GREEN LIVELIHOODS ALLIANCE - ANNUAL PLAN 2018
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1. INTRODUCTION

In this document, the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) is pleased to present its annual plan for 2018. The GLA is a partnership consisting of Milieudefensie (MD), IUCN Netherlands (IUCN NL), Tropenbos International (TBI) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and aims to ensure the sustainable and inclusive management of forested landscapes in nine focus countries in Asia, Africa and Latin-America. In addition to country-based programmes, the GLA identified three global drivers of deforestation, which it addresses in three thematic international programmes on Agrocommodities, Forest and Land Governance and a Just Energy Transition.

2018 is the third year of the 5-year GLA programme and marks its halfway point. The first year of the programme, 2016, mainly focused on its inception, contextual analyses and developing 9 country-based Theories of Change (ToCs) and 3 thematic ToCs. The inception reports were shared with the Ministry at the end of 2016. 2017 is the first full year of implementation of activities at national and international level. The Annual Plan for 2017 provided a complete overview of the key strategies for each country and thematic programme based on their specific ToCs. For the most part, these strategies and related activities continue to be relevant for 2018 as many activities depend on a longer time-period to reap results and will continue throughout the programme period. In the annual plan for 2018 we will focus on new, emerging activities and highlights for 2018 that came up as a result of contextual changes in the social or political environment, or as a result of learning. We attempt to avoid repetition in describing strategies and activities that were already presented in the 2017 plan and the inception reports.

In other words, the Annual Plan 2018 builds on the Inception Reports and the Annual Plan for 2017 and sketches an overview of relevant adjustments in priorities and focus areas. We will start with an outlook on 2018 for the whole GLA programme (Chapter 2). Then, we will look at essential contextual changes and lessons from 2017 for each country and for each thematic programme and describe how they affect the planned activities in 2018 (chapter 3). We will end with some closing remarks (chapter 4).

In the second half of 2018, a mid-term review (MTR) of the GLA programme is planned. The main goal of the MTR is to develop a set of concrete recommendations on selected issues and assumptions to inform the implementation and strategic direction for the remainder of the GLA programme. The annual plan for 2019 will thus include a more thorough analysis of the validity of the global, national and thematic ToCs and their underlying assumptions as well as potential adaptations in strategies and outcomes for the final two years of the programme.

In case there are any questions, it will be our pleasure to provide additional information. We are looking forward to the continued collaboration and policy dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague and the Embassies in our target countries.

2. GLA OUTLOOK 2018

In this chapter we describe the global GLA priorities for 2018. At the end of 2017, there are no unexpected or profound changes in the international context or internal programmatic developments that would require changes in the global ToC. In general, we find that the first years of the programme placed much emphasis on strengthening the capacity of CSOs and local communities to engage in policy-making processes and influence the public and private sector. We currently see the focus shifting more and more from capacity building to the actual lobby and advocacy activities by CSOs and local communities, and expect this to continue in 2018, which is in line with the logic in the ToC. This gradual development is happening in all countries at different paces and seems to confirm our overall theoretical framework.

However, based on the first full year of implementation, we also have some general observations on the ToC that may result in adjustments at a later stage, but for which it is currently too soon to draw final conclusions. We notice, for instance, that building CSO coalitions takes time due to geographical distances and differences in scope and background of CSOs. Also, security issues are a growing concern. In addition, we would like to further strengthen and intensify the collaboration with the Ministry. As we see much added value in working in partnership with the Ministry, we intend to engage in dialogue to identify the most promising issues for strengthened collaboration in 2018.

We will use the planned mid-term review (MTR) to further explore these observations and to decide whether strategic adjustments in the programme and the global ToC are necessary. Specific attention will be paid to the effectiveness of collaborative efforts, linking national programmes and international thematic drivers and the collaboration with the Ministry. In the first quarter of 2018, the details of the MTR, including the selection of key issues and assumptions, will be worked out in a participatory process.
Complementarity and synergy for better results

A central assumption of our ToC is that coalitions of CSOs with different influencing styles jointly achieve a greater impact on the inclusive and sustainable governance of forested landscapes than CSOs working in isolation. To realise this type of governance, the GLA intends to create synergies between our CSOs partners and between the Alliance members Milieudefensie, IUCN NL and Tropenbos International on capacity building and lobby & advocacy at different levels. In addition, we assume that being able to implement different kinds of advocacy strategies is essential to be effective. The GLA offers a unique combination of activist, convenor and knowledge-based lobby & advocacy approaches. In 2017, we have been able to build this kind of complementarity and synergy successfully in different working on different topics.

