

**THE ACCESS INITIATIVE  
THIRD GLOBAL GATHERING**  
ACCESS RIGHTS, POVERTY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE

*October 28th –30<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Kampala, Uganda*

**REPORT PROCEEDINGS**



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE

The  
**Access**  
Initiative



## Table of Contents

Acronyms.....	3
<b>1. Introduction</b>	
Methodology.....	6
Workshop Goal.....	5
<b>2. Inaugural Session</b>	
Welcome Statement .....	7
Statement from World Bank Representative .....	7
Statement from TAI founder.....	8
Guest Speaker .....	8
<b>3. Plenary session 1</b>	
Objectives and themes .....	9
Expectations, ground rules and introduction to main themes.....	10
<b>4. Plenary sessionn 2</b>	
Advocacy on the National Green Tribunal Bill:.....	10
Public access to information and participation: Facilitating National Information.....	11
Cameroon’s success story:.....	11
Philippine Success Story.....	12
TAI Re-Envisioning and Evaluation:.....	13
Steve Bass, IIED .....	13
Deepening TAI work and strengthening the network: TAI Network in India.....	14
P10 Index:.....	18
Group Discussion.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
<b>5. Plenary session 3</b>	
Setting agenda for RIO 2012 .....	19
<b>6. Plenary session 4:</b>	
Climate governance and access rights .....	21
<b>7. Plenary session 5:</b>	
Transparency and accountability in the extractives sector .....	23
<b>8. Parallel session:</b>	
1. Writing for the web: Maggie Baron.....	28
2. A seat at the table.....	30
<b>9. Prenary session 6</b>	
Introduction of Toolkits .....	30
Introducing the governance forest initiatives framework of indicators.....	32
<b>10. Parallel Session</b>	

---

1. Access to Justice in Environmental Decision-Making.....	33
2. Extractive industry Workshop .....	36
<b>11. Parallel Official Regional Meetings</b>	
Concrete Community Based Action .....	37
Official Plenary of TAI Network.....	39
Terms of Reference for RIO + 20 Taskforce .....	41
<b>12. Parallel Session</b>	
1. ARIA toolkit-Adaptation-Rapid Institution Analysis.....	42
2. GFI Toolkit – Governance of Forest Initiative .....	43
3. EGI Toolkit – Electricity Governance Toolkit- .....	44
4. Media Training: Between ideas and action - Robin Murphy:.....	45
<b>13. Official Closing</b>	
Closing Remarks	
Vote of thanks: .....	47
<b>14. Annex 1</b>	
Global Gathering Agenda .....	50

## Acronyms

ABDES	Bolivian Civil Society Alliance for Sustainable Development
ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
ARIA	Adaptation-Rapid Institution Analysis
BDCP	Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme
CE	Cultura Ecológica, A.C.
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CT	Core Team
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EGI	Electricity Governance Initiative
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EITI	Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
EMLA	Environment Management and Law Association
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FEDEV	Foundation for Environment and Development
GFI	Governance of Forests Initiative
GG	Global Gathering
ICEL	Indonesian Center for Environmental Law
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ILEG	Institute of Law and Environmental Governance
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LIFE	Lawyers Initiative for Forest and Environment
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOUs	Memorandum of Understanding
MPs	Partners of Parliament
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGOs	Non Governmental Organisations
P10 Index	Principle 10 Legal Index
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
TAI	The Access Initiative
TEI	Thailand Environment Institute
TORs	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar (s)
WRI	World Resource Institute

## Introduction



Every two years The Access Initiative organizes a Global Gathering which brings together representatives of partner organizations to discuss ways of ensuring that citizens have the right and ability to influence decisions about the environment and natural resources that sustain their communities. The third gathering took place at Lake Victoria Serena Resort in Kampala, Uganda between 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The event was organized around the theme “*Access Rights, Poverty and Environmental Democracy Worldwide*”. It was a call for civil society organizations to increase their advocacy and outreach work in four areas which had been identified by the network as having significant implications for environmental sustainability and democracy in the 21st Century. The areas include;

- Climate change governance,
- Environmental justice and poverty,
- Extractive industries with particular emphasis on oil governance and
- Renewing the call for environmental democracy: *The Rio Principles at 20*.

The event provided an opportunity for the network to celebrate the last ten years as a network and look ahead in preparation for the Rio+20 Earth Summit. The aim of this gathering was to rally the network to focus its efforts in the coming years on getting the international community to recommit itself to the implementation of the principles of environmental democracy, therefore, ensuring people have the right to access information, to participate in decision-making and have access to redress and remedy. The themes of the meeting were built to celebrate the successes of partners around the world for the last ten years as well as, of TAI follow the traditions of the other two Global Gatherings (the first one was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2006 and the second Global Gathering was held in Sligo, Ireland in 2008).

## Goal

The overall goal of the Kampala 2010 TAI Global Gathering was to formulate and adopt a forward looking Global Plan of Action to accelerate the implementation of access rights as a strategy to achieve greater democracy and environmental sustainability at the national level, with a particular focus on themes identified above. As the first international gathering of TAI to be held in Africa, the meeting provided an additional rare opportunity to examine the above thematic issues from an African perspective and the role of African civil society organizations in environmental governance.



The event was attended by 120 participants from 35 countries. The table below lists the number of participants by region and the appendix at the end of the report lists each of the participants and their affiliations.

Region	Number
Europe	8
Latin America	8
Asia	11
Africa	77
North America	15

## Methodology

The report content is derived principally from the PowerPoint/multimedia presentations which portrayed progress made; gave an overview of the situational analysis on issues that were discussed during the meeting. Parallel (thematic) and plenary discussions as well as case studies were also key methods of delivery during the gathering and provide important sources for this report.

## Key content

This report summarizes the key content of the Gathering. It synthesizes the main ideas emerged from key presentations, multiple small group presentations and open discussions.

The report is presented in the chronological order as per the program schedule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> TAI Gathering.

## DAY 1 (Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010)

### Inaugural Session:

#### *Welcome Statement: Godber Tumushabe (ACODE):*

Godber reminded partners that during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 1992, countries committed themselves to promote access to justice under the Rio Declaration. He asked partners to consider what has been achieved, what has changed and what they can do to achieve more. Making reference to oil discoveries in some countries, he remarked that it's unfortunate that some of it is in National Parks. He added that oil drilling without diminishing natural resources is a huge challenge facing such countries, particularly in Africa. He regretted that some countries do not have the discipline to ensure that the environment and resources people survive on are protected. He stressed the need for accountability and transparency in exploiting resources.

To conclude Godber acknowledged support from various organizations whose contributions facilitated the successful organization of the meeting. Those given a special mention were:

- The World Resources Institute
- The World Bank
- Mac Arthur Foundation
- The Think Tank Initiative
- Melinda Foundation
- Netherlands Government
- OSI-East Africa Office
- OSI-South Africa Office Through Angola
- USAID through the Linkages Program
- Global Green Grants Program

#### *Remarks - World Bank Representative: Kulsum Ahmed:*

Kulsum noted the particular reasons why it was important for the the World Bank to support The Access Initiative over the last three years and particularly the third global gathering. The Bank believes in partnerships as the best way of realizing development. She added that her presence at the meeting was based on 1) to witness how the issue of poverty dimension is emphasized 2) determine if there



is shift in balance of power at regional and national level in developing countries 3) establish how much follow up of the many assessments is done. **Remarks - TAI founder: Frances Seymour-** Through a recorded relay, Frances revealed that TAI was formed to look for answers to worsening poverty, deterioration of environment, enlist public participation, promote justice in environmental issues and promotion of public awareness to raise awareness and educate people at the local levels to better understand and participate in the debate on issues related to climate change, deforestation, management of resources, water and land and promote evidence based assessments, increase openness, participation and accountability. She regretted having missed the chance to be at the gathering and particularly to meet new partners since 2005.

Giving the history of TAI, Frances revealed that TAI was born at a meeting where the World Resources Institute (WRI) ACODE, Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA) and where after thinking big the delegates resolved to form a network. She admitted that there were disagreements along the way related to the strategies to apply, governance but those are long gone. She urged them to be proud of the progress they have made and added that they should focus on the Agenda before them.

### **Guest Speaker – Hon (Ret.) Justice Kanyeihamba:**

As the key note speaker, Hon. Justice Kanyeihamba addressed the gathering with an impromptu speech. His overall message was centered around the way TAI partners around the world can further disseminate important policy information to everyone, especially the people most affected by bad governance reforms. He urged participants to ensure that their contributions reach the ordinary people.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Justice Kanyeihamba applauded ACODE's numerous achievements particularly in the area of rights advocacy, especially through publication and dissemination of many policy papers. He regretted that the days of serious debate and discussion of theoretical frameworks and setting rules of environment utilization have long gone. He added that he has written many papers on environment including his university thesis, where he stresses the need to involve ordinary people in decision making.



He observed that the ideas discussed in such gatherings end up in academic offices, as well as Judges' and Lawyers' Chambers yet these know these rules. He challenged environmental activists to consider if they have implemented the rules, if they have monitored their enforcement and why certain strategies have not been implemented and their impact measured.

Justice Kanyeamba noted that environment is a very broad subject capable of taking many shapes – a good environment for a workshop, for administration, tennis or for making love. He emphasized that many messages can be generated from the subject and urged participants to consider how they disseminate their messages to the ordinary person in order to equip and empower them to claim and defend their rights.

Citing his experience in various parts of Uganda where he gave lectures on corruption and good governance, Justice Kanyeamba noted that the ordinary people are willing to listen to critical policy issues and encouraged policy advocacy institutions to reach out to the grassroots.

## Plenary session 1:

### *Objectives and themes – Lalanath De Silva, Director, The Access Initiative, World Resource Institute (WRI):*

Addressing the participants at the third Global Gathering, under Lalanath's tenure as the Director of The Access Initiative, Lalanath poetically observed that when people gather to eat and gossip; ties are strengthened. He added that when clouds gather the outcome is rain, when water gathers it creates seas, pools and when TAI gathers; the spirit and ties are strengthened. He challenged partners to consider what their legacy is and whether the TAI legacy is becoming more clear. . He added that the TAI assessments should be part of their legacy.



Lalanath underscored the importance of community participation in TAI activities and hailed the TAI partners in Sri Lanka, Macedonia and India who have embraced that approach. He outlined TAI achievements which have been accomplished by conducting TAI assessments, using TAI tools, and ensuring capacity building on the ground to ensure signs of real change take place at the national and local levels. He suggested that TAI future activities will focus on two key areas: changes in government policy and resource mobilization. He asserted that democracy can only reign when people meet and discuss to come to an agreement and TAI speakers are making amends across the world.

