

EXPANDING AND LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR ACTION TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS

Interlaken Group - Meeting Summary

Sida Offices | Stockholm, Sweden

3 October 2017

PARTICIPANTS

- Andy White (RRI and Co-Chair)
- Mark Constantine (IFC and Co-Chair)
- Bryson Ogden (RRI)
- Avrim Lazar (Consultant)
- Emmanuelle Diehl (RRI Consultant)
- Lien De Brouckere (RRI)
- Chris Penrose Buckley (UK DFID)
- Jorge Espinoza Santander (GIZ)
- Sarah Lowery (USAID)
- Eleni Kyrou (EIB)
- Sam Lacey (CDC Group)
- Mark Eckstein (CDC Group)
- Patricia Nicolau (FMO)
- Mikael Bjornsen (PIDG)
- Karoliina Lindroos (Finnfund)
- Kate Mathias (Illovo Sugar)
- Rashyid Redza (Sime Darby)
- Mikhail Tarasov (IKEA)
- Anna Turrell (Nestlé)
- Jildau Boerma (Rabobank)
- Chloe Christman (Oxfam)
- Tom Lomax (Forest Peoples Program)
- Mina Manuchehri (Landesa)
- Jolyne Sanjak (Landesa)
- John Nelson (TFT)
- David Bledsoe (Resource Equity)
- Joan Carling (Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact)
- Ben Bowie (TMP Systems)

BACKGROUND

The Interlaken Group (IG, the Group) met on October 3rd, 2017 at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in Stockholm. The purpose of the meeting was to: assess progress on key elements of the IG's two-year Strategic Work Plan; seek guidance on and endorsement of the new IG Vision Statement; update the Group and receive guidance on country-level engagement efforts; and to obtain recommendations on global-level opportunities and efforts to scale up the influence of the Group.

OVERVIEW

The Interlaken Group convened for its second biannual meeting of 2017 in Stockholm in the midst of a busy agenda of related meetings and panels. The Interlaken Group meeting on October 3rd was immediately preceded by the Sida-hosted Development Talks panel on ['Land Rights in relation to Gender, Climate change and Conflict'](#), where keynote speakers included the Director

General of Sida, the CEO of the Ford Foundation, and Sweden's State Secretary to the Minister for International Development Cooperation. In parallel with the meeting of the Interlaken Group, the Tenure Facility was [formally launched as an independent institution](#), and announced the establishment of its Secretariat in Stockholm. On October 4th and 5th, RRI, Sida, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the Swedish International Agriculture Network Initiative (SIANI), and the International Foundation for Science (IFS) co-organized the conference entitled "[Reducing Inequality in a Turbulent World: Scaling up Strategies to Secure Indigenous, Community and Women's Land Rights](#)", where over 300 practitioners representing civil society, international organizations, governments, and the private sector gathered to raise awareness of the recognition of indigenous and community land rights as a priority strategy to decrease inequality and deliver on global goals, assess the status of promising instruments to secure community rights, and encourage greater action, support, and commitment from key stakeholders. Leaders from the Interlaken Group contributed to the design of all of these panels, and supported them in speaking roles.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

On process

The agenda was sequenced to cover key discussion points within a compressed timeframe. This meeting was shorter than previous ones in order to accommodate the multiple events taking place during the week.

Key agenda items included:

- Review of the [Interlaken Group Vision](#);
- Review of the Strategic Work Plan of the past two years;
- Obtain input on international platforms/events to position the IG;
- Obtain input on priority countries to expand and deepen engagement;
- Tour de table; and
- Obtain input on how to measure the IG's impact.

Discussion Points:

- Shorter meeting than usual and all participants agreed that it needed to be at least one day long.
- Bring back the tour de table at the beginning of the meeting so participants can introduce themselves and provide an update on their institution's activities around land rights. This intelligence sharing moment is critical to foster synergies and share information.
- The Group was not able to delve deeply into the final agenda item on measuring the Interlaken Group's impact. All agreed though that preoccupation with measurement of impact would likely hinder the ability of the Group to catalyze action, share lessons, and make connections between stakeholders, which are intrinsically difficult to measure but of critical importance.

