

NOVEMBER 2016

ANNUAL PLAN

GREEN LIVELIHOODS ALLIANCE - ANNUAL PLAN 2017



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	LOBBY AND ADVOCACY: SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE OF FORESTED LANDSCAPES	3
2.1	Bolivia	3
2.2	Democratic Republic of Congo	4
2.3	Ghana	4
2.4	Indonesia	5
2.5	Liberia	6
2.6	Nigeria	6
2.7	Philippines	6
2.8	Uganda	7
2.9	Viet Nam	7
2.10	Agro commodities, Forest and Land Governance and Extractives	8
3.	GENDER EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS	8
4.	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT	9
5.	CHANGES IN CONTEXT AND CONSEQUENCES FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION	9
6.	COLLABORATION WITH DUTCH EMBASSIES AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	10
7.	CLOSING REMARKS	10

1.

INTRODUCTION

The Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) is pleased to present the Annual Plan 2017 of our Strategic Partnership Programme “Forested Landscapes for Equity”. After the finalization of the inception phase, early September, Southern partners worked together with Milieudefensie (MD), IUCN Netherlands (IUCN) and Tropenbos International (TBI) to translate the long term objectives of the contextualized Theory of Change (ToC) into expected (intermediate) outcomes and matching capacity development as well as lobby and advocacy (L&A) strategies for 2017.

In the first section of this Annual Plan, we provide an overview on how the GLA intends to work towards sustainable and inclusive governance of forested landscapes in the focus countries through L&A. After this, we summarize the most important capacity development activities and explain how changes in context since the completion of the inception reports might affect the work of some of our partners in 2017. Following this, we take a specific look at how issues related to gender equity and the inclusion of marginalized groups are integrated in our work. As many of our Southern partners have indicated to foresee a role for the Dutch embassies, we also share their thoughts about collaborating with the Dutch embassy. The last section provides some reflections on this first GLA Annual Plan.

2.

LOBBY AND ADVOCACY: SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE OF FORESTED LANDSCAPES

The GLA argues that well-governed forested landscapes contribute to sustainable livelihoods by providing products and ecosystem services that support the economic activities of a variety of land users. They deliver a range of International Public Goods (IPGs), such as water and food security, climate resilience and biodiversity. Local communities play a crucial role - alongside government agencies and companies - in safeguarding productive forested landscapes and thereby maintaining the ecosystem services that also support their livelihoods. In its ToC, the GLA has identified three conditions for communities to be able to play this role: (1) security of land tenure, or access to land, (2) inclusion in decision-making on land use by government and the local and international private sector, and (3) nature-based approaches to the management of forested landscapes to add to their traditional, time-proven knowledge. We believe that once in place, these conditions enable local communities to engage with stakeholders from the public and private sector to jointly decide on land use. To meet these conditions, proper local, national and international legislation and corporate policies need to be in place.

In their ToCs, our partners acknowledge this reasoning. These ToCs emphasize strategies that help strengthening the voice of local communities in policy processes by means of training, capacity development and empowerment and by engaging with communities in activities to influence the private sector practices and public sector policies. The partners propose a range of strategies to achieve the three conditions for sustainable and inclusive management of forested landscapes e.g. by engaging in multi-stakeholder dialogues, but also through public awareness raising and campaigning.

In the vision of the GLA, cooperation between CSOs helps increasing the effectiveness of lobby & advocacy activities. Especially when combining dialogue and dissent tactics, continuous coordination between activist, convening and knowledge-brokering CSOs is essential. Such coordination of strategies is highly complex and requires trust and a history of collaboration between CSOs. This first GLA workplan demonstrates the early efforts to realise strategy coordination, yet it is clear that it still needs to grow. To further stimulate this, partners in each country and thematic programme will organise a reflection and learning meeting in the beginning of 2017, while a joint planning and review meeting will take place by the end of the year. This will facilitate exchange and the further development of coordination. As the work plans for the country and thematic programmes are very extensive, this document summarises the most important expected results, outcomes and matching L&A strategies in the GLA focus countries as well as at the international level.

