ palm oil (plantations).	In 2020, Okomu Oil Palm PLC agreed to compensate the Odiguetue community farmer Mr. Osagie Aimiojie in an out of court settlement for their illegal invasion and destruction of his farm lands in 2014.  The case started in May 2018, when community farmer Osagie Aimiojie sued Okomu Oil Palm PLC to court for their invasion and destruction of his farm in 2014. ERA/ FoEN has supported Mr. Aimiojie during the case proceedings. In 2020, Okomu Oil Palm PLC has agreed to compensate Mr. Aimiojie in an out of court settlement and the court case has subsequently been withdrawn. The full package of the compensation to Mr. Osagie Aimiojie is undisclosed.
4	Local communities defend their rights and promote their own livelihood systems.  Coalition and CSOs have generated and deployed verified evidence in campaigns.	In June 2020, ERA/FoEN, Amnesty International (AI), Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE) and Milieudefensie (MD) had a joint media campaign on the Ogoni clean-up. A shadow report on Ogoni clean-up was generated and used by the partners in Europe and coalition members in Nigeria for local, national and international campaigns for proper clean-up and remediation, creating robust media visibility to demand transparency and accountability in the Ogoni clean-up process. The shadow report was produced ahead of the UK Supreme Court case "Okpabi versus Royal Dutch Shell PLC" (June 2020). In this case, joint claims were brought by more than 40,000 citizens of two affected areas in the Niger Delta in the English courts against Royal Dutch Shell and Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd. The communities argued that the oil spills and pollution from pipelines operated by SPDC have caused substantial environmental damage, with the result that natural water sources cannot safely be used for drinking, fishing, agricultural, washing or recreational purposes.

#### REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

**Capacity building** on gender mainstreaming and communication enhanced gender inclusiveness in the oil palm and crude oil coalitions. It built the capacity of women to demand their rights and participate in the Ogoni clean-up advocacy, as well as advocacy against oil palm plantations expansion. Throughout 2020, women played active roles in the crude and palm oil coalitions, with fair representations of women and men in meetings.

A workshop and media campaign on gender inclusiveness projected the impact of oil palm plantations' expansion on women and gave a voice to their demands for compensation and improved land rights. Community women's involvement helped to build pressure on companies and government to desist from monoculture plantations and to respect community land rights. The women are now actively speaking out – including through media outreach, thereby exposing the impacts of oil palm plantations and making public demands for land rights for community women.

ERA/FoEN incorporates **gender mainstreaming principles** in its work, in order to ensure fair representation of men and women in its activities. ERA/FoEN's gender officer has participated in the GLA 1.0 gender trainings, which have been useful in shaping local capacity building training and advocacy. For example, in 2018, ERA/FoEN supported a women-led rally to address the impacts of oil palm expansion in rural communities in Okomu area, Edo State. During 2020, ERA/FoEN provided spaces for women to speak during panel discussions/events, such as the media briefings exposing the impacts of oil palm plantations and calling for the enforcement of land rights held. At community level, ERA meets with men and women community representatives, and ensures women's participation before meetings commence.

**Advocacy engagement** with HYPREP and other relevant government agencies, combined with international media exposure around the shadow report “No Clean-up, No Justice” generated significant pressure to restructure HYPREP, in order for it to become more capable and successful in handling the clean-up. Although concrete actions are still to be awaited, it is expected that the National Assembly oversight on the clean-up will lead to the further desired restructuring of HYPREP.

During 2020, the **co-operation** around the shadow report “No Clean-up, No Justice” between ERA/ FoEN, Milieudefensie, and Friends of the Earth International contributed to evidence-based advocacy in Nigeria and The Netherlands, as well as generating wide international media attention. This helped to increase pressure on policymakers to address the systemic failures, in order to ensure that the clean-up delivers to the communities.

## 7

## PHILIPPINES - Country Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

GLA worked in three landscapes in the Philippines – Cagayan de Oro River Basin, Tagoloan and Maguindanao both in Mindanao and the Sierra Madre landscape in Luzon. Indigenous peoples (IPs) are present in all landscapes and play an important role in forest management but have limited say in governance. The GLA partners aimed to strengthen the role of IPs and forest dependent communities in local governance, ensured tenure security and fostered the implementation of sustainable practices by communities and other stakeholders. GLA partners operated at the national level and increase the capacities of national and landscape actors to support collaborative efforts on landscape governance.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

COVID-19 derailed schedules because of lockdowns and constricted mobility of staff and partner communities. Local governments and businesses that previously committed to provide a budget for forest restoration did not deliver. As the health and well-being of everyone is the priority, some activities had to be cancelled or rescheduled. GLA partners had to shift to a combined online and face-to-face meeting with communities. Protocols were established following government guidelines. Information on COVID-19, face masks, alcohol and other sanitation supplies were provided to partners and livelihood support was expanded to those in need.

In the midst of the pandemic, the Philippine congress passed the Anti-Terror Act, which curtails the rights of citizens to free expression and other human rights. Combined with Executive Order 70 creating the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, the situation affected the safety and security of NGOs and IPs. The situation created fear among the communities, and some were afraid to join activities for fear of red-tagging (labelling them as communists). Orientation Seminars on Operational Security were provided including assistance in drafting security protocols.