On branding, Lalanath urged participants to consider whether the media knew what TAI was and whether global orientation could help the TAI internationally. He asked the partners to think on how to brand TAI using the group their own networks and through advertising their access related work as part of TAI, regardless of the source of funding. He stressed that it's important to make their efforts visible.

In his concluding, Lalanath challenged TAI partners to rise above the crowd and become principle movers of growth. He ended with Nelson Mandela's quote; "*we are the masters of our fate, captains of our soul*"

***Expectations, ground rules and introduction to main themes of the Global Gathering: Jacob Werksman, - World Resource Institute (WRI):***



Jacob (WRI, USA) observed that TAI was an important initiative and went ahead to propose the ground rules that were adopted to guide the proceedings. Key among the rules was the respect for other people's views even when one had divergent

ones.

The themes of the Global Gathering were outlined as follows:

- Climate change governance
- Environmental justice and poverty
- The issue of extractive industries
- Reviewing the call for environment democracy and the RIO 2012 principles.

The expected outcomes of the Global Gathering included:

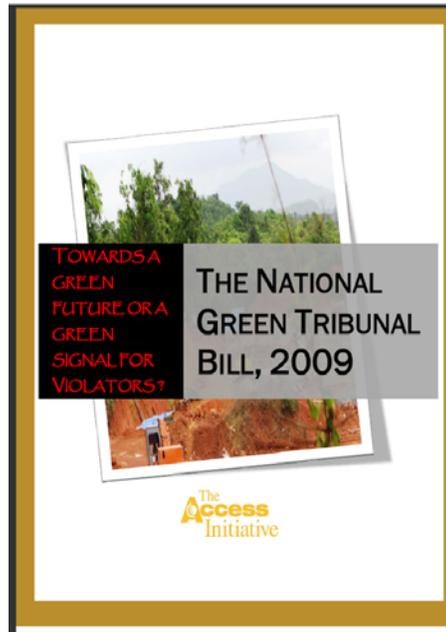
- Gather and share new ideas strategies and solutions for ground changes
- Collaborate to build and revise TAI tools
- Build and use the community of practice
- Evaluation at the end

**Plenary session 2: Celebrating success stories**

As part of this session, partners presented stories from their respective countries on the important successes which were achieved in the last two years. This session not only highlighted the successes of the individual country successes but also crystallized how the network has shifted its focus from evaluating environmental regulations and laws to implementing changes on the ground for everyone to reap the benefits.

***Advocacy on the National Green Tribunal Bill, Ritwick Dutta, LIFE:***

Ritwick (Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment – LIFE, India) presented a success story about the work the TAI-India coalition undertook in 2009 in order to strengthen environmental laws in India. He noted that the achievements of the coalition, which worked together to draft recommendations on the new Green Tribunal Bill before it was passed by the Indian government. In order to galvanize support for the recommendations, The coalition garnered support of the media and also brought the issue before the High Court which ruled in favor of the recommendations. He further revealed that the efforts resulted in the law stating that only an organization in the field of environment can file a petition focusing only on substantial matters concerning environmental issues affecting communities and groups.



Furthermore, by engaging CSOs and local communities, in consultative sessions, as well as, engineering debates in parliament, 36 MPs opposed the Bill. Their efforts yielded results, forcing 10 amendments to the hitherto draconian Bill. Changes were also made to the statutory appointments provided for in the Bill and the line Minister had a meeting with the coalition to determine how the institutional mechanisms can be made more effective.

***Public access to information and participation: Facilitating National Information Commission - Henri Subagyo (ICEL Indonesia):***

Henri (Indonesia Center for Environmental Law – ICEL, Indonesia) presented on their work in Indonesian around their work with the National Information Commission of Indonesia to develop the Freedom of Information Act to facilitate better access to information. He outlined some of the outcomes of these efforts which include, media adjudication on disputes related to access to information, the Attorney General’s commitment to support the access to information agenda, developing the NIC strategic plan for five years (2010-2014), formulating NIC standards on public information service, formulating National Information Commission procedures and establishment of 3 provincial information commissions. As a result, more than 10 provincial information commissions are in the process of being established. The coalition also supported the Supreme Court, the Judicial Reform Team and Greening Bench Initiative.

***Cameroon’s success story: Nchunu Justice Sama (FEDEV)***

Nchunu (Foundation for Environment and Development – FEDEV, Cameroon) spoke about the National Resource Conflict Management Initiative in Cameroon. He described the conflict emanating from poor natural resource management which led to loss of life. He revealed that conflicts related to natural resources disputes in Cameroon are handled

by an Administrative Officer. As part of his work as a TAI coalition partner, he consulted the Cameroonian coalition on the matter and they advised him to include stakeholders in the arbitration of the conflicts. FEDEV organized a workshop whose evaluation showed that it was successful. They suggested greening of the judiciary because they realized that environmental issues were not being addressed due lack of capacity. Based on the TAI assessment results, the coalition determined that some cases were being compromised due to inefficiencies in the judiciary, judges requested for training in human rights. As a result 45 judges were trained and given publications.

In another case, FEDEV sought input from local communities, which revealed that when that there was waste dumping taking place on River Senegal. FEDEV went to court to challenge the location of the dumping site. The Government tried to argue that the court had no powers to hear the case but FEDEV showed it had competence to entertain the case and resolved to visit the site. The authorities asked for time to make adjustments and cleared the site during that time before the court officials visited the place.

### ***Philippine Success Story - Loraine Gatlabayan, Ateneo School of Government***

All over the world, environmental injustices have led to the loss of lives. In particular, Loraine (Ateneo School of Government, Philippines) described a case in the Philippines which has been ongoing for 16 years. A coalition of NGOs outlined five justice issues faced by civil communities, even though the Philippines has a number of environmental courts 3000 environmental cases are pending because the courts which are supposed to handle the backlog are poorly designed and therefore, inefficient. The coalition undertook advocacy work which resulted in a resolution on rules of procedure and writ of Kalikasan law that checks destructive activities. She cited some challenges facing people that want to file cases in environmental courts including filing fees and knowing the proper rules for filing. She added that there is need to conduct an impact assessment to determine the gains made and monitor implementation.

### ***Comments and Reactions***

Key commentary and comments from this session include:

- Honorable Justice Kanyehamba from Uganda, remarked that Justices cannot decide cases out of the blue because lawyers have to file the cases first. He asked the TAI coalition to lay out a clear plan for training more lawyers in environmental law.
- It was observed that even where the filing fee was abolished, the element of fees is still there because lawyers have to be paid.
- In Uganda the Judiciary was criticized for delaying cases citing two examples; one the Butamila case which has been pending since 2003 and the case against Kakira Sugar Works which was filed in 2004. Others on oil concessions and Mabira Forest have not been fixed for hearing. Participants observed that the cases should be publicized to put pressure on the courts to act.

- In Cameroon the costs depend on the court and cases of that nature have been publicized.

### ***TAI Re-Envisioning and Evaluation: Initial Findings and issues arising - Steve Bass, IIED***

In mid-2010, a team of consultants from International Institute for Environment and Development – IIED (UK), lead by Steve Bass, were contracted by the TAI Secretariat as part of the provisions of the World Bank Grant, to conduct an evaluation of the TAI network. As part of this evaluations,

Steve presented initial recommendations and findings from the report to the network at the Global Gathering. In his opening statement, Steve assured partners that there was no need for unease about his findings since it was a draft report and the results were intended to inform the network for its strategy going forward.

#### **Methodology**

In order to conduct the evaluation the consultant team took a multi-pronged approach consisting of the following: reviewing documents provided by the Secretariat and the World Bank, conducting case studies in three TAI partner countries, mainly through interviews, and conducted phone interviews with TAI network members (a sample set including the Core Team), and finally they conducted a survey of the network.

#### **Findings**

In Steve's presentation of the findings he, highlighted some of the outcomes, achievements and areas where the network could make improvements:

TAI is becoming increasingly relevant and as people keep on wailing for justice, governments are closing the gaps. Steve cautioned that anti-corporate power is rising, as deregulation sets in and states getting weaker and weaker.

1. 48 national assessments were conducted, 50 national coalitions mobilized and national reforms initiated in -----countries. He noted that although tools were developed there is a challenge of language given that partners speak different languages.
2. 10 years is enough time to yield change he was not sure whether it was getting better each year.
3. There is a need to build TAI identity from the 200 CSOs, emphasizing credibility and a level every playing field.
4. TAI can influence assets and has the mandate to assist at national level. He hailed WRI's hands-on support but noted that regional secretariats need to be set up and emphasized sharing of institutional roles.
5. He however warned of unresolved financial sourcing for the future because donors do not prioritize access to rights and TAI is not visible in many countries

therefore difficult to raise funds. He observed that WRI commitment has sustained TAI to date but challenged the partners to think about its commitment within the network.

6. Steve stated that given that TAI is a pioneer in organic governance, its roles should be refocused. He recommended that more attention should be shifted to national level projects instead of regional based work. He used the example of two sources of power lines, one using ancient system and the other modern with a central system networking several consumers, to portray the best option for TAI. He observed that promoting access together, developing a prospectus of can-do approaches, national access strategies and refreshing the strategy focusing on regional level and capacity would be a good way forward for TAI.

### **Comments and reactions**

A participant asked whether it could be ascertained that all those outcomes outlined are TAI's achievements. In response, Steve explained that he looked at key drivers and nature of the success stories. He said that TAI is about mobilizing knowledge and building capacities and that might be the most important contribution to the complex network. He concluded that he has not seen any network that mobilizes better than TAI.

### ***Deepening TAI work and strengthening the network: Introduction*** **Breakout Groups Faciliated by Somrudee Nicro, TEI**

The goal of this session was to determine how TAI as a network is branded; How it has achieved its major outcomes: How we strengthen and deepen our influence; and possible development of a TAI Principle 10 index. As an introduction to this session, Ritwick Dutta, (LIFE, India) made a few opening remarks about the TAI India coalition and how they have branded their work nationally. He revealed that their main focus was sharing information and interacts on a daily basis and this required that people who wanted to be part of the coalition would group where the partner would give views and the others counter views. Some work they have undertaken in the last two years, in addition to the TAI national assessment have helped to strengthen their coalition. This work has focused on impact assessments and documenting public hearings, sharing experiences on issues such as mining and dam construction. They also have a TAI-India Google group where they have vibrant discussions about access related issues and serve as confidants who offer suggestions on pertinent issues.

This opening was followed by a break out session in which 10 groups where formed TAI partners answered the following questions:

1. How can the TAI Network deepen or strengthen the network?
2. What is the best way to brand TAI?
3. Do you think the P10 index is a good idea?

Results were compiled from four surveys that were returned to the Secretariat from the meeting and the following documents the results.