Action points:

➤ **IG Secretariat:**

- Develop a short presentation with a few sentences and links on the Vision, the mission, and what the IG has accomplished so far, so it can be sent to new comers prior to the next meeting in order to spend less time on orientation.
- Prepare an excel sheet with all members' current activities to distribute (this time post-event), and which might be built on for next event.
- Ensure that future formal meetings of the Group are of adequate length to address the agenda.

On the Vision:

Per recommendations at the IG meeting of April 2017 in Stockholm, the IG Secretariat took steps to develop and refine a Vision Statement. After several iterations, including input from IG participants, the document was shared and discussed at this most recent meeting in Stockholm to gather final input on content and language. The revised and approved version was then shared with conference participants on October 4th and 5th.

Discussion Points:

- Agreed to shorten the presented version to 'the last 5 points', and keep the lengthy introduction on the website for those who want more context.
- Emphasize the notion of "interconnectivity", and include human rights within the vision.

Action points:

➤ **IG Secretariat**

- Shorten the current Vision Statement.
- Make the long version of the Vision available on the website.
- Develop a shorter version with the 5 points, which might be easily shared and added to the website; adjust to reflect recommendations on content.
- Prepare an introductory package for newcomers to reduce time spent on orientation at onset of meetings.

On the governance and structure of the IG:

New participants raised questions on the governance structure and the requirements for participation, given the Group's informal nature.

Discussion Points:

- Lengthy discussion on the structure and function of the Group's governance structure. Co-chairs described the role and make-up of the Steering Group, and of RRI as the de-facto secretariat of the IG.
- The Group discussed the need for transparency from RRI regarding funding sources and obligations to donors.

- Some debate amongst participants between the advantages and disadvantages of maintaining the informality of the Group, versus a more formal approach. To this end, additional discussion on what is demanded or required for participation in the Group.
- Discussion on whether the participants represent their institutions or are present as individuals/ change makers.
- A few relevant quotes from the participants on the topic at hand:
 - 'We are agents of change within our own institutions';
 - 'The informality of the Group is what creates opportunities to make change happen';
 - 'The Interlaken Group helps advance the agenda rather than just being a nice group of people talking about the same issues...';
- Broad agreement among participants that the IG is a unique multi-stakeholder platform where leaders may openly discuss challenges, opportunities and potential synergies.
- Broad agreement that it is critical that the Group continues to work at the global level to create positive precedents, maintain visibility of the issue, engage with other new audiences, and eventually link country-level engagement and share lessons.

Action points:

➤ **IG Secretariat:**

- Prepare orientation materials for new participants to reduce time spent describing operational and governance elements of Interlaken Group.
- Schedule time to discuss separately with long-time active participants within the Group to receive guidance on and reaffirm the value-add and operational elements (including governance structure and informal approach) of the Interlaken Group.
- Prepare conclusions for the next meeting, tentatively Paris in the spring of 2018.

On forums and events

Part of the Strategic Plan agreed upon by the IG (October 2016, London) is to scale up promotion and dissemination of tools in key events and platforms to scale up influence amongst relevant stakeholders.

Discussion Points:

- Prioritize promotion of the IG amongst platforms that are populated by companies and stakeholders who have not yet been engaged. There is a need to break out of established siloes and audiences. Also, to prioritize engagement with middle-size companies to promote upstream engagement, and with the constituents who generally lack the capacity to address land tenure issues but who have a great impact upon community rights.
- The 'interconnectivity' of land tenure issues ought to be made more explicit within the language of Interlaken Group materials. This refers to the idea that land tenure is often crosscutting across ESG issues that the private sector faces, like questions of labor, fair wages, and environmental impact, among others. Similarly, that addressing land tenure

issues may link multiple levels and functional groups within companies, which may or may not themselves coordinating.

- Participants suggested that the IG should prioritize engagement with: trade association forums; supply chain forums; and renewable energy conferences.
- Leverage the efforts of DFIs to influence the practice of the private sector at the country level, and within sectors.

Action Points:

➤ **All Participants**

- Provide to Secretariat (who will solicit) a list of potential forums where the IG should participate. If direct connections to these fora are available, please introduce the Secretariat team.
- Strategic presentation of the Interlaken Group in forums where participants are already involved. IG participants are already involved and steering the work of key forums. Participants should consider discussing the Interlaken Group and associated tools within existing presentation opportunities.

➤ **IG Secretariat**

- Refine the platforms/fora list according to suggestions, and share plan with the Group for endorsement.
- Ensure that stock presentation materials are up-to-date, clearly owned by the Interlaken Group, and easily available for Interlaken Group participants.

On Country-level Engagement

The IG Secretariat began to implement country-focused activities in early 2017. The discussion centered upon updating the Group on the status of follow-up, and the prospects for expanded engagement.

Discussion Points:

- Kenya/Cameroon - Review of status of follow-up engagement in countries where workshops were held and IG tools were promoted in 2017. Follow up in Kenya stalled due to presidential elections; a regional community forum (comprising communities in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda) is planned for early 2018 to organize community positions impacted by natural gas exploration and infrastructure development. Proposed follow up in Cameroon includes training of GICAM member companies in approaches to engage with communities and address land tenure related conflicts. Internal reorganization within GICAM has slowed follow-up.
- Indonesia – RRG staff undertook a scoping mission to Jakarta in August 2017 to identify opportunities for Interlaken Group engagement and to support the upcoming major [Conference on Land Tenure and Governance](#) (October 27 to 29, 2017), where government, civil society, international organizations, and private sector would assess the status of ongoing land and forest tenure reforms and redistribution of forests and rural

land. IG participants agreed to support a private sector-focused panel at the conference in Jakarta to leverage this immediate opportunity.

- Malawi – A proposal was received for Interlaken Group engagement in Malawi from a civil society participant in Group. The purpose of the engagement would be for the Interlaken Group, as a neutral and knowledgeable third party, to help build trust between civil society and the private sector faced with land tenure issues, and to understand the impact of impending land legislation in Malawi.
- Participants questioned why the Group is not evaluating Brazil, or elsewhere in Latin America, or China. Though RRI supports private sector engagement activities in these regions, the capacity of the IG Secretariat to expand and scope further in these regions has so far been limited.
- Some discussion as to the differences between RRI supported private sector engagement activities versus what is Interlaken Group owned. The Interlaken Group and associated activities ought to be distinct from related activities which are led by RRG and the RRI Network.

Action Points:

- **All participants**
 - Propose specific country-level opportunities to engage, as appropriate; define specific ways that participants might support country-level engagements directly, or by identifying surrogates/point-people within their organizations.
- **IG Secretariat**
 - Follow up in Kenya and Cameroon, and proceed with concept development in Malawi.
 - Discuss modalities of engagement at the Tenure Conference in Indonesia.
 - Continue to scope opportunities and establish relationships to support country level engagement in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.
 - Explore venues/fora to open dialogue with Chinese companies/Chinese market.
 - Ensure that Interlaken Group activities are distinct from RRI private sector engagement efforts. Share RRI funding obligations and associated indicators to ensure transparency.

On Collaboration to Produce Tools/Guidance

Participants discussed the usefulness and credibility of the existing tools, and proposed options for the Group’s next collaborative product.

Discussion Points:

- The Group was updated on the status of ongoing development of a case study analysis, which was suggested in the April 2017 meeting of Group. Case studies of positive examples of corporate efforts to engage with communities to secure land rights have been developed for projects in Malawi, Mozambique, and Malaysia. Efforts are underway

to bolster the analysis with additional cases from Latin America and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

- Participants observed that the VGGT remain difficult for the private sector to implement, despite operational guidance, better data, and increasingly granular and specific tools.
- Participants discussed options for the Group's next collaborative product. Proposals included:
 - Adjusting the Land and Forest Rights Guide to more fully address the gender dimension of community tenure and corporate responsibility; and
 - An assessment of emerging alternative approaches for the private sector to access land or source commodities which are predicated upon secure local rights, including especially leasing models.

Action Points:

- **All participants**
 - Promote the IG tools within their organizations, amongst their clients/investors/grantees/supply chain.
- **IG Secretariat:**
 - Discuss modalities, cost and theme for next collaborative effort, and develop and share the associated rationale with the Group