FORESTED LANDSCAPES FOR EQUITY

GREEN LIVELIHOODS ALLIANCE - ANNUAL PLAN 2019

NOVEMBER 2018
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<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
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<td>CREMA</td>
<td>Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs)</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>DRC</td>
<td>The Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<td>EEA</td>
<td>Ecosystem Essential Area</td>
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<td>FLEGT</td>
<td>Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade</td>
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<td>FLG</td>
<td>Forest and Land Governance</td>
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<td>FoEE</td>
<td>Friends of the Earth Europe</td>
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<td>FPIC</td>
<td>Free Prior and Informed Consent</td>
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<td>GLA</td>
<td>Green Livelihoods Alliance</td>
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<td>GVL</td>
<td>Golden Veroleum Liberia</td>
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<td>HYPREP</td>
<td>Hydrocarbon Pollution Restoration Project</td>
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<td>ICCA</td>
<td>Indigenous and Community-Conserved Area</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>ILUC</td>
<td>Indirect land-use change biofuels</td>
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<td>INGO</td>
<td>International NGO</td>
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<td>International Service for Human Rights</td>
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<td>IUCN NL</td>
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<td>JET</td>
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<td>L&amp;A</td>
<td>Lobby and Advocacy</td>
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<td>LIFT</td>
<td>Landscape Investment and Finance Tool</td>
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<td>MTR</td>
<td>Mid-Term Review</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>Royal Netherlands Embassy</td>
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<td>TIMBY</td>
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<td>TLADC</td>
<td>Teduray Lambangian Ancestral Domain Claim</td>
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<td>UN</td>
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<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<td>Voluntary Partnership Agreement</td>
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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) annual plan for 2019. The GLA is a partnership between Milieudefensie, IUCN National Committee of The Netherlands (IUCN NL), Tropenbos International (TBI) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aiming at the sustainable and inclusive management of forested landscapes in nine focus countries in Asia, Africa and Latin-America. In addition to our country-based work, we also address deforestation through three global, thematic programmes: agrocommodities, Forest and Land Governance and Just Energy Transition. Within the thematic programmes, we work with partners in the nine focus countries, as well as partners in other countries where this has added value for our advocacy goals.

2019 is the fourth and penultimate year of the five year GLA programme. It is the time that we expect to start reaping more and more results of our investments in capacity development, lobby and advocacy. It is also the moment that we can start using the valuable lessons from the first years of implementation to strengthen our work in the final years. The key lessons from the Mid-Term Review (MTR), that was conducted as a global partners meeting in July 2018, are essential for this process. A detailed overview of MTR findings will be submitted to the Ministry by mid-December 2018. A summary is presented in Chapter 2 of this annual plan.

In Chapter 3, we present summaries of the 2019 annual plans of each country and thematic programme. Developing the annual plans for the GLA partner countries has been a shared effort led by our local partners. The plans build on the programme progress so far, changes in context and lessons learned. In our summaries we highlight priorities and interesting developments.

2. FROM THE MTR FORWARD: PROSPECT ON 2019

After over 2 years of implementation, we witness a clear increase in collaborations and partnerships throughout the GLA: in partner countries, between northern and southern CSOs, in the thematic programmes, and between the three GLA members. We learned that it takes time and a conscious effort to build relations of trust and find the added value of collaboration, but that these efforts pay off eventually. The somewhat idealistic picture we painted in the programme document – a smooth complementarity between Activist, Knowledge Broker and Convenor – is not always attainable, but we see different shapes of effective collaboration emerging in many countries.

For example, in Indonesia we see clear complementarity in thematic roles between the partners and exemplary North-South collaboration in an effective international campaign. The GLA in the Philippines shows how novel approaches brought in by one Alliance member, energise the local partners into effective, joint lobbying and advocacy strategies. In Ghana, Friends of the Earth Ghana supports A Rocha, an IUCN NL-partner, to strengthen its media campaign at the national level, while Tropenbos Ghana leads the complementing engagement of all three partners with high level decision makers.

In 2018, the GLA organised the MTR to review our strategies. We reviewed our assumptions about coalitions, as well as other assumptions underlying the GLA Theory of Change. The evidence, cases and illustrations that GLA partners brought to the table at the MTR Global Meeting offered a better understanding of the conditions under which these assumptions hold or do not hold. In this section, we provide some of the main lessons learned during the MTR and their relevance for our programme in 2019 and 2020.

2.1 INCLUSION OF FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

The MTR highlighted GLA’s unique position among other strategic partnerships, due to its focus on the empowerment of local and indigenous communities in forested landscapes. While it confirmed – once more – that deeply rooted norms and values often prevent justice and equal participation of these vulnerable groups, and that long-term approaches are necessary, we also saw progress. Many examples were reported, where CSOs were able to strengthen community rights and ward off external threats. We pioneered solutions with communities, like community-controlled village forests, NTFP-based business development and agroecological alternatives to monocultures. These positive developments provide the foundation to continue supporting forest-dependent communities to claim their rights and to build sustainable, green livelihoods.