**Question one:**

*HOW CAN WE DEEPEN OR STRENGTHEN OUR NETWORK?*

Global

- Raise public awareness about TAI activities at all national, regional and global levels.
- Access rights should be related to specific resources and subject specific matters. For instance, environmental conflicts, forest, water, oil, land, poverty etc. this is important because the notion of access appear to be big and vague from a macro perspective.
- How to make the vision understandable and to be able to make begin a TAI coalition in other countries.
- There needs to be a focus on training partner's skills on coalition building. How are we growing coalitions who are our leadership base? We need to look for young partners in TAI. In Malaysia 70% of the coalition is over 50 years and we need new models for making TAI cool for young people to join.
- How does TAI support country partners where access rights are disappearing?
- They were pre-occupied by how TAI can be more credible
- If you want to bring results there must be unity
- We need to improve our identity, share and use TAI logo
- Use existing network of public lawyers
- How can we do lobbying
- Did not have common points
- Importance of synergies – maintain relationship of existing networks
- How can we do lobbying
- Enter a relationship with the Secretariat and share information on what we are doing
- To think of a possibility of a global campaign,
- Secretariat should guide members on environmental principles, climate change and access to work
- TAI needs to be a loose network not a closed one and needs better organization
- TAI should be funding driven
- Push TAI activities to high level events
- There is need for a global secretariat to fund partners in less developed countries
- Minorities must be included
- Language is a big problem

Regional

- Raise public awareness about TAI activities at all national, regional and global levels.
- Need for fund raising and lobbying at global level.
- Country coalitions should be robust and work well. Regional leads should enhance networking and communication with coalition partners.
- We need to have a regional approach and more empowerment provided

## National

- Not all national coalitions are working well. Thus we need to strengthen national coalitions. Partners have to be more committed and engaged in more collective work.
- Identify capacities, share experiences and strategies. For instance country partners could assist in training capacity building activities in other countries where possible.
- The need to realize more of a coalition rather than fighting to achieve the particular aims of organizations. The issue was also raised as to manage the issue of finances and the fact that most people were more concerned about finances. Example was given of Peru where finance was given in 2005 and when the part of the work was done and the finance finish people were not willing to go ahead to do more work.
- Encourage the involvement of government agencies such as ministries. The need to bring on board other coalitions that focus on other issues such as petroleum.
- Decentralization of TAI within countries. A good example was given of Kenya where the TAI kind was not so successful there because of the lack of a coalition.
- Strengthening in a country depends on linking with the right groups in all three pillars.
- Think of organizations as a coalition
- Have a more systematic coalition
- We need to consider whether TAI is an assessment project only
- Involve communities in TAI assessments and disseminate recommendations to the public
- There is need to initiate and strengthen partnership and work with local community through promotion of their participation, developing and implementing a good governance and capacity building strategy.
- TAI coalitions are white elephants in some countries
- There is need to identify capacities of partners
- Based on funding after it loses momentum
- Most NGOs are thin on the ground
- The intentions must be there

## Examples:

- In Mexico the three groups work like one coalition. But it is important to have projects together or does not work. Their work has been primarily on ATI and PP. They have not discussed how they deepen on Access to Justice,
- Uganda – Progress has been made after the first assessment where a coalition was built and helped passed FOI law. Then after this it has been silence. Another assessment was started but not concluded and the coalition broke away. We regrouped for the planning of this event and We have decided to come up with a plan around issues and not activities and we also discussed governance of the coalition on thematic grounds and mapping of actors and we need a way for us also to work on firefighting together but we also need attribution.

- Malaysia- NGO's often get tired and burn out from funding struggles and driven by funding and not passion. There is a place we need to be to drive a critical mass of people which is in coalition. Partnerships are critical. In Malaysia they have a strong framework for action under all of the pillars Each NGO is a champion for a specific issues but they all support persons whose campaigns, persons are elected to lead each topic area. You build branding and identity through coalition building framework that has a governance system in place that can respond to the environment.
- Cameroon- our group is not part of TAI coalition as we have never done an assessment we work for women who do not have a voice. How does a group become a TAI member?
- Uganda has 5 organizations and only 3 are active since there are other organizations why can't they come on board
- In Madagascar there is already a coalition working with communities

**Question two:**

*WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO BRAND TAI?*

- Participants should strategize and market TAI work to high level international and regional events like the Climate Change negotiation, Rio 2010, UN forest negotiation, the EC meetings etc.
- The essence of TAI is the need to achieve results on the ground. For other organization to be a part of the TAI coalition and for donors to be able to support the TAI process be it on a national level or international there is the need for credibility of the TAI network as a coalition of organizations that can bring results, better at implementation, evaluation- an outstanding achievements that can be attributed to the TAI. The need for unity in the TAI coalition –that is the need for a coalition rather than individual organizations focusing on achieving their own objectives especially in relation to projects that are on a TAI national level. There was the concern that most achievements on behalf of TAI were achievements by each organization rather than on a TAI national level. In order to brand the TAI therefore there was the need to make the organization credible by achieving more TAI national results.
- Forming a coalition around the principles 10 and forming the organization to conform to this.
- Before we are asked how we can brand TAI how has it branded itself (*food for thought*)

**Question three:**

*PP10 INDEX – Do you think this is a good idea?*

Overall Views:

- It is a very good initiative and should be developed. We should thereafter lobby UNEP to recognize and market it. In that vein, country governments will give more credence to it.
- If we do an index it must be simple. That is the key—but a legal index provision is in adequate- what's on paper and what's in practice is more important which implementation practice is.

- It might depend on how you do it – perhaps one can look at the institutions governing natural resources and answer some specific questions on their independence.
- Having an index enables you to see where countries stand. It also focuses attention...people are bound to ask you to clarify it and will it achieve awareness. Look at the Budget and TI Index difference in methodology and impact on the ground.
- The objective should be clear. One limitation is that won't government get confused with the TAI approach which does not compare and this approach which does compare. How will we as TAI partners explain this?
- Index should move from STEP A – to Step B should help countries that currently have access rights repressed.
- Don't underestimate the time and effort to do this. You need an advocacy strategy before you start the index unless you have a strong link it will not work...so work backwards. What would make governments care? Is it an index- what links can you make to the cost of capital, lending exists it only based on embarrassment. Lots of community is indexed out.
- You would have to look for simple ways to do indicators including for FOI and Freedom of speech – you could discuss this with these type of organization
- What is linking this index across sectors more than just the environment? Or should it just address the environment and not sectors?
- We want law and implementation of the law and therefore need to come up with outreach strategy for P10 Index.
- Escapism of such index – won't it divert us

#### Country Views:

- South Africa- In our country it is not the laws that are missing it is the implementation which is what is missing. In electricity the people are completely excluded from participation
- Bolivia is in a situation where they did an assessment in 2004. The Country changed with a new constitution- no longer useful the assessment. They could consider doing another assessment to deepen. They agree with the development of a P10 index. Their main issue is that the conditions of democracy and participation are now appalling so much has changed. How can the international community of TAI or the core team assist in letting the world know the new state of affairs where you now do not have an environmental democracy? They lost their original coalition as for those other groups it was about the money and not the passion. They now have new groups in the coalition of young people who are helping with ARIA.
- P10 index – access to information on laws is lacking in Angola. P10 index will therefore be a standard for national laws
- 

#### ***P10 Index: Jeremy Wates (Consultant) and Carole Excell (WRI):***

After the breakout sessions concluded Jeremy Waters (Consultant, Ireland) and Carole Excell (World Resources Institute, USA) conducted a short plenary conversation on Principle 10 and the idea of a P10 Index. During this conversation, partners voiced their concerns and support for the creation of a P10 index.

To start of the conversations, Jeremy asked whether people understood the details of Principle 10. Most TAI partners were familiar with these principles at the international and national levels, however, not all of the partners know that the P10 principles had been adopted by United Nations. Jeremy also highlighted the guidelines that are related to P10.

In order to better understand if was a good idea to create a P10 Index, Jeremy carried out a brief scoping exercise in the USA and Sri Lanka in which he prepared a document highlighting lessons learned (which were passed out at the meeting and are on the TAI website). Jeremy suggested that from his experience and research, he thought it would be useful for the TAI network to develop such an index. He added that it would help to rank countries and identify areas which need reform. He asked participants to think about the credibility of the TAI network over the last ten years when considering moving ahead on such an index.

### **Plenary session 3:**

#### ***Setting agenda for RIO 2012 - Jeremy Wates (Consultant) and Carole Excell (WRI):***

Introducing the topic and the presenters, the chair for this session Hemantha Withanage (Centre for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka), amused participants when he observed that there are people who believe that the world will come to an end in 2012 which is not true. He revealed that the world is setting the agenda for 2012. He added that RIO 2012 will mainly focus on poverty eradication and institutional framework for sustainable development.

As part of Jeremy's presentation he laid the overall framework for the 2012 Rio Summit on Sustainable Development stating that Rio should be used as a place for setting international guidelines, as well as, serve as a place for countries that don't have P10 policies to frame such policies. He added that there is a compliance mechanism when dealing with issues of power. He observed that citizens are claiming that power and it is an issue that will be with us all our lives thus the need to improve the rules of the game. He mentioned that there are guidelines which were adopted in Berlin Germany and UNEP is working on how to follow up to these guidelines. This is important to the TAI network because, whatever plan of work they come up with should be a focus for our work going forward.

The three options that Jeremy suggested for work going forward on Rio+20 include

- A global convention – By expanding Aarhus, though sometimes seen as an European instrument, globally nations could enter into a global agreement on Principle 10 implementation.
- Use the Aarhus convention as a point reference to develop regional conventions, . He added that already there is a set of guidelines meeting the interests of that region. He reminded them that the rights they are discussing are global rights and countries with least progressive positions would be there. He further observed that TAI network could be a powerful resource at the minimum because it brings together powerful organizations to discuss these issues. He warned that it would be dangerous to do nothing.

**Carole Excell:** She reminded partners that in 2012 RIO will take place in Brazil and observed that they have time to do something. She stressed that access rights should be highlighted in RIO. She likened the preparations they need to embark on to a bridge to RIO. She added that the concept of sustainable development is like a bridge where along the way there are different goals, systems mechanisms



to engage CSOs. She noted that this being the start of a process a lot of dialogue was required. Using a pictorial analogue of a bridge in India, Excell remarked that they had to be careful on how to approach RIO 2012. Using another pictorial analogue of a bridge in RIO she outlined what they were going to discuss. She also used a bridge in Singapore and another in Jamaica to portray the global crisis facing and observed that all delegates agree that the world is facing dangers every where.

On the green economy which is theme 1 of the convention she observed that it doesn't have a common definition but explained that it's a new ideology and went ahead to outline what it involves.

On international sustainable development and governance, Excell observed that they have been talking about it for 10 years. She stressed that they need to look at structural issues i.e. more money, more staff.