Partners also supported relief and rehabilitation work to IP communities in Southern Sierra Madre who were hit by typhoon Ulysses in November 2020.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2019
1	Indigenous peoples, forest dependent communities and civil society organizations, including the private sector lobbied and advocated for measures that would ensure 1) crafting of environmental and social justice measures, 2) awarding of tenure instruments, 3) stricter enforcement of forest protection and IP rights, and 4) improving sustainable forest landscape management techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STREAMS, a coalition of CSOs in Cagayan de Oro river basin, convinced the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Talakag to revive their pending Payment for Environmental Services ordinance last September 2020.</li> <li>In July 2020, AGMIHICU, an IP organization, signed a resolution sanctioning the Department of Public Works and Highways in the amount of one million pesos for its failure to acquire the free prior and informed consent of IPs inside the ancestral domain of AGMIHICU in Hagpa, Impasugong, Bukidnon.</li> <li>On November 30, 2020, the Indigenous Political Structure (IPS) of Dumagat-Remontado in Tanay reaffirmed its previous position against the Kaliwa Dam, leading to a delay in the construction of the dam.</li> </ul>
2	Government agencies enacted national and local environmental and social justice policies and laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Philippine House of Representatives (HOR) Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities &amp; Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) adopted the consolidated Indigenous Community Conserved Territories &amp; Areas (ICCA) Bill during the Committee Meeting on December 3, 2020 via Zoom video conferencing.</li> <li>The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Quezon passed a resolution giving Governor Danilo Suarez the authority to take necessary steps, on behalf of the provincial government, to stop the Kaliwa Dam project.</li> </ul>
3	DENR, NCIP, DAR, PAMBS, LGUs, and other government agencies improved procedures recognizing community tenure rights through 1) facilitating award of tenure instruments (CADT, CBFMA, PACBARMA) to indigenous and other local communities; 2) recognizing indigenous political structures and indigenous governance systems; and 3) harmonization of tenure instruments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ancestral domain of the Agta Indigenous Cultural Community of Palau Island, San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan was surveyed and delineated by the members of the Agta community and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). After the survey, elders, leaders and youth representatives of the Agta Indigenous Community gathered for a three-day workshop on the formulation of the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan of Palau Island.</li> <li>NCIP issued CADT/ tenure instruments to Teduray and Lambangian communities and strengthened institutional assistance for ADSPPP implementation and other related support structure.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples Rights within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) were recognized by Government Agencies and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). This recognition paves the way to create an Indigenous Peoples Code that the previously autonomous region did not have.</li> </ul>
4	Government agencies improved enforcement and implementation of environmental and social justice laws and supported multi-stakeholder efforts at 1) community-led restoration, conservation and sustainable use of forests; 2) stricter compliance and community-based enforcement strategies; 3) improved river basin governance; and 4) implementing co-management schemes.	The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) released the deputation order of 12 Wildlife Enforcement Officers from Palaui Island, San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan.
5	Multi-stakeholder groups and indigenous communities implemented sustainable management of forest landscapes, revived traditional farming systems, and piloted nature-based solutions models.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STREAMS, a coalition of CSOs formed by the Samdhana Institute through the GLA-SHIELD Project in 2017, has been registered to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)</li> <li>The City of Cagayan de Oro, through its City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, has successfully allocated PhP 700,000 for coastal and river rehabilitation for 2020.</li> <li>Local Government Unit Talakag allocated funds for a three (3)-hectare restoration project at the MILALITTRA's ancestral domain over the next three years.</li> <li>The Kitanglad Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) affirmed the Pangimbatasan (The proper courtesy to obtain permission and consent which originated from the IPs in Kitanglad) and expressed its willingness to partner with CDORBMC as a partner in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, leading to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) signing between the Mts. Kitanglad and Kalatungan PAMBs (Protected Area Management Boards).</li> <li>The PAMB Presidential Proclamation 1636 approved the application of an Almaciga permit by PIGTEPONEN's (IP organization).</li> <li>IP from Northern Sierra Madre are now earning from their fish processing and basket weaving livelihoods.</li> <li>The Teduray-Lambangian traditional farming system (Sulagad) has been further revived, practiced and promoted among members of the Teduray and Lambangian Tribe.</li> </ul>

#### REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

For the Northern Sierra Madre, the trainings by NTFP-EP on Organizational Development and Lobby and Advocacy resulted in a more organized association of IPs in Baggao and Palaui Island with clear visions of what they would like to be in the future. This and years of lobbying, resulted into the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) to conduct an ancestral domain survey and an ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plan (ADSDPP). Successful multi-stakeholder workshops to win support for these activities among potential adversaries also helped in garnering support and approval of these important activities.

For Southern Sierra Madre, the lobby and advocacy trainings sustained the outcomes in the landscape, especially on the Kaliwa Dam advocacy as the IP leaders in Rizal and the Quezon Provincial Government passed resolutions against the Kaliwa Dam. IPs (some of them women) are the ones who lead the campaign and they are being interviewed by the media for news coverage and press conferences.

For the IPs in Bukidnon, the orientation on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) made them see the importance of their traditional governance and the instruments at their disposal to assert their rights. A combination of virtual and face to face activities proved to be more successful than pure online training for communities in the Southern Sierra Madre. Resource persons are invited in an online meeting while participants are gathered in one venue following health protocols (social distancing, use of facemasks, face shields). The Operational Security training conducted in Southern Sierra Madre resulted in the formulation of security protocols that will guide the IPs in their L&A work.

The capacity development conducted by Forest Foundation Philippines on using foresight for lobby and advocacy and governance helped the GLA partners to 1) reframe their engagement strategy to heavily include government and 2) rethinking a CSO strategy at alliance level.

For the Maguindanao landscape, LRC-KsK (Friends of the Earth Philippines) trained the local coordinators from TJG in technical skills to facilitate GLA implementation, with less support from LRC-KsK. This provided the coordinators with the opportunity to really integrate the communities' voice in planning and implementation.

In lobbying legislative councils, be it on a national or local level, having a champion will help in pushing for the resolution or law being lobbied. This was the case of the Local Government Units (LGUs) in the CdO-Tagoloan Landscape that allocated funds for restoration. The same is true when lobbying for a law at the Congress level (ICCA bill). Partners observed through different activities that if women are given opportunities, these can lead the advancement of their communities' social, cultural and economic well-being. While there is an increasing role of women in the communities and organizations, the GLA partners also learned to be sensitive to not add extra burden on the shoulders of women due to expectation of men to take care of the reproductive roles. Thus, men should also be capacitated on gender.

The cooperation between and among partners in the different landscapes facilitated the achievement of outcomes. For instance, in the Cagayan de Oro-Tagoloan landscape, the cooperation between the different NGOs contributed to advancing the activities amid the pandemic. In Northern Sierra Madre, the cooperation among NTFP EP Philippines, Tanggol Kalikasan and Mabuwaya resulted in successful trainings and workshops and achievement of outcomes. The Dutch Embassy showed their involvement by inquiring partners about the reprogramming of GLA activities in light of COVID-19.

## 8

## UGANDA - Country Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

In Uganda, the GLA program focused on oil palm development in the Kalangala Landscape comprising Kalangala and Buvuma districts, both of which are Lake Victoria Islands, while Buikwe and Mayuge on the mainland were added in 2019. As an agro-commodity, oil palm has wide reaching negative impacts on livelihoods, human rights and the environment and therefore warrants civil society action to keep government and its partners in check on its obligations to the citizenry. The GLA therefore adopted a lobby and advocacy approach through strong civil society to advocate for what is right for the major stakeholders, the communities.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

The COVID-19 outbreak was unpredictable and led to total lockdown of Uganda, stifling activities. Some activities were switched to online engagements, as a form of innovation for continuous engagement, while others were suspended till partial lockdown. Buffer zones, tree cover and wetlands recorded significant infringement as communities searched for livelihood options. Operational costs increased due to Standard Operating Procedures implementation while schedules shifted.

The flooding due to expanded lake shores was unpredicted too. This increased pressure on natural resources as communities lost livelihoods due to floods. On the other hand, the pressure on wetlands and lakeshores covered by water reduced. The change from ferry services to boats impacted budgets and schedules, creating gaps in the work on natural resource protection.