The workplan for 2018 makes this synergy of complementary approaches evident in various ways: A good example of how GLA partners apply a combination of complementing strategies at programme level to achieve inclusive and sustainable landscape governance is our joint work on palm oil. The issue of expanding palm oil plantations is a central one in at least 8 of the 16 GLA landscapes. In 2018, the GLA will address the oil palm issue at various levels and through a variety of strategies ranging from reducing demand, confronting unfair, illegal and unsustainable practices to promoting collaboration as a mitigation strategy – depending on the local situation.

Internationally, Alliance members – together with southern partners – will follow up on their 2017 campaign in which the effects of ‘northern’ palm oil consumption on livelihoods and forests in the south are addressed. A crucial aspect of this campaign is to make southern voices heard in the north – be it via case studies, speakers tours, lobby or otherwise. This campaign has a two-pronged approach: (1) raising public awareness and encouraging people to take action and (2) lobbying towards decision makers. An important policy outcome that we hope to achieve, is that the EU would decide to stop using palm oil and other edible oils in biofuels, for which currently 5% of the world palm oil production is used. Additionally, we will zoom in on investors: we train local partners to track investments in oil palm projects associated with deforestation and land grabbing, and lobby for an EU regulation on the financial sector.

Locally, in the landscapes, the emphasis is on understanding the law and securing land rights for local communities as a barrier against expansion of agrocommodities – for example in Liberia there is lobbying for the passing of a land rights act; in Uganda partners are working to convince landowners not to sell to oil palm developers; and in Indonesia our partners aim to secure village forests rights for communities in oil palm landscapes. Another strategy is to lobby for the reversion of already granted concessions that are illegal or particularly damaging, such as in Uganda through litigation against a palm oil company and in Nigeria through a petition to uphold a revocation order. Other partners are looking at alternatives: demonstrating to local people and authorities that there are more beneficial livelihoods than labour in an oil palm concession. Finally, we aim to mitigate oil palm impacts in landscapes where widespread plantations are already a fact of life. For example, in West Kalimantan, we connect companies and local communities in partnerships that create livelihoods benefits, improve plantation practices, reduce conflict and secure wildlife corridors between remnant forest blocks.

A similar mix of complementary strategies is evident in community forest management, which we see as a powerful strategy to maintain forests and support community livelihoods. At the international level we will lobby to enshrine community forest management in key international regulation (FAO, CBD). Nationally, we will promote or implement national legislation that transfers forests to communities (e.g., Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)), assigns them with management rights (e.g., Indonesia, Ghana) and we build forest-based small enterprises (e.g., DRC, Indonesia). Same partners support communities in sustainable management through certification (Bolivia) and in representing their interests as artisanal loggers at provincial or state level (DRC).

These examples of how the GLA is able to combine strategies and link national and international work indicate that we are successfully operationalizing our ToC. The MTR and outcome harvesting exercises in 2018 will offer more insight in whether and under which circumstances these strategies lead to better results.

Gender equity and inclusivity

Ensuring gender equity and the inclusion of marginalised groups are priorities for the GLA programme; they are integrated in the work plans. In 2017, several partners conducted internal capacity building activities promoting gender equity and inclusivity. These activities are already paying off and will be continued and expanded in 2018 in our partner countries. For example, in Uganda, increased knowledge on women’s rights resulted in husbands allowing their spouse’s name to be added to land right documents. This successful approach will be rolled out in more communities in 2018. In the Philippines, women learned that there is a specific budget line for women at local government level and they are now looking into how to access this funding. In 2018, we will work with IUCNs Global Gender Office to enhance the capacity for gender-responsive action across the GLA. We plan a programme-wide evaluation of the way gender is addressed followed by tailored capacity building programmes for alliance members and partners. Working with the Global Gender Office will be especially beneficial as they are experienced in our type of work and partnership through the SRJS Alliance.
Security

Security of environmental activists and a shrinking space for civil society remains a major issue in the countries where the GLA operates, and is particularly worrisome in Bolivia, Nigeria, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and the Philippines. Some examples: In Bolivia, one of our partners was evicted from its office and staff has been threatened; in Nigeria, activists are seen as anti-development and there is harassment by private security agencies; In Uganda, the NGO Act makes it more difficult for NGOs to operate; In Indonesia, environmental activists are faced with verbal and physical threats; In DRC, the socio-political situation is severely unstable and threats towards activists are common; In the Philippines, the safety of our partners is at stake due to conflicts between the military and rebel groups. Security threats have sometimes led to reduced activity in 2017 and will likely at times hinder the timely implementation of activities in 2018. In all countries, the security situation is carefully monitored and mitigation measures are taken when necessary. For example, in DRC a strategy has been developed to identify and mitigate threats at the landscape level, which could be rolled out to other countries such as Uganda and the Philippines.

3. COUNTRY AND THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

As noted in the introduction of this document, the country and thematic inception reports (2016) and the Annual Plan for 2017 provide thorough descriptions of the context in which the GLA operates per country and internationally. Using the global ToC for guidance, each country and thematic programme has developed its own ToC. These ToCs were operationalized in the annual plans for 2017.

In some of the target countries, external developments have led to shifts in focus or priorities in 2018 and/or changes in the country ToCs. In addition, our partners in the target countries conducted outcome harvesting in 2017 to identify the outcomes achieved. This trajectory helped partners to identify successful approaches as well as strategies that were less successful. These lessons learned have sometimes contributed to (changes in) priority setting in 2018 and/or minor changes in the ToC in some countries. These changes are described in the country specific sections below.

3.1 BOLIVIA

In Bolivia, the GLA programme aims at ensuring the integrated management of forested landscapes in the Bolivian Chiquitania region. The Bolivian Theory of Change focuses on changing policies to ensure the sustainable, community-based management of forested landscapes that are threatened by agrocommodities, particularly soy, and mining. However, due to the unpredictable political environment in Bolivia, changes at policy level are difficult to realise and progress is slow. Therefore, in 2018, there will be greater emphasis on the intermediate step of ‘creating debate’, to ensure that the stories from communities on the impact of mining and agrocommodities in the Chiquitania landscape enter into the public and political debate. This is already an ambitious first step towards policy change and the ToC has thus been adjusted to stress this intermediate step. One of the partners that is specialised in creating public and political debate has been given a more prominent role in the programme. This will take further shape in 2018.

In 2017, our partners have made good progress in strengthening protected area management committees and setting up a certification system for cattle and soy products. This work will continue in 2018. For certification, most work in 2017 focused on producers, but as the first certificates are expected to be ready soon, the focus will shift to include consumers in 2018 to create demand for certified products in Bolivia. Extra support is given by the GLA thematic Agrocommodities programme to strengthen the marketing and uptake of plant protein for human consumption (amongst others through certified agro-ecologically produced soy in Bolivia), and to international policies to strive for zero deforestation value chains, including for soy.

Last but not least, the partners in Bolivia have been successful in fundraising in 2017 to expand the programme and finance specific elements of the ToC. With support of the European Commission, partners will start activities in an additional landscape: the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park. The Belgian government has committed co-financing to work on technical innovation for sustainable and integrated landscape management. These additional activities were defined to support the ToC and contribute to its realisation.

3.2 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The GLA programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) aims at the sustainable and inclusive restoration, protection and management of natural resources, ensuring the livelihoods of local and indigenous communities and the stability of protected areas, in different landscapes in East and Central Congo. The socio-political situation in DRC remains very unstable, leading to security issues for communities as well as for our partners, distrust between different stakeholders and challenges in implementation of the programme. A key strategy in the programme is therefore to contribute to social peace and stability in the landscapes as a prerequisite to achieve the programme outcomes. Coalition building, reconciliation and multi-stakeholder engagement are central strategies to enhance collaboration and reduce duplication, dispersion and conflict. Activities in these areas have started in 2017 and will continue over the next years. The ToCs that were developed for the East and Central Congo remain unchanged.
In East Congo, progress has been made in 2017 in establishing environmental justice. Local authorities have been trained on legal aspects and the GLA partners have been able to work together with a wide range of actors, including UN organisations, to address impunity of environmental crimes. One complaint about fighting environmental crimes in the Virunga landscape, linking the illegal extraction of its natural resources to armed groups, has been filed in a legal procedure that will proceed in 2018. Ongoing monitoring of natural resource exploitation practices in the landscapes will feed the quest for justice. In addition, in 2018 our partners in DRC will bring actors and stakeholders together on land tenure issues around Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega national park. This work will start with a mapping of the current situation and current actors and continue into the development of a joint lobby strategy towards a better land planning for the profit of nature and people. Parks will be better protected and surrounding communities will be able to access land and develop sustainable livelihoods around the protected areas. Ensuring the security of our partners will be crucial in the strategic lobby choices. Lastly, our partners will focus on how crude oil extraction practices affect peace and stability.

In Central Congo, the start of implementation of activities in 2017 has been challenging due to the security situation. In 2018, the focus will be to organise community members into enterprises/cooperatives around artisanal logging, community forestry and non-timber forest products (women enterprises). These organised community stakeholder groups will be supported to advocate for their rights and to implement sustainable landscape management practices. A forest-landscape approach will be developed, which, apart from the foregoing, will include work on artisanal mining within the GLA landscape. Initial steps in setting up enterprises/cooperatives have been taken, which will continue and expand in 2018. For example, already 28 small and medium forest enterprises were registered for artisanal loggers to operate as legal businesses. In 2018, the GLA partners aim to establish a coalition with representatives of these 28 enterprises and CSOs to stand stronger against threats from authorities and security services. This coalition intends to become a partner for the provincial administration and authorities.

3.3 GHANA
The ToC in Ghana in implemented in two landscapes: Atewa and Juabeso-Bia. In 2017, our partners in Ghana strengthened communities and raised awareness among national and local policy makers on biodiversity, climate resilience and sustainable natural resource practices. In 2018, our partners aim to enable communities to work with local governments to integrate natural resource issues in the medium-term development plans. A manual for this was developed in 2017, which partners hope to roll out in 2018. For this, buy-in from the National Development Planning Commission is sought. Not much progress has yet been made in the area of influencing the private sector to adopt climate smart policies. This will be prioritised in 2018, focusing on sustainable production of cocoa.

In January 2017, a new government was installed in Ghana. At the end of June 2017, the new government signed a $10 billion Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China to develop its bauxite¹ industry. This deal comes with large concerns, including that the Atewa protected reserve – a GLA landscape – will be affected. Our fear is that this will have huge consequences for water supply for many people in Ghana (including in Accra). Our partners are currently trying to get more insight in the details of the deal with China to understand exactly what is at stake. Once more is clear, the aim is to convince the government to exclude the Atewa protected reserve from the China deal and to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments are done in all areas where mining activities are planned. At the same time, the new government has put a ban on illegal mining. Our partners intend to use a multi-stakeholder approach, ensuring that all interests are taken into account, to promote sustainable livelihoods for the communities affected by this ban.

Other areas of focus are the Tree Tenure Reform Process, the concept of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) and the buffer zone policy. These are critical reforms needed to realise the involvement of local communities in the sustainable management of forested landscapes.

3.4 INDONESIA
In Indonesia, the GLA partners have made progress in 2017 in strengthening communities and influencing oil palm Management Units and District and Provincial Governments in West Sumatra, West Kalimantan and Central Sulawesi on inclusive spatial planning, natural resource governance, the identification and management of High Conservation Values (HCV) and social forestry. There are no changes in the Theory of Change.

In 2018, the initial work in these areas will be further intensified. In the area of spatial planning the GLA partners will continue to strengthen local CSOs in the three provinces in participatory mapping and spatial planning based on community values and needs. They will make efforts to solve land tenure conflicts with State forest areas, by synchronizing village spatial planning with district spatial planning and aligning the spatial plans with Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA). Hereto, CSOs will be trained on SEA. Also, the GLA will work to integrate environmental issues in the development and revision of village mid-term development planning and facilitate their implementation. Concurrently, the GLA partners will work with District Governments and the private sector to develop and strengthen Village Business Units promoting community based sustainable livelihoods.

In addition, the partners will continue to influence oil-palm plantation Management Units to identify and manage their HCV areas and develop them as ecological corridors in West Kalimantan; to identify HCV areas that should be protected prior the establishment of hydropower plant in Central Sulawesi; and to intensify HCV identification and management in West Sumatra. At the same

¹Bauxite is the raw material for aluminium.
time, partners lobby the District and Province Governments to use HCV identification at landscape level as guidance for issuing concession permits and the National Government to respect and protect HCVs in non-state forest areas.

In 2017, the GLA partners supported Village Forest Management Units to gain Social Forestry (SF) permits and implement their Management Plans. In 2018, this work continues and is supported by lobby and advocacy efforts at national level aiming at simplifying the permit procedure. It is expected that 8 Social Forestry licenses in West Sumatra and 4 Social Forestry licenses in East Kalimantan will be issued in 2018.

Also in 2017, our Indonesian GLA partner WALHI and Milieudienstwag worked closely together in a campaign on palm oil, which is expected to continue in 2018. The campaign highlights the devastating impacts of the ever-increasing expansion of palm oil plantations in Indonesia and links it to the growing demand for palm oil, including for biofuels in Europe. This is currently 5% of the world’s palm oil supply. The campaign takes place in Indonesia, the Netherlands and the EU and consists of case work for lobby and advocacy. In 2018, this campaign will be aligned with the planned work on tracking financial investments in oil palm projects described under the ‘Agrocommodity thematic programme’ (below).

A promising development is a growing demand from consumers to big oil palm traders to demonstrate the legal origin of palm oil. This could pave the way in 2018 for partners’ efforts to map supply chains for oil palm in the landscapes and identify irregularities.

3.5 LIBERIA
The programme in Liberia was running a bit behind schedule at the start of 2017, as two of the three partners were selected late. However, currently, all partners are active and the activities are on track for 2017, which means that no activities will be pushed forward to 2018.

On the 10th of October 2017, general elections were held in Liberia. After the elections, several political parties questioned the results and complained with the Supreme Court. Currently, the case is still under review and it is not yet clear what the next steps will be. Regardless, the result of the follow up elections will be crucial to the GLA project activities in 2018. There are huge expectations from the electorate, especially the young people, for economic empowerment, jobs, and leadership in governance processes. The way the new government will respond to these expectations may affect the expected outcomes of the project activities. For example, if the new government sees expansion of concession operations, particularly oil palm companies, as a means of meeting the expectations of the electorate, we fear that community rights, environmental issues, including conserving Sapo National Park, and international frameworks on land, the environment, and participation may be ignored. The GLA partners in Liberia are following the political developments carefully and are prepared to quickly respond to upcoming issues.

Despite strong pressure from civil society organisations, the draft Land Rights Act, which was presented to the legislature in 2014, has still not been passed. The Act is very important for the programme objectives as it declares customary land as equal to private property, granting it constitutional protection. In 2018, the partners in Liberia intend to continue to advocate for the passing of the Act and foresee a petition, event and demonstration as part of the process.

In 2017, our partners began capacity building activities for communities and NGOs to enable them to hold companies accountable for human rights violations and demand the development and implementation of forest and land policies and laws that reflect the voices and concerns of rural communities. This work will continue and expand in 2018. Key priorities are the documentation of rights violations and human rights training; production and dissemination of advocacy tools and skill-sharing meetings; information exchange to build cohesion and solidarity among women on land and natural resources; and participation in regional meetings in West Africa.

In addition, in 2017, the first communities were trained in mapping the land areas that are currently cultivated by a locally operating oil palm company. More training will be done in 2018, which will ultimately lead to a clear overview of the total number of land areas cleared by this company. This will not only support communities to demand their just benefits; but will also inform discussions at the national and international level on the total number of forest lands that have been cleared for oil palm plantation and the implications this has.

3.6 NIGERIA
The GLA programme in Nigeria focuses on the impacts of crude oil extraction and large-scale oil palm plantations. The two pathways of change that are identified in the ToC aim to (1) influence government and business to develop and implement policies that protect natural resources and their inclusive and sustainable governance and (2) to halt the expansion of oil palm plantations and landgrabbing.

The clean up of the oil spills in the Ogoni landscape is one of the priorities for the programme under the first pathway. In 2016, Shell committed one billion dollars for the clean up: 200 million per year, over a 5-year period. However, in 2017 only 10 million has been released and there is a general sense that the process is deliberately slow. To address this, the GLA partners in Nigeria started a
campaign to demand the immediate release of the rest of the funds. In 2018, it is expected that advocacy and campaigning will continue, hopefully leading to the actual clean up to start. To monitor the clean-up process, once started, communities will be trained to measure and report on the soil, water and air quality in the landscape. Training will start in 2018.

In addition, an on-going litigation case against an oil company, where communities demand compensation and clean up, will proceed in 2018. The GLA partners are involved in providing evidence and information to inform the case.

Under the second pathway, a key priority is the issue of land grabbing for oil palm plantations. In Edo State, GLA partners have been mobilising people to demand the State government to uphold the revocation order on a locally operated oil palm company. Over 32,000 signatures were collected for a petition that was submitted to the government in 2017. As a result, a committee has been set up, but no public statement has yet been made. The partners therefore foresee continued campaigning and advocacy in this area to stop the further expansion of the plantation. In addition, communities will be capacitated to engage in Environmental Impact Assessments to understand the impact of oil palm on their environment and livelihoods and to stand up for their rights.

3.7 PHILIPPINES
The Philippine programme focuses on three landscapes: the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, the Cagayan de Oro and Tagoloan River Basins and Maguindanao in Mindanao. The long-term goal of the program is to safeguard the International Public Goods (IPGs) in the targeted landscapes. In 2017, the interventions mainly focused on capacity building and laying the foundations for lobby and advocacy. In 2018, partners will more and more focus on engaging local government units, government agencies and the business sector.

The current socio-political situation in the Philippines makes it, at times, difficult to operate. In Sierra Madre there have been armed encounters between the military and the rebel group New People’s Army. As result some forested areas cannot be accessed. In Mindanao martial law was imposed in June and is still in force; it makes it more complicated for partners to travel in the area and implement activities. In addition, the government is exploring the possibilities for a federal system in the Philippines. This would require a change in constitution and could have large consequences for the inclusive and sustainable management of landscapes. At the same time, the current government has approved large-scale oil palm expansion as well as the building of roads in the targeted forested landscapes, increasing the pressure on natural resources. Despite these concerns, there are no major changes in the ToC being proposed at the moment. The security situation and political developments will be monitored closely, in dialogue with the Netherlands Embassy, and changes in the ToC and workplans will be made when needed. A second operational security training will be conducted in 2018 to assess the situation in Mindanao and the rest of the country. The training will support our partners to develop mitigation measures.

Even though the overall socio-political environment is challenging, our partners proceed with the implementation of activities and expect to be able to achieve some promising results at the local level and within national policy processes. Some expected highlights for 2018 include the engagement of indigenous communities in Sierre Madre in local watershed management plans; advocacy towards the House of Representatives Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples to approve the ICCA Bill (Indigenous Communities Conserved Areas). In Maguindanao, 2018 will mark the beginning of work aiming at the revival of Sulagad farming (indigenous knowledge and practice of agro-ecology and food sovereignty) as well as advocacy against small-scale illegal logging. In the river basins, emphasis will be on the Integrated Ridge to Reef Management and Restoration.

3.8 UGANDA
In Uganda, the work of the GLA is focused on oil palm in Kalangala landscape. In the country ToC, the GLA partners included a key precondition for success to be the operating space of NGOs. A specific outcome on this has been included in the ToC. In 2017, a lot of work has been done to influence the new NGO Act and regulations. The GLA partners have had some success in contributing to the removal of some particularly restrictive sections from the law. However, the new Act and regulations, which are now in place, still pose a serious challenge to the work of NGOs. Therefore, in 2018, the GLA partners will engage in disseminating the new NGO regulations among CSOs and in supporting them in exploring how they can operate without hindrances to their work. In addition, the political environment is not supportive of environmental issues, which are seen as anti-development. For example, there are efforts to remove a law on ‘prompt and adequate compensation’ for the acquisition of land. Constant monitoring of the political environment and responding in a quick and adequate manner to potential threats remains important in 2018.

In 2017, the GLA has been successful in raising awareness at district level on the impact of palm oil. Research has been conducted, a documentary was shot and community drama groups popularised impacts of oil palm. The research and documentary will continue to be used in 2018 for lobby & advocacy at the national and international level.

In 2017, GLA partner NAPE issued a complaint to the World Bank against a palm oil company. As a result, the World Bank, one of the donors to this palm oil project, initiated a mediation process between the palm oil company and affected communities. The process is on-going, but it is expected that communities will be adequately compensated or given back their land. If the mediation is unsuccessful, NAPE will continue with a community interest litigation case before the courts of law. As working through financial institutions seems to be very promising, this strategy will be further expanded in 2018, alongside litigation.
Other key priorities in 2018 are to empower communities on their rights, to engage landlords with huge chunks of land and convince them not to sell land to oil palm companies; to further the initial work on ensuring land rights for women and capacitate communities for other livelihood options. In addition, we foresee collaboration with district government officials to mark the boundaries of gazetted forests and to demarcate buffer zones to avoid further encroachment by companies and any other destructive tendencies from communities.

3.9 VIETNAM
The political environment in Vietnam has both promising as well as challenging aspects when it comes to the protection of forested landscapes. The current Prime Minister is strong on forest protection. This is an opportunity for policy development. On the other hand, the government is working on a new policy for NGOs, which may include additional checks for NGOs supported by foreign donors. This could lead to restrictions in the operating space for environmental NGOs and therefore requires attention. The potential implications of the policy have been subject of discussion with the Royal Netherlands Embassy. In 2018, the GLA partners will continue to closely follow and engage in the policy process.

A new Forest Law was expected in 2017. However, at the time of writing this annual plan, the National Assembly was yet to discuss it. If the new law is adopted in 2018, the GLA partners will support local CSOs and communities in working with local authorities on operationalizing the law into practice, for example, by influencing the formulation of implementing regulations.

In 2017, the ToCs for the different thematic programmes have been reviewed and aligned to avoid overlap. For example, we found that there was some overlap in the Theories of Change of the Agrocommodities driver and the Forest and Land Governance (FLG) driver, when it comes to lobby and advocacy at the UN level. Therefore, the outcome on UN processes in the Agrocommodity ToC has been removed.

Overall, in 2018, we will continue working on the policy areas that were identified in the inception reports. However, in some cases the specific aims have changed as a result of political development. For example, Tropenbos International and IUCN NL planned to engage in influencing the EU to develop a deforestation Action Plan, aiming at increased policy coherence between different policy areas. However, this turned out to be too ambitious at this point. Therefore, the focus will be more on improving individual policy areas and engaging the Dutch government to adopt a leadership role in pushing forward the EU Action Plan.

We foresee the following highlights for 2018:

Agrocommodities. As mentioned in chapter 2, the GLA partners are collaborating in the area of tracking the investments of the financial sector in oil palm projects. In 2018, intensive technical training will be provided to partner organisations in countries where palm oil is a major cause of deforestation to gain more insight and transparency on how financial institutions are involved in deforestation and land grabbing, and to engage in an international campaign. This work will be aligned to the palm oil campaign of Milieudefensie and WAHLI that started in 2017 in Indonesia, the Netherlands and the EU.
Forest and Land Governance. A satellite based monitoring system is currently being developed to follow deforestation in near real time, in West Africa. This system provides opportunities for collaboration between GLA partners and independent forest monitors on the ground in the areas where illegal logging is common. In addition, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has shown interest to work together with GLA partners on developing and measuring the impact of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the Climate Agreement.

Just Energy Transition. The Just Energy Transition (JET) focuses on the Niger Delta, the greater Virunga landscape and the Ituri landscape (both bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda). The development of the programme has been a bit slower than the other two driver programmes due to challenges in developing the high number of programmes and collaborations during the start-up phase. However, in 2017, the programme was launched and exchange visits have taken place, aiming at learning from the Nigerian experience in crude oil extraction, oil spills and environmental degradation to protect Lake Victoria from the same fate. In 2018, partners in Nigeria plan to develop a model for a just and inclusive renewable energy policy and lobby for a budget line for renewable energy. Also, the GLA partners are involved in a JET commissioned research, which will lead to the development of a shared vision and plan on how energy transition should take place in their landscapes. The research report will be the basis for an international partner conference, which is planned in the last quarter of 2018 in Nigeria.

4. CLOSING

It may be clear that this summarized annual plan for 2018 does not do justice to all the activities that are foreseen for 2018, nor to the analyses and thinking that went into the annual planning process. However, we hope to have been able to give adequate insight into the direction of the global, country and thematic programmes as well as contextual developments and key priorities for 2018. The described changes in priorities do not require shifts in the foreseen 2018 budget.

Although it is early to say, the country programmes seem to be developing in line with the global ToC: moving into the 3rd year of implementation, the capacity building activities will more and more progress into strategic and evidence-based lobby and advocacy activities by CSOs, women, community groups and indigenous peoples. Complementarity and synergy in strategies and lobby and advocacy at different levels is being realised and will develop further. The annual outcome harvesting exercises and the planned mid-term review (MTR) in 2018 will provide us with essential information on effective and less effective strategies which will further inform the strategic direction for the final two years of the programme. We will also pay specific attention to the effectiveness of collaborative efforts, e.g. working in CSO coalitions, linking national programmes and international thematic drivers and the collaboration with the Ministry.

We would like to thank the Ministry and the new Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Ms Sigrid Kaag, for their generous support, both financially and programmatically, to the Green Livelihoods Alliance. We are looking forward to the continued collaboration in 2018.