FPP was founded to support the peoples who live in forests and depend on them *we aim to create political space for them to secure their rights, control their lands and decide their own futures for their livelihoods.*

**we focus on**

- getting the rights and interests of forest peoples recognised in policies and programmes
- supporting forest peoples to build their capacity to claim and exercise their human rights
- countering top-down policies and projects that affect forest peoples
- promoting community-based, sustainable forest management
- coordinating NGO actions on forests in line with forest peoples’ visions
- linking up indigenous and forest peoples’ movements at the regional and international level

**FPP began in 1990**

as a project of the World Rainforest Movement. In 1997 we became an independent NGO registered in the Netherlands. We retain our links with WRM as its northern secretariat. In 1999 we set up our charitable arm, the Forest Peoples Project, registered in the UK (www.forestpeoples.org/project_index.shtml).
Forests have once again moved centre stage in international policy debates. The belated realisation among the political elite that something has to be done about climate change has whipped up concern about tropical deforestation and the clearance of peat swamp forests. Concern about the massive emissions of greenhouse gases from forest clearance has triggered urgent appeals to developing countries to curb forest loss. Carbon merchants and international financiers are speaking of ‘win-win scenarios’ in which lucrative, new markets in carbon credits can be offered to pay countries to reduce forest loss, while contradictorily ‘biofuels’ markets are promoted to replace petroleum emissions with new fuels manufactured from food crops grown in, guess where, cleared forests.

The rhetoric is of ‘low hanging fruits’ ready to be plucked by far-sighted carbon entrepreneurs ready to join the invisible hand of the market to the urgent task of saving the planet. Already a new international protocol on how to reward ‘Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation’ (REDD) is being drafted for adoption in 2009 at the 15th Conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Suddenly, after 20 years of dispute among foresters about what should be in a forests convention, an international law on forests is being developed by carbon technocrats.

While welcoming the revived international concern about forests, Forest Peoples Programme urges caution about imposed solutions that take little account of local realities. In our view, the current unheeding rush to save the forests through market mechanisms will not work and may do great harm. If the underlying causes of deforestation are not addressed, if the rights of forest peoples are not secured, if major reforms in forest tenure and forest governance are not first effected, then the REDD process is likely to lead to greater poverty and conflict in forests, deepening mismanagement and corruption, and further forest loss. New moves to halt deforestation will not work if implanted within the old flawed framework which caused the problem in the first place. To move ahead, we also need to look back.

Indeed, if we just look back over the last year of FPP’s work, the deep seated nature of the crisis in forests is made all too clear. Our Legal and Human Rights Programme, which has championed forest peoples at international courts and UN tribunals, has successfully challenged governments in Latin America, Africa and Asia for their systematic denial of rights. Ranching in Brazil, logging concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo and palm oil plantations in Indonesia are all being imposed on indigenous lands without respect for these peoples’ rights. All this, the courts and the UN agree, is against international human rights law. The UN demands that the ‘national interest’ should not be allowed to override the rights of forest peoples in so negligent a way. A signal victory came at the InterAmerican Court of Human Rights which found that indeed the Government of Suriname had violated the rights of the Saramaka Maroons in imposing logging and mining concessions without either recognising their underlying right to their lands and forests and without their consent.

Our Responsible Finance Programme showed how emerging proposals for tackling climate change, being developed by the World Bank and other international aid agencies, systematically overlooked forest peoples’ rights and even excluded them from having a voice in policy making. Encouragingly, our publications on these problems – among our most widely read ever – have provoked a searching debate about the best way forwards. At the same time we, with our Indonesian partners, successfully challenged the World Bank’s private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation, to review its funding of palm oil estates in Indonesia, while our engagement with forestry and palm oil roundtables and dialogues has also led to an acceptance by leading companies that they need to avoid conflict by respecting the rights of forest peoples to to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to developments planned on their customary lands.

Our message then is that yes we urgently need to address the forests crisis but this will not be achieved just by sloshing in money to unaccountable governments or by creating new markets between businesses. Institutional reforms must be effected first. This complex challenge should not paralyse us from action. As our Environmental Governance Programme shows, reforms are being agreed at local and international levels as communities develop and implement practical plans to manage and defend their forests from destructive impositions. Forest peoples must be at the forefront of solutions to the forest crisis and that will only come by respecting their rights and giving them control over their lands and forests.
Highlights

- Landmark decision by Inter-American Court of Human Rights upholding land rights and self-determination of the Saramaka people of Suriname
- Cottika N’djuka maroons secured their land rights and compensation in Suriname
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights required Brazil to protect indigenous peoples in Raposa Serra do Sol from illegal settlers
- Forced evictions of Diaguita communities in Argentina halted and being investigated by a federal prosecutor
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights called on Peru to protect the lives of uncontacted indigenous peoples living in the Amazon.
- CERD supported forest peoples’ complaints against governments of Brazil, Guyana, northeast India and DRC
- CERD called on Indonesian government to delay oil palm plantations in Borneo until indigenous peoples’ land rights are secured and they give consent
- African Commission on Human Rights put pressure on governments to uphold human rights standards in Uganda, Rwanda and DRC
- Mining companies in Suriname and government in Guyana began negotiating settlements with indigenous peoples on land rights
- Partners in Uganda and Burundi started processes to obtain land for landless Twa communities
- Indigenous peoples in 18 countries increased their knowledge and capacity to defend their rights

Laws & Rights

FPP’s Legal and Human Rights Programme (LHRP) helps forest peoples to secure their rights through legal action and using international and national mechanisms set up to protect human rights. The LHRP provides information, training and capacity building so that people know their rights and how to defend them, and offers legal advice and litigation support for forest peoples pursuing complaints and cases through national courts and the international human rights system. FPPs detailed research and analysis, and submissions to international human rights bodies, help shape the evolution of international human rights standards and create a body of evidence and international opinion that supports indigenous peoples’ advocacy in other areas such as multilateral banks and development agencies. This expertise supports FPPs other programmes on Responsible Finance (page 7) and Environmental Governance (page 12).

Using the international courts

In November 2007, 10 years of detailed preparations and submissions by FPP resulted in a landmark decision by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the Saramaka People v. Suriname case. This will have a profound effect not only on the 100,000 indigenous and tribal peoples of Suriname but on indigenous and tribal peoples throughout Latin America.

The judges unanimously ruled that under the American Convention on Human Rights, Suriname violated the human rights of the Saramaka people by granting logging and mining concessions without their consultation and consent, reasonable benefit sharing or adequate social-environmental studies. The Court decision sets out standards for good faith negotiation with indigenous peoples and the granting of concessions by the state for resource exploitation on their lands. These standards will also affect other governments in Latin America.

The court ordered substantial reparations and required Suriname to demarcate and title the Saramaka people’s territory, and review existing concessions on Saramaka lands to repeal or modify them in line with the court decision. Suriname must also adopt legislation that recognizes and secures not just Saramaka territorial rights but those of all indigenous and tribal peoples in Suriname.

The Court also for the first time applied the right to self-determination to its analysis of indigenous and tribal peoples’ property rights. This resulted in an interpretation of property rights that recognizes indigenous and tribal peoples’ right to freely determine and enjoy their own social, cultural and economic development, which includes the right to enjoy their particular spiritual relationship with the territory they have traditionally used and occupied.” Consistent with this, the Court ordered that recognition of the Saramaka people’s territorial rights must include recognition of ‘their right to manage, distribute, and effectively control such territory, in accordance with their customary laws and traditional collective land tenure system.’ During 2008 FPP will work with the Saramaka to implement this decision, including new laws on how to consult with and obtain consent from indigenous peoples, and the review and modification of existing concessions on Saramaka territory.