Although predicted, shrinking CSO space has extended to extraditions of CSO leaders, freezing accounts and character assassination linked to terrorism by the government. CSO positions on improving existing policies and demands for operational space are curtailed as CSOs are labeled rebels by government thus curtailing civic rights.

Degazettements (a loss of legal protection for the whole protected area) are done in Nakasongola CFR (Community Forest Reserves) and more are expected with Lutoboka (Kalangala) and Busoga (Mayuge) CFRs as potential candidates. Marginal lands are under pressure of developers and encroachers. Bigger CSO coalitions and court litigation are approaches being used.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2019
1	<p><b>Pathway 1</b> Oil palm expansion on public and private land has stopped and an alternative model for inclusive and sustainable oil palm production is developed</p> <p>1.1. BIDCO put under pressure to change their bad practices, revert their illegalities and abides to all environment safeguards</p> <p>1.2. Out-growers have the option to diversify income sources alongside oil palm</p>	<p>Proponents of oil palm (BIDCO, MAAIF and IFAD) are now working with district departments to monitor compliance to buffer zones. They are engaging to improve the EIA process and are also willing to adopt approaches that minimize impacts with other livelihood options supported alongside oil palm. All these are premised on GLA research recommendations, exchange visits and the now empowered communities.</p>
2	<b>Pathway 2</b> n.a	Activities under pathway 2 ended in 2019
3	<p><b>Pathway 3.</b> Empowered, informed &amp; supportive local &amp; national government that appreciates oil palm, safeguards, forests, for improved community livelihoods</p> <p>3.1. National Forest Authority/ District Forest Service (NFA/DFS) increases protection in forest reserves</p> <p>3.2. MAAIF adopts new model in NOPP that does not displace communities for nucleus estate</p> <p>3.3. Current and new hubs district local governments regulate BIDCO and communities' operations</p>	<p>In Mayuge, district recalled MoU with NOPP to include clauses that protect community rights including the environment as well as benefits to the district from the oil palm project. This was after the districts high level learning exchange visits to Kalangala. District Round table discussions organized between the new hubs and NOPP now rotate around alternative livelihoods to communities as opposed to oil palm monoculture.</p>

4	<p><b>Pathway 4.</b> A strong and vibrant civil society with favorable operating space</p> <p>4.1. Strengthened CSO network with a common voice on restrictions to their space</p> <p>4.2. Media builds strong coalition with CSO network to fight restrictions</p>	<p>Bigger coalitions of civil society are being realised amidst increasing operational space restrictions with GLA partners keeping their membership. The clumping has also increased bonding between CSOs and the media for a bigger voice. The recent agro-commodities workshop was also covered by the New Vision.</p>
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#### REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

Research carried out by a team of experts in consultation with the GLA partner Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) has been a backbone for the change that was desired. In 2020, full results of research previously and continuously undertaken on oil palm and its impacts was fully recognised, acknowledged and appreciated by oil palm proponents with NOPP requesting for research capacity building of their staff. While CSO capacity enhanced, there was pressure built around information sharing where Kalangala Oil Palm Growers' Trust (KOPGT) opted to share its financial and other reports with civil society. This pressure further pushed NOPP and its partners to openly accept districts into planning meetings as well as engaging them in environmental compliance. This capacity development extended to the district leadership enabling Mayuge District Local Government to recall their MoU with NOPP for review and accepting CSO guidance in this review.

The same capacity development was translated into community uprisings to demand for better FFB prices as well as infrastructure (roads) in Kalangala. After appreciating the role of one big voice, oil palm districts political and technical heads formed a common platform to raise their and communities' voices to demand for justice along the oil palm chain. This platform shall drum up support for good prices, demand for environmental compliance and CSR from the oil palm proponents.

With ETA's support, NOPP embraced gender by developing a gender strategy, which was shared with civil society for inputs. Through partnerships earlier developed between GLA partner CSOs and the Dutch Embassy, leverage has been made to achieve the above outcomes with an amplified voice. Continuous dialogue based on mutual trust can go a long way in solving stakeholder conflict after exhausting dialogue.



## 9

## VIET NAM – Country Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

The GLA in Viet Nam works in the Srepok River Basin in the Central Highlands. We advocate for revised policies and practices and provide models in the following broad areas: (1) conservation and management of natural forests and restoration of degraded forests; (2) sustainable production practices in (agro-)forestry commodities that don't lead to further deforestation and depletion of water resources; and (3) the implementation of integrated landscape approaches to natural resources management that involve the voices and interests of civil society, local communities including men and women.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

Context change/risk	Impact and strategy
COVID 19 social distancing regulations.	In 2020 it took us by surprise, but we quickly learned to make the GLA programme more COVID-proof through online activities and social distancing. Overall, the programme suffered from implementation delays.
Local and sub-national elections happened in 2020, while national level elections will take place in 2021.	State actors are hesitated to engage, make any commitments, or take action. We worked with these agencies in partnership and aligned our activities with theirs to achieve change.
The revision of Land law is delayed.	The Land law is a very important element of the GLA and for sustainable and equitable landscapes. Therefore, GLA partner (TBVN) has consolidated evidence on gender, land conflicts and land restoration options and shared this with concerned agencies as input for the future law-making process. This will also be an important issue for GLA2. It is difficult to predict how this will develop.
The preparation of National Forest Strategy for the period 2020-2030 by VNFOREST was finished in 2020. The draft Decree on guiding the implementation of the strategy, including the instructions for planning and investment of Special Use and Protection Forest has been under way for feedbacks and contribution. There is a very high pressure on timescale to complete these policy documents.	<p>This contributes to the outcome 2.5 'Government reviews and reforms Forest Law, Land Law, Planning Law and related NR policies (ICCA, PFES, FLA, FLEGT-VPA) to be inclusive and sustainable'.</p> <p>GLA partners conducted series of thematic studies on special-used forests, protection forests, ICCA, joined and organized policy dialogue events to contribute comments to the Strategy, and directly submitted recommendation documents to VNFOREST.</p>
MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2020
1 Forest owners restore and manage degraded forests.	<p><b>Viet Nature:</b> In 2020, for the first time in Dak Lak province and the Central Highlands, over 150 small-scaled acacia growers with about 550 hectares of acacia plantations were empowered to voluntarily change their unsustainable production practice, organize themselves into cooperative groups, identify a representative (which is Hoang Lam Forestry Cooperative). They will register for group FSC certification in early 2021. The achievement is beyond our expectation given the complicated nature of the land tenure issue; the long-existing unsustainable practices in the acacia planting (e.g., burning to prepare the land before planting, the use of herbicides, the application of short rotation partly because of unsecure land-tenure, etc.), the short duration (6 months) that Viet Nature have to lobby and implement a new initiative in the province, and the unprecedented difficulties caused by covid-19.</p> <p><b>TBVN:</b> In 2020, local government and relevant landscape actors (including researchers, CSOs, women and forest owners) acknowledged the need for participatory restoration planning. This was a result of the information and knowledge on the most suitable restoration approach provided by TBVN at landscape policy forums. It is the starting point for all landscape actors to come together for more inclusive restoration planning in the future.</p>