The MTR recommended to take a comprehensive approach in working with forest-dependent communities in order to make further progress. Communities are more likely to embrace a political agenda and voice their concerns if this comes with the prospect of real improvements, like tenure security and/or livelihood security. In order to be successful, GLA partners often needed to switch between a lobbying and advocacy role and a service delivery role – as local realities show that political representation and economic development cannot be seen or addressed in isolation. To better integrate these political and service-oriented roles
of CSOs, we will further explore the conditions under which local control over forest resources by forest-dependent communities promotes forest conservation and sustainable development. We will conduct a GLA-wide analysis in 2019, that explores which CSO strategies work best to promote this. In addition, we will scale up the capacity development of CSOs in partner countries for L&A on Indigenous and Communities-Conserved Areas (ICCAs). ICCAs strengthen the position of forest-dependent communities in conserving their (indigenous) territories through customary laws or other effective means. For both priorities additional resources have been earmarked in the GLA budget.

2.2 GENDER

The MTR made us realise that our efforts on gender need to become more systematic. Following from the gender capacity development trajectory in 2018, that all partners engaged in, the GLA will support the implementation of gender strategies and gender equality at the landscape and thematic levels. Also, the Alliance members themselves will improve their gender agenda’s at Alliance level in 2019. Good practices will be documented and shared, and methodologies to influence gender dynamics and power imbalances will be explored.

2.3 OPERATIONAL SPACE FOR CSOS

Explicit political work makes CSOs vulnerable. In a growing number of countries where we work, particularly in Bolivia, DRC, the Philippines and Uganda, local partners and communities are facing an increasingly restrictive operational environment. This includes security risks as well as political measures that hinder the work of CSOs. Actively improving operational space is challenging and often beyond the control of Alliance members and their local partners.

We will lobby for a binding UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights that increases access to justice for victims of rights violations by corporations, as one potential avenue for structural improvement. At the same time, the GLA considers supporting partners and communities in developing tailor-made safety and security measures, as well as strategies to deal with restrictions. Here, extra resources have been allocated, for instance to enable some partners to participate in the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) Human Rights Defender Advocacy Programme, and to facilitate a learning exchange between partners. We also support the development of regional rapid response networks in Africa, which is extremely important given the underreporting of human rights defenders cases.

As security and shrinking operational space is a commonly felt problem, we also plan to explore collaboration with the MoFa, the Dutch embassies, Civicus and other Alliances and stakeholders to respond effectively to this growing problem.

2.4 CAPACITIES FOR LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

Important preconditions for change in the GLA Theory of Change are capacities that relate to the collection and use of verified evidence and capacities that result in strong coalitions. Both will be prioritised in our 2019 plans.

Reliable, verified evidence and how to use it

The ability to generate credible evidence, such as research and monitoring skills, is indispensable for both dialogue and dissent approaches. And so is the capacity to transform evidence into a communicable product with a good communications strategy. The MTR showed a large diversity among partners in thinking about the many shapes of ‘evidence’. Partners provided examples of collecting evidence of violations and unacceptable practices using an app (TIMBY in Liberia); of the systematic building of cases against undesired developments (e.g., bauxite mining in Atewa, Ghana); and of evaluation of policy impacts (assessment of land conflict in the Central Highlands, Viet Nam).

In their work, partners found that it is vital to use legitimate sources and methods when collecting evidence, and that the messenger should be as credible as the message. To make evidence work effectively in lobby and advocacy strategies, it is key to determine the target actor(s) and advocacy aim(s) of the information well in advance. To follow up, most GLA reflection meetings in September 2018 discussed how to better embed evidence in L&A strategies and plans were made to further develop this capacity in 2019.

Building strong CSO coalitions

GLA partners’ experiences show that working in coalitions is a strong mechanism to represent a large number and variety of voices, to achieve a common purpose and to reduce security risks for individual CSOs.

Yet, coalition success was reported to vary, depending on context and strategy related factors, like the nature of the issues, the stakeholders involved, the objective pursued and the features of the partnership. Coalitions between like-minded organisations were often considered more effective or even the only form; yet, in other cases, (temporary) coalitions between complementing partners with sometimes widely diverging competences or even interests also work well.
Given the centrality of coalitions to the GLA, we will further analyse the diversity and added value of coalitions and partnerships at the country, thematic and northern alliance level in 2019. The added value of coalitions with partners that have complementing roles (i.e., from activist, convenor and knowledge broker positions) will be of special interest. In addition, we have prioritised several areas in the shared international agenda where complementarity will be pursued in 2019, including in our work on the UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights and on tenure/local control of forests.

3. ANNUAL PLANS PER COUNTRY AND THEMATIC PROGRAMME

3.1 BOLIVIA

The long-term objective of the GLA program in Bolivia is to achieve inclusive and sustainable landscape governance in the Gran Chiquitanía Region. This objective is sought by targeting productive sectors to apply conservation innovations and sustainable management of natural resources; advocating the Bolivian government to enforce environmental legislation and international agreements; and strengthening CSOs to promote and implement inclusive and sustainable governance.

In Bolivia, overseas investments, especially Chinese, are influencing mining and infrastructural projects that have a negative impact on the Gran Chiquitanía Region. The pre-electoral and electoral period (till December 2019) might bring contextual changes because new policies that favor the extractive sectors might be approved. Such policies will further limit the operational space of CSOs. Consequently, GLA will focus on strengthening CSO capacities to adapt to the shrinking operational space through workshops to be developed by the Environmental Law Centre of IUCN.