We continued to support the implementation of the judgement we obtained in 2005 from the Inter-American Court on the Moiwana Village case concerning the massacre of more than 50 Cottika N’djuka maroons by the Suriname military in 1986. Suriname has now complied with all but two of the Court’s orders. As part of addressing the remaining orders, we are supporting our partners to engage with Suriname’s recently established National Land Rights Commission, which is mandated to draft laws on indigenous and tribal peoples’ rights and is due to report in March 2008. The Court issued additional ‘compliance’ orders following our monitoring report to the Court highlighting the areas where Suriname had failed to comply. We will continue working with the Moiwana community during 2008 to secure full compliance with the Court judgment and inform other indigenous communities about the implications of this decision for them.

During 2008 FPP continued work on three other cases at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

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concerning the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples to own and control their traditional lands and resources.

In October the Commission admitted a petition on behalf of the Kalína and Lokono indigenous peoples of the Lower Marowijne River, Suriname, to redress violations of land and resource rights caused by logging, mining and protected areas, and to secure Kalína and Lokono ownership rights over their traditional lands. Suriname has now offered to settle through negotiation and we are assisting with that process.

In Brazil FPP continued to assist the Macuxí, Wapichana, Taurepang, Ingarico and Patamona indigenous peoples of the Raposa Serra do Sol with their petition to the Commission alleging that Brazil has violated their physical, cultural, and territorial rights by failing to remove non-indigenous settlers from their newly-titled lands and protect them from increasingly violent attacks and threats. At a formal hearing granted to FPP and our partners in March the Commission reaffirmed precautionary measures requiring the government to take effective steps to protect the lives of the indigenous peoples of Raposa. Due to Brazil’s failure to respond appropriately and the increased violence in the area, we expect the Commission to officially admit the case in 2008. This would result in tougher action against Brazil and the possibility of going to the Inter-American Court should Brazil fail to comply.

In Peru we continued our work with the Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes (FENAMAD) to help the Mashco Piro, Yora and Amahuaca isolated indigenous peoples in Madre de Dios. Illegal loggers and oil concessions are severely threatening their lands, resources, and culture and even their lives. FPP helped FENAMAD draft and submit three reports to the Commission, which responded in March by instructing the Peruvian government to take precautionary measures to protect the lives of the uncontacted indigenous peoples. Due to Peru’s sluggish response, FPP helped FENAMAD request and participate in a formal hearing before the Commission in October to discuss progress. So far, the government has made few advances except for a small contribution to monitoring posts and some measures to mitigate health risks in the event of contact. It has not cancelled oil concessions or halted logging so the threats to indigenous peoples are continuing. With FPP’s help, FENAMAD is preparing two constitutional actions for the domestic courts to require the state to take actions. We will continue to support FENAMAD in these actions in 2008. If the courts do not respond favourably we will submit a full petition to the Commission in 2008 allowing the body to declare violations, issue stronger measures, and forward the case to the Inter-American Court if Peru does not comply.

We continued to engage the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racism (CERD) in the case of the racial discrimination and violence associated with the demarcation and titling of indigenous lands in Raposa Serra do Sol, Brazil. In response to our request for urgent assistance, CERD issued two letters to Brazil about the Raposa situation, and requested Brazil to meet with the Committee in Geneva. Following this CERD recommended that Brazil completely remove non-indigenous settlers, provide reparations, increase security in the area and prosecute perpetrators of violence and racial hatred. We expect a further decision in 2008.

We obtained important ‘follow up’ measures from CERD, reiterating its concerns about Guyana’s 2006 Amerindian Act and stating that an urgent action decision may be adopted if Guyana fails to remedy the deficiencies in that law. With the Amerindian Peoples Association of Guyana, we submitted additional information to CERD in late 2007, which will be considered in March and August 2008.

In Peru we helped the indigenous federation FECONACO and Racimos de Ungurahui submit an urgent request for assistance to CERD in the case of the 13,600 Achuar Indigenous peoples.

International Human Rights Advocacy

FPP puts pressure on states to improve the way they treat forest peoples by helping indigenous and tribal communities and organisations submit formal requests for review and urgent action to various human rights bodies, complaint mechanisms and rapporteurs at the United Nations and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The decisions of these bodies reinforce other approaches taken by FPP and are helping to build up a body of evidence and international opinion that supports indigenous peoples’ advocacy in other contexts, for example with their own governments or in dealing with multilateral banks and harmful development projects (see page 10). During 2007 FPP obtained several important decisions and recommendations from the UN treaty bodies related to Guyana, Suriname, Argentina, Brazil, DRC, Indonesia and north east India as well as critical support from special rapporteurs on human rights.

^CAPL, a national indigenous organisation in Paraguay, present their concerns at a meeting in Asunción specially granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Photo: Vanessa Jiménez

^FENAMAD representatives at a formal hearing of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights about Peru’s failure to take effective action to protect uncontacted peoples of Madre de Dios, Peru. Photo: Vanessa Jiménez
of rio Corrientes, Peru. The 77 Achuar communities are suffering severe health problems due to lead contamination and the devastating environmental, social and cultural impacts of past oil exploration in their lands (see page 14). Despite these problems new oil concessions have been granted within their remaining lands. CERD will review the case in early 2008. Its actions will be relevant to all indigenous peoples in the Amazon whose lands have been given out as oil concessions.

In Africa, we asked CERD to assist in the case of indigenous Twa and Mbuti peoples of DRC whose lands and livelihoods are threatened by logging and discriminatory forest laws. Following a report submitted with our partner CAMV and five Congolese organisations, CERD issued concluding observations recommending DRC to implement measures to protect indigenous land rights, include indigenous peoples’ rights to their forests in national laws, register their ancestral lands, impose a new moratorium on logging forest lands, and provide remedies for violations of indigenous rights. As an exceptional measure DRC must report back to CERD in one year.

A complaint submitted to CERD by FPP and partners about Indonesia’s plans to expand oil palm estates on indigenous lands near the border with Malaysia resulted in CERD issuing a strong set of recommendations for legal and policy reforms. CERD required the government to report back on implementation of these measures within one year. We supported a coalition of Indonesian organisations to meet with the National Commission on Human Rights about information from governments, indigenous peoples and NGOs about human rights violations, investigates the situation and communicates directly with the government in question, and then issues reports on his findings in a public manner helping to raise awareness and encourage measures to prevent and remedy these violations.

The Rapporteur responded to our advocacy about the forced evictions of Diaguita indigenous families from their homes on their ancestral lands in Tecumán Province, Argentina, by joining with the Rapporteur on the Right to Food and the Rapporteur on the Right to Housing to send a strong letter to the Government of Argentina. This, together with pressure from the indigenous communities themselves and other international efforts (page 5) halted the forced relocations. In consultation with the Diaguita peoples a federal prosecutor started investigating the evictions, as well as other human rights concerns of the Diaguita. A new law was drafted to relocate the evicted indigenous families to other suitable lands within their ancestral territory.

During 2007 we started gathering information on individual cases of violations of indigenous peoples’ land rights in DRC and Burundi. The reports will be sent to the Special Rapporteur in 2008, requesting him to enter into a dialogue with the government concerning these specific cases. In the African human rights system, we submitted two Urgent Appeals to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) urging suspension of commercial logging in DRC pending a detailed study of indigenous land rights and the protection of their rights in national law. The ACHPR has now scheduled an examination of DRC for May 2008, for which we and our partner CAMV will submit further information.

After receiving reports submitted by FPP and partners, the ACHPR also recommended that Uganda ensure that indigenous peoples’ rights are respected. ACHPR used information submitted about the situation in Rwanda to question the state about its position that indigenous peoples do not exist in Rwanda.