Excell outlined the process to RIO 2010 and revealed that there will be 3 preparatory meetings in all. About the TAI network, she informed the participants that the Secretariat had sent a questionnaire about the trends to be filled and submitted by October 21<sup>st</sup>. She added that a process of accepting or changing will follow. She asked participants to request for case studies and stories about TAI on internet. She observed that they need to

agree whether the document will be adopted by UN. She added that they need to consider who to use on international scale and determine how they can influence nationally. She noted that this means targeting the right people at national level. She used two bridges, one in Ireland and another in Kenya to demonstrate how turf the road ahead thus the need to avoid infighting and work together.

### ***Comments and reactions***

Participants were told that the discussion has started and the idea of green economy can achieve more if the Government has specific strategy. The presenters noted that they cannot say why it was not achieved but suggested issues like weak partnerships and non compliance of parties involved.

Jeremy stressed that doing nothing about it is unacceptable. He proposed that an African convention should focus on this. He observed that they are accused of importing ideas from Europe but what is crucial is to find out where the agenda begun getting cracks.

Participants heard that there is need for pressure to come from different constituencies backed by clear arguments on how access to information rights will improve sustainable development.

On RIO 2012, the meeting was told that there will be side events and urged that the process of producing substantive statistical sample to support their arguments should begin. They observed that 2002 was about partnership but questioned what happened about principle 10. They revealed that TAI will package its initiatives and efforts for 2012 and will guide advocacy work.

One participant observed that TAI should come up with a campaign for 2012 which requires an implementation framework.

Excell reminded participants to submit their comments on the network's proposed RIO 2012 agenda not later than 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

## **Plenary session 4:**

### ***Climate governance and access rights – Maurice Makoloo (ILEG)***

Explaining the linkage between climate governance and access rights, Makoloo informed participants that majority of our population relies on natural resources for livelihood

which is the source of degradation. He cited references to environment in Kenya's new constitution which he called the referendum constitution. He revealed that they took it upon themselves to equip the messenger i.e. the media. He added that they managed media projects in 9 small groups. He observed that TAI works better when there is improved relationship with the media by giving them trainings on reporting and financial support to enable them come up with stories. He noted that enriching the menu means going beyond planting trees to include strengthening the hands and backs for capacity improvement. In his conclusion, Makoloo urged partners to devise means of working with Governments, get information from them which they can use against them.

***Climate governance: Communicating for effective community participation in climate change - Augustine Njamnshi:***

Njamnshi observed that TAI is about serving ordinary people and may be a cattle keeper, the poor woman drawing water or people living along lake shores.

On principles of participation, Makoloo informed partners that they tested its usefulness by going to communities to present the outcome of Copenhagen although the convention did not yield to their expectations. They challenged the communities to consider the contribution they can make. He revealed that politicians both incumbents and opposition were brought together to dialogue in presence of traditional leaders. He further revealed that women were also given chance to speak which had been unheard of in that community. The dialogue resolved to abolish the 3 days leave that precedes death of a member of the community for people who are not close relatives. Certain forests were re-demarcated and rehabilitated.

Makoloo revealed that when they had community meetings, partners of these communities were happy with solutions decided by them. They were told that there is some money meant for projects in their area and if they are not prepared it will go to the pockets of corrupt leaders.

**Kirk Herbertson, WRI:** Herbertson urged participants to ensure that Governments spends money responsibly because if they don't the climate change money will go the same way. He revealed that there is a financing gap and there is no deal to cover it. He revealed that 28 billion USD will be available but the main concern is how to use the money responsibly.

Herbertson asked participants to think of how they can ensure that donors don't fall back on their commitment. He urged them to get involved in the design of national institutions to come up with institutions they can trust. He revealed that in Indonesia Ernst and Young found that 5.5 billion dollars was mismanaged. He observed that the problem is

that it is hard to trace it once it has entered Government system. He urged partners to continue monitoring the transfer of funds and demand transparency in its use.

### ***Comments and Reactions***

Partners wondered how one can be so certain that this money is going to flow to LDCs when the donor countries have financial crisis.

Participants also asked how and who is ensuring that developing countries do not increase emissions or do reduce their emissions.

Another issue that was raised was the possible mechanisms that can put in place to check administrative bureaucratic tendencies associated with funding

Checking climate change in countries in conflict areas like Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan was of concern to the participants. It was put to the group whether it was possible to identify funding sources that would specifically help such people.

Herbertson told participants that they are not certain about the funds but there is going to be elections likely to generate political pressure. He was not sure why the issues they are discussing are not important from a moral point of view. He revealed that about 20 billion dollars is expected to flow. One participant observed that there is need for more discussion on how to handle climate change, financing, community access to funding and how communities can benefit from that funding.

Reducing impact is not perfected safe guard is important of REDD. We need to be careful about strategies on international level. The whole issue of indigenous rights and issues of injustice, participation, and access to information and accountability for the funds received needs to be addressed.

One participant observed that they seem not to be prepared to ensure transparency. He added that TAI has some weaknesses but there are specific issues to be addressed in order to combat corruption.

## **DAY 2 (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010)**

### **Plenary session 5:**

#### ***Transparency and accountability in the extractives Sector– Godber Tumushabe (ACODE)***

He observed that the extractive industry is affecting every aspect of society. He mentioned some of the challenges associated with the extractives industry.

**Resource curse:** He noted that the most common resource curse is related to oil but associated with every type of extractive resource. He observed that the wetland resource is one of those hardly thought about. He added that in Uganda wealthy people destroy wetlands with impunity thereby tempering with the ecological system. He added that it is a fundamental challenge to the different stakeholders but noted that there is no better framework than TAI to confront it.

**Regime character:** He asked the participants to consider whether it is true that if they implement a robust strategy on extractives they will prevail over the regime. He further wondered whether there are thresholds at which point one can feel they can't engage their governments.

**The international geo politics:** He noted that renaissance of the cold war is live in Africa. He asked participants to consider how China's behavior is going to be handled. He observed that whereas the other developed countries insist on transparency, China has its own way of doing business.

Tumushabe did not stop at the challenges but went ahead to suggest some of the ways they can be addressed.

**Changing the nature of the discourse:** He observed that while organizations and initiatives like TAI and ACODE are trying to provide solutions access rights challenges, governments are more concerned about the reports such organizations produce than what the citizens think. He added that building a demand side for accountability is the way to go for TAI. He echoed Justice Kanyehamba's suggestion of having the common person engaged.

**Character of African civil society organizations:** He informed participants that Africa has a weak civil society. He observed that apart from a few like Global Watch and Global Witness majority are not well ground in research that can generate debate. He added that there is need to change the architecture of these organizations if they are to change the situation.

**Competition for space between international and local NGOs:** Tumushabe revealed that the international NGOs which are more resourced have an upper hand over local NGOs hence causing a shift in the balance of power. He expressed concern about the emerging trend where international NGOs are "crowding out" local ones in many development arenas. He counseled that there is need for dialogue between the two about which discourse to take.



### ***USA Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (2010) - Peter Veit, WRI***

Veit observed that there are many new oil actors in Africa which include Sierra Leone, Ghana and East Africa. Using a map of Africa, Veit showed participants some of the areas he was referring to. He added that Turrow Oil holds the biggest stake in these areas. He noted that their main concern is how to get to the land.

Veit informed participants that on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010, Obama signed the Wall Street Reform Act because to protect scarce resources from hungry exploiters. According to the law oil companies must declare their payments to where they are extracting the resources and observed that many of these companies do not submit their annual reports. He observed that now that SEC has one year to formulate the rules every one wants to work with it to ensure that they are in its good books.

Relating that situation to Uganda, Veit reminded participants that there were disputes on DRC-Uganda border sparked by presence of oil along the border line. He revealed that out of 9 blocks on Uganda side, 5 have been given out. He added that whereas Uganda has a good constitution and its oil policies are consistent with international standards, key documents have been declared secret and the lower court has held that they should remain confidential. He revealed that Tullow Oil, the main oil explorer in Uganda, trade on USA exchange but do not submit annual reports as required by the Wall Street Reform and consumer protection Act. He counseled that the law making process should include all stream of activities from exploration to exportation.

On the next steps, Veit counseled that they should lobby for their engagement in the law making process to enable them influence SEC rules making to ensure broad application. He added that NGOs should educate Ugandans about the opportunities available.

**Vanessa Herringshaw – Revenue Watch:** In her introductory statement, Herringshaw briefly gave a background on what Revenue Watch has been doing. She advised that organizations should not only spend most of their resources working with

partners but also use other methods. She urged participating organizations to increase knowledge about extractive industry through trainings and building local capacity continuously. She revealed that Revenue Watch has been concentrating on Gas and Mining. She advised participating organizations to focus on money to ensure the incentives go the right destination. She gave examples of work done at national level:

**Indonesia:** She informed participants that this was in 2 Districts of Chateau block and has been there for 3 years where a lot of trainings were conducted using transparent modules. She added that a lot of support was provided in participatory planning.

**Tanzania:** This was located in a major Gold and mining area. She revealed that a new mining law was up for reform and they had to come in to provide technical advice. They held midnight meetings with NGOs and new improvements in environments were realized. She admitted that it took them long preparation time.

**Mongolia:** This was focused at creating national level impact. They gave technical advice on a new law but needed massive amounts of campaign for good practice. The new law was progressive because it allowed the ordinary people to witness signing of contracts. As a result of their efforts Mongolia joined the ITTI.

**At international level,** Herringshaw revealed that they have supported country by country reporting of financial information. She cited the example of Shell whose country offices share their reports. She revealed that USA SEC is the main market and stock exchange player they are trying to duplicate that work with European Union. She however warned that it is going to be a fight because countries are fighting back.

When she asked whether any body new what MNC regulation was no body seemed to respond probably implying that this was a new term to participants. She observed that governments only care about investors and added that its time to put big political pressure on those groups.

**On the next steps,** Herringshaw revealed that there is need for wide documentation. She added that contract monitoring should be strengthened. She showed them some of the publications prepared and urged them to pick some of the copies at the venue entrance.

### *Comments and reactions*

- Participants noted that it was important to use information from Revenue Watch in anti corruption campaigns
- A member noted that transparency alone is not enough to bring about change. Noting that the media is run by government and big business interests, it was argued that there is need to fight for more media space. There is a lot of disempowerment which needs to be addressed. Focusing on China, partners were told that there is no internal pressure among CSOs to push for reform about China.

- Some partners enjoined that some International NGOs become players in local contexts so as to fill the space left by local NGOs
- One area for further clarification was the question of how industries use social management plan and how are they are linked to ITTI

In response, Tumushabe observed that ITTI needs to be expanded because they seem to be focusing on a narrow agenda. He noted that NGOs are focusing on one area yet the issues are broader. He pointed out that even if ITTI changed form, the issues will remain. He further observed that some of the international partners' efforts should be directed to building local capacity to enable them deal with their governments.