In 2019, we will work on developing maps of human and environmental rights violations in the Amazon region. In order to do this, we work closely with local indigenous community’s consortiums. GLA partners build the capacities of local communities (Lomerío, Roboré and San Matías) to monitor environmental impacts of agribusiness and mining interventions. This allows local communities to assess and report these impacts. The human and environmental rights violations maps will serve as evidence and will later be shared at international platforms in 2019 and 2020, such as the ICCA Global consortium, UN platforms and IUCN conservation congress.

Related to this, GLA partners in Bolivia will invest in strengthening their engagement in regional (Latin American) environmental and human rights collectives to better advocate at international platforms, such as the UN (Geneva and New York). Working at regional and international level is important, as the local judicial system is weak and highly politicised and therefore does not act timely or adequately to the reporting of violations.

To enhance conservation within the productive sector, we will work on developing business partnerships engaging both the private formal sector represented by the Forestry Chamber of Commerce and indigenous productive organisations.

3.2 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

The GLA programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) works in different landscapes in East and Central Congo. Local authorities and communities have expressed their interests in finding sustainable solutions to the problems addressed around land tenure conflicts, environmental crimes, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and peaceful cohabitation. In 2018, we began working on a national lobby and advocacy agenda and strengthened our coordination by appointing a new coordinating organisation in the Eastern landscape that rotates every year.

In 2019, GLA partners in DRC will continue to focus on the three key intervention strategies of the ToC: Social and Environmental Justice, Peaceful Cohabitation and Restoration of Ecosystems and the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources that Benefits Communities.

The strategy on Social and Environmental Justice focuses on the protection of Environmental Human Rights defenders. The threats they face are often triggered by their denunciations of the destruction of forest ecosystems, illegal fisheries, trafficking of endangered and protected species, or the resistance against illegal activities in protected areas. There is a decrease in threats compared to previous years. The GLA partners have contributed to this development: in particular by coordinated and joint efforts in lobby and advocacy, public declarations, letters and petitions. To reduce threats further, GLA partners advocate for public policies for the protection of defenders. We will advocate for a provincial decree to protect environmental human rights defenders. Meanwhile, we will continue to document the violations of human rights and environmental crimes in the two landscapes.
In addition, the security conditions in the operational areas are deteriorating and remain very volatile. We witnessed an increase in cross-border incidents and even deaths, mostly in and around Lake Edward in the Eastern landscape. This may impact the work of environmental defenders who campaign for the protection of the Lake’s resources. Also, the probable exploitation of oil in protected areas is another risk factor. Some local authorities do not support GLA’s position on oil and the massive local mobilization and awareness raising campaign implemented by the partners.

The goal of realising the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources that Benefits Communities remains challenging. Increasing demographic pressures and poor agricultural practices around the landscapes are generating several negative effects, including competition for access to agricultural land. This results in land tenure insecurity, soil infertility and consequently the degradation of living conditions and livelihoods. To overcome these challenges, the GLA focuses on bringing different actors together to accelerate the process of setting up a sustainable management mechanism.

In 2018, GLA partners in the Eastern landscape delivered a petition to the President of the DRC signed by more than 20,000 local people that are against the decommissioning of Virunga NP and Salonga NP for oil exploitation. In 2019, GLA partners will continue to build a local, national and international movement against oil extraction and mining in protected areas.

In the Central landscape key issues are related to illegal and unsustainable exploitation of both forest and mineral resources. The informally operating artisanal loggers and miners are working under difficult conditions with little opportunity to get out of poverty and to deal with corrupt officials. The new community forestry legislation provides opportunities to ensure access to resources and benefits through sustainable management and exploitation. We will support 3 communities (together 120,000 ha) to set up community enterprises. We will pay specific attention to emerging female headed enterprises and women having high positions in community forest committees. Simultaneously, we will work with provincial government to promote procurement of legally sourced timber only.

In addition, gender and the inclusion of women, pygmy peoples and young people in the discussions around land reform in Virunga (Eastern landscape) is pivotal. GLA partners in Virunga promote the work of women artists and the production of contemporary work on nature, conservation heroes and the climate. Also, women journalists will be increasingly involved in our GLA activities.

3.3 GHANA

The GLA partners in Ghana work on natural resource governance issues, including the promotion of optimum forest and tree coverage, in Atewa and Juaboso-Bia landscape.

In the Atewa landscape, the threat of bauxite mining remains a major concern. The lobby and advocacy campaign, which received additional support through the flexible fund ‘Strategic Partners Dialogue and Dissent’ in 2018, will continue in 2019 but will be less intensive. The goal in 2019 will be to stop the government from any attempts to mine in Atewa, while revising the discussions to change the status of the Atewa Forest reserve into a national park in order to prevent any future threats. In addition to lobby meetings with national and local governments, media campaigns will be used in getting the government’s attention. Emphasis will be placed on biodiversity and watershed management and on building an alternative green business model for the Atewa landscape. Next to the bauxite, illegal small scale mining (galamsey) is a major problem in Atewa, as well as in Juaboso-Bia, that was banned without offering alternatives. The situation has left many jobless with some returning to illegal logging. In 2019, we will campaign against galamsey and advocate for the involvement of local communities in the government’s land restoration programme to meaningfully engage former galamsey operators. In both Atewa and Juaboso-Bia landscapes, we will also work to ensure that artisanal mining and logging operators comply with national laws, international standards and best practices by building the capacity of the practitioners in the relevant laws and regulations.

In the Juaboso-Bia landscape, we will continue to focus on sustainable and inclusive cocoa–forest governance and strengthening Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) towards zero-deforestation. Following our 2018 interventions, we will continue to facilitate dialogue among state actors and civil actors to reach consensus on equitable tree tenure and benefit sharing arrangements.

On sustainable cocoa, we collaborate with civil society and the private sector in the Juaboso-Bia landscape (to be extended to Sefwi Wiawso) and facilitate multi-stakeholder platform dialogues on cocoa to adopt sustainable and inclusive cocoa forest governance and reduce deforestation. Farmer based organizations, the landscape management board and CREMAs will be strengthened to lobby and advocate for their rights in negotiating for cocoa price and other decisions in the cocoa forest discourse.

The four municipal assemblies in the Juaboso-Bia landscape will be lobbied and supported to integrate natural resources and climate change programs in their development plans. In both Atewa and Juaboso-Bia landscapes, business cases will be developed for the CREMAs that the GLA works with, to ensure their sustainability beyond the GLA programme period.
At the national level, GLA partners will advocate for the passage of the Wildlife Resources Bill. The passing of this Bill is delaying due to the change in government. In 2019, we will strengthen the capacity of state and non-state actors to advocate for the passage of the Bill. We will take leadership to rigorously lobby the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to bring the Wildlife Bill to Parliament for consideration and passage, which would give legal backing to the CREMAs. We collaborate with the Shared Resources Joint Solution Strategic Partnership programme to lobby for the passage of a legislative instrument to support the ‘Buffer zone policy’ and build CSO capacity in integrated water management. In addition, we will continue to mainstream gender in all projects, in line with the MTR recommendations.

### 3.4 INDONESIA

The Indonesia programme aims to improve the conditions for community forestry and inclusive forest-based enterprises and to control the expansion of oil palm and related human rights abuses. To achieve these goals, the partners address spatial planning at village and district level as well as in production landscapes. Activities concentrate in three landscapes, with complementing lobby at the national level.

In April 2019, there will be Presidential elections in Indonesia. We expect that the elections affect the programme through reduced ‘policy making’ in the run-up to election day, and potential changes in important programmes such as land reform and social forestry (see below). Also, the effects of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Palu, Donggala and Sigi Districts in Central Sulawesi Province will significantly impact the GLA programme in that area, especially regarding government support. The full extent of the impact of this on the 2019 workplan is still emerging.

In 2019, as compared to 2018, there will be a greater emphasis on Ecosystem Essential Areas (EEA; conservation in production landscapes), indigenous communities and conserved areas (ICCA), Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), social forestry (SF), building partnerships in conservation areas, and supporting the implementation of the Presidential Instruction to halt and evaluate oil palm plantations permits.

At the grassroots level, GLA partners will support villages and community groups to gain access and rights to forest areas through the social forestry (SF) and land reform (TORA) schemes and complete the requirements to utilise these forests (through approved management plans). Across the GLA landscapes, we will strengthen capacities of local people to participate in planning processes. More concretely, we aim to ensure participatory, gender-inclusive planning based on community values and development needs, and translate these into local regulations and implementation plans.

At the provincial and national levels, we will continue to advocate for more efficient allocation of SF permits to villages. We will advocate for improved internal coordination at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, for the allocation of provincial budgets and the use of (improved) maps to identify the best areas for SF allocation. With presidential elections approaching, we will launch a campaign to ensure that the gains of the SF and TORA programmes be sustained by the new government.

Regarding oil palm, the focus is on the adequate implementation and enforcement of the 2018 Presidential oil palm moratorium. We will fight against environmental crimes by the oil palm industry by creating public awareness and litigation. Other activities focus on improving management practices of independent small holders. We will facilitate and lobby national and regional governments to develop and enforce national regulations on High Conservation Values, High Carbon Stocks, EEAs, SEA and ICCA. The implementation of these regulations remains top down and problematic. Therefore, efforts will be made to conserve forests in production landscapes by promoting company-community partnerships and ensure multi-stakeholder collaboration in forest conservation.

In addition, given the prominence of landscape approaches in other Strategic Partnerships, the GLA will discuss with the Royal Netherlands Embassy on an ‘Indonesia sustainable Landscape Forum’ to share experiences and actions.

### 3.5 LIBERIA

The GLA programme in Liberia aims to contribute to the preservation of ecosystems and supports communities whose rights are violated by palm oil companies, specifically in the Sinoe landscape. In 2018, the Land Rights Act has passed after more than ten years of campaigning. This is a turning point for community rights in the forest areas, since the new law means that for the first time, communities will have legal ownership over their customary lands. We successfully lobbied for women, youth and men to have equal representation in the customary land management bodies. In 2019 we will work with communities, and particularly women, to self-identify and claim the newly established formal rights as well as continue to lobby the government of Liberia on the correct implementation of the new law.

For the palm oil sector, not much has changed in Liberia and communities are still not getting the benefits they have a right to. Intimidation and rights violations are a daily practice. The Oil Palm Working Group in Liberia, in which GLA-partners participate, is stepping up efforts to assist communities in their struggles, for example through using grievance mechanisms and UN platforms.
The Working Group also develops alternatives to land grabs with communities, such as community-based alternative economic developments, improved agriculture methods and community forest management.

In 2019, we will continue to work with communities to improve Sapo national park management in Sinoe county and prevent destructive activities such as mining. Support groups, in which women play leadership roles, are ready to start alternative livelihood projects with communities. We are also targeting a logging company that does not comply with social agreements and is engaged in illegal logging.

At the same time, we work on forest governance in Sinoe. We invest in building the capacity of community groups to participate in local decision making and to increase independent forest monitoring skills. Communities are equipped to hold logging companies to account and to fulfil social agreements and payment of royalties. Also, communities are supported to effectively use these revenues to fund the community development agenda. GLA partners engage in the Liberian NGO coalition to lobby national authorities to uphold legal standards under the Voluntary Partnership Agreement.

In 2019, GLA-partners continue to support communities in the Sinoe landscape to resist palm oil expansion and stand stronger in negotiations with the palm oil company Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL). GVL left the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) last year after a damning decision from its complaints panel on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) violations, intimidation and coercion and continued logging on disputed lands. GVL announced a new action plan and new rounds of negotiations. In this light, we will build communities’ skills and knowledge on FPIC, the value of land, mapping and negotiating. We organise dialogues between communities and GVL in order to solve and prevent rights violations and increase benefits for communities. Now that the RSPO mechanism has failed, we will hold the company to account through UN and other international standards and institutions and by advocating financial institutions to prevent the financing of rights violations and deforestation.

**3.6 NIGERIA**

The GLA programme in Nigeria focuses on the impacts of crude oil extraction and large-scale oil palm plantations. There will be general elections in Nigeria in February 2019. Once the newly elected government is installed, the GLA partners will invest in building relationships with new government officials.

The GLA partners, in collaboration with coalition members from Edo, Delta, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States, will conduct advocacy visits to the Hydrocarbon Pollution Restoration Project (HYPREP) in Port Harcourt in 2019 to urge them to start the clean-up of the oil spill in Ogoniland. In 2018, HYPREP selected the contractors for the clean-up but the actual clean-up is yet to commence. We will conduct media campaigns and press briefings on the clean-up in order to raise awareness and keep pressuring the government and Shell to implement the recommendations from the 2011 UNEP report on the clean-up. The communities in Ogoniland will be further capacitated so that they can monitor the clean-up. Part of our campaign is the publishing of a scorecard progress report on the status of the clean-up process, that will be used for engagement with policy makers and relevant institutions. We will also campaign against the resumption of oil exploitation in Ogoniland.

At national level, GLA partners will organise the 12th annual National Environmental Congress. This congress provides a platform for national environmental and development agenda setting, for state and non-state actors in Nigeria. At international level, our partners will participate in the COP25 (November 2019) on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with the aim of strengthening local and international instruments for curbing behaviour and practices that contribute to climate change as well as impact forests and livelihoods.

In addition to our work on crude oil, we will address the impacts of oil palm expansions in Edo and Cross River States and demand respect for communal land rights and halt land grabbing. In 2019, we will improve the capacity of the oil palm coalition members through training on effective policy engagement with government and the transnational palm oil companies. We will also strengthen the capacity of CSOs at local and national level to advocate and campaign on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), FPIC and the right to say no.

In order to provide progress reports on the status of the expansion of oil palm plantations in Edo and Cross River States, we will organise a training on field monitoring and environmental reporting for coalition members. The progress reports enhance awareness across state and non-state actors and aim to keep the issues on the political agenda. Additionally, we plan to produce a short video documentary, featuring both women and men, that shows the environmental and social impacts of oil palm plantation expansion on communities. This video can also be used as an advocacy tool.

We recognise the need to ensure that women’s voices are heard in the struggle, along with their male counterparts. We will therefore encourage women to play an active role in campaigns by organising a training and campaign activities focusing on gender inclusiveness. This will enable women to speak up to defend communal land rights. Where necessary we will employ positive discrimination.
3.7 THE PHILIPPINES

The GLA partners in the Philippines work in three landscapes: the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, the Cagayan de Oro and Tagoloan River Basins and the Téduaray and Lambangan Ancestral Domain (TLADC) in the province of Maguindanao in Mindanao. The partners seek synergy through national and landscape-level environmental dialogues and national advocacy efforts, such as lobby and advocacy for the passage of the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas bill. This bill, if approved, strengthens indigenous systems in landscape conservation by embedding them in a legal framework.

2019 is a year marked by local elections, which will affect the work of partners in all landscapes. Partners will invest time and effort to build relationships with the newly elected local officials and strengthen their capacity and knowledge on environmental issues where needed. Although typhoon Mangkhut hit the Northern Sierra Madre hard in September 2018, we foresee no major drawback on program implementation. However, the presence of rebels and armed groups in the TLADC area and in the Sierra Madre continue to form a restriction on the implementation of some of the activities. The GLA partners in the Philippines realise that flexibility is key in the coming year.

GLA partners in the Sierra Madre landscape focus on the empowerment of indigenous groups, particularly women and youth, to engage in local policy and decision-making processes and forest management. For example, indigenous women are capacitated to access local budget for their development and gender plans and to take an active role in local decision-making. We also work with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the rules and regulations for a new, already approved protected areas law and a policy on Non-Timber Forest Products. In 2019, the joint campaign around the plans for the Kaliwa Dam in the Southern Sierra Madre will be intensified, as the dam is expected to have a major effect on the indigenous peoples and forest in the area. We will raise awareness through media and demonstrations and engage in dialogue with key actors. The goal is to halt construction of the dam and come up with alternatives for water provision for Manila.

GLA partners in the Cagayan de Oro and Tagoloan River Basin landscapes in Northern Mindanao will primarily lobby and advocate for the development and implementation of an integrated climate and disaster risk programme for the respective river basins, using an ecosystem-based approach. Specific attention is given to the interaction and collaboration between indigenous elders and non-indigenous authorities, aiming at realizing a more democratic and equitable way of managing the landscapes. Partners also target agro-businesses, that operate within the identified High Risk Areas in the landscape, to promote environmentally sustainable practices.

An interesting development is the scale-up of the Sulagad system in TLADC. The Sulagad system is the name for the traditional ecological farming practices of the indigenous peoples. In 2019, a demonstration farm and a handbook on Sulagad practices will be developed to encourage other indigenous peoples groups to embrace sustainable practices and food sovereignty. At the same time, we will focus on ensuring the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights that were successfully included in the Bangsamoro Organic Law in 2018. Since the Téduaray and Lambangan ethnic tribes were able to realise a Certificate of Confirmation for their group, they will lobby the National Commission on Indigenous People for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title in 2019.

Both at the national level and in all GLA landscapes, we will continue to facilitate environmental dialogues, supported by priority research and targeted capacity development.

3.8 UGANDA

The GLA programme in Uganda focuses on oil palm expansion in the Kalangala Landscape, and its expansion from Kalangala to the mainland. The operational space for CSOs is further deteriorating in Uganda and the situation is becoming highly threatening. For every of the more than 100 districts, an NGO needs to sign an MoU with the district authorities to be able to work in that district. The District can impose its priorities on the NGO, and the Government can even forbid a NGO to apply for (international) funds if the application is not in line with their priorities. The Ugandan President has blamed CSOs, foreign interference and the media for the recent political protests. The GLA will implement activities to improve CSO and community safety and security. For example, by documenting cases of the CSO shrinking space in Uganda that will be used by both national and international NGO networks. This will help CSOs to find strategies to increase their possibilities to operate safely.

In 2019, more attention will be given to using the facts and figures obtained from GLA research for lobby & advocacy at both national (Ugandan & Dutch) and international level. Dutch and Ugandan GLA partners will write a report on the shortcomings of the impact assessment procedures of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), on which the IFAD bases decisions to finance oil palm expansion. Research findings of GLA partner Ecotrends will form the basis of the report.

In addition, we will continue to engage the Kalangala District local government and BIDCO (an oil palm company) to ensure that the Bugala farmers’ titles for the land they own are fully processed and are within their possession. This is done to ensure their security of tenure. We will also engage with the National Forest Authority (NFA), which is tasked with halting the encroachment on forest reserves. If the NFA fails short in its task, we envisage taking the NFA to the court of law, seeking for orders of Restoration. This litigation will be undertaken for Kalangala, where GPS mapping has been conducted to prove the encroachments. It will
work as a good precedent for any future encroachments on forest reserves and buffers in the landscape. In addition, the media will be informed to build pressure on the different actors, and communities will be updated on their rights, entitlements and environmental conservation.

In 2019, we propose to have a joint field visit with the RNE staff to the landscape. We hope to increase their understanding of the impacts of oil palm plantations in relation to the procedures of IFAD.

3.9 VIET NAM
The GLA programme in Viet Nam focuses on the Central Highlands and aims to contribute to the proper conservation and management of existing natural forests; sustainable production practices in coffee, pepper and cassava; and the implementation of integrated approaches to natural resources management that involve the voices and interests of civil society and men and women.

In 2019, at the national level, the GLA will work to promote good governance of forested landscapes in several newly revised laws. In 2019, the revised Forestry Law of 2017 will take effect and this is an important opportunity to conduct L&A and capacity development to promote forest governance, especially in the Central Highlands area. We further aim to ensure that the Land Law revision that will be deliberated in 2019, incorporates CSOs and local voices and addresses traditional land rights of poor people and ethnic minorities, and gender equity. We will collect evidence from the field, organise dialogues and support law makers with essential information. The Land Law may create land concentration to facilitate the private sector, with possible negative effects on local people. The GLA research results on land conflicts will provide input for policy recommendations to avoid such negative effects.

In addition, we will use the findings of GLA’s systematic analysis of forest conflicts in the Central Highlands to lobby the Ethnic Minority Affairs Council of the National Assembly. The aim is for the Government to plan for the transfer of land, that has not been used effectively, from forest companies to local people.

At the local and grassroots level, we will continue to focus on Upper Srepok River Basin in the Central Highlands. We will continue our L&A efforts to strengthen the voices of local CSOs for more inclusive policy making processes. The GLA analysis in 2018 has produced best opportunities for landscape restoration, forestland restoration models, and scenarios for resolving forestland conflicts. In 2019 these opportunities will be discussed with concerned state agencies, CSOs and local people/communities to improve policies and practices in the identified forest-dependent communities. Restoration models include the establishment of long rotation timber plantations, and agroforestry models for coffee in collaboration with coffee producers and traders.

The establishment of an inter-provincial committee for Srepok river basin management, did not progress as hoped. However, we have observed Government and donor interest in a decision support system for a basin-wide water resource management. Therefore, in 2019 we will seek to contribute to the decision support system development with landscape baselines and analyses on forest, land-use, and other relevant aspects.

3.10 AGRO COMMODITIES
This thematic programme aims to reduce land grabbing and tropical deforestation for agrocommodities working through international policy spaces, financial relations and value chains. GLA members and local GLA partners aim to achieve regulation of production, consumption and financing of agrocommodities, but also work on voluntary measures, best practices and supportive policies in palm oil, soy and cocoa.

One major win in the programme has been the June 2018 EU decision to phase out high indirect land-use change (ILUC) biofuels, e.g. palm oil and soy. Another great win is the termination of a Presidential decree that would put much of Paraguay's remaining forest at risk. However, some other policy processes remain very difficult to predict, such as the EU Action Plan on deforestation, that is lacking political will, but might still gain renewed traction in 2019.

The Mid-Term Review has helped us to prioritise some work areas for the remainder of the project period:
First of all, we will put more effort into the implementation of risk and security strategies for environmental and human rights defenders. Milieudefensie supports the development of regional rapid response networks in Africa, which is extremely important given the underreporting on environmental and human rights defenders cases. We will roll out security guides with Friends of the Earth groups in three countries.

Secondly, we will engage our southern GLA partners more in international lobby and advocacy, for example as part of the international mobilisation of the UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights. In October 2018, the first draft Treaty text and legal instruments to stop corporate impunity were discussed and a new negotiation round in 2019 has been planned. Increased civil society mobilisation is necessary to counter parties that are blocking progress, such as the EU. Another example is our work with two of our partners in Cameroon and Paraguay, where we link their national work to international and regional processes. The two
groups advocate for forest law reform and national implementation of regional palm oil strategies and policies that reduce the size and impact of plantations on forests.

Thirdly, we will strengthen our work on alternatives for the industrial palm oil and cocoa sector. We will increase our knowledge on sustainable ways of producing palm oil and cocoa and look at alternative land-use models. Also, we will conduct research and international lobby and advocacy to promote new financial models that shift resources away from industrial models towards community-based forest management and agroecology. We lobby to strengthen the EU Plant Protein Plan and include elements of it into the new rounds on the Common Agriculture Policy. In the framework of the IMVO (International Corporate Social Responsibility) covenant Plant Protein, we collaborate with the Dutch government to promote the protein transition and sustainable palm protein chains.

Regulating the financial sector to promote transparency and to prevent the financing of deforestation and rights violations remains a key outcome, for example through the EU Action plan on Sustainable Finance. We use a mix of strategies to increase pressure on investors, including joint capacity building, divestment campaigns and engagement with the financial sector.

There are new opportunities to lobby the Amsterdam Declaration ‘Towards Eliminating Deforestation from Agricultural Commodity Chains with European Countries’ group, as its secretariat will be based in the Netherlands in 2019. Its discussions on reform and regulation of the cocoa commodity supply chains are supported by research and analysis from Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire. We will support the implementation of the corporate zero-deforestation 2020 pledges. To this effect we will revive a multi-stakeholder platform on soy and increase collaboration with civil society in South America.

3.11 FOREST AND LAND GOVERNANCE

To promote sustainable Forest and Land Governance we support international policy and capacity development for locally controlled forest and landscape management and inclusive business; we aim to reduce illegal logging through monitoring and policy implementation of VPA-FLEGT; we promote certification of forestry and landscape initiatives; and we advocate for public-private financing for landscape management.

Governments, the private sector and conservation NGOs are increasingly using the Landscape Investment and Finance Tool (LIFT) developed by IUCN NL in collaboration with Eco-agriculture Partners to identify finance possibilities for integrated landscape projects. In 2019, two landscape investment action plans will be launched. A complementary tool from TBI for financial flow analysis is in a piloting phase. It supports stakeholders to gain insight and develop strategies on financial flows in the landscape. TBI will start a new project in Bolivia in which innovative commercial business models between communities and enterprises are piloted in forested landscapes. For each of these tools we collaborate extensively with the respective embassies and with various Dutch ministries.

The emphasis on tenure and local control over landscapes will be strengthened in 2019. A great opportunity for promoting community-based forest management lies in the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) process on the new biodiversity objectives for 2020-2030. The GLA members and partners complement each other by using research on local control, combined with inside lobbying strategies and advocacy with important partners such as the ICCA consortium. We will connect the international CBD process with regional preparatory meetings and national lobby events, in collaboration with our southern partners. The research on local control analyses how and under which conditions local control contributes to forest conservation and local development. We will scale-up capacity building of CSOs on related effective strategies, including on ICCAs.

We will continue to build capacity on community-based forest monitoring and use verified monitoring data for our national and international lobby & advocacy. We will use the This is My Backyard (TIMBY) application, that allows communities to monitor rights violations safely and helps groups to act quickly upon well verified information. We will also launch FLEGT-Watch for forest agencies and Independent Forest Monitors (CSOs) in West Africa, to assist monitoring of VPA FLEGT and other forest governance commitments on the basis of real-time satellite deforestation data. During the year we will explore if and how we can combine the functionalities of the two systems.

In addition, we will continue to bring local struggles related to deforestation to international levels, with tactics such as grievance mechanisms (UN, OECD), speakers tours and media. We will also organise the first ever African Peoples Tribunal on Palm Oil to showcase the failure of the industrial concession model and strengthen the environmental justice movement in Africa. The MTR indicated that we can increase our work on gender. Therefore, we will start the execution of a feminism and system change strategic workplan in 2019. We continue to develop the international solidarity (digital) platforms, that will build capacity on threatened human rights defenders.
3.12 JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

The Just Energy Transition (JET) focuses on the Niger Delta, the greater Virunga landscape and the Ituri landscape in Nigeria. The programme contributes to a pro-people, inclusive and just energy transition process; moving away from oil/fossil fuels towards renewable energy in an inclusive way. In 2018, the programme gained momentum and formulated a joint and well-received manifesto on a Just Energy Transition. In 2019, we will add a call to action to the campaign to ensure that the raw materials needed for the energy transition are mined responsibly. This aspect of a just energy transition often remains overlooked.

In Nigeria, we work with a local JET Coalition of CSOs. Since a new government is expected to be in place after the general elections in Nigeria on 16 February 2019, we will engage with the new government to push for policy changes that enable the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, amongst others by lobbying for a bill that enhances access to clean energy.

In 2019, women’s participation will take into cognisance an active role of women in the workshops and further build on the gains made in 2018. In particular, women will drive the community energy process and will be in the front line of benefit from alternatives in renewable energy gadgets.

Dutch GLA members and GLA partners in Uganda and DRC will continue to build on past learning exchanges for community leaders and advocates. Next to giving special attention to sustainable alternatives and strategies on how to transform our energy system, we will support campaigning against oil infrastructure development in the Great African Lakes.

In DRC, we carried out a detailed survey to find out more about the conditions that favour the adoption and use of renewable energy in the densely populated Province of Ituri, where there are plans for oil exploration and exploitation. The research found that although there is a lot of willingness in rural households to adopt renewable energy, practical problems form a considerable barrier to actual implementation. In 2019, we will concentrate on better understanding the appropriate incentive structures for the adoption of renewable energy systems.

FoEE and their Nigerian partners jointly conduct a litigation case against oil company ENI, in which the community of Ikebiri asks for clean-up and compensation for the oil spill which occurred in their territory in April 2010. GLA partners are involved in providing evidence and information.

In 2019, there will be a joint campaign meeting in Nigeria on Just Energy Transition for JET Coalition members from Europe and Africa. During the meeting, capacity building on joint campaigning and planning will be conducted. Peer learning on ‘leave oil in the soil’-campaigning and the JET manifesto will be two of the main subjects.

The work on Just Energy Transition raised a lot of interest. Next year, we will look into expanding the activities to other countries, potentially Bolivia and Ecuador. We are also planning a series of mobile cinema screenings exposing the full cost of oil and gas development in Nigeria, Ecuador and the US.
4. CLOSING REMARKS

This summarised annual plan 2019 can obviously not do justice to all the activities that are foreseen for 2019, nor to the analyses and thinking that went into the annual planning process. However, it provides a good insight into the direction of the country and thematic programmes as well as contextual developments and key priorities in 2019.

There are no major changes in the overall ToC, but in some countries and themes partners have slightly adjusted their ToC based on their annual review of progress, context, assumptions and strategies. This is not explicitly mentioned in this plan, but the information is available upon request.

At the MTR, we have concluded that programme progress in the countries and thematic areas, and collaboration in the GLA is very satisfying. As a result of the MTR, we have identified several areas of work, where we can intensify our efforts: particularly, in the areas of (indigenous) community control over forested land, international north-south lobby capacity development, responses to shrinking civic space, and gender. We have also reallocated budgets to reflect these priorities, without affecting the overall distribution of budget over budget headlines. It should be noted that the total budget 2019 is 17% higher than the budget 2018, which shows that we substantially step up programme implementation.

In 2019 we would like to strengthen collaboration with the focal points of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, possibly on areas like climate change. Related to the shrinking civic space we will also explore stronger collaboration with DSO and some of the embassies.

The MTR has also allowed us to think about our future. The GLA members are encouraged by the results of the GLA, and we are actively looking at options to continue our collaboration beyond this programme period. To serve this agenda, we prioritised the execution of complementary approaches to bring the GLA synergies to a next level. This will mostly be in the realm of thematic international lobby and advocacy with strong roots in the country programs, as well as in relation to the local effects of international climate discussions.

We would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for their generous support, both financially and programmatically, to the Green Livelihoods Alliance. We are looking forward to an even better collaboration in 2019.