FPPs briefing to the African Commission’s Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa stimulated increased interest in tackling issues faced by indigenous women. The Commission welcomed FPP’s report on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and Transnational and Other Business Enterprises: A Review of International Law and Jurisprudence which it had requested us to write, to assist its deliberations on the human rights obligations of non-state actors in Africa.
Supporting partners

We continued to help partners increase their knowledge and skills and defend their rights through national courts and domestic mechanisms. This included providing technical and strategic support as well as training and mentoring. We conducted 12 training workshops with indigenous peoples and their organisations in Suriname, Guyana, Paraguay, Argentina, Cameroon, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, South Africa and Indonesia. Training and support focused on increasing partners’ capacity to apply existing provisions in international law to their own national contexts, as well as using international complaint mechanisms and international forums to increase pressure on governments to improve the lives of indigenous communities and their members.

South America

In Suriname we helped the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders and Trio and Lokono indigenous communities of west Suriname draft complaints and protocols to deal with proposals for massive bauxite mining in their territory. The companies involved recently accepted the need to negotiate agreements with the communities. FPP is assisting them with these negotiations including drafting the terms of engagement and reviewing benefit sharing and proposed mitigation measures.

In Guyana our work with the Akawaio and Arecuna indigenous peoples of the Upper Mazaruni river basin to bring a potentially landmark aboriginal land title case against the Guyanese government continued to be frustrated by delaying tactics in the court. Nevertheless, the court received our first set of depositions in late 2007. Shortly after, the government proposed settlement terms which are now being discussed with the Akawaio and Arecuna.

FPP provided technical support and funds for the Venezuelan indigenous organisation Kuyunjani to commission a study and Sanema indigenous peoples’ claim to has never been formally recognised. The time period for challenging the non-recognition of the claim expired while they waited for the government to provide the information needed. Kuyunjani decided not to mount a court challenge due to the non-independence of the judiciary and possible harmful repercussions. About half of the 150,000 indigenous people in Venezuela have never been formally recognised. The Gobierno has never been formally recognised. The time period for challenging the non-recognition of the claim expired while they waited for the government to provide the information needed. Kuyunjani decided not to mount a court challenge due to the non-independence of the judiciary and possible harmful repercussions. About half of the 150,000 indigenous people in Venezuela would benefit if political reluctance to titling indigenous ‘habitats’ was overcome.

We continued our work with FENAMAD in Peru to determine possible national and international advocacy and legal actions to protect the rights of the isolated peoples of Madre de Dios as well as throughout the Amazon. FPP has worked to increase FENAMAD’s capacity to use the UN and Inter-American system and complaint mechanisms and increase coordination between the various lawyers, advocates, indigenous federations and communities working on isolated peoples, particularly in their overtures to international forums.

In Paraguay FPP held meetings with the Totobiegosode indigenous people to help them strengthen their newly formed organization, OPIT, to advocate for the rights of their people, including those that remain uncontacted in the Chaco region of Paraguay. State-sanctioned deforestation continues on their lands and they lack full title and protection for their traditional territories. FPP secured funding to help build OPIT’s new office, pay for some modest health expenses, and enable several members to participate for the first time in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. With FPP’s assistance, while in the US the Totobiegosode met with UN and Paraguay officials, and representatives from the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Development Bank, and were able to learn a great deal about human rights, the international system, and the struggles of other indigenous peoples in the world.

FPP worked with the Diaguita to stop the forced evictions in Argentina (see page 4) by publicising the events to international bodies and actors including the Special Rapporteurs on Indigenous Peoples of the UN and the Organisation of American States, and the participants at the May session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

FPP staff participated in two workshops on indigenous peoples’ rights and international law in Argentina and provided technical and financial support to a Diaguita lawyer who has been filing domestic cases for the Diaguita involving land claims and restitution, forced evictions, and preservation of cultural patrimony. To enhance this

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work, FPP found funds for the community to pay for emergency legal fees, hold meetings, build a legal office to serve all the indigenous peoples of the northern provinces, and buy a new truck to help inter-community trade and enable their lawyer to travel between communities.

**Africa**

We continued training and supporting indigenous peoples in nine African countries to strengthen their understanding of legal and human rights norms and mechanisms, and their ability to apply these in practice to defend their rights. We started work on comprehensive land rights studies in Cameroon, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and DRC, and a dedicated Central African indigenous peoples’ website. We produced two guides for African indigenous peoples: one on the African human rights system and one on the land rights of indigenous peoples in international law from an African perspective.

At regional level, we focused on increasing the ability of indigenous organisations and NGOs to use the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR). Training included a regional seminar with indigenous peoples from Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon and CAR and ‘on-the-job’ trainings at the twice-yearly sessions of the ACHPR with partners from Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Cameroon. Our partners successfully lobbied Commissioners, and wrote and delivered statements to the ACHPR on the violations of indigenous peoples’ human rights in their respective countries.

In Uganda we developed our work with the indigenous Twas who were evicted from their ancestral forests when they were converted into national parks. We continued to help strengthen UOBDU, the Twa’s community-based organisation. We helped UOBDU purchase a tract of forested land, develop a land management plan, take the first steps in creating a Twa land trust to secure their land ownership for present and future generations, and start a house building programme. We supported UOBDU to discuss land issues with the national authorities and continued the groundwork for longer-term plans to help the Twa start formal negotiations and, if necessary, a land claim in the national courts in respect of the loss of their ancestral lands.

In Cameroon, DRC and Burundi FPP held training workshops with indigenous organisations, NGOs, intergovernmental organisations and government on land rights and other rights, such as women and children’s rights and rights to education and health, in international law. The trainings helped to increase participants’ understanding of international human rights law, compare national legislation with each country’s international obligations and find out how they can use international mechanisms to claim their rights. FPP is supporting partners to put the knowledge gained during training into practical effect in their own advocacy and community support programmes. For example, our partner CAMV is now developing a simple guide to land rights in DRC which will be published in 2008. The trainings also increased the effectiveness of partners’ advocacy at the ACHPR and their ability to transmit information to the indigenous communities they work with.

Land is a key issue in Burundi, where some 90% of Twa people have been dispossessed of their ancestral lands. During 2007, FPP worked with our partner UNIPROBA to gain recognition and protection for the Twa’s land rights and ensure the state provides them with land. We helped UNIPROBA to start drafting an analysis of Burundi’s draft land law, to be published in 2008, including proposed revisions to ensure the protection of Twa land rights and land use. We also supported one of UNIPROBA’s staff, who was appointed to the National Land Commission, to advocate for Twa inclusion in the government’s proposed land redistribution programme in 2008. Several Commissioners now consider landless Twa a priority group for land redistribution.

In South Africa we helped the Richtersveld Nama people implement the Constitutional Court’s landmark judgment recognising the Nama’s rights to their lands. The Land Court overseeing the process has now confirmed that the Nama’s own freely chosen representatives must consent to the deed of settlement, and has rejected a deed developed by a government-imposed institution, which must now be reworked. FPP also provided expert input to the process of revising South Africa’s constitution in regard to indigenous peoples’ rights.
Responsible Finance

FPP’s Responsible Finance Programme works to ensure that publicly and privately financed projects on forest peoples’ lands only go ahead with the communities’ free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and that there are mechanisms by which affected communities can hold the financial institutions to account for flawed project design and implementation. Over the past 15 years, FPP and our partners have succeeded in getting international financial institutions (IFIs) and the private sector to improve their “safeguard” policies and procedures in order to reduce or minimise the harm done by their projects to indigenous and tribal communities. During 2007 we focused on building communities’ capacity to monitor how safeguard policies are being implemented in reality in their areas, and to use existing complaints mechanisms when things are going wrong. We continued putting pressure on IFIs and the private sector to uphold international human rights and environmental standards, including in the climate change debate through our critical analysis of the pitfalls of the avoided deforestation policies and financing mechanisms currently being promoted by the World Bank and international conservation organisations.