Tumushabe pointed out that when some of the international NGOs raise concerns on certain issues, governments ask them who they are representing. He admitted that there are gaps in delivery left by local NGOs but there is need to figure how to address that situation.

Presenters noted that there is a lot of attention on contracts on oil but there is need to also focus attention onto management of other resources..

On the linkage between information and accountability, it was stressed that information is needed about institutional responsibilities and dealing with the issue of transparency is the first step.

The meeting hailed local NGOs who are working with parliamentarians to institute community initiatives. They criticised some international NGOs which go to Ministries when they want to set up projects instead of consulting communities. They added that parliament seems to be isolated and linking it to NGOs is a brilliant idea.

Participants regretted that there is huge amount of time focused at transparency yet accountability is equally important. It was revealed that there are resources e.g. an electronic format which organizations can use to monitor accountability.

On China's behaviour, the presenter observed that although every one is focusing on China, it's going to be affected by the listing on the stock exchange. He called on civil society to intervene and raise the key issues giving the example of Chinese companies that bring in their labour which affects the country. He said that if the national rules are strong they will be forced to follow them.

It was noted that it's not enough to have information but how effective the organizations are at the grassroots.

## Parallel session

### *1. Writing for the web: Maggie Baron*

Nearly all organizations represented by partners of this group had a website and an equal number of them visit blogs on the internet. They were told that good Web writing practices are not different from good communication practices. They learnt that writing for a web is different because you have to consider that you have two audiences. They were advised to prioritize information such that the most important are placed to the left and not the right down corner. They were given an outline of things readers look for and these are;

- Illustrations
- Scan photos
- Scan numbers
- Attracted by bold text

They told to remember that people have limited time, probably spend 10 seconds on the web and the website owner has limited space, probably 800 words.

On what makes a good blog, they were cautioned to keep it simple because no one will read too much information. They were advised that the only way to get out of the weeds is to:

- Read it out loud
- Use short sentences (35 words)
- Use metaphors and examples
- Avoid vague inside words such as stakeholders, mechanisms and key impacts

They were referred to a quotation; “*most fundamental ideas are simple and can be expressed in comprehensive words*” to emphasize the importance of being simple. Other examples given were, “*Brazil passed a new law*” expressing what happened.

**Cut to the Chase:** They were reminded that a good introduction will break or make their websites. They were advised to tell the readers what they want to pass on right away. Using an unnecessarily long paragraph the partners of the group were shown how to summarize such pieces. They were urged to pay attention to the what, why and examples.

**Using examples:** on using examples they were told to note the following:

- Be specific
- Avoid passive voice e.g. when one wrote, “*Decisions were made*” he/she should ask him/herself who made the decisions or “*mechanisms were developed*”, who developed them.

They were told to make their texts web friendly by making their page visually appealing. They were told that paragraphs should:

- Be short and precise i.e. 2 to 3 sentences
- Use bullets

- Use section headings
- Use bold text and
- Avoid the bother of writing in all capital letters

They were advised to use hyperlinks if they want readers to get more information about the information placed on the web. They were further taught to put titles, headers, and key words. They learnt that good writing is good Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and involves using key words and proper placement of the content.

They were advised to start with the words potential website visitors are looking for e.g. deforestation instead of forestation and avoid using technical terminologies. They were referred to a search engine developed for REDD as one example of good writing for a web

Finally the presenter reviewed key elements of good web writing and these are

- Length
- Quick introduction
- A strong and clear message
- Real life examples
- Web friendly text
- And to remember that search engines are audiences too

### ***Comments and reactions***

Optimising topics was raised as an important approach as long as the writer can change the system

It was observed that some professionals insist on using technical language and the presenter advised that writers can use the terms but they must explain them in simple language.

One member observed that there is no reason why the writer should use technical words because he/she is trying to express not to impress.

Partners wondered if one had to be highly technically skilled to engage in blogging. It was noted that one does not have to be a technical genius but there are certain elements that one can do to improve their blog.

Partners of the group were told that if it's possible they should look for titles in other international languages of their choice and link them to their Websites

It was agreed that blogging requires passion, commitment and knowledge of the respective subject.

2. *A seat at the table: Including the poor in decisions for environment and development –Joseph Foti (WRI) and Andrea Sanhueza (PARTICIPA):*

Forti pointed out that decisions that have significant environmental and social consequences are often made without the involvement of those whose interests are directly at stake. For poor people whose lives and livelihoods often depend on natural resources, and who are therefore most vulnerable to environmental risks, the consequences of exclusion can be especially severe. Weak access to decision-making may expose poor communities to high levels of pollution, remove them from productive land and deprive them of the everyday benefits provided by natural resources.

Both presenters identified the three pillars of sound decision-making for the environment that are key to the challenges of providing ‘access’; access to information, public participation, and access to justice. Many countries, regardless of their level of economic development, have promoted these pillars as policy aspirations or as enforceable legal rights. Yet even where progress has been significant, more work remains if such laws are to be implemented in a way that is meaningful to all citizens, especially the poor.

They identified four overarching steps that governments can take to institutionalize equal enjoyment of access rights for the poor.

- ❖ **Create access rights** – requires development of the basic legal framework for access to information, public participation, and access to justice.
- ❖ **Ensure equal application of access rights** – requires an absence of official discrimination and the ability of all individuals to equally participate. An especially important aspect of the equal application of rights will be a review and removal of the legal and cultural barriers that affect the poor, such as restriction on the right to inherit land by women.
- ❖ **Ensure equal ability to use access** – requires programs that develop citizens’ abilities to use access by reducing costs and improving means of communication
- ❖ **Create additional rights that ensure the ability to use access rights** – creates a legal obligation on the part of governments to develop specific tools to address the capabilities of the poor. Grants citizens legal mechanisms to ensure rights are enforced.

## Plenary session 6:

### *Introduction to Toolkits on electricity governance, forestry governance, and climate change adaptation (ARIA)*

**David Wood:** To illustrate his point, he used a pictorial projection of students watching a World Cup football match on television in one of the schools in Masaka, Uganda describing it as students engaged in a global activity – football match. He

observed that access to electricity is a challenge especially in Africa and Asia. He asked participants to consider who makes the decisions on whom to access electricity, what price to pay and where the proceeds go. He added that policy and regulatory process are decision making processes. He pointed out that the toolkits apply 3 principles similar to the ones TAI uses.

He revealed that the electricity governance initiative is a joint effort of World Resources Institute and Players Energy Group. He added that the toolkit is a framework to enable accessibility to electricity. It contains parameters to protect the public and create enabling environment for private sector participation. He revealed that the initiative required resources and they were looking for support from the World Bank. He pointed out that there is need to worry about public interest, access and investment in rural electrification.

Wood further informed participants that the toolkit builds on TAI methodology and sectoral research by Players Group and World Resource Institute. He added that it ensures that opportunities of public importance are protected and focuses on processes. He revealed that they are working together to respond to such issues as government, regulatory institutions and utilities. He said that it has worksheet for indicators that shows how to collect information for assessments. He observed that there is need for independent agencies to regulate power supply contracts/agreements. He added that there is need to consider how independent power producers feeds in the tariffs and how to make access to information regulatory possible.

Wood outlined some of the achievements expected as upholding high standards, citizen awareness and identifying opportunities.

**Joseph Foti:** He informed participants that World Resource Institute (WRI) looked at what is relevant to the partners. He added that they collaborated with other donors to discuss climate change.

On the process of developing the toolkit, he revealed that 12 individual TAI partners were brought together to discuss the approach using the earlier toolkit. He assured participants that the toolkit is now avail to help them and will guide them where to start on climate change adaptation.

Describing the toolkit, Foti pointed out that it has three goals namely; helping build capacity of CSOs, getting change and implementing the agenda for change and make wise choices when money comes. He mentioned its values which include comprehensiveness of decision making, capacity and accountability. He explained that the toolkit helps to assess who is likely to be hurt, talks about means of coordinating, information systems and climate risk reduction.

On the next steps, Foti mentioned scaling up the toolkit, providing materials to partners and teaching them how to use it.

## ***Introducing the governance forest initiatives framework of indicators:***

### **Andrew Williams**

Williams explained that the focus on forests is genuine because they provide fundamental resource to the world such as products, reducing climate change, maintaining soil fertility and maintaining quality of water. He added that generally people are dependant on forest resources. He revealed that according to recent assessments by FAO, there has been a decline in forest resources overall and deforestations is contributing to 50% carbon emissions.

Williams asked participants to consider who owns the forest resources and who has the rights to manage them. He observed that whereas forest resources are increasing in Europe, they are declining in other parts of the world. He argued that the only sure way of addressing the problem is to find the most prudent way improving forest governance. He argued them to determine who their partners are and consider whether they provide a link in the assessments. He hailed Indonesia partners for the impressive strides they have made.

Williams pointed out that World Bank has done a lot and they have taken on from there to develop the framework. He explained the GFI framework, including outlining its sample indicators and observed that it uses both Top-down and Bottom-Top approaches.

Some of the outcomes expected from implementation of the framework include increased level of understanding, providing strong ground for capacity building and great opportunities in describing indicators in terms of performance.

### ***Comments and reactions***

- A participant sought clarification on how the issues of time and governance were interconnected and which one was the priority since all were to be important.
- It was noted that all toolkits have features similar to TAI toolkits. This gives a broad picture of Access in different countries in as far as forest sector is concerned and the sectoral approach will raise the profile of The Access Initiative
- Concerning the issues to tackle with the toolkits, it was proposed that TAI could look at various issues taken by each coalition but there is need to bring on board others groups that could add value to the exercise.
- Regarding the enormous investments being made e.g. in Indonesia in the forestry sector, there need to strengthen transparency as well as examine subsidies and ratification efforts was crucial.
- The meeting was also told that Green Watch and Environmental Initiative have developed a toolkit which was available to the public
- There was need to promote and publicize the toolkits internationally he partners opined.
- The financial considerations for climate change adaptation ought to be discussed and ways explored of involving local people and bringing to the centre of the discussions

Participants were told that World Bank is developing its own indicators but working with World Bank to develop these particular indicators. They were further told that it was the only demand focused toolkit. They heard that it was still in its draft form and cannot be publicized internally at that particular time. They were informed that EGI is the only organization that looks at electricity governance from public point of view.

## Parallel Sessions

### *1. Access to Justice in Environmental Decision-Making: Improving Access to Courts and tribunals*

Introducing the topics for the parallel sessions the chair, observed that there is the need to consider new innovations and catalogue those identified.

**Dr. Csaba Kiss (EMLA):** He explained that he was looking at judicial innovations in its broader sense. He paradoxically observed that these annotations can be good but also bad for masses. He explained that what they call circular ombudsman is what is called green tribunal in a book he read recently. He explained that the tribunal have extra powers of entering any premises but have not been used in the last ten years. He revealed that even the British Government is interested in this institution. He added that it's more of a classical thing and fits into the trend specifically infrastructural development. He pointed out that there are examples of creating first track procedures in Europe where manufacturing projects are a priority.

### *Comments and Reactions*

On whether some countries are learning from each other, Csaba observed that green Ombudsman is a way of cutting costs and has powers to suspend a company when it has been registered.

On whether the Ombudsman can be taken to court Csaba revealed that he is free from charges, is independent, represents a big consensus and has a separate budget. Citing one incident when the threshold for NGOs was going to be raised and the Ombudsman prevailed over the regulatory body charged to oversee the work of NGOs.

**Kenneth Kakuru (Green Watch):** Kakuru observed that there is need to understand the law in the same way. He used the analogue of a train taking 1<sup>st</sup> class people to Nairobi to explain that the law does not treat people equally. He explained that just like those in 3<sup>rd</sup> class can use the same train to reach the same destination, the services are different. He emphasized that laws are meant for the rich and oftentimes suppresses the poor. He added that justice may end up serving the interests of the stronger party to a case. He stressed that justice cannot be for all. He observed that the challenge before them is to determine how they can swim against the current and fight for equitable justice.

Kakuru informed the partners of the group that Uganda has an Act of parliament that says every one has access to information but there are exemptions to accessibility. He called these exemptions denial of justice. He revealed that they had a court case and the Attorney General wanted access to the code which is not his entitlement unless the court was going to allow the all the litigants access it too. He counseled that there is need to have integrity and make bridges to the Judiciary, Police and environmental protection agencies.

Kakuru revealed that they wanted to stop the construction of Bujagali Dam but no court would allow them. When they realized they had avoided impact assessment they capitalized on that to go to court. He observed that it's wise to use soft cases like court over mining limestone and use it on oil drilling later on. He informed the partners of the group that sedition law is no more after running many battles. He advised that they need to tackle issues one by one, demolish the wall stone by stone.

### *Comments and Reactions*

- Partners observed that parties struggle to get justice in every country. They cited some examples of these struggles such as the provision that one has to get a lawyer who uses English language, judges wearing wigs to scare people and costs. They observed that parties are rich and can buy justice and can intimidate them. Additionally,



they cited some exceptions of impartiality of justice like in the matter of security where national security takes precedence to individual security.

- Do you have a procedure to challenge that in a constitutional court – absolutely

- There could be exceptions pertaining national security like information likely to incite demonstrations. They observed that the tools (Lawyers) should be trained.
- Kakuru revealed that the Access to Information Act gives powers to get information has wide powers in the second part to deny you the same information. He wondered the state is not interested in the people they seem to protect. He added that at times they claim that it's in the interest of national security. He challenged partners of the group to consider how they can use the law to open up space.

**Ritwick Duta (LIFE):** He referred to a case he considered to be one of the longest cases in India which was filed in 1995 and is not resolved up to now. He court which sits every Monday has passed three orders. Partners were told that the case was filed because of too much deforestation in 1990s. Those who wanted to use the forests would be required to seek the permission of the Supreme Court. At one sitting 90% recommendations were accepted by the court.

He observed that it was realized that the court was not getting anywhere. It became too crowded and too many cases were piling up (140-150 cases were coming in). The Court cut the powers of SEC last year and now only recommend. The Supreme Court also approves all the cases coming in and every saw mill company must be approved by the Supreme Court. He cited the boss of one company who was given a 1 month jail sentenced for setting up a saw mill without approval of the Supreme Court.

### *Comments and Reactions*

Comments revolved around the search for institutional structure and if it was not enough for the sector players to have justice as much as others.

There was need for information on the territorial scope of the law.

It was observed that in Uganda some say there are no costs being sought and it has become a rule of justice but there is no lawyer that will not ask costs and that has to worked on.

It was of concern that there be remedies in case the Ombudsman goes beyond his powers is.

Partners were told that there are issues of access to justice but there is some improvement. They heard that in South Africa Attorneys give 24 hours of free service every year. They were told that the only check to Ombudsman is that he has to present a report to parliament every year.

***2. Extractive industry Workshop: Development of a Regional Strategy for Oil Exploration in the Albertine Rift Onesmus Mugenyi (ACODE), Peter Veit (WRI), Vanessa Herringshaw (Revenue Watch) –***

## **Parallel Official Regional Meetings: Core Team**

**Africa Group (Godber Tumushabe):** He observed that African TAI partners have to make their network dynamic. He invited suggestions on how that can be achieved.

Partners came up with many suggestions which included having country circles, creating a common Website, having a TAI regional radio station, creating a Secretariat to coordinate all the other units and information dissemination. One member urged to take the diversity of partners' competencies to strengthen the network.

Presenting the TAI structure to partners Tumushabe said that the 1<sup>st</sup> layer is for national coalition and the 2<sup>nd</sup> layer is for the regional coalition. It was noted that establishing rights is critical for Africa. They observed that Africa is not covered in terms of partners. They agreed that for the network to work well the language barrier must be addressed.

They agreed that for the regional coalition to work the national level coalitions should be strengthened. They noted that this will need committing resources and committed people. Partners were asked to consider how they can work with different countries.

**Jackie Okao (ACODE):** Jackie presented the Africa report on behalf of ACODE and BDCP Cameroon. She informed participants that the same report had been presented to the Core Team and TAI Africa Region coalition.

On what didn't go well, Jackie informed partners that the Gabon assessment was suspended because of the death of their President and issues of accountability. She further revealed that the meeting was supposed to be held in Cameroon flopped because of limited funds. She observed that most member organizations are not active because of lack of funds. She gave the same reason for the absence of many of them at the gathering.

On a positive note, Jackie revealed that the Benin assessment was completed and TAI has expanded to Madagascar where they have started with trainings. She revealed that they tried to partner with South Africa by having a training first and identifying a lead Agency. She added that there is an existing coalition there which can be utilized by TAI. She further revealed the report for Democratic Republic of Congo is ready and TAI has been introduced in River State an Open Government Forum introduced in Nigeria. She

went ahead to explain that in the last six months they have contacted Mali and Chad. Lastly, she informed partners that ACODE and BDCP, with funding mobilized from some countries, worked together in organizing the conference which had attracted 140 participants.

### ***Concrete Community Based Action: Jeremy Wates (Consultant)***

Jeremy observed that every one looks at them as people who only do research. He went ahead to explain that they signed Memorandums of Understanding with some countries, attracted attention nationally and internationally e.g. Fish Community which uses mangroves in Cameroon applied for improvement of their ovens and revealed that 3-4 women smoke fish at the same time using the improved type. He observed that that intervention has controlled harvesting of mangroves to smoke fish.

Jeremy proposed some recommendations which included reviving of TAI countries, having more contacts for expansion, re-strategizing and rethinking of achievable goals.

Some of the achievements mentioned included better access to information but challenged partners to consider how the achievements can be defined.

### ***Comments and Reactions***

- The idea to come up with 2 coordination offices; one for Anglophone and the other for Francophone met stiff resistance. Partners insisted that they don't want to split the coalition.
- One member observed that TAI is detached from the regional blocs. He urged partners to stick to regional agreements and those funding the regional blocs will always give them funds. He emphasized that TAI should organize along the existing blocs and has MOUs with them.
- Another member argued that it's important to have micro level visibility. He added that there is need to consider what is achievable at national level and have similar strategic plans.
- There was a proposal to strategize globally and implement at national level. This according to the proponent of that idea needs active national coalition partners and national lead agencies should take that initiative. They were told to factor in issues of transparency, accountability and good governance.
- It was observed that there is need to energize using the existing tools, share example and case studies.
- There was a proposal to develop a TAI Africa Strategy just like Latin America Coalition had done. Tumushabe informed partners that Africa Group started developing a strategy in 2008 and only needs fine tuning. He added that there is still a challenge of lack of funds for its implementation. He assured partners that the strategy will be finalized.
- There was a suggestion of setting up a common medium of communication like a radio or a newspaper, have an aggressive Secretariat and branches in education institutions. It was observed that even the one available i.e. the TAI Africa Google list and the TAI page on the Global Network Website were not being utilized maximally. A representative of the Cameroon coalition informed partners that they

were supported by WRI to design a French version of their Website and advised other coalitions to do the same. One member informed others that there is software for translation where you just click on the language of preference.

- It was further proposed that TAI Africa coalition should consider how it can work with UNEP to evaluate their work using existing toolkit. Partners observed that they need to study UNEP guidelines first.
- The ACODE representative assured partners that their organization is committed to see that the coalition works but advised that it will be much easier if it's coming from the demand side. He added that it requires mutual commitment.
- The question on whether partners prefer calling the TAI Africa a coalition or network did not attract any suggestions and was left hanging.
- On the criteria for becoming a TAI member, Tumushabe informed the Africa group that there are guidelines to that effect. He mentioned some which include an assessment at country level like the one that has been done in Uganda and South Africa. He revealed that ACODE is on the Core Team at national level but was quick to add that there is a lot of volunteerism in TAI arrangement. One member noted that volunteerism may not work. He advised that there should be a provision that require interested entities to apply for partnership.
- It was observed that there is need for information about TAI partners, who is still interested; who is coordinating at country level and achievements made so far.
- One member did not mince words when it came to the performance of national coalitions. *“National coalitions had gone to sleep”* he asserted. Partners agreed that national coalitions should be strengthened because they are the ones that will strengthen the regional level network.
- One member observed that there is need for TAI to focus at the last denominator, the partners. He advised that TAI should start training partners so that they are at the same level. He was told that there have been trainings but mainly on handing assessments and advocacy.
- Another member observed that there is need to sign MOUs and have TORs specifying partners' obligations, benefits and sanctions.
- When one member asked how TAI projects can be incorporated in theirs, he was told to use the toolkits as guiding documents.
- Partners resolved to take on 3 things;
  1. See how to encourage partners to use the Google list
  2. Finalize the Africa Coalition Strategy, Jacky and Augustine given 2 months to get partners' views and submit a final copy
  3. Involve traditional leaders

Concluding the session, one partner had this to say; *“If people are doing a lot of useful things we shall always get money for them”*.

## DAY 3 (Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010)

### Official Plenary of TAI Network - Core Team:

This session was chaired by William Chadza who reminded partners that the objective of the session was to tabling of the TAI Core Team Report. He explained that 3 core team partners were going to make presentations and partners allowed to raise questions and comments.

The team concentrated on TAI achievements. Some of the achievements were pegged to individual countries while others to the TAI Secretariat and national coalitions;

#### Achievements at National Level

- Putting in place a system of environmental information in Bolivia
- A public hearing was won in India
- A dialogue table was launched in Mexico to enable people understand issues and had 10,000 people attending a street show,
- In Sri Lanka partners participated in formulation of access to information rules,
- In Thai land the environmental and health information was disseminated to the public although people were jailed for receiving the FOI Bill report. A citizen's toolkit was also produced.
- In Zimbabwe guidelines for environment information were developed,
- In Cameroon EIA legislation was passed and a tool developed.
- In Chile, public campaigns were placed in media and internet and advocacy toolkit developed
- In Argentine the municipal council was put to task to manage well faecal matter
- In Cameroon, court cases were filed against Bamenda City Council and the issue was resolved
- In Malawi a tribunal was set up to handle environmental cases

#### Achievements at Regional and Secretariat Level

- P10, adaptation and electricity governance indexes were produced
- Research publications were produced through collective efforts by Cameroon, Paraguay, Philippines and Sierra Leone
- Voice and Choice toolkit was developed
- Publications from India, Thai Land and Ghana
- TAI Asia regional report was ready and partners were advised to check it out on the website



### **The TAI Network**

Partners were told that the network was 50 countries strong with 200 organizations working together. It was however admitted that some organizations were not active and in some cases not working as coalitions.

Partners heard that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Gathering attracted 50 partners from 29 countries and regional sessions were held at the meeting. They were told that the meeting also planned the next meeting. They further heard that there was a meeting in Bangkok, China whose intention was to invite them to TAI network.

### ***Comments and Reactions***

- A participant noted that the report celebrates TAI achievements but said it was important to highlight the expected achievements in the next 10 years
- It was of interest to a participant learning about the successes but he wanted to know the challenges too.
- A participant wanted details on the length of the term of office for Core Team partners
- A member wanted clarification on whether the partners of the core team were elected or appointed

The Core Team admitted that they have few coalitions and they are rather disintegrated. They explained that the group spirit is lacking. This was partly attributed to limited funds. They informed partners that along the way organizations' priorities change while others become bankrupt.

Representative of the European Regional TAI coalition observed that Europe cannot be proud of the current status because the big European democracies are not yet covered by TAI. Partners were told that a number of member countries have their outcomes on their blogs. The team reported that President Obama of USA has nominated some of their experts. They cited limited funding as another challenge and prospects of what to do about it are still slim. They advised partners to find means of attracting small funding as they also struggle to find ways of supporting them. The more you approach us with

projects the more you chances of getting support. They warned that coalitions collapse especially in Asia thus the need to keep it going even after the gathering.

Another ugly story was about the coalition in Latin America which had many organizations 10 years ago but eventually pulled out. They revealed that the Secretariat was transferred but even when Chile took over it didn't work because of lack of funds and infighting. It lost many people and lacked any clout to convince the Government on policy issues. They pledged to revive it for RIO 2012.

On the partnership rules, Thomas informed partners that the core team has come up with partnership rules of the core team. For example how to become a member, how a member is appointed, partners term of office, what happens when one member quits and the size of the core team. They noted that it is a complicated task and involves a lot of work. Partners were advised to look at the latest rules document and forward their comments soon. The team handling the document was asked to ensure that the document is ready for comments by Christmas 2010 so that partners can give their comments up to February 2011. The final copy of the rules document will be expected in July 2011.

Partners were further told that to be a member of the Core Team you need to get institutional backup. They were told that at first the team was composed of 5 but has increased to 9. They learnt that to become a country member you need to have conducted an assessment to get the real picture on the ground, be willing to comply with all the duties and be able to visit to respective countries every 6 or 9 months

On the term of office for the Core Team partners, participants were told that they were looking at 4 years but a member can be re-elected. They were told of an experience in Asia where partnership was supposed to be rotational after 2 years but some countries were found unprepared.

On how one becomes a member of the core team, participants were told that any body can be nominated but the process is not yet decided.

### ***Terms of Reference for RIO + 20 Taskforce – Carole Excell:***

Participants were given the draft Terms of Reference and told to forward their comments. The document outlined the expected outcomes and 10 TORs for the Taskforce. Partners were concerned about who was going to raise the money to facilitate the preparations to RIO 2012. They observed that the responsibilities of the Taskforce were not provided and the process not highlighted. They were told that part of the Taskforce's responsibility is to look for funds.

On whether we should be focusing on the future of TAI instead of paying attention to one meeting, RIO 2012, partners were told that the main challenge is to advance our objectives and RIO 2012 is an opportunity to show case TAI's achievements and to brand the network. The purpose of TOR 7 was not clear to some partners who argued that we

should be convincing world leaders to establish courts of litigation. The added that there are no courts specialized in cases related to environment.

## **Parallel Sessions**

### ***1. ARIA toolkit-Adaptation-Rapid Institution Analysis-Joseph Foti, WRI***

Foti informed partners of the group that of the session was to provide a basic understanding of how the ARIA toolkit has worked in pilot projects, to discuss various ways of scaling up ARIA and possibilities for engagement and funding over the next two years.

He noted that the session was going to be an interactive where they were expected to share experiences and comments. He asked what the first word would be if one was asked to talk about climate. The following words were mentioned

- Floods,
- poverty,
- Adaptation,
- Close association,
- Economic opportunity,
- Forests,
- Landslides, and
- Loss of eco systems.

He outlined some of the main reasons why it was necessary to work on the ARIA toolkit pointing out that there was a gap as many people were working on other initiatives rather than climate change adaptation.

He informed partners that ARIA toolkit was reflected as a four step process which involves the following;

- Coalition Building
- Actual assessment
- Reporting
- Advocacy

It was further highlighted that the ARIA toolkit helps one to assess different initiatives and prioritizing them. It is also important because there are other concerns about adaptation issues such as health and climate.

Emphasis was put on the fact that there were other driving factors to the ARIA toolkit. He stressed the need to build the capacity of NGOs on how to use the kit.

**The Bolivian Experience – Teresa:** She reported that they had a conference in March and thereafter, they had to implement adaptation strategies. She outlined some of the issues surrounding the process.

She said they lacked capacity and it was very difficult to implement the assessment and research but that they have tried to do research on climate change in the country.

They were never in much contact with government as they had challenges synergizing with government

It was difficult to access information on the internet as some assessment reports are not posted

Evaluation does not specify clear indicators and hence the local CSO evaluations and assessment could be very subjective.

She highlighted that there were sustainability issues for example poverty levels are increasing hence a challenge

**2. *GFI Toolkit – Governance of Forest Initiative “seeing the wood from the trees”*: What is the value of understanding why indicators tell us what they do? - Andrew Williams (Consultant)**

The main issues covered in the presentation were; introducing the GFI framework of indicators, thinking around the indicators and GFI’s future development.

Williams pointed out that forest governance is a key area for sustainably managing the world’s forests at all levels and that the importance of the world’s forests for the global public good is increasingly recognized through a larger of products produced and consumed. Globally, they play a vital role in providing local and global ecosystem services; worldwide forests underpin sustainable livelihoods and economic growth.

He defined GFI Toolkit as a comprehensive framework of indicators for assessing forest governance. Reason for formulating the toolkit is that evidence-based information about governance strengths and weaknesses and how they change over time is necessary to leverage improvements.

The GFI Toolkit is to be used by in-country civil society organizations with support from WRI. Independent assessments tailored to country context, with engagement from government and other stakeholders

The GFI Toolkit includes two key components which are:

**The Framework**, which is a conceptual diagram consisting of key principles (Participation, Transparency, Accountability, Coordination and Capacity), components (Actors, Rules and Practice) and issues (Forest Tenure, Forest Management, Land Use Planning and Forest Revenues & Incentives) that make up good governance of forests.

**The Indicators**, which are a set of 94 diagnostic questions about how decisions that impact on forests are made.

### ***3. EGI Toolkit – Electricity Governance Toolkit-***

Participants introduced themselves and pointed out their expectations of the session. This was followed by a presentation by a delegate from South Africa in which he shared the South African experience on access to information by the public and all stakeholders within the energy sector. He outlined baseline indicators on the extent to which the information access and good governance could be achieved and observed. These included indicators on policy processes, regulatory processes as well as environmental and social indicators.

In this presentation a number of key areas were highlighted and these included; the alignment of investments in the energy sector to meet the social, environmental and economic benefits through the provision of an integrated plan. He added that this could be achieved through participatory, accountable and transparent planning processes.

He also shared some of the achievements and challenges encountered in his experience to promote advocacy and access to information particularly within the energy sector. Some of the achievements mentioned were advocacy for a seat at the table (partnership) on the advisory panel to the energy sector in South Africa where all stakeholders would be represented i.e. government, public and private sectors. This would further act as a quality check to ensure the needs of the larger population are catered for.

He noted that there is need to encourage and promote research and expertise within the energy sector. This would enable the exploration of other alternative energy sources that would benefit the larger community without having very detrimental effects on the environment.

He underscored the role of faith based organizations in sensitization of the masses about their rights in access to information and participation in the decision making process. A participant from Uganda an ISO security operative particularly shared his view on this giving the role traditional leaders have played in access to information. He attributed this to totems, respect and reverence the masses had towards their traditional leaders.

He also shared some of the key areas that will enable efficient access to information. These included:

- Disclosure of the PPA
- Adequate public consultations prior to project implementation
- Competitive bidding
- Public consultation during project development
- Adequate demand analysis
- Analysis of the financial impact

Some of the benefits of institutional architecture in the promotion of access to information and good governance that were put across included; identifying and evaluating the role players within the energy sector.

The challenges encountered in promotion of advocacy and access to information particularly within the energy sector included;

- Party control over parliament – MPs not accountable to their constituencies.
- Identifying what information is not available and who owns it.
- Acquiring knowledge and building capacity relationships between CSO and with state actors.
- Identifying the gaps in the legal framework and underutilizing mandates.

He also pointed out the areas that required input from the various advocacy agencies in the promotion of the right to access information. These included;

- Internal Energy Plan
- Internal Resources Plan
- Internal National Electrification Plan
- The renewable energy policy
- Climate change and adaptation policy

#### ***4. Media Training: Between ideas and action - Robin Murphy:***

He informed partners that TAI uses media in advocacy campaigns and they are trying to come up with what is universally applicable. He again used one's decision to buy a bicycle to observe that communication is a transaction. He explained that there are those who will oppose the idea of buying a bicycle and he/she will have to mention what prompted him to buy it. Using a pictorial incident of a tree, which has fallen in a forest but not seen or heard by anybody to show the importance of media in advancing an idea?

One member from Indonesia revealed that they tried to engage the media, invited the leader of their association who didn't turn up for the meetings. She wanted to know how other partners do it. Another member revealed that they have organized trainings for media and also written press releases in Newspapers while yet another said that there organization needed photo and organized a photo competition to get them.