2	Government reviews and reforms Forest Law, Land Law, Planning Law and related natural resource policies (ICCA, PES, Forest Land Allocation, FLEGT-VPA) to be inclusive and sustainable.	<p><b>TBVN:</b> Viet Nam Forestry Association (VIFA) made policy recommendations regarding the potential impacts of land law revision on marginalized groups. The recommendations are built on TBVN's research on gaps between the current land law with the recently improved forestry law, as well as the existing constraints of land governance in Viet Nam. The recommendations were also consolidated according to advice and suggestion derived from a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue.</p> <p><b>PanNature:</b> Recommendations from PanNature and NGO partners on Revised Law on Environment Protection were submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the National Assembly directly and via a joint workshop with the National Assembly's Ethnic Council. Part of the recommendations were adopted by the Law Drafting Committee and reflected in the Revised Environment Law which was passed on 12 November 2020.</p> <p>Recommendations on Community Forest Management (CFM) and ICCA by PanNature were introduced in policy dialogues and submitted to VNForest for the revision of the national strategy for Vietnam's forestry development in the period 2020-2030.</p>
3	The production of agro-commodities happens in a sustainable way; does not lead to further deforestation, does not over-use water resources and companies implement practices that increase resilience to climate change.	<p><b>TBVN:</b> Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) accepted the draft guidelines of agroforestry. The final version has been edited before submitting to DARD for approval. The guidelines were made based on the research findings and lessons from practical implementation of agroforestry models during 2018-2020, and experts/managers advice and suggestions. Once approved, the agroforestry guidelines would help the state managers in managing/instructing landscape practitioners, while local people will have better know-how. The preparation of guidelines facilitated all relevant actors to reflect on the current constraints of existing agroforestry models, as well as better understand the needs of local people, including women.</p> <p>Five farmer households of Hoa Le and Hoa Phong communes, Krong Bong district set up CSA/agroforestry models where they intercropped indigenous trees with cassava farms and coffee plantations on a total area of 14 ha. These farmer households participated in the agroforestry technical training and workshops organized by TBVN. These pilots will play a key role in transferring the experiences to others, and thus promoting the scaling up of sustainable practice.</p> <p><b>PanNature:</b> Vietnam Rubber Group and Dak Lak Rubber Investment Company conducted their revision of the social and environmental due diligence system, introducing guidelines on community engagement, grievance mechanisms and chemical management.</p>
4	Srepok River Basin (SRB) resources are managed using a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral landscape approach.	<p><b>PanNature:</b> A study on the necessity of using a landscape approach in the management of Srepok river basin was introduced by PanNature and its local partner. The issues were discussed and consulted among local leaders at provincial and district level, different sectors and academics. The study results potentially contribute to cross-border policy discussions on Srepok river basin.</p>

#### REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

- Capacity strengthening for landscape actors, including local CSOs and women groups, on the topics of presentation and communication skills, while providing them with sufficient information on restoration and sustainable practices made them proactive in policy dialogues, either at sub-national or national level. We learned that good and constant collaboration with local CSOs and marginalized groups, while doing regular monitoring for adequate alignment with state agencies, is key.
- We have been effectively influencing Dak Lak Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to realize the need for participatory landscape restoration planning through constantly updating them with fact-based information on restoration and agroforestry practices. This helped to successfully influence the guidelines of restoration, agroforestry and CFM.

- In the process of providing comments on the Law on Environment Protection and Forest Strategy, PanNature makes full use of the strength of the network of CSO organizations that share interests. We contribute joint research findings to organize policy dialogues and jointly submit policy comments.
- The cooperation with the Ethnic Council of the National Assembly to hold a workshop in the period when the Law on Environmental Protection was about to be passed (about 2 months before the Law is passed) was important because comments received direct feedback of the Law Drafting Committee at the workshop. However, even though the comments on the Law are directly received, the scope of absorption and the amount of content is limited.
- A woman representing the commune women's union presented their livelihoods options in the workshop on agroforestry strategies that involved a wide range of participants. Previously, women were very reluctant to give their comments, especially in public. Now, they presented in a confident and convincing way. What we can learn is that if we involve them in the early start they can confidently raise their voices.
- IPLCs were invited to participate in our workshops and training. This way, we learned more about their needs and demands regarding restoration and landscape management, while improving their capacity. We also involved them in our research. IPLCs shared their viewpoints at relevant workshops. Where possible, we worked with state agencies to facilitate better collaboration with IPLCs.

10	AGRO-COMMODITIES (AC) - Thematic Programme	
WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH		
<p>The Agro-Commodities programme aims to decrease land-grabbing and tropical deforestation through the establishment and enforcement of regulations for production, consumption and financing, as well as voluntary measures and best practices in palm oil, soy and cocoa.</p> <p>In 2020 we increased our efforts further in the implementation of risk and security strategies for human rights defenders.</p> <p>We engaged Northern and Southern partners in national (the Netherlands) and international lobbying and advocacy on a UN binding treaty and Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence legislation. Together with other partners, we mobilised almost one million European citizens to call for a strong Treaty.</p> <p>We increased our efforts on alternatives to the industrial palm oil and cocoa sector.</p> <p>We continued our lobbying at the Netherlands and EU level for EU policy and legislation (EU Action plan) against deforestation through strong partnerships and the mobilisation of European citizens. We participated in EU multi-stakeholder platforms, launched by the EC to help protect and restore world's forests, pleading for minimum criteria and support for producing country conservation practices.</p> <p>On soy, we continued working with a multistakeholder coalition of platforms in eight European countries, and also contributed to stronger collaboration between international soy initiatives, both with the aim to achieve 100 % conversion free responsible soy.</p>		
CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020		
<p>COVID related alterations: In Cameroon we changed interventions to research agro-businesses implementation of COVID protection and safety measures. CED used intensified media strategies and collaboration with local partners, because they could not travel to communities themselves. Friends of the Earth changed intervention strategies in reaction to the pandemic and started organising rapid response for EHRDs and communities.</p> <p>International travel was not possible. This impeded establishing or improving working relations with partners. For example, capacity building trainings of FoE groups on international solidarity were cancelled and joint research on deforestation and financiers suspended. At the same time, digital meetings allow for a greater number of participants, so also other staff members or organisations who would otherwise not have joined a meeting could now join. Tropenbos International has seen an improvement in contact within their network, as there has been increased contact online with their partners. This has benefited coordination and exchange, but with a trade-off that field work has progressed less.</p>		
MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)		PROGRESS IN 2020
1.1	National level policies and laws in the producing countries are improved and better implemented through support by international level capacity building and collective actions, and through the conformation of national regulations to international standards and agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In July 2020, the Government of Cameroon decided to cancel the forest management unit in Ebo forest, and to suspend the creation of another one. Altogether, around 140,000 ha of valuable forest were saved from industrial logging.</li><li>In August 2020, the Cameroon Minister of Lands suspended the contract granting Agro-Business company Neo-Industry 28,000 of land in the Ntem Valley.</li><li>Between the end of 2019 and October 2020, international donors of the Cameroon Government expressed their concerns about the growing trend of land deals on forest areas and called for a pause and inclusion of safeguards for biodiversity, climate change, and communities' rights.</li></ul>
1.2	At EU and international level, the financial sector is regulated to eliminate land grabbing and deforestation for agro-commodity expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In response to an initiative memorandum, the Dutch government declared it is positive about a general taxonomy, including classification of activities that have a significant harmful impact on environmental objectives.</li><li>The European Parliament adopted a <a href="#">Green Taxonomy</a>.</li><li>The Dutch government said it does not intend to work towards a binding reporting standard NFRD.</li><li>Robeco – extended their <a href="#">exclusion policy</a> with additional palm oil companies (incl. Socfin, socfnaf)</li></ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of Parliament expressed support in a public meeting for the Minister's efforts to organize a progressive, leading group in the EU for the development and further development of the UN treaty.</li> <li>• The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (BuHOS) is approaching various Western States to actively involve them in the UN process. Minister Kaag is publicly supporting MHRDD legislation.</li> <li>• Austria, France, the European Parliament and parliaments in Netherlands, Austria and Belgium have all voiced strong concerns with the EU Mercosur trade agreement and the Commission has publicly announced that the deal in its current form cannot go through.</li> <li>• 9 EU Member States have asked the European Commission to draft an EU mandate for the UN Treaty negotiations, which is needed for formal EU involvement. The EU and Member States did participate in the 2020 negotiation round.</li> <li>• The European Commission announced in March 2020 that it will launch an EU legislative proposal on human rights and environmental due diligence in the spring of 2021.</li> <li>• In November 2020 SCS Global Services accepted the complaint filed by Milieudefensie, GRAIN, CED, JVE Ivory Coast, Green Scenery, FIAN BE, Synaparcam, MALOA, Re-Act and Sherpa concerning its violations of the RSPO standard for certification systems in the Socfin certification processes in Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Cameroon, and started an investigation. The RSPO high risk unit also started its own research into the company.</li> <li>• In October 2020, the Common Fund for Commodities committed to present a proposal to install a grievance procedure in line with the UN Guiding Principles to their Board, after interventions from The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</li> <li>• For the first time local buyers from oil palm plantation company Socapalm (Nestlé, Tractafric, Michelin, Azur) were addressed in campaigns by Synaparcam and in media stories in Cameroon after which at least two of the buyers contacted Synaparcam.</li> </ul>
1.3	The EU carries out an ambitious Action Plan to foreclose deforestation products on its market, including binding measures for trade and rules for the financial sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In November 2020, the European Parliament has adopted a proposal for legislation (the Delara Burkhardt Report) that supports binding legislation against trade related deforestation.</li> <li>• The EC launched a Multi-stakeholder Platform on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests.</li> <li>• In December 2020, a group of more than 50 organisations, jointly endorsed a position paper calling on the EU to adopt a smart mix of measures to address imported deforestation.</li> <li>• On the 22nd of September 2020, the EC launched with EU stakeholders an inclusive dialogue on sustainable cocoa focusing on Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.</li> </ul>
1.4	The biofuel blending target in the EU is deleted as from 2021 and biofuel demand from the EU does not longer boost demand for agro-commodities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A newly proposed bill in the Netherlands says the use of food crops (conventional biofuels) for biofuels will be frozen at 2020 level (1.2%) and proposes a maximum limit for used cooking oil (at 2020 level).</li> <li>• The Dutch government says it will make a case in the EU to designate soy as high-ILUC (Indirect Land Use Change) and therefore unsuitable as biofuel to combat climate change.</li> <li>• The Social Economic Council (SER) declares the use of biofuels for transportation undesirable.</li> <li>• Nestlé puts relationships with Sime Darby <a href="#">on hold</a> and recognizes problems in the palm oil sector and <a href="#">says</a> it will conduct further research.</li> </ul>

1.5	More uptake and policy support for best practices, including conservation measures and social, environmental and corporate integrity safeguards within the actual bulk trade chains of palm oil, cacao and soy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (DISCO) was signed by actors from all subsectors, pledging a joint responsibility for reaching the shared vision for a sustainable cocoa sector.</li> <li>• The agroforestry working group from the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) supports an agroforestry standard for European Sustainable Cocoa Initiatives (ISCOs) that builds on TBI input as presented in the Voice Barometer discussion paper.</li> <li>• 8 European country platforms spoke out and joined hands to strive for 100% conversion free responsible soy; international cooperation for conversion-free soy improved.</li> <li>• European feed industry improved some of its soy guidelines: among others requiring transparency of traders' soy standards and developing tools for conversion-free sourcing.</li> </ul>
2.1	Policy makers have increased their support for alternative production models with more attention to long-term environmental and social impacts of palm oil, cacao and soy production, and for alternative consumption models.	The European Commission proposed strong wording and policy actions to change food systems, as part of the European Green Deal in its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies: from the need to stop deforestation to ideas on how to support alternative food systems.
2.2	Policy makers and opinion leaders have gained knowledge, discussed and internalised alternative models (for food fuel and development) which information was gathered and distributed by the CSOs.	The Dutch government published a National Protein Strategy that underlines both need for responsible soy import and the protein transition towards more plant-based human diets.

#### REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

In Cameroon, the strategy to influence and inform international donors to address issues with the government worked very well, also to increase transparency on otherwise hidden dossiers of landgrabs. Furthermore, the key to success to resist landgrabs is to support community fights in combination with international emblematic campaigns.

For biofuels and the UN treaty, it worked well for Milieudefensie to be engaged as a knowledgeable NGO partner, working with other NGOs, the SER and the MVO platform to provide input into the policy process. Milieudefensie's expertise as a content specialist was of key importance here. On the financial campaign, the case work of the past years materialised in individual outcomes and progress at the level of individual financial institutions. However, as there was no sufficient follow up/link with the work on legislation, there was less progress in this area.

The reform process of the Common Agriculture Policy in the EU has been very interesting and dynamic. On one side the European Parliament and Member States have been trying to keep the status quo, demanding that the Farm to Fork Strategy should be assessed for feasibility, and on the other side the European Commission has been defending the Green Deal and tried ways to link Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funding to the green deal objectives. Public advocacy strategies from a coalition of NGOs and young climate activists has been crucial to influence this process.

Increased media attention for Mercosur lead to a large number of reactions from parliaments and governments. Also, after many years of consistently exposing that voluntary CSR initiatives do not prevent human rights abuses in several sectors, finally the European Parliament, the European Commission and several governments commit to mandatory human rights due diligence legislation.

IUCN NL provided soy reports with substantiated evidence that showed that progress was too little in the sector. This increased leverage on EU decision makers for legislation. For Tropenbos International this is similar for cacao reports on partnerships, agroforestry and deforestation which feeds into evidence-based advocacy. It is also important to involve EU and southern CSOs to influence and prepare positions and to stimulate exchanges.

In working with EHRDs, Friends of the Earth groups confirm that it is essential that Southern groups are leading in decision making on the interventions, but that international solidarity supports EHRDs in their struggles through financial, diplomatic, legal or campaign interventions.

## 11

## FOREST AND LAND GOVERNANCE (FLG) - Thematic Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

Tropenbos International (TBI) has focussed on three areas of work in the Forest Land Governance programme. Forest monitoring of illegal logging in West Africa based on alerts generated by real time satellite monitoring has proceeded in 6 countries, while bottom-up monitoring was introduced and used by 24 Community based Forest Monitors in Liberia. Secondly the work on inclusive business has delivered outcomes on the way local financial organisations organise and integrate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria in their lending policies. TBI contributes to the preparation of the National Forest Strategy of the Netherlands by the Ministry of Agriculture by organising virtual roundtables for Dutch stakeholders to elaborate selected international forest policy topics. Thirdly, the community rights study has delivered advocacy outcomes at national level (eg. in Viet Nam and the Philippines).

IUCN NL completed the implementation of the Rainforest Connection Guardians, the monitoring of illegal logging and deforestation through mobile phone technology in Indonesia. Also in Indonesia, ICCA trainings were given that led to the registration of new ICCAs and influenced legislation. CBD policy influencing was delayed. Instead, two documentaries were produced about community based conservation in Indonesia and Bolivia. In the area of finance, the Landscape Investment and Finance Tool (LIFT) implementation in the Philippines resulted in investments in three agro-forestry restoration projects. LIFT is also integrated and scaled up internationally. In Ghana, a landscape governance model was developed, resulting in close to 1,2 Million USD in investments and the scaling up of over 30 Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) by cocoa corporates Hershey and Lindt and the World Bank. In Vietnam business case development resulted in the transition from smallholder pulp plantations to longer term, FSC timber management systems.

For Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) the focus was on capacity building of FoE partners, coalition building with allies and direct lobby, in order to influence the Global Biodiversity Framework from the Convention on Biological Diversity. FoEI put special emphasis on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) role in conservation and Community Forest Governance, rejection of control by Transnational Corporations (TNCs) and offsetting, voluntary certification and techno fixes. The Internationalist Solidarity System developed by FoEI is increasingly used by groups to organise international support for EHRDs.

Milieudefensie extended community-based forest monitoring with interrelated online tools called Timby. Outcomes are achieved at national and local level, with evidence from hundreds of community monitor reports and related actions from the FoE groups, resulting in dozens of enforcement actions to counter illegal logging, increased payments to communities and integration of the monitoring into IPLC governance structures. Exchanges between FoE groups on safety and security and other monitoring challenges lead to improved insights and strategies. The African Peoples Tribunal was organised by FoE Africa for which 10 cases of rights violations and environmental harm were documented and testified by community representatives. The companies and financiers were increasingly under pressure to prevent and redress harms. Several cases are taken on in international grievance mechanisms.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

In reaction to COVID-19 pandemic we had to make a large number of alterations to the workplan. We changed our way of working given the travel restrictions and lockdowns, but we also had to act upon changes in context such as companies and governments misusing the pandemic and communities in need of rapid response for food and livelihoods support. At local level, where internet is not a given, we managed to introduce online communication, for example in Bolivia with indigenous peoples. In Vietnam more work is being done by partners situated in the landscape, because travel to the landscape was not possible. Among planned activities that had to be changed, the TBI West African programme on forest monitoring and governance planned to organise an international meeting (AFORPOLIS conference) that was cancelled due to COVID-19, while community-based training of forest monitors in Liberia had to be scaled down and to be done online.

Milieudefensie increased its work with local researchers in a larger research project on the failure of voluntary certification systems. One local and experienced lead researcher and four local researchers conducted work based on a joint ToR that might otherwise have been done by external people. This can be seen as a positive change and might increase local capacities. But we also note that this could only be done because strong working relations had already been established. This level of collaboration is much more difficult to develop with new partners. Furthermore, we note that policy outcomes are much reduced or even backtracked. Not only because international conferences of the parties were suspended (CBD, UNFCCC) but also because the space for civil society to lobby is shrinking because of digital meetings.

IUCN NL found that digital meetings with landscape partners can be effective and inspiring. Some GLA meetings were more to the point as compared to live meetings. Partners managed to keep presentations short and to the point and discussions were more focused. For the video production in Indonesia IUCN NL worked with film makers based in the country. It was sometimes easier than expected to organise local execution of projects.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2020
1	International financial and forest policies and policy frameworks explicitly recognise the role and contribution of smallholders, producer organisations and local communities	TBI: Credit Union Semandang Jaya (CUSJ) in Ketapang has adopted ESG criteria within their 2021 Credit Policy in which they stated that businesses related to illegal mining, illegal logging, illegal fishing, and big scale monoculture plantation that clear away natural forests are not eligible for loan.  TBI: A local bank in Indonesia has shown an interest in applying ESG criteria in their locally relevant fund structures.
2	A network of forest monitors in West and Central Africa produce evidence from satellite based observations on specific forest governance issues	TBI: The Liberian forestry authority (FDA) has confirmed the usefulness of the ForestLink technology. This assertion was made by the Manager for Community Forestry in an interview conducted by the New Narrative media network.
3	International policy processes around SDGs and Climate Finance prioritise ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation	IUCN NL: Development banks in the Philippines provided seed investments for climate adaptation agro-forestry restoration schemes in the Cagayan de Oro (CDO) River Basin in the Philippines
4	International financial and forest policies and policy frameworks explicitly recognise the role and contribution of smallholders, producer organisations and local communities	IUCN NL: LIFT applied by at least a dozen international organisations and mainstreamed in the 1000 Landscapes Initiative's approach to landscape finance.  IUCN NL: Cocoa companies support the development of more than 15 new Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) in Ghana.
5	Increase awareness and Lobby for suitable instruments to encourage public and private Climate and Green Finance efforts	IUCN NL: two cocoa companies and the world bank invest a total of 1,2 Million in the implementation of NCRC's (North Campus Research Complex, Univeristy of Michigan) landscape governance framework and in developing monitoring frameworks linked to Landscape.
6	Strengthened national CSO Independent Forest Monitoring networks become recognized and respected institutions with operational sustainability (revised outcome)	IUCN NL: Courts in Sumatra, Indonesia, allow the use of evidence collected by the Rainforest Connection's Guardian sensors in order to prosecute illegal loggers.  IUCN NL: West Sumatra Forestry Agency has committed to increasing the patrols and using Rainforest Connection Guardian generated reports to decide on the village forests to be patrolled.
7	Civil actors actively influence and participate in lobby at the international level, especially into the CFS and SBSTTA and SBI discussions, resulting in a political framework for community forest governance.	FoEI: In the context of developing a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity included FoEI's text proposal on resource mobilisation to reverse biodiversity loss in the negotiation text during the Open Ended Working Group-2 meeting in Rome, February 24-28, 2020
8	Civil society organisations address violations of land rights and FPIC to governments and companies through campaigns	FoEI: The EU Delegation in Honduras held a meeting in December 2020 with FoE Honduras, and the FoEI ISS team, to talk about the systemic violations that EHRDs and CSOs are suffering in the country, including the kidnapping of four Garifuna leaders.  Milieudefensie: 1 community in Mozambique organised itself, documented land rights violations and won a legal intervention against an agrocommodities company, where the court ordered the return of the grabbed land to the community.  Milieudefensie: In December 2020, the executive board of the HCSA decided to adopt the findings of the complaints panel and ordered palm oil company GAR / GVL to remedy the harms, including restoring over 1000 hectares of cleared forest and solve conflicts over land, stop expansion and produce an action plan.
9	International media and/or public exposure of rights violations in palm oil sector after first African Peoples Tribunal on palm oil.	Milieudefensie: In October 2020, an international agro-commodity company gave their principal agreement to return land to two communities in Gabon for developing forest management (4700 hectares and 4400 hectares).

10	International policy frameworks Integrate locally controlled forestry and land management in their policies	TBI: Tropenbos Viet Nam prepared guidelines on Community Forest Management (CFM) which are ready to be approved by the local government agency (DARD). The guidelines were developed based on the community rights review.
11	A network of forest monitors in West and Central Africa produce evidence from satellite based observations on specific forest governance issues	TBI: A network of Community-Based Monitors from 24 communities in Liberia started to contribute alerts of infractions to the ForestLink platform.  TBI: National CSO monitoring coordinators in Ghana and Liberia have been receiving automated satellite-based alerts, but have not yet been able to translate this in easy and regular field verification and corrective action.
12	Civil Society Organisations address violations of land rights and FPIC to governments and companies through campaigns.  International media and public institutions address local struggles on land rights after international campaigns  Communities are empowered to use Community Based Monitoring Tools such as Timby in order to quickly report and address rights violations with public and private actors involved.	FoEI: After a FoEI solidarity call for action in June 2020 in support of communities in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, who are suffering from devastating actions of the gas industry, 206 CSOs denounced not only the harms in this case, but also the systematic and continuous human rights abuses, poverty, corruption, violence and social injustice perpetrated by transnational corporations and/or took follow up advocacy actions to address the systemic nature of the issue.  Milieudefensie: In November 2020, for the first time, communities affected by the agro-commodities sector from 10 countries documented their cases of rights violations and environmental harm and testified in front of the African Peoples Tribunal in Nigeria.  Milieudefensie: In 2020, five Timby monitors in Cameroon sent in 269 reports which formed the basis for CED to denounce fifty cases of rights and environmental violations through their online OBSTER platform and send 17 formal letters for law enforcement to government authorities of which one case was taken on by an international organisation to campaign against illegal timber trade.  Milieudefensie: By the end of 2020, around 154 local forest monitors were trained and equipped with the Timby application, and delivered over 600 reports of environmental and social harms to 6 Friends of the Earth groups that have undertaken over 200 advocacy actions in response.

## REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

The different capacity building activities and strengthened international collaboration that the FLG programme invested in have paid off in 2020. The investments have led to deeper reflections, evidence gathering and strategic advocacy at all levels, leading to a myriad of outcomes, described in the table above. We learned that the exchange of ideas and international solidarity work is inspiring, motivating and effective. International systems and tools support communities in their struggles to protect and restore forested landscapes. We also learned that litigation and grievance mechanisms are important strategies to access justice.

Research and monitoring that is linked to practical and immediate follow up works well for CSOs and IPLCs. For example, community monitoring works well when violations are stopped. There are many examples of successes of community monitoring, but functional and sustainable monitoring systems that are routinely incorporated in the enforcement and judicial systems are still largely absent. This is an area where improvements could be made. The experience in Sumatra shows that when guardians are being embedded in the approach of the Forestry Police this leads to a more direct approach to stop illegal logging, making a reduction in regular policy patrols possible. But even in places where such embeddedness is not yet the case, stakeholders express appreciation and see the potential of these monitoring systems and it remains a promising strategy.

Targeted capacity strengthening of women has strengthened women's leadership in forested land governance. Women are increasingly able to organise themselves and influence policy making at different levels.

(W)EHRDs continue to be at risk for their work to stop deforestation and human rights violations. However, building international support systems and investments in capacity strengthening on human rights, safety and security has helped to better communicate, document, and mobilize effectively on the protection, prevention and achievement of justice for defenders.



## 12

## JUST ENERGY TRANSITION (JET) - Thematic Programme

## WHERE WE WORK, THE PROBLEM WE WORK ON, AND OUR APPROACH

The JET programme focused on the Niger Delta in Nigeria, the Greater Virunga landscape in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the Ituri landscape in DRC. It contributed to an inclusive pro-people process to encourage the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy (RE) using community mobilization, campaigning, lobby and advocacy, capacity building, and litigation.

In 2020, ERA/FoEN (Friends of the Earth Nigeria) educated policy makers and parliamentarians on the gains of renewable energy and influenced them to put laws into place promoting a Just Energy Transition. TB DRC focused on smart energy consumption through the use of improved cook stoves and transforming waste in energy. Next to promoting a just energy transition, AFIEGO continued its campaigning with the DRC CSO partners as well as communities, fisherfolk and others against the planned oil exploitation activities within and around Lake Albert.

Throughout 2020, DRC JET partner IDPE focused on protecting the Virunga national park by mobilizing local communities on the danger of deforestation through oil exploitation, as well as L&A for the sustainable management of its ecosystems.

Milieudefensie, SOMO and Action Aid, together with partners in the South, documented the impact of Northern fossil investments, as well as RE initiatives that fail to address justice and equity principles.

Throughout 2020, Milieudefensie continued consulting with women's rights networks on joint initiatives around JET. An international JET & Feminism conference had to be postponed due to COVID-19. Instead, three regional webinars were organized, during which 100 representatives of indigenous, feminist and trade union organizations shared their perspectives on a feminist just transition.

## CHANGES IN (ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL ETC.) CONTEXT IN 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the implementation of the JET program in 2020. Restrictions such as bans on movements, public gatherings and others affected the JET partners greatly. However, despite a slowdown in ongoing mobilization activities in Uganda and DRC, the crisis was also an opportunity for the international and national partners to regroup and review strategies, as well as ways in which partners could consolidate movement building, increasing media coverage and rally with more allies. Slowing down helped several of the partners to bring a new focus to the work and gain new expertise. Internationally, several JET strategy meetings and an international JET and feminism conference had been planned for 2020 but had to be replaced by online events.

Shrinking civic space for CSOs also put up challenges for the JET partners. In Uganda, AFIEGO's staff and colleagues working under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) were arrested in Hoima district in Uganda in September 2020. Because staff and partners had been trained on physical security and the importance of using media to highlight the arrest, the arrested people were released shortly after. However, to this date, the SBFC members have to continue to report to police as part of their bond requirements.

	MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES, 2020 (THEORY OF CHANGE)	PROGRESS IN 2020
1	CSO's are unified around a common ideology on inclusive and just energy transition	<p>In DRC and Uganda, mobilization campaigns in communities continued to strengthen local JET coalitions and their capacity to lobby and to advocate against oil exploitation. As a result, CSOs and communities from DRC and Uganda worked together to halt oil activities in ecologically sensitive cross-border areas.</p> <p>AFIEGO and IDPE supported film screenings, radio talkshows, and other efforts in which over 800,000 people in Uganda and the DRC were sensitised to promote clean energy alternatives in the Greater Virunga and Ituri landscapes. As a result, women and youth for clean energy undertook advocacy efforts (such as writing/disseminating over 42 petitions, communiques, newspaper articles and others) calling for the promotion of clean energy and green jobs in Uganda and the DRC.</p> <p>Women's rights organizations understand and advocate for JET, leading to women's movement building for JET in Nigeria.</p>

		<p>CSOs shared case studies of a sustainable JET framework, including a joint research around Export Credit Agency (ECA) fossil impact in African communities, highlighting the need for ECA fossil phase out. The research results were widely shared internationally and were used in international L&amp;A efforts to halt ongoing ECA fossil support, including by the Netherlands.</p> <p>Women's rights CSOs came together internationally to formulate a feminist vision on a just transition. The gender perspective in relation to JET has deepened and cooperation with feminist groups on JET has been established.</p>
2	Relevant national government agencies in the African focus countries progressively promote an inclusive and just energy transition	<p>The Renewable Energy Bill was not passed for second reading in 2020. Therefore, during 2020, ERA/FoEN invested in the capacity building training of members of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change as well as House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change on JET. As a result, they are now lobbying other members of the National Assembly to support the proposed bill for the establishment of a renewable energy council for Nigeria.</p> <p>Due to advocacy by AFIEGO and others, Uganda's cabinet approved the 2020 Electricity (Amendment) Bill in July 2020 to increase access to affordable grid power. Between 2016 and 2020, AFIEGO and its partners engaged the Ministry of Energy and Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) through meetings, letters, newsletters, newspaper articles and others to amend the 1999 Electricity Act.</p> <p>The Prime Minister of Uganda's largest cultural institution, Buganda Kingdom, warned against oil dangers in Uganda in November 2020 in Kampala.</p>
3	Best practices of community involvement in inclusive and just energy transition exist in the selected landscapes	<p>AFIEGO championed community participation in Tilenga Environmental and Social Management Plans review process: AFIEGO mobilised 21 CSOs who wrote a protest letter to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) over failure by the authority to ensure community participation in the review of the 28 draft Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for the Tilenga project that had been developed by Total. In August 2020, NEMA committed to consult the affected communities.</p> <p>Tropenbos DRC worked with pupils and women to push for a just energy transition. As a result, about 1,000 households are using improved stoves reducing the consumption of charcoal/timber up to two-thirds. Thousands of students have committed to work for a fair and equitable energy transition in Lisala, Bunia and Kisangani through campaigning at schools and universities.</p> <p>Throughout 2020, IDPE sustained the existence of a resistance movement against oil exploitation in the Great Virunga Landscape.</p>
4	New or existing oil exploration and extraction projects are delayed or halted	<p>Due to AFIEGO's campaigning and coalition building, the African Development Bank (AfDB) committed to not finance the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Uganda and Tanzania. AFIEGO provided information, mobilized Ugandan and Congolese CSOs to sign the letter to the AfDB and supported the International Development Institute (IDI) to identify a Ugandan organization to share the letter with the AfDB.</p> <p>International media and decision makers' awareness of the failed clean-up in Ogoniland has been raised with the advocacy report 'No Clean-Up, No Justice'. The report generated parliamentary questions in the Netherlands and its message was effectively used in campaigning around the UK and Dutch Shell Nigeria court cases. The report was also presented to the European Commissioners for Energy and Justice as well as the European Parliament, in order to push for EU legislation to hold multinationals accountable.</p>

## REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES IN 2020

AFIEGO's investment in capacity building to strengthen CSOs' operational space paid off in 2020. It supported its staff, partners and colleagues under SBFC to be released following their arrest in September 2020.

In Nigeria, ERA's capacity building for women's rights organisations on a Just Energy Transition also enhanced its own capacity on gender inclusiveness as well as supported its JET movement building on the ground.

In DRC, IDPE's capacity building activities have generated a strong coalition of JET civil society actors. IDPE also works through intermediaries in insecure areas, which have allowed them to continue working there. IDPE has particularly focused on training young people and women leaders, who are influential in the towns bordering Virunga Park. Investing in the training of journalists and other media personnel worked well, as they continue to follow up and share their perspectives via the media.

In Uganda, the investment in community sensitisation, partnership building, participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues, media campaigning, and the use of court cases have contributed greatly to the 2020 L&A outcomes, as well as cross-border lobby and advocacy with the DRC, and CSO mobilisation in the lobby towards banks.

At the international level, working closely with feminist and women's rights groups throughout 2020 to generate a feminist Just Transition perspective, has deepened the program's Just Transition analysis and highlighted the importance of working on gender from a transformational perspective. The insights generated have been incorporated in the JET 2.0 program phase.

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