Protecting forest peoples’ rights in the climate change debate

FPP reacted swiftly to the fast-moving international debate on forests and climate change with our report ‘Seeing RED? Avoided deforestation and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.’ This report analysed the risks of the ill-conceived, top-down policies that are being hastily promoted by agencies like the World Bank and large conservation NGOs to compensate countries for not cutting their forests (‘reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation’ - REDD), yet which do not include the social and governance elements needed for sustainable and just solutions.

The report, in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Bahasa Indonesia, was rapidly circulated through policy and NGO networks. It was highly influential in many key policy meetings on forests and climate change and used by forest peoples organisations and NGOs to support their advocacy on climate change with governments and at the UNFCCC climate conference in Bali in December.

The World Bank has been developing a range of large-scale funding initiatives for mitigating global climate change and for adapting to changing climatic conditions. These include the Global Forest Partnership (GFP) in which the Bank would lead a consortium of agencies funding sustainable forest management and conservation. This would be linked to the Bank’s proposed Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) which would combine funds from carbon trading, IFIs and private foundations to pay countries for their activities on REDD.

Indigenous leaders surveyed by FPP had, for the most part, never heard of either of the Bank’s proposals. Many of them questioned the Bank’s suitability to lead global forest initiatives given its continued funding of coal and gas extraction, mining, logging, plantations and infrastructure, all of which are destructive to forests and contribute to climate change. Respondents expressed serious concerns about carbon trading-based finance mechanisms for avoided deforestation, with views ranging from deep scepticism to outright opposition to market-based approaches to REDD. The report of the survey of 41 indigenous leaders, carried out in collaboration with IIED, will be published in 2008.

The indigenous responses to the proposed GFP helped influence European states to query the Bank’s initiative, following FPP’s joint advocacy with FERN prior to a meeting of EU leaders. FPP helped to coordinate a statement signed by over 60 NGOs calling for the FPCF process to be suspended to enable informed public consultation with forest peoples and to address serious accountability and safeguard flaws. The statement was presented at a Bank FCPF workshop with 32 governments in mid-November and was widely circulated at the UNFCCC conference. Despite these and other civil society concerns, the Bank launched the FCPF at the conference. It has now shelved the GFP proposal, but meanwhile come up with a replacement proposal, the Forest Investment Fund. FPP will track this closely in 2008.

Highlights

- Influential input to the climate change debate on the risks of ill-conceived measures to compensate countries for not cutting down their forests
- World Bank’s flawed plans for an international forest carbon fund challenged publicly
- Global survey of forest peoples views contributed to international rejection of the World Bank’s proposal for a global partnership on forests
- Forest peoples have increased local capacity for monitoring IFI projects on the ground in Panama, Paraguay and Cameroon
- World Bank, IFC, IDB and ADB pressed to maintain standards for lending in Cameroon, Indonesia, Panama and Asia
- Wilmar Trading forced to halt illegal activities associated with palm oil plantations in Indonesia
- HSBC’s support for destructive logging in Malaysia publicly exposed
- Report published revealing grabbing of Dayak lands by oil palm companies in Sarawak
- RSPO maintained a strong standard for certified palm oil and recognised smallholder rights
- Industrial forestry companies agreed to respect forest peoples rights to
Kuna communities and organizations increased their knowledge about the safeguard policies of the IDB and the World Bank’s Indigenous Peoples Policy (OP4.10) and the potential impacts of proposed megaprojects on Kuna territory in Panama. FPP collaborated with the Fundación para la Promoción de Conocimiento Indígena (FPCI) and the Kuna General Congress to provide the training, which drew on FPP’s information materials about projects of direct concern to the Kuna people, including government-sponsored tourism projects.

At the Kuna General Congress Assembly in November 2007, Kuna leaders expressed their serious concerns about IFIs and energy and mining megaprojects affecting indigenous lands in Panama, and resolved to reject the current plans for the IDB-assisted Colombia-Panamá Electrical Interconnection project. This would directly impact Kuna forests and coastal habitats and has been developed without their free, prior and informed consent. We will continue to work with the Kuna on these issues in 2008.

FPP worked with ACIDI, an indigenous organisation representing 1,300 Mby’a Guarani people in the south of Paraguay to increase their knowledge of standards and policies applicable to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) operating within their lands. This has strengthened ACIDI’s advocacy around a GEF-funded national park which has been imposed on their ancestral lands without adequate consultation (see page 16).

During 2007 we updated our popular community guide to the World Bank’s (IBRD/IDA) Indigenous Peoples Policy OP4.10. The illustrated guide is available in English, French, Spanish, Bahasa Indonesia and Hindi, and is proving very useful in helping communities and activists understand IFI standards and how they can use them to challenge harmful and badly designed and implemented IFI projects.

We used the guide in FPP’s training work with indigenous peoples in Panama and Cameroon, and it is being used by local NGOs in other countries for their own training, for example community training with the UNDP in Nepal and local NGOs in Guatemala. The Guatemalan NGOs also used our 2006 Guide to the IDB’s new Indigenous Peoples Policy (OP-765). We designed a new guide to IFI Performance Standard 7 on Indigenous Peoples which will be published in 2008 in several languages.

Maintaining standards

The World Bank Group

During 2007 we maintained our long-term work to monitor and publicise how IFI safeguard policies are being implemented in practice. We continued to track the World Bank’s implementation of its Indigenous Peoples Policy (OD4.20 and OP4.10) in India (Andhra Pradesh and NE India), Indonesia, DRC, Cameroon and Panama. As a result of our questioning as to whether the World Bank-GEF Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project in India complied with OP 4.10, the Bank delayed project appraisal and dispatched consultants to investigate. We will continue monitoring this project in 2008.

We started a detailed analysis of International Finance Corporation (IFC) projects approved or in the pipeline since adoption of the IFC’s new performance standards, in particular PS7 on indigenous peoples. IFC staff involved in seven projects in India, the Philippines, Russia and Peru provided written responses to...
our detailed questionnaire. This revealed serious questions about how the IFC is applying the new standards and carrying out due diligence. We will follow up these findings through field work in 2008.

FPP raised concerns with the IFC regarding its funding of Wilmar Trading Inc. whose subsidiaries in Indonesia are acting illegally in clearing and burning forests and taking over lands without community consent or due compensation in order to establish oil palm operations. These activities contravene the standards of the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (see page 10) in which Wilmar is a member.

After receiving little useful feedback from the IFC staff responsible, FPP and the local Indonesian organisation Sawit Watch, supported by 20 Indonesian and international civil society organisations filed a very detailed complaint to the IFC’s Compliance Advisor and Ombudsman (CAO) calling for remedial action for the negative impacts of this investment. This led to an intensive series of meetings involving the CAO, local communities, local NGOs, the IFC’s senior regional and environmental staff and the IFC Vice President. The case involved the simultaneous use of several conflict resolution tactics and showed the effectiveness of concerted local action, detailed research to validate local complaints, the use of official complaints and accountability procedures, and recourse to the law.

The work is ongoing but has already resulted in Wilmar admitting compliance failures to the RSPO, agreeing to apply the principles of High Conservation Forest assessment (see page 16) and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), and agreeing to relinquish community lands where they do not accept palm oil. Civil society organisations engaged in the process built on their experiences to organise a workshop on conflict resolution in Bali in December during the UNFCCC, which began to lay the foundations of a new international network on conflict resolution.

The response of the IFC has however been disappointing, so the communities have decided to call for a full audit of IFC due diligence and the case will continue with FPP support in 2008.