Robin observed that TRUTH is an important element when engaging the media. He cited an anti tobacco campaign in State of Florida which used school children to run it because they realized that smoking is about rebellion and wanted to rebel against Tobacco manufacturing companies. They came up with all the information, went to TV stations. He observed that the key aspects here are to listen to the audience and letting them participate.

He outlined key elements to consider when developing a media plan. These are:

- Think about the methodology
- Who your audiences are
- Well thought prime message
- Credible people to use
- How to evaluate

He told partners of the group that audience segmentation is another important element. He observed that when carrying out audience segmentation certain issues like considering who is skeptical, who influences who and who is undecided should be given attention.

On media as an advocacy campaign tool, he counseled that the conceptual framework to be used in a media campaign should be clear to the implementers. He added that the messages should be comprehensible. He observed that the very educated use hard words and advised to factor in human element. He added that credible people have to be used and front what is going to catch people's attention. What he termed as contagiousness.

Robin informed partners that it's important to build relationships with the media. He observed that to achieve this media should understand who you are and what you are doing. He added that trust and mutual respect should be emphasized and their deadlines understood. He stressed that in all this independence must be maintained.

He mentioned some of the media channels which he categorized as print (Newspaper, magazine), broadcast, online and phones

He advised that for a media campaign to be effective the following should be given special attention:

- Command of your subject
- Don't just react to questions but always initiate your own message
- Human interest
- Balance challenges
- Link it to what is going on today
- Use uncomplicated words
- Don't fill silences
- Media not on your side
- Correct errors right away
- Keep to your core
- Ensure that you are in control

### *Comments and reactions*

It was observed that one way of getting the journalists interested is to train them. The challenge of getting media attention highlighted was putting a lot of focus to things that are happening or other stories that are running thereby ignoring the environment. The advice here was that it is important to relate your message to what is happening.

## **Official Closing: Reflection on the Global Gathering**

**Participants Closing Remarks:** Participants were given an opportunity to give brief concluding remarks. Most of them thanked the organizers for the hospitality. They pointed to the value of being part of the TAI network saying they will commit to the agreed programmes. Some partners pledged to mobilize those partners who were no longer active back into the network. The World Bank representative told the gathering observed that she was positive that the team has the potential to move the topic of access to rights to another level. She challenged TAI partners to do more to achieve their goals.

Other participants felt that what is important is to focus on the TAI goals and activities. The participant from Angola thanked the TAI team for bringing them on board.

Partners observed that TAI had made important strides and consideration should be given on how more influence can be exerted on the international arena.

**Lalanath De Silva:** He appealed to the participants to follow-up on the issues and recommendations from the Gathering so as to make an impact. He observed that they have had a big agenda through taskforces but also as individuals. He informed them that they are going to do a lot on the ground. He urged them to participate in the discussions because they need their ideas. He added that all that work is not for them but people on the ground.

### ***Vote of thanks: Godber Tumushabe:***

Tumushabe thanked the partners for all the achievements and noted that they share them with all of them. He observed that if there are any shortcomings they should be considered as challenges to learn from to enable them organize better events.

He thanked the TAI core team and the Secretariat at WRI, the World Bank and its representative at the gathering for the support extended towards the event. He observed that TAI is a movement working to ensure that Governments do the things that benefit the people. He noted that the power of numbers cannot be ignored.

He informed partners that the Government of Angola is threatening to ban operations of 50 NGOs. He appealed to the network to make it its issue and make sure that the Angola Government is resisted.



THIRD GLOBAL GATHERING OF THE ACCESS INITIATIVE

# ACCESS RIGHTS, POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE

KAMPALA-UGANDA: OCTOBER 27-30, 2010

The Lake Victoria Serena

## AGENDA

Resort

### ARRIVAL

Date & time	Activity	Responsibility
<b>Wednesday, October 27</b>		
10:00-18:00	Arrival & Registration	ACODE/TAI Secretariat
17:30-18:00	Depart from Hotel	
19:00-21:00	Dinner and Cultural Evening at the Ndere Cultural Centre CELEBRATION OF TAI 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND AWARDS TO GREEN LEGISLATORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS IN UGANDA Message from Francis Seymour, TAI Founder <i>Session Chair: Godber Tumushabe</i>	Guest Speaker, Kundhavi Kadiresan, World Bank Country Manager(invited)

### DAY 1

Date & time	Activity	Responsibility
<b>Thursday, October 28</b>		
07:30-08:45	Registration	ACODE/TAI Secretariat
09:00-9:20	INAUGURAL SESSION: Welcome Statement by ACODE Guest of Honour:-Minister for Water and Environment, Maria Mutagamba, Uganda	Godber Tumushabe, ACODE

09:20-09:35	<b>Guest Speaker</b> Hon. Justice Professor Kanyeihamba, Former Justice of the Africa Court of Human Rights and Supreme Court of Uganda.	
09:35-10:15	Self Introduction of TAI partners and participants <i>Session Chair: Godber Tumushabe,</i> <i>ACODE</i>	
10:15-10:30	<b>HEALTH BREAK</b>	
10:30-10:45	<b>PLENARY SESSION 1: OBJECTIVES AND THEMES</b> Welcome and Statement by TAI Secretariat	Lalanath de Silva, WRI
10:45-11:00	<i>Session Chair: Daniel Barragan, CEDA</i> Objective: - expectations, ground rules and introduction to main themes of the Global Gathering.	Jacob Werksman, WRI
11:00-12:15	<b>PLENARY SESSION 2: Celebrating Success Stories</b> Objective: An opportunity for partners who have achieved successful outcomes with “change on ground” to share their stories and inspire others. <i>Session Chair: Tomas Severino, Cultura Ecologica</i>	Ritwick Dutta, LIFE Henri Subagyo, ICEL Nchunu Justice Sama, FEDEV, Patricia Abed, IDEA, Loraine Gatlabayan, Ateneo School of Government
12:15-12:45	<b>TAI Re-envisioning and evaluation</b> Steve Bass ,IIED	
12:45-13:45	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
13:45-15:00	<b>Group work- Deepening TAI work and strengthening the Network</b> (Working Groups) Objective: Determine how TAI as a network is branded; How it has achieved its major outcomes: How we strengthen and deepen our influence; and possible development of a TAI Principle 10 index. <i>Session Chair:</i> <i>Dr. Somrudee Nicro ,TEI</i>	Facilitators:- Ritwick Dutta, LIFE & Lalanath de Silva, WRI
15:00-16:15	<b>PLENARY SESSION 3: Setting the Agenda for RIO 2012</b> Plenary & Working Groups Objective: Outline themes of RIO 2012, explore possible approaches for development of an	Carole Excell, WRI & Jeremy Wates, Consultant

	international regime supportive of access rights and development of TAI's advocacy agenda leading up to and at Rio 2012. <i>Session Chair: Hemantha Withanage, CEJ</i>	
16:15-17:30	<b>PLENARY SESSION 4: Climate Governance and Access Rights</b> Objective: To provide an overview of the evolving concept of "climate governance" and how CSOs within and outside TAI are working to improve transparency and accountability of climate policy. <i>Session Chair: Jake Werksman, WRI</i>	Maurice Makoloo, ILEG & Augustine Njamnshi, BDCPC, Kirk Herbertson, WRI

## DAY 2

Date & time	Activity	Responsibility
<b>Friday October 29</b>		
09:00-10:30	<b>PLENARY SESSION 5: Transparency and Accountability in the Extractive Sector</b> Objective: Share knowledge and the variety of approaches that may be adopted by partners to work at the national and international level on transparency and accountability issues in the extractive sector. <i>Session Chair: Augustine Njamnshi, BDCPC</i>	Panel Presentation Godber Tumushabe, ACODE, Peter Veit, WRI & Vanessa Herringshaw, Revenue Watch
10:30-10:45	<b>HEALTH BREAK</b>	
10:45-11:45	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>1. Writing for the Web</b> This session will discuss differences between writing online and in print, best practices for effective online writing, including blogging, and strategies for online outreach.	Maggie Baron, WRI
	<b>2. A Seat at the Table: Including the Poor in Decisions for Environment &amp; Development</b> (Working Groups) Objective: Identifying concrete actions around the	Joseph Foti, WRI & Andrea Sanhueza, PARTICIPA

	recommendations from “A Seat at the Table” – building an advocacy agenda and a community of practice.	
11:45-13:00	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION 6: Introduction of Toolkits on electricity governance, forestry governance and climate change adaptation (ARIA)</b></p> <p>Objective: Provide a basic understanding of the toolkits, opportunities for their use, their purpose capabilities, and possible impacts and challenges. <i>Session Chair :Benson Ochieng, ILEG</i></p>	Joseph Foti WRI, Andrew Williams, Consultant, Davida Wood, WRI
13:00-14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
14:00-15:30	<p><b>PARALLEL SESSION</b></p> <p><b>1. Access to Justice in environmental decision-making -Improving access to Courts and Tribunals</b></p> <p>Objective: Discuss role of TAI to support, use and assess the effectiveness of, and improve access to justice.</p>	Lalanath de Silva, WRI, Dr. Csaba Kiss, EMLA , Kenneth Kakuru Green watch, Patricia Abed, IDEA, Ritwic Dutta, LIFE
15:30-17:30	<p><b>2.Extractive Industry Workshop: Development of a regional strategy for oil exploration in the Albertine Rift</b></p> <p>Objective: - Identify elements of a regional strategy on advocacy and opportunities for international networking on extractive industries.</p>	Onesmus Mugenyi, ACODE , Peter Veit, WRI & Vanessa Herringshaw, Revenue Watch
	<p><b>Parallel Official Regional Meetings</b></p> <p>Objective: Regional CT Leads will report on the State of TAI Regional work, present a regional strategy draft and obtain feedback. The Meeting will also allow space for regional groups to decide on their positions for the following session.</p>	Core Team

## DAY 3

Date & time	Activity	Responsibility
<b>Saturday October 30</b>		
09:00-10:30	<b>OFFICIAL PLENARY OF TAI</b>	Core Team

**NETWORK**

Core Team Report and opportunity for questions to Core Team – Official Business  
Objective: The Core Team Report will be formally tabled. TAI partners will have an opportunity to raise questions and receive responses from CT partners on TAI network issues. Official business, if any, will also be transacted.

*Session Chair: Kiril Ristovski, Florozon*

10:30-10:45

**HEALTH BREAK**

10:45-12:00

**PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**1. ARIA Toolkit: Adaptation – Rapid Institutional Analysis**

Objective: Provide a basic understanding of how the ARIA Toolkit has worked in pilots, discussion of scaling up ARIA and possibilities for engagