

Scaling-Up Strategies to Secure Community Land and Resource Rights
An International Conference to Take Stock of Current Efforts, Identify Promising Strategies, and
Catalyze New Alliances and Action
September 18-20, 2013
Interlaken, Switzerland

Strategy Session No. 3

“Expanding and Leveraging Private Sector Interest in Securing Community Land Rights”

Co-Chairs:

Mr. Andy White, Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative [confirmed]
Mr. Mark Constantine, Chief Strategist, Global Manufacturing and Services Department,
International Finance Corporation (IFC) [confirmed]

Panelists:

Mr. Chris Anderson, Americas Director, Communities and Social Performance, Rio Tinto
[confirmed]
Ms. Megan MacInnes, Senior Land Campaigner, Global Witness [confirmed]
Ms. Anne Roulin, Head, Sustainability for Research and Development, Nestlé [confirmed]
Mr. Scott Poynton, Founder and Executive Director, The Forest Trust [confirmed]
Mr. Lou Munden, Chairman, The Munden Project [confirmed]
Ms. Terhi Koipijärvi, Head, Global Responsibility Function, Stora Enso [confirmed]
Ms. Sunrita Sarkar, Operations Officer, Sustainable Business Advisory Group, International Finance
Corporation (IFC) [confirmed]
Mr. Chris Jochnick, Coordinator, Private Sector Team, Oxfam International [confirmed]

Session purpose:

To identify strategic opportunities and develop practical actions for increasing private sector support to secure community land rights in line with the wider objectives of the conference. The session intends to enable all participants to both develop concrete ideas of their next steps to advance this agenda in their own work, as well contribute to the identification of a larger set of new initiatives and ideas to scale up efforts in this domain.

Session background:

The premise of this session is the acknowledgement that the private sector is an increasingly large and determinant force in shaping local land rights, livelihoods and development pathways in rural areas of developing countries and that in order to scale-up the recognition of these rights, expanded support by the private sector, at both national and global levels, is required.

There is a long history of civil society actions to shape consumer and government behavior and hold businesses to account, via the judicial systems or by “naming and shaming” in the media. The emergence of safeguards and standards as well as transparency and accountability mechanisms testifies to, and has encouraged, a move by leading members of the private sector towards more consideration of communities and their rights to land and resources within their business models and supply chains. At the same time, this more promising behavior is far from mainstreamed across the spectrum of private sector actors and many investors continue to seek out investment opportunities where governance is weak and abuses can occur with little risk of accountability.

In sum, the starting points for this session include recognition that:

1. The private sector has an direct footprint that can directly and indirectly affect the status of local rights where they locate their operations, and that these effects can be both positive or negative depending on how they engage local people and the type of business models that governments promote and the company chooses to adopt;
2. Consumers, their demand for natural resources, and the international nature of supply chains and finance, drive investments and shape business models, and are powerful levers of change, particularly where these consumers and sources of finance are more aware and discriminating of land rights and associated risks; and
3. Ignoring, or failing to leverage, the profound political influence that the private sector exerts at the national and international levels would signal a major missed opportunity. The private sector’s unique position in this regard makes it a powerful agent of change, one that can steer governments in adopting policies that strengthen communities’ rights to land and resources and, by the same token, push this agenda at the global level.

The session will include discussion of the following five categories of action to scale-up private sector contributions to securing local land rights:

1. Company efforts to adjust their business models, community relations, and supply chains and ensure they support community land rights;
2. Civil society initiatives to monitor company actions and improve accountability;
3. The role of industry associations and roundtables in promoting community land rights;
4. The financial architecture and the supply and cost of capital, including the role of credit ratings agencies, political risk insurance, etc.
5. New efforts to leverage private political and financial support to secure community land rights.

Session overview:

	Session 1 (Sept. 19)	Session 2 (Sept. 19)	Session 3 (Sept. 20)	Session 4 (Sept. 20)
Purpose	Establish the nature of the relationship between private industry and community rights and the “state of play” of improving this issue; enabling all panelists to introduce their experiences, lessons, sense of the opportunities.	Present the status of current effort in each of the 5 categories of action, and consider the recommended steps to strengthen existing initiatives, and the initial ideas regarding new opportunities and possible initiatives.	Assess the suite of work presented in Session 2, identify gaps, proposed actions to strengthen existing initiatives, and new initiatives, begin to organize into “low-hanging fruit”, medium and stretch goals.	Review options and recommended steps for intervention identified in Sessions 2 and 3, along the lines of the five strategies, or as deemed most useful by the group. Identify final recommendations and proposed next steps.
Structure	Introduction to sessions + opening comments by each panelist + open forum	Short presentations from panelists on different categories of action + open forum	Comments from panelists + open forum	Comments from panelists + open forum
Outputs	Shared understanding of the different perspectives on the nature of the problem, the major challenges and possible opportunities.	Common understanding of status of existing initiatives and initial proposals for expanding impacts.	A rough list of proposed priorities, and recommended actions.	Recommendations regarding goals, timelines, actions to be taken, and new collaborations or initiatives.