**Multilateral development banks**

With our partners we assessed the Inter-American Development Bank’s (IDB) application of its new Indigenous Peoples Policy in its projects and programmes. FPP supported indigenous leaders from Peru and Panama to attend the IDB Annual meeting in Guatemala where they again raised concerns about the IDB’s controversial ‘IIRSA’ and Plan Puebla Panama regional integration programmes involving roads, dams, airports and electricity grids which will impact on indigenous territories.

FPP held meetings with IDB staff and the UK Executive Director to point out lack of compliance with the policy in IIRSA, the Camisea II project in Peru, and also the Colombia-Panama Electrical Interconnection Project. We drew attention to the need to apply safeguards for uncontacted indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation in the Amazon Basin and parts of Paraguay.

With Amazon Watch, we compiled a critical report about Camisea II’s failure to apply the policy. We sent this to the UK and Portuguese ED offices and our NGO networks, which resulted in NGOs in Norway pressing their governments to vote against financing of Camisea II. Several Scandinavian EDs did vote against the project, but this was not enough to prevent the project being approved in December 2007 (arguably in contravention of the IDB’s own information disclosure policies).

During 2007 FPP stepped up its work on the Asian Development Bank (ADB) providing inputs and analysis into the safeguard update process. We worked with partner organizations in Asia to submit to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) a recommendation on the safeguard process of the bank. UNPFII responded with a general recommendation requesting multilateral development banks to consult effectively with indigenous peoples in matters affecting them, including the updating of safeguards for the wellbeing of indigenous peoples potentially impacted by bank projects.

We wrote briefings and worked with indigenous organizations to produce studies of ADB-funded projects in indigenous territories and a detailed critique of ADB’s draft indigenous peoples’ policy.

At an ADB consultation meeting in Manila in November FPP gave presentations to the indigenous peoples’ preparatory meeting and to the ADB on concerns about the draft policy, including the proposals to rely on ‘country safeguard systems’ based on national laws which often fail to recognise indigenous and community rights.

We called for the policy to include effective grievance mechanisms, strong information disclosure requirements, references to international law, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and specific safeguards for land rights and free, prior and informed consent for indigenous peoples.

In Manila FPP also met with the Private Sector Development Department of the ADB and the Office of the Special Project Facilitator about a project of particular concern in NE India, the Bangladesh Lafarge Surma Cement Project. This project has resulted in the transfer of indigenous peoples’ lands to outsiders in apparent contravention of national laws and is currently being challenged by the courts in India.

The ADB has so far resisted adopting international standards on human rights and on the rights of indigenous peoples, and during 2008 we’ll be continuing work with indigenous peoples’ organizations in Asia to pressure the Bank to rewrite the draft and re-release it for consultation.
Scrubbinising the private sector

Private Banks

The ‘Equator’ Banks are 41 banks that have adopted the IFC’s standards as their own ‘Equator Principles’ committing them to lending only to environmentally sound projects. In March 2007 FPP joined with other international NGOs including FERN and the Bruno Manser Fonds to question HSBC’s support for the public listing of the logging company Samling Global Ltd on the Hong Kong Stock exchange. HSBC is an Equator Bank. The campaign started with high-profile media work including adverts in the International Herald Tribune and other newspapers alerting investors to Samling’s poor human rights and environmental record in forests in Sarawak, Cambodia, China, Papua New Guinea and Guyana. Following the campaign, FPP held meetings and wrote to HSBC staff to explain how HSBC’s support for the public listing of the logging company Samling Global Ltd on the Hong Kong Stock exchange. HSBC is an Equator Bank.

FPP called for private banks to reform policy and practice at an NGO consultation with German Banks, including Kfw, Commerzbank, Landesbank, Ethibank and Dresdner, organised by Urgewald. We made a presentation on FPIC and human rights and stressed the need for public and private banks to adopt effective social policies and rigorous procedures when lending to the forest, timber, pulp and paper sectors in developing countries. While the discussions were open and frank, the Banks made no commitments to change policy or practice and stuck to their view that social issues in lending operations overseas are ‘awkward’ to deal with. Much more work is needed to bring about genuine social and environmental reforms in the banking industry.

Palm Oil Plantations

The Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a global initiative to promote the sustainable production and trade of palm oil. Its members are large plantation companies, smallholders, processors and retailers of palm oil products, and environmental and social NGOs. During 2007 FPP continued work to ensure that the RSPO’s standard for certified sustainable palm oil meets international human rights standards for indigenous peoples, local communities, smallholders, workers and migrants. This work was reinforced by CERD’s decision recommending Indonesia to implement legal and policy reforms to protect the rights of communities affected by palm oil plantations (see page 4), which we are now following up with the Indonesian Human Rights Commission.

We also continued to push for meaningful RSPO verification procedures, through discussions with the RSPO secretariat and NGO and indigenous partners on ways to ensure effective civil society participation, and insisting on genuine compliance with RSPO standards by RSPO members, companies and investors (see, for example, the complaint about Wilmar Trading, page 9).

During the year FPP carried out field research in collaboration with our national partner, the civil society organisation SawitWatch (which is a member of the Board of the RSPO) and the University of Andalas, to document the social conflicts generated by palm oil developments in West Sumatra and how the Minangkabau communities are fighting back through their customary governance bodies. The work was published as ‘The Nagari Community, Business and the State’. A second book, co-published by SawitWatch and FPP titled ‘Land is Life: Land Rights and Oil Palm Development in Sarawak’ was launched in Kuala Lumpur. This book exposed the fact that there are over 40 cases of land disputes in the courts of Sarawak between oil palm companies and native peoples and showed that the abuses of community rights are part of a regional pattern and not just a problem within Indonesia.

FPP’s participation in the RSPO’s Criteria Working Group in October helped prevent industry members from weakening RSPO’s Principles and Criteria for the certification of palm oil. We also persuaded the working group that full life cycle carbon accounting will take some time to develop and meanwhile RSPO certified palm oil cannot be considered to be sustainable in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. RSPO has now agreed to develop a new standard for greenhouse gas emissions.

Smallholders produce appreciable amounts of palm oil from their own plots which they sell on to larger companies. Many companies depend on smallholder palm oil production, and it is an important income source for the smallholders themselves. In November FPP held the
3rd Meeting of the RSPO Task Force on Smallholders in Indonesia and helped to prepare the prior planning meeting for NGOs and indigenous organisations. We organised presentations on the Task Force’s progress, the views of smallholders and the progress made in developing guidance on smallholders that suits their actual aspirations and situations in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Malaysia.

This advanced discussions at the subsequent 5th Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, with a step gain in RSPO’s understanding of the importance of smallholders in the whole RSPO certification process and the need for their strengthened involvement. The RSPO also now understands the possibilities and constraints of carrying out independent audits of smallholder operations and has accepted the need for Group Certification to allow smallholders to qualify for certification.

The Forests Dialogue
Through FPP’s participation in The Forests Dialogue (TFD) – an industry and NGO-led consortium on sustainable forest management – we were able to examine the social and environmental responsibilities of two major companies in the Rajah Garuda Mas group, APRIL and Asian Agri.

At a TFD meeting on Intensively Managed Planted Forests in Pekanburu, Indonesia, in March, co-hosted by WWF-Indonesia, APRIL and Asian Agri, FPP ensured that indigenous and community voices got heard in the technical discussions during workshops and field visits to APRIL and Asian Agri plantations. Industry participants listened first-hand to community concerns about the expropriation of their lands. FPP presentations in the meeting showed how a technically flawed High Conservation Value Forest approach (see page 16) with little local participation is being used by APRIL as green wash by the company to cover up unsustainable and unjust practices.

The dialogue led to a clear consensus among the TFD steering committee that issues of customary rights, land tenure and free, prior and informed consent are central issues for the development of plantations in Indonesia and in general. These issues will be addressed by the next TFD in Brazil in 2008. During the dialogue, in a highly significant, precedent-setting step for Indonesia, both Asian Agri and APRIL committed to uphold the principle of FPIC and agreed to hold three day series of workshops on FPIC involving communities and companies, which will take place in early 2008.

Shrimp certification
Industrial production of shrimp in the coastal zones of Asia, Latin America and Africa is threatening local livelihoods and the sustainability of mangrove forests. During 2007 FPP continued to support NGOs to mobilise local communities to voice their concerns, and discuss using consumer pressure to halt the destructive effects of shrimp farming.

In collaboration with the Indonesian NGO WALHI, FPP supported research on shrimp farming and its social and environmental impacts in Sumatra, and specifically in Lampung province, where Dipasena and Bratasena, two of the largest shrimp farms in Indonesia, are located.

At an international meeting on Farmed Shrimp, Certification and Campaigns held in London, most participants concluded that all of the current certification processes are flawed and that a campaign in consumer countries was needed. FPP highlighted the UK’s consumption of unsustainably produced shrimp at a meeting of London-based NGOs working on fisheries issues.

In September, FPP participated in a South-North Consultation on Shrimp Aquaculture organised by WALHI and its partners that discussed developing consumer awareness campaigns in Europe and North America and issued the Lampung Declaration. This denounced the industry for trying to improve its public image through flawed certification processes and misleading labels (such as ‘Ethical Shrimp’ and ‘Organic Shrimp’) which ignore the rights to food security and sovereignty of the communities where shrimp is produced. The declaration urges consumers, retailers, NGOs and governments to reject all the certification schemes being developed or developed so far. Dipasena responded by committing to consider the demands of its contract workers and environmental and social NGOs. However, it has not done so and there is still an impasse in negotiations for better social and environmental practices. FPP will continue supporting advocacy and consumer awareness about unsustainable shrimp farming during 2008.
Environmental Governance

Highlights

- Kaliña and Lokono peoples started negotiating recognition of their lands with the Suriname government.
- Indigenous peoples in Guyana, Peru and Cameroon collected data on their customary use to develop land claims and land management plans.
- Traditional resource users in the Bangladesh Sundarbans documented their customary use of mangrove forests and started dialogue with the government on management of the Sundarbans.
- The territory of Ye’kwana and Sanema people was recognised in the government’s management plan for the Upper Caurwa river, Venezuela.
- The new Thai constitution recognised the role of traditional communities in natural resource management.
- Indigenous peoples in northern Thailand have increased opportunities for protection and development of their traditional knowledge.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity increased language on rights and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of biodiversity.
- GEF and UNDP committed to ensuring Mby’a Guarani participation and consent in the management of a national park on their lands in southern Paraguay.
- Indigenous communities in Indonesia used the concept of free, prior and informed consent to gain secure rights over their lands through dialogue with conservation managers and the governments of their countries. We support forest peoples to develop alternative community-based forms of conservation and ways of making a sustainable living from the natural resources on their lands.
- FPP also carries out research and advocacy to influence international conservation and environmental policy.

Supporting community-based management

Suriname

The Kaliña and Lokono indigenous peoples of the Lower Marowijne River, represented by the Indigenous Land Rights Commission of the Lower Marowijne (CLIM) started negotiating recognition of their lands with the Suriname government, following the acceptance of their case by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (see page 3). The Kaliña and Lokono’s previous work to map their territory and document their traditional use (see our 2005 Annual report) was crucial in supporting their land claim.

During 2007 village leaders in CLIM decided they needed to strengthen traditional governance systems in preparation for developing a management plan for their territory. FPP facilitated participatory action-research to help the communities analyse current governance. This resulted in an action plan to strengthen village councils and CLIM as the regional decision-making body of the indigenous territory of Lower-Marowijne, and to produce a model village constitution. The action plan and model village constitution were discussed extensively in the eight villages, in small groups to ensure that everyone felt able to share their opinions. Agreement was reached on most points in the action plan, and each village selected two people as their representatives.

Another round of village workshops will take place in 2008 to discuss the practicabilities of elements in the draft village constitution, and to produce the final model constitution incorporating recommendations from the village workshops.

Guyana

The Wapichan people of the Rupununi savannas in the south of Guyana are carrying out a project to obtain stronger rights in their traditional lands and to develop a management plan for the sustainable use of their natural resources, supported by FPP. In 2007, with the help of a GIS mapping expert and a local mapping technician, FPP provided training and technical support for the Wapichan to finish making maps of their territory showing how they traditionally use the land and its biological resources. Using new GIS software, new base maps of river courses and field sketch maps complementing the GIS data, the 17 Wapichan communities discussed their resource use and corrected technical problems in previous digital maps compiled in 2006. The new
draft maps produced were taken back to the communities for them to check details and add extra information. This validation work will be completed by mid 2008.

The Wapichans’ leaders, known as Toshao’s, are playing a crucial role in overseeing the project. A team of indigenous researchers and Toshao’s reported back to the communities on the results of field research carried out by the Wapichan in 2005 and 2006 with FPP’s assistance, which documented their traditional knowledge and practices and their customary laws for managing and using their resources.

The sharing of this information between the communities has strengthened the Wapichan’s resolve to secure their territory and pass on traditional practices to the younger generation. The communities are eagerly awaiting the final maps to enable them to identify and protect common boundaries and areas where several communities’ resource use overlaps, and to develop their land claim strategy and plan the management of their territory in the coming years.

To assist these processes, in December FPP supported a meeting of 27 community leaders to plan further work on the project. The meeting set up a monitoring committee to help oversee project implementation and budget management and issued a public statement on the Wapichan’s commitment to manage their lands sustainably. The meeting also decided to start discussions with government and civil society about the threats to Wapichan lands, including from mining and conservation projects, and to seek their support for the territorial management plan.

In the same meeting, FPP gave a presentation on the risks and opportunities of the Guyanan government’s proposals for avoided deforestation (see page 7), in which the government of Guyana would receive international funds in return for forest protection. The Toshao’s welcomed this input and asked FPP to provide information next year on local and international forest policies, and further training in Guyanese and international law on indigenous peoples’ rights, land rights and protected areas.

Venezuela

The Ye’kwana and Sanema people, represented by their organisation Kuyujani, are trying to get their rights over 36,000 sq km in the Upper Caura river basin formally recognised by the Venezuelan government. The Ye’kwana and Sanema accept two protected areas that lie within their territory and want to be involved in their co-management. Previous work by Kuyujani and FPP showed that indigenous peoples’ customary use and traditional practices in the Upper Caurwa are compatible with conservation and sustainable use (see 2005 Annual Report) and produced a multiple use zoning and management plan for the area.

Indigenous peoples’ rights to their ‘habitats’ are clearly set out in the new laws and constitution adopted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. However, contrary to the law, the Ministry of Public Power for Indigenous Peoples opposes the titling of indigenous peoples’ habitats, and is sideling indigenous peoples’ own institutions by setting up community councils in every village, through which the Ministry channels funds.

FPP provided funds for Kuyujani to contract lawyers specialising in indigenous and administrative law to assess the status of the Ye’kwana and Sanema’s stalled land claim. Some progress was made but the process was eventually blocked by the government (see page 5). Despite this, Kuyujani managed to get the area of the land claim registered in the regional land use plan of the Ministry of the Environment, as an ‘indigenous multiple use zone’.

During 2007 up to 1,500 illegal miners repeatedly invaded the Upper Caura. The fear of violence forced the emergency evacuation of most indigenous people from the down-river settlements. However, by engaging the local administration and armed forces, Kuyujani got the miners expelled. Kuyujani also started setting up a territorial and ecological monitoring station in Entre Rios to strengthen their ability to protect the natural resources in their territory by providing early warning of incursions of miners and other extractive activities.

FPP will continue to help Kuyujani strengthen traditional institutions, and push further for the recognition of their land rights and the implementation of their territorial management and zoning plan as part of the Ministry of the Environment’s official management plan for the Caura river.

Elsewhere in Venezuela, FPP supported the Piaroa and Hiwi of the Sipapo basin in Amazonas to map their lands and develop a legal case to claim their lands. During 2007 the map was completed and endorsed by the Piaroa.
Peru

FPP helped to train a team of 12 Achuar researchers to carry out participatory research on land tenure and traditional resource use throughout their territory in eastern Peru. The research will provide detailed evidence to support the Achuars’ claim for full legal recognition and title over their collective territory shared among 46 settlements in the Pastaza region of the Peruvian Amazon.

FPP provided the training inputs, in collaboration with the indigenous organisations ATI, ORACH and FENAP together with the local NGOs Racimos de Ungurahui and Shina. The work was funded by a Rainforest Norway grant to Racimos. The Achuar team put the training into practice during field work in August and September. In 2008 FPP will help them compile the results.

Thailand

IMPECT (Inter Mountain Peoples’ Education and Culture in Thailand) succeeded in getting two important articles, recognising the role of traditional communities in natural resource management and policy making, included in the new Thai Constitution. IMPECT’s intensive advocacy was supported by FPP as part of our project with IMPECT helping Karen and Hmong communities in four watersheds in northern Thailand to secure their land rights and develop community-based management of their lands, as well as participate in management of conservation areas overlapping their lands.

The production of Information materials describing customary natural resource use was expressed through their culture including stories, songs, rituals and practical daily work on the farm and in the forest. To maintain and spread this knowledge, the project helped two villages to establish cultural centres which will develop ways of promoting and transmitting culture within the community and act as models for other communities. One of the villages set up a plot to develop indigenous kitchen garden crops.

The project also worked with a local school to develop a curriculum incorporating traditional knowledge and customary use of resources.

Thirty four villages set up information centres in their village meeting rooms, using funds provided by the project. These act as documentation centres, holding information and photos about the village which can be used for community education and research. The village regulations and information from government agencies are also displayed.

The project gave funds to 23 villages to carry out environmental protection activities in their communities, and it also supported a community to revitalise its 2 km. sq. area of forest by committing not to cut timber, hunt animals or carry out other damaging activities.

The 550 sq. km. of Ob Luang National Park cuts across some villages and their farm lands in our project area. Using satellite maps of community lands we helped villages begin negotiating with the park authorities to have the park boundaries relocated. In other villages with a history of conflict over land use with the park, we supported the villages to demarcate their farm and forest lands with cement poles and start a dialogue with relevant government authorities. The communities also started to develop and implement

![A Hmong leader conducting a public ceremony attended by central, provincial and district government officials to demarcate people’s agricultural lands. The demarcation process contributes to land tenure security and improved relationship among tribal people, forest department, and national park authorities. Photo: Maurizio Farhan Ferrari](image)
their own regulations and agreements for the use of their lands based on traditional knowledge and customary use.

To assist community participation in the management of the Ob Luang National Park as part of our collaboration with the Joint Management of Protected Areas initiative (JoMPA) run by the government, we supported numerous village committee meetings, trainings for villagers involved in Watershed Network Committees, meetings of the women’s network of the Highland Conservation Group and meetings between the organisations involved in JoMPA. As a result, highlanders and lowlanders have now started to appreciate their differences, respect each other, and implement joint conservation projects.

As part of its work to support communities facing conflict with government over natural resources, the project successfully enlisted the help of the National Human Rights Commission, lawyers and the media to stop the government relocating two highland communities from their traditional lands in another part of northern Thailand.

Community trainees, NGOs and government officers significantly increased their understanding of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its articles and mechanisms relevant to indigenous peoples through a conference organised by IMPACT in December. IMPACT also shared lessons learned in community mapping and customary sustainable use at four regional workshops in southeast Asia.

**Bangladesh**

The Sundarbans mangrove forest in Bangladesh was declared a protected forest in 1878. Three wildlife sanctuaries were established within it in 1977, including the core area of Sundarbans Tiger Reserve. Thousands of local communities, including Munda indigenous communities, derive their living from their customary use of the mangrove’s resources, including fishing and collecting wood, palm fronds and honey, yet their access to these resources is very strictly controlled by the Forest Department.

In 2007 the communities completed a study of their customary use of the forest, carried out by a team of people selected by the communities, who were trained and supported by two local NGOs, Nijera Kori and Unnayan Onneshan, and FPP. A video documentary of the study was produced and will be completed with English subtitles in 2008.

Using this research study and a previous analysis carried out by FPP of the flaws in the GEF- and ADB-funded Sunderban Biodiversity Conservation Project, we and our partners organised a national workshop with representatives of the communities and the Bangladesh government in Dhaka. This called on the government to reform governance in the Sundarbans and strengthen conservation by recognising traditional knowledge and practices and tackling the corruption in the Forest Department. The conference highlighted the role of local communities in biodiversity protection, and the need for their full involvement in the management of this important wetland forest, in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Programme of Work on Protected Areas and Article 10(c), which the Bangladesh government has signed up to.

We supported the communities and our partner NGOs to start developing a Sundarbans Community-based Management Plan, based on the forest users’ customary use and their desire for sustainable management of their resources revealed by their own research. With technical advice from FPP, the local team started building the capacity of the communities to develop the plan, by training community coordinators and nominees in community-based management of protected areas, and organising visits to other communities that are already managing protected areas. The local team consulted with the communities to collect baseline data for the plan and identify the traditional institutions that can contribute their knowledge and authority to the management of the Sundarbans. The first steps were taken to draft a paper on how laws and regulations must be reformed so that communities can play their rightful role in the management of the Sundarbans.

Our work was put on hold in November when super cyclone Sidr hit the Sundarbans, damaging 25% of the area. In response to this emergency situation we collected information on how Sidr had affected the communities and their livelihoods, people’s insights into the factors that made the Sundarbans and its people vulnerable and how the risks of disaster and climatic change in the Sundarbans could be reduced. The researchers have also started to develop a proposal for how traditional forest users can make a alternative living during the off-season, thereby reducing the pressure on the Sundarbans’ natural resources so that they are able to regenerate in time for the main harvesting season.

**Cameroon**

The Boumba-Bek and Nki National Parks, gazetted in 2005, overlap the traditional territories of Baka hunter-gatherers in southeast Cameroon. In collaboration with our national partner CED, three local NGOs and one Baka association, FPP continued work to get the rights of the Baka recognised and protected in the park management plans.

During 2007 the team produced 15 draft maps of Baka and local community land use. This involved training the local NGOs in participatory approaches and mapping techniques such as sketch mapping and GPS methods, and training 66 Baka cartographers to collect field data on traditional resource use. These maps will be presented back to the communities for their comments, and to park managers to explore ways of addressing Baka use rights in the park management plans.

We identified three main areas used both by Baka communities and the parks’ populations of chimpanzees and gorillas. During 2008 we will work with communities and conservation agencies to develop new approaches to enable Baka communities to protect their forest rights as well as conserving the great ape populations.
Central African Republic (CAR)
The traditional lands of the Bayaka hunter-gatherers of south-west CAR lie partly within the Dzanga Protected Area Complex (DPAC) which was imposed on the Bayaka without prior consultation, and is now managed by WWF. The Bayaka are prohibited from entering protected zones within DPAC and up to now have had no say in park management or in choosing what type of development projects they want the park managers to implement. WWF is seeking FPP’s assistance to help DPAC comply with the WWF/IUCN Principles and Guidelines for conservation projects and indigenous peoples.

International conservation policy

CBD
We succeeded in getting positive language on protection of indigenous rights incorporated into a number of documents and activities of the Conventional on Biological Diversity (CBD). We did this by working closely with our national partners and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the CBD Alliance, to feed the results of our country level work on customary use of resources and community-based management into CBD meetings.

The four CBD meetings we targeted dealt with indicators for measuring progress in implementing the CBD, the work of the CBD Working Group on Article 8j (which requires governments to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles), activities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, the CBD’s ecosystem approach to biodiversity conservation and the participation of indigenous and local communities in countries’ National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.

IUCN
With our partners, we shared our experiences of rights-based approaches to conservation with the members of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA), the Theme on Governance, Equity and Rights (TGER) and the 3rd Regional Workshop of the Collaborative Management Learning Network (CMLN) on Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas in Southeast Asia.

Global Environment Facility
FPP worked with the Mby’a Guarani in southern Paraguay and their representative organization, ACIDI, to address the serious impacts of a national park imposed on Mby’a ancestral lands with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funding channelled through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Following our advocacy work UNDP and GEF have committed to ensuring indigenous peoples’ participation and consent and expressed interest in supporting indigenous mapping of their traditional lands and resource use and titling of their lands in order to ensure sustainable conservation.

FPP’s detailed desk review of a sample of large GEF conservation projects, approved in 2006-2008 and affecting indigenous peoples, revealed serious ongoing concerns about how these projects are dealing with social and human rights issues.

High Conservation Values Resource Network
FPP is playing a leading role in a new international network involving NGOs, indigenous peoples, companies and aid agencies who share a concern to develop clear and agreed methods that define and protect areas containing ‘High Conservation Values’ (HCV).

HCV include not just biological values such as endangered species, habitats and landscapes but also social values such as ecological services, sources of livelihood and sacred sites, vital to peoples’ ways of life. By adopting an agreed Charter signed on to by key HCV practitioners, the Network seeks to ensure that this landscape zoning approach is carried out responsibly i.e. assesses the full range of HCVs, is done in transparent and peer reviewed ways, conforms to legality, respects customary rights and is subject to local peoples’ direct participation and consent.

FPP participated in a series of workshops in Brazil, Indonesia, Sweden and the UK designed to promote this inclusive use of the HCV approach. For more details see www.hcvnetwork.org

FPIC
The requirement that projects on indigenous peoples’ lands should not go ahead without obtaining their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is a key principle informing FPP’s work. Indigenous peoples’ right to FPIC, derived from international law, means that they have the right to refuse proposed development or conservation schemes on their lands, or if they accept them, to insist on changes to ensure they bring real benefits to their people, and have decision-making processes that fit with their own customs and preferences.

Our synthesis report ‘Making FPIC - Free, Prior and Informed Consent - Work: Challenges and Prospects for Indigenous Peoples’ was published in June in English, Spanish, French and Bahasa Indonesia. It drew together a literature review, case studies and country reports and the results of a three day workshop held in April in Cibodas, Indonesia, reviewing partners’ experiences of exercising their right to FPIC in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cameroon, Suriname,
Guyana and Peru. We also published separate country reports from Suriname, Peru and Indonesia, in several languages.

In south west Cameroon, Bagyeli hunter-gatherer communities renegotiated their status in the management plan for Campo Ma’an National Park and obtained government recognition of Bagyeli access and use rights in the whole of the park. This was achieved through advocacy work combining the conclusions from FPP’s long-term work on FPIC with the mapping of Bagyeli land use in 160,000 ha in and around the park. This gain helped influence similar discussions about the Nki and Boumba Bek National Parks in south east Cameroon.

In Indonesia, three clusters of indigenous communities started using the concepts of FPIC to resolve conflicts with loggers, plantations and state agencies responsible for forest protection. In Flores, the communities reclaimed access to chunks of their land, set up precedent-setting legal arrangements and built up good dialogues with the local State executive and legislatures. In East Kalimantan the Lusang communities formed a new quasi-traditional organisation and negotiated for better benefit sharing from the loggers.

This FPIC work was funded through foreign grants to AMAN, the national indigenous organisation, two of whose staff members were taken on by FPP to carry out the FPIC work. The Indonesian forests and environment ministries had to sign off on the grants meaning that the government has accepted that FPIC is needed. It should thus be easier to replicate and scale up FPP’s work on FPIC.

A regional dialogue on climate change with the West Papuan provincial government and legislature heard FPP’s presentations on FPIC and accepted that FPIC must be applied, and forest peoples’ rights respected, in any activities on REDD carried out by Indonesia. FPIC was also a key argument in our input to discussions on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures at the UNFCCC in Bali (see page 7).

Rights and Resources Initiative

The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) is a new coalition of NGOs and international agencies seeking to put forest peoples’ rights at the heart of forest policy reform (www.rightsandresources.org). FPP is playing a key role in RRI both as a partner and Board member. RRI brings together a wide range of organisations with complementary bodies of knowledge and advocacy skills including two research organisations, CIFOR and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), community forestry networks, FECOFUN and ACICAFOC, developing country NGOs, Civic Response (Ghana) and the Foundation for Peoples and Community Development (PNG), the Asia Pacific Regional Community Forestry Training Centre (RECOFTC), a development organisation, Intercooperation of Switzerland and a human rights organisation, FPP.

During 2007, the new initiative focused its work on a programme of ‘Listening, Learning and Sharing’ to ensure that the voices of forest peoples and other rights-holders were properly heard in the build up towards planned forest policy interventions in the following years. FPP thus collaborated with other RRI partners in a series of meetings in SE Asia, involving indigenous peoples, NGOs, government agencies and academics from 12 countries which pooled all the available information about peoples’ rights in forests in the region. This resulted in the launch of a joint FPP-ICRAF-RECOFTC report titled ‘Land, Forest and People: facing the challenges in SE Asia’ at a regional conference in Bangkok in September. To help underpin the RRI’s advocacy of a rights-based approach to forests, FPP also published a detailed review of its own work titled ‘Beyond Tenure: rights-based approaches to peoples and forests’, which was presented at the same conference in Bangkok and in a revised form at a further conference on forest policies hosted by the Swedish International Development Agency in Stockholm in October.

FPP also helped extend the ‘Listening, Learning and Sharing’ approach with other RRI partners into Africa by hosting a workshop in Cameroon on forest tenure and community land and resource rights with indigenous and civil society representatives from 12 west and central African countries. Participants compared national contexts and recommended actions to enhance indigenous and local community forest tenure, as part of longer term research and advocacy strategies.

Monitoring logging

Community-based monitoring of illegal logging in Cameroon took a step forward when FPP and our partners secured funds for new mapping equipment specifically designed for non-literate forest communities.

The technology uses culturally relevant pictorial icons to record logging events on a palm-held device, and was developed by the UK software company Helveta in collaboration with FPP and the London School of Economics.

In 2008 we will train at least 15 forest communities in logging areas to document and report illegal logging on their lands, as part of the EU-backed Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) initiatives which seek to ensure that only legally produced timber enters the European market.

In northern Republic of Congo, the CIB logging company continued to support Mbengele hunter-gatherers to document their key resources in areas targeted for logging, and to protect these resources in CIB logging plans, as part of their compliance with the Forest Stewardship Council’s Principles 2 and 3 (tenure and use rights and indigenous peoples’ rights) for certified sustainable timber. FPP monitored CIB’s implementation of their FSC programme, and a World Bank-funded community radio programme.
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O/B £253,329
Income £591,811
Grants 97.4%
Overheads 2.3%
Bank Interest 0.2%
Publications 0.1%

Expenditure £670,369
Staff costs 42.0%
Field projects 35.4%
Travel/M&E 10.5%
Administration 6.0%
Publications 4.3%
IT/equipment 1.8%