2.1 BOLIVIA: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF FORESTED LANDSCAPES IN THE BOLIVIAN CHIQUITANÍA REGION

In the Gran Chiquitanía, partners designed three pathways of change that are closely related to the national objectives for socio-economic development for 2020 and 2025. The programme will be carried out by six partners: IBIF (TBI) provides technical support/input and trainings to a variety of stakeholders. PROBIOMA (IUCN) provides technical support, is involved in capacity building, organises awareness campaigns promoting agroecology and carries out L&A work. SAVIA (IUCN) works to support municipalities in the comprehensive management of natural resources and protected areas, specifically groups of women and youth. They are also involved in international convention work. Specialized CSOs (AFIN, CEDIB and Consorcio Ticca Bolivia) have been contracted by our main partners to strengthen the programme.

- The first pathway focuses on L&A to incorporate technological innovation for sustainable and integrated landscape management. In 2017, partners will contribute to working groups of the National Forest and Land Authority (ABT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. Workshops on Analog Forestry are expected to contribute to the elaboration and actualization of certification systems. Partners will work closely with producers from the cattle and soy sectors to reach agreement on sustainable practices.
- The second pathway aims to improve the management of forested landscapes by activities such as the dissemination of information on the impact of agribusinesses and mining on the landscape. The partners will develop community monitoring instruments on important drivers of degradation in community conserved areas and protected areas. Activities will also focus on strengthening the protected areas management committees. Gathering indigenous knowledge and gender are cross-cutting strategies and partners will strengthen their own capacities on these issues.
- The third pathway aims for effective implementation and harmonization of legislation. Partners will make use of existing legislation of the government programs for development. For example, the new program on the restitution of forest offers incentives to restore forest cover in deforested land which can increase the income of local communities and discourage deforestation. Activities include regional and worldwide collaboration in networks such as “Semillas de Vida” and the ICCA Consortium and contributions to conventions as CBD and UNFCCC.

2.2 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC): STRENGTHENING THE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST GOVERNANCE TO THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND TO SAFEGUARD KEY ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES IN TWO FORESTED LANDSCAPES

The long-term objective of the programme in DRC is to restore, protect and manage sustainably and inclusively natural resources, ensuring the livelihoods of local and indigenous communities and the stability of protected areas. Work will be implemented in different landscapes: in Central Congo in Ituri, Mongala and Tshopo and in East Congo in Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega. TBI DRC will work with local CSOs for sustainable natural resources management in collaboration with many operational partners in Central Congo. IUCN will work in East Congo with a coalition of eight CSOs, who all have their own expertise. Besides working at the landscape level, partners also intend to develop a joint national lobby plan and work on an international lobby agenda together with other GLA partners and countries.

For Central Congo, the expected outcomes for 2017 and matching strategies include the following:

- Community Forestry (CF) to be realized in practice by 2020. As a first step in 2017, manuals on forestry regulations and a guide to CF will be prepared and at least six local and indigenous peoples’ communities are will be supported to obtain a forest concession from the forest administration. They will be supported to organize and operate in cooperatives and share lessons and experiences. Part of the strategy is to organise a multi-stakeholder dialogue on this issue.
- Lobby for the delivery of artisanal logging permits that are valid for 5 years instead of the current single year. In 2017, a start will be made with lobbying for a charter for fair compensation of local communities by artisanal loggers operating in their area.
- Partners seek to engage Provincial Governments and public institutions and services in sustainable natural resources management. In 2017, the lobbying for the revision of provincial nature conservation legislation and on effective penalties for environmental crimes will start. Part of this strategy is to document the current state of affairs and analyze existing law proposals.

For East Congo, the following expected long term outcomes, outcomes for 2017 and matching strategies are formulated:

- Social peace and stability: local communities and indigenous populations are acting freely, responsibly and are reconciled to achieve social cohesion. Activities contributing to this outcome are the education of youth, women and land chiefs in sustainable management of natural resources, meetings with traditional leaders and bringing different stakeholders in the landscapes together as well as setting up a monitoring and information gathering system to track possible violations of human and environmental rights in the landscape.
- Re-established social and environmental justice; stakeholders adopt best practices in their daily lives; livelihoods are improved and the living conditions of the local population and indigenous populations have increased. Outcomes for 2017 include the establishment of an environmental legal helpdesk providing legal support and strengthened advocacy for the restoration of state authority. One of the strategies for achieving this outcome is to document threats against environmental defenders.
- The sustainable use of natural resources is assured and the ecosystems are restored; benefits of protected areas should contribute to the sustainable development of local populations; stakeholders are involved in decisions making process and new alternatives are developed for the protection of our public goods. In 2017, awareness on these issues will be raised. Our partners will organise a workshop to share the results of a socio-economic study on ecosystem services of the indigenous people in the Kahuzi Biega Landscape. A multi-stakeholder dialogue between neighbouring communities and managers in six communities in the Virunga landscape will be organised. Our partners will also research the flow of agricultural products harvested by local communities and indigenous people.

2.3 GHANA: SUSTAINABLY MANAGED LANDSCAPES IN ATEWA AND JUABESO-BIA TO ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC GOODS (IGPS) AND LIVELIHOODS

Our partners in Ghana will strengthen local communities to be responsible stewards of natural resources, while they will lobby governments at different levels to enact, implement, enforce and monitor policies and regulations and the private sector to apply

best sustainable practices. The work will focus on two landscapes: Atewa and Juabeso-Bia. Juabeso-Bia landscape contains the only biosphere reserve in Ghana and is extensively covered by cocoa plantations. Atewa contains the headwater for some of the important water systems in Ghana, on which a major part of the population in Accra depends. However, the landscapes are under serious threats from mining, illegal logging and expansion of farming. Within the programme, three main CSOs will work together in achieving the jointly formulated outcomes: TBI Ghana (TBI) will take the position of ‘knowledge broker’, making knowledge available for practice and policy. A Rocha Ghana (IUCN) will be mobilizing both state and non-state actors (including corporate agencies) to improve policies and their implementation. FoE-Ghana (MD) will review government policy documents for the purpose of bringing about improved forest governance, sustainable forest management and equitable benefit sharing. Together, partners have developed a set of strategies for 2017:

- Supporting local communities to adopt sustainable natural resources (NR) practices. Outcomes of this work in 2017 include the increase of knowledge by communities on their rights and responsibilities under the relevant forestry and mining laws. Partners intend to have an active platform in place for discussing forestry and mining issues and aim to create broad public support for the conservation of Atewa. The scope and impact of unsustainable NR practices in the two landscapes will be documented and shared with the communities. Also, publicity campaigns will be organized using mass media platforms and music festivals.
- Supporting local communities to engage government and the private sector on the sustainable management of forested resources. In 2017, CSOs will be capacitated on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and their rights relating to environmental resource utilization and development. To achieve this, CSOs and key stakeholders will be trained on EIAs and on how to dialogue with and challenge regulatory bodies. Other activities include lobbying Local Cocoa Buying Companies & chocolate companies for premium prices for Climate Smart Cocoa. In addition, partners will promote the legalization and up scaling of the Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) concept, in both landscapes but also nationally.
- Encouraging the national and local government to integrate biodiversity, climate resilience and responsible NR approaches into medium-term development plans and participatory land use planning. For 2017 it is envisaged that the relevant government bodies are aware. Partners intend to achieve this awareness by engaging with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) to develop action learning tool-kits and facilitating landscape fora. For 2017 partners intend to create awareness of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) on these approaches and develop action learning tool-kits and facilitating landscape for a.
- Get the private sector to adopt and apply climate smart practices and agro commodity production systems, landscape standards and sustainable sourcing practices. By the end of 2017, there should a broad national consensus for procurement policies on sustainable commodities and a platform will be used for discussions towards sustainable commodity sourcing. Our partners will engage in a participatory study on the potential impact of FLEGT/VPA on small and medium forest enterprises.

2.4 INDONESIA: INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT IN WEST SUMATRA, WEST KALIMANTAN AND CENTRAL SULAWESI PROVINCES

Our partners in Indonesia: KKI-WARSI, NTFP-EP ID (IUCN), TBI-IP (TBI) and WALHI (MD) will work in three different landscapes: Mudiak Baduo (West Sumatra), Gunung Tarak (West Kalimantan) and Lariang (Central Sulawesi). While a lot of work will focus on inclusive spatial planning at the landscape level and the development and promotion of forest based sustainable livelihoods (FBSL) and social forestry, work will also be conducted on keeping the oversight on oil palm related issues and on industrial forest plantation and mining’s environmental standards. The following strategies will contribute to five identified long term outcomes:

- To arrive at equitable and sustainable spatial planning in 2020, work in 2017 will be geared towards more transparent and participatory regional spatial planning in which the needs of local communities are accommodated. Our partners’ activities include giving a voice to village governments to be involved in the spatial planning process, examining district’s spatial planning, engaging in L&A activities to strengthen policies at the national level and developing village and inter-village spatial planning.
- The High Conservation Value methodology (HCV) is the key tool for companies and government for sustainable production investment and regional development in 2020. A common Landscape Conservation Plan will be developed by the partners to better inform their L&A efforts towards integrated landscape planning at a regional scale. On this basis, they intend to collaborate with and pressure commodity producers’ Management Units (MUs) and the government to implement a Landscape Conservation Planning framework based on the HCV approach. By the end of 2017, some of the MUs should have started to improve HCV allocation and management at MU and landscape level.
- By 2020, all growers and traders conduct sustainable production and trade. By 2017, some oil palm growers/traders are expected to have improved their sustainability standards/supply chains at the landscape level. In order to achieve this, good and bad corporate governance of palm oil and mining plantations will be monitored and law suits will be submitted to court on cases of companies breaching spatial plans.
- By 2020, village government and community groups participate and are equally involved in sustainable agro industry. As a first step, our partners will build the institutional capacity of the community groups and train them to identify their key forest products, develop their business plans and link them to potential markets.
- Also, by 2020, it is expected for local communities to have a greater involvement in sustainable forest management. A first step is for Social Forestry applicants to rapidly obtain their permits, while Social Forestry holders are enabled to execute their workplans. In 2017, our partners will establish a Multi Stakeholder Forum on Social Forestry, strengthening the social forestry schemes and speed up the licensing process.

2.5 LIBERIA: PRESERVED ECOSYSTEMS AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD CONDITIONS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN LIBERIA

The GLA programme for Liberia aims to increase the respect and recognition of tenure rights of local communities by the government and concessionaires, and to increase adherence to the full implementation of policies and laws in forest and land management. This will contribute to the preservation of ecosystems and improved livelihood conditions for rural communities in Liberia and specifically in the Sinoe landscape. SDI (MD), VOSIEDA (TBI) and SCNL (IUCN) will work on the following main strategies:

- Increasing the respect for tenure rights: For 2017, our partners' outcomes include an increased responsiveness by Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) to concerns and complaints from communities about its operations. SDI will monitor, document and report on non-compliance with relevant national and international policies and laws and on illegal logging in the Sinoe and Grand Kru. It will engage with communities in areas where GVL is seeking to acquire land to establish oil palm estates and will document and highlight instances of GVL's non-compliance or poor implementation of its public commitments to respect the rights of local communities. After this they will engage the media to publicly denounce the company for its failures or non-compliance.
- Increasing adherence to the implementation of policies and laws: In 2017, our partners expect the Forestry Development Authority to act to investigate instances of illegal logging and/or forest conversion or to sanction companies implicated in illegal logging or forest conversion. The government and the EU is expected to jointly act to address instances of illegal logging and/ or export of illegal timber from Liberia into the EU. In 2017 our partners will therefore develop an action plan for follow up on the issues raised in the case studies on GVL. They will also develop a step-by-step guide for communities outlining opportunities for seeking remedy or redress for grievances related to GVL's operation in their community.

Besides all the above, SDI will also strengthen local communities' representative bodies to resist destructive oil palm expansion onto their land. VOSIEDA will work on forest governance, specifically the role of NGOs in VPA and REDD+ processes in Liberia. In 2017 they will organize participatory studies on the strengths and weaknesses in local timber value chain and on the potential impact of FLEGT-VPA and REDD+ on small and medium forest enterprises. SCNL will bring in the conservation aspects related to sustainable and inclusive governance of forested landscapes. All CSOs will be involved in a baseline study for the Sinoe landscape and a participatory study on the effect of current land tenure arrangements and practices on deforestation, community rights and livelihoods.

2.6 NIGERIA: PROTECTION OF FORESTS AND LIVELIHOODS BY REDUCING CORPORATE INFLUENCE IN THE NIGER DELTA AND CROSS RIVER STATE

Our partner in Nigeria, ERA, seeks to challenge corporate impunity and to ensure transparency and accountability in decision making processes related to the prevention of deforestation and the protection of livelihoods in forested landscapes in southern Nigeria.

ERA has identified two pathways of change. The first aims to make government and business change their policies to protect natural resource governance while ensuring that extant ones are implemented. The activities identified include workshops and lobbying and advocacy to mobilise public pressure on decision makers in governments and companies. Other activities include litigation as a preventive measure and remediation and compensation as well as to stop new and existing dirty energy projects thus the cases against Shell in the Netherlands and Eni will be addressed. The activities also include a campaign for the implementation of the UNEP report on the clean up of the polluted Ogoni land and the Niger Delta. Establishing national and international civil society groups that monitor on the clean-up process are ways to ensure transparency and accountability in the clean up process.

The second pathway focuses on halting the expansion of palm oil plantations and land grabbing in forested landscapes and ensuring that local communities defend their rights and promote their own alternative livelihoods systems. Advocacy and campaigns will include media tours and community town hall meetings to encourage direct representation to the local and national authorities to influence policy change.

2.7 PHILIPPINES: INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT TO SAFEGUARD INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC GOODS IN THREE FORESTED LANDSCAPES

The Philippine programme focuses on three landscapes: the Sierra Madre Mountain Range in Luzon and CDO-Tagoloan River Basins and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao in Mindanao, each of them served by one of the partners of MD, IUCN and TBI. The long-term goal of the program is to safeguard the IPGs for forest-dependent and indigenous communities in the target communities. The programme aims to achieve this by using a variety of strategies:

- Strengthening the lobby and advocacy capacity of civil society organisations as well as forest-dependent and indigenous communities. In 2017, a plan to strengthen the CSOs will be developed and partly implemented, two river basin coalitions will have been set up in the CDO & Tagoloan River basins and a technical Working Group on forest resource use will have been established by the Forest Management Bureau. Our partner NTFP EP will organize frequent meetings with CSOs, church groups and academic groups to discuss developments in the northern Sierra Madre and strategies to influence developments. They will also be involved in the establishment of an (indigenous) Agta school to study and promote cultural and natural knowledge. Our partner Samdhana will be involved in the Ridge-River-Reef Summit which will allow the lead CSO to gather information and identify research gaps.

- Putting pressure on government to improve environmental and social justice laws and their enforcement. In 2017, government agencies will be activated and technical working groups will be set up. CSO actors (including indigenous people and women) will be actively engaged in participatory processes. All partners will be involved in policy influencing at the barangay (local government), regional and national levels.
- Multi-stakeholder groups and indigenous communities have implemented sustainable management of forest landscapes, revived traditional farming systems and have piloted nature-based solutions models. The first of these outcomes is expected to have materialised in 2017. Samdhana will be involved in L&A for rehabilitation work for high-risk areas and conducted scientific reviews of these areas. LRC and NTFP EP will be involved in the documentation and promotion of traditional community practices and the implementation, enforcement and monitoring of a sustainable and inclusive natural resource management plan.

2.8 UGANDA: SECURING A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM FOR IMPROVED COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS IN THE KALANGALA LANDSCAPE

The programme in Uganda is coordinated by NAPE (MD) in the Kalangala landscape. The programme focuses on oil palm expansion in the Kalangala landscape, the impact of oil palm plantations on Bugala and their potential impact on Buvuma. It has several key result areas:

- The first goal is to stop the expansion of oil palm plantations on both public and private land in the Kalangala landscape. In 2017 they will support community interest litigation against land grabbing, so land grabbing can be condemned by court, setting a precedent for other projects. The programme will provide insight in the impact of oil palm expansion on the environment and livelihoods, in the context of land grabbing. For financiers to halt their investments in dubious projects, partners will present evidence to financiers such as research, case studies, and community testimonies and will make a documentary to popularize issues of palm oil injustices and engage with local, national and international media.
- The second aim is to empower communities to engage with the government and palm oil investors. For this, NAPE will conduct trainings for CSOs, communities, youth and academia on rights based advocacy with a particular focus on gender. NAPE will organize community exchanges between the communities of Bugala and Buvuma, to discuss the potential impact on that island. NAPE will also organise learning meetings and teach CSOs and communities how to engage as an independent watch dog to monitor and evaluate government development of palm oil projects. Following these interventions, they expect Multilateral Agencies to put pressure on BIDCO (palm oil company) to reverse the trends of environmental degradation and human rights abuse.
- Thirdly, NAPE aims to empower, inform and support local and national government to apply oil palm safeguards. Sensitization meetings for districts and lower local government officials will be organised, expert evidence/ advice for litigation will be given and NAPE will train and inform local government officials. By 2017, the government should be aware of oil palm investment challenges, defend community interests and assess the landscape governance of Kalangala.
- The fourth goal is to create a strong and vibrant civil society with favourable operating conditions. NAPE will study the new NGO act and will analyse the various provisions and requirements and its implications on the rights, freedoms and day-to-day work of NGOs and CSOs. NAPE will create awareness on this act among CSOs working in the landscape and will train them as well. By the end of 2017, CSO groups are aware and able to interpret the various provisions and requirements of the new NGO act and its implications. This will also be the basis for influencing the act.

2.9 VIET NAM: INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTED LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE IN THE SREPOK RIVER BASIN IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LANDSCAPE

The programme in Vietnam strives to change policies and practices, thus contributing to (1) proper conservation and management of existing natural forests; (2) sustainable production practices in coffee, pepper, cassava and other 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 and of men and women. There will be three partners implementing the 2017 work plan. TBI Viet Nam (TBI) will focus on making knowledge available for policy and practice. PanNature (IUCN) plays a very important role in supporting government agencies as well as enable local CSOs to conduct L&A for better resource governance in Central Highlands. VietNature (IUCN) will engage mainly in implementing pilot projects on the ground in Srepok river basin. The following work will be undertaken in 2017 to contribute to the long term goals:

- At the government level, our partners want to have influenced the forest law that is in development and see its implementation, as well as improved and new policies that contribute to reduced deforestation and forest degradation. As a start in 2017, our partners will provide evidence based knowledge and information to local and national government bodies and experts, establish a regional CSO platform, and start building the capacity of CSOs to contribute to policy processes. This is expected to result in the relevant institutes preparing an inclusive forest strategy until 2025 and putting the development of new policies on the political agenda.
- To establish a pilot for the restoration of degraded land, partners will conduct a Restoration Opportunity Assessment in 2017. On this basis, they want to convince the private sector and donors to be involved in landscape restoration and conservation issues.
- By 2020, companies and farmers should apply best practices, such as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). In 2017, our partners will support the provincial government to revise their climate change strategies and cooperate with local coffee companies to promote CSA for coffee production. One of the ways they will do this, will be by engaging with the IDH ISLA programme.
- To enable forest owners, households and communities with allocated forest lands to restore and manage degraded forests, local authorities will be supported by our partners in the forest land allocation process.

2.10 AGRO COMMODITIES, FOREST AND LAND GOVERNANCE AND EXTRACTIVES

The GLA will also carry out work under the three thematic programmes on agro commodities, forest and land governance and extractives. As these thematic programmes focus on Dutch, European and international policy influencing, both Southern and Northern partners will engage in L&A strategies. Together, we will bring the issues that our Southern partners face to the attention of key actors and will invite their representatives to international platforms. We will also support local actions and run international campaigns, by linking local platforms and businesses to private investors in the landscapes, particularly those with Dutch origins and interests. Below an overview is given of the main outcomes and some highlights of the plans for 2017 under the first two thematic programmes. Note that the annual plan for the extractives programme is still in development.

- The EU regulation that requires the obligatory use of biofuels is stopped;
- An EU action plan against deforestation and forest degradation is developed;
- Obligations for financial institutions in various European laws and treaties are included
- Sustainable and inclusive policies are promoted at international conferences and platforms (UNFCCC, CBD, FAO, FLEGT)
- Improved uptake and quality of voluntary standards
- Development and uptake of alternative methods of the production of agro commodities

A great variety of activities will be undertaken to achieve the above mentioned outcomes. IUCN and Milieudedefensie will join the European NGO coalition to advocate for the phasing-out of the EC's mandatory blending of biofuels. Milieudedefensie intends to create more awareness amongst Dutch citizens about deforestation in tropical countries and its direct link with consumption patterns. Also, Milieudedefensie will conduct two large studies related to banks and abuse in the agricultural sector in tropical countries. A collaborative investigation into international supply chains provides our partners with technical knowhow on governance and forest management and guidance on new methodologies and knowledge of regulatory aspects.

TBI will participate in the Landscapes for People Food and Nature network and contribute to its task force on promoting the landscape approach as a means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals. They will also develop a practice-based paper examining the role of and requirements for CSOs in the implementation of landscape initiatives and present this at relevant forums and will follow the FLEGT process more closely. TBI will also participate in a PEFC international working group on forest management standard revision and will make proposals for review of criteria related to conversion, certification of trees outside forests and tenure.

IUCN will support the further uptake of Roundtable standards by companies in the Netherlands and Europe in food/feed/fuel by supporting the ministry's implementation of the Amsterdam Declarations on Palm Oil and Deforestation. Most importantly, all three Alliance Members will collaborate closely with Southern Partner to influence the above-mentioned policies and intend to build international CSO networks to strengthen their voice.

3. GENDER EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS

All inception reports identified indigenous groups and local communities as important stakeholders. They are the ones who are often most affected by ecosystem degradation and deforestation and are also among the key beneficiaries in sustainable landscape management. Yet, they are often excluded from decision making and unable to claim their rights. This is even more true for women who are in many cases amongst the most vulnerable within indigenous groups and local communities.

Our partners make the promotion of gender equity and inclusiveness part of their strategies. However, the level to which they succeed in doing this, differs. At the organisational level, many of the partners make equal access to male and female staff to training and technical assistance a priority. Also, they encourage women and marginalized groups to apply for positions in the GLA projects. Some of the partners plan to train their staff specifically on gender and women's leadership and they encourage the active participation of women and marginalized groups in all programme activities. Some partners have even set quota criteria for participation.

At the programme level, most the partners have indicated that they will lobby for the adequate participation of women and marginalized groups in NRM decision making processes. In Uganda especially, the partners are very active in the promotion of gender equity: they will support drama performances led by women in order to popularize the impacts of the production of agro commodities on women's rights, land rights and food sovereignty. Also, they dedicate specific space during events for exploring issues related to diversity and inclusion. Our partners in Vietnam plan to set up partnerships with women groups, and will sign agreements with local Women Unions. In Indonesia, our partners will facilitate village area allocation (social forestry) and make a special issue of the designation of areas as a source of livelihoods for women, women headed families, disabled people and poor people. Our partner in Liberia will bring women leaders together to discuss trends, challenges and issues related to the work of the programme. This provides the opportunity to build a women movement within the landscape. In Nigeria, gender is a major component in community

capacity building and separate workshops will be held to promote women's rights to communal land rights and protection of rural livelihoods.

As we find it important that all partners integrate the promotion of gender equity and the inclusion of marginalized groups in their strategies, the GLA will invite all partners in 2017 to participate in a GLA organized training on the promotion of gender equity.

4. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The core of the Alliance's strategy is to strengthen the capacity of partner CSOs to technically, politically and economically empower and represent local communities and join with them where necessary and possible in lobbying for and advocating inclusive and sustainable governance of forested landscapes. We have adopted a framework of five capabilities to support our interventions to strengthen CSO capacities:

1. generate and use verified evidence;
2. build strong coalitions;
3. develop clear and strategic interventions;
4. continuously learn for improvement;
5. guarantee sufficient ability for effective lobby & advocacy

Based on this framework, during the inception phase, all partners engaged in a guided self- assessment in which they prioritized their capacity development needs. As a result of this, in their work plans our partners have formulated a number of capacity development activities. These activities do not just refer to formal training, but also to coaching trajectories with Alliance Members and learning on the job.

For 2017, most of our partners focus their capacity development activities on the first, second, third and fifth capability of the framework. Examples of activities under the first capability are data gathering by video, GIS skills, documentation and reporting skills, training in situation and stakeholder analysis, new research methodologies and training in landscape governance assessment. With regards to the capability to build strong coalitions (2), partners identified a number of activities ranging from skills in strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms and communicating and negotiating with governments to skills in working in a restrictive environment. It is the aim of the GLA to not only strengthen coalitions at the local and national level, but also to strengthen a well-informed, connected, and skilled movement on forest governance in the South. International knowledge sharing will be one of the strategies to achieve this. Most partners have identified a great need for capacity development under the third capability in the framework (develop clear and strategic interventions). Their plans include training courses in the development of lobby and advocacy strategies, packaging information, messaging to various audiences, innovative outreach through skills in web design, the use of social media, radio programming, script writing and mediation and negotiation skills. Under the fifth capability, partners plan for activities related to, amongst others, financial management and fundraising skills and reporting and coordination skills.

5. CHANGES IN CONTEXT AND CONSEQUENCES FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The country inception reports have provided for a detailed context analysis. As these were delivered as recently as in September, many of the country contexts have not changed significantly. Only in the DRC and Liberia contextual changes are looming.

The current political situation in DRC is tense. Elections are postponed and riots take place regularly. Especially a programme working on sensitive issues like community empowerment and human rights might be hampered by this political unrest and the safety of personnel may be endangered. The resumption of war in the eastern part of the country (where GLA will be active) and persistent insecurity in the priority areas for implementation of activities will have severe consequences for the programme. At the moment, the team is taking the necessary steps to mitigate these risks. A safety plan is being developed and other measures are being taken such as an early warning system and multi-ethnic staff teams.

The upcoming general and presidential elections cause great uncertainty around Liberia's democratic transition. With President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf expected to leave office and the withdrawal of military and para-military personnel of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), there is increasing anxiety amongst citizens, foreign nationals and other stakeholders. Should the opposition win the 2017 elections, it could take quite some time and effort to rebuild relationships with the new government.

6.

COLLABORATION WITH DUTCH EMBASSIES AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Our partners have identified a variety of ways in which the Royal Netherlands Embassies (RNEs) could support the GLA programme in their countries or landscape. A summary of these suggestions is as follows:

- **Bolivia:** The RNE based in Peru could create synergies with and awareness of other interventions of cooperation in Bolivia or neighbouring countries.
- **DRC:** The RNE could pass on information from the field to the national government and other international partners present in Kinshasa. They could provide advice and recommendations and warn authorities against threats against partner staff due to their work under the programme. This will then provide for some kind of protection.
- **Ghana:** The RNE could enhance the work of the partners by taking advantage of the many private sector focus support initiatives being run by the embassy. They could also bring subtle diplomatic pressures on duty bearers.
- **Indonesia:** The RNE could communicate partners' findings to relevant stakeholders, provide support to CSOs that get into trouble because of their L&A work and help link up with officials and people that partners do not have access to.
- **Nigeria:** Collaboration with the RNE will be pursued in the clean up process of the Ogoni Land and the Niger Delta.
- **Philippines:** The RNE could inform other partnerships about the GLA work in the Philippines, in particular about the landscape course that TBI is developing. They could also maximize their policy influence particularly linking it to implementation of local-level natural resource management and assertion and protection of IP rights. The embassy may take a role in the exchange expertise, knowledge and experience as well.
- **Uganda:** The RNE could participate in a fact-finding process into the pros and cons of further palm oil expansion for a) the rights and livelihood of local communities b) the local ecology and landscape and c) (the Dutch) policies to combat climate change.
- **Vietnam:** To improve cooperation, the RNE could connect different alliances who are operating programs in the same landscape, for instance by calling for a meeting of all alliances from the Netherlands who are acting in Central Highlands to update each other about their progress of program implementation. They could also elevate the voice of the GLA to the national debate or related policy dialogues at the central level.

At an international level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could be instrumental in establishing and strengthening the relations with TFA and other similar initiatives. It could also inform us on opportunities to lobby on a joint agenda at international meetings such as LPFN, UNFCC, etc. We are keen to hear where the ministry sees opportunities for collaboration and intend to explore this more during the upcoming strategic dialogue.

7.

CLOSING REMARKS

This GLA Annual Plan 2017 cannot cover the rich variety of activities that we and our partners intend to undertake in the 16 landscapes in the 9 focus countries and internationally. However, it does provide an insight in how we intend to operationalize the contextualized ToCs and how activities link up to the generic GLA ToC. As 2017 will be the first full year of implementation, we anticipate that the outcomes of the programme for this first year will be modest and expect more tangible results for the years to come. Each CSO is using its strength to the benefit of the jointly formulated outcomes. One of the challenges though, is the large number of outcomes that partners formulated in their enthusiasm. Only through implementation, learning and reflection one may find out that it may be more effective to reduce the level of ambition. By actively engaging in upcoming planning and reflections meetings and close contact with partners, we will pay specific attention to this in 2017. Also, we have noticed that the concept of integrated landscape management has not yet fully been embraced by the majority of partners so far. In 2017 we will invest in better operationalizing the concept and providing concrete tools to our partners to understand and promote the landscape approach.

The GLA believes that good coordination of different strategies that aim for the same result is a prerequisite for effectiveness. The expected interplay between dissent and dialogue strategies does not come about naturally in each country. The reasons for this are often cultural and socio-political but also have to do with the fact that in several countries, CSOs have only met through the GLA programme and have not worked together before. For coordination and collaboration to happen properly, a period of partnership development and trust-building is necessary. Therefore, in this first full year of execution we will focus on building strong coalitions. This requires investing in networking and trust building. We will do this by remaining in close contact with our partners and by facilitating meetings for joint reflection and learning and for planning and review.

We are looking forward to work with our partners, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the RNEs over the next year.

Vereniging Milieudefensie

Nieuwe Looiersstraat 31, 1017 VA Amsterdam
mail address: Postbus 19199, 1000 GD Amsterdam
telephone: 020-5507300

contact person: Inge Vianen
e-mail address: inge.vianen@milieudefensie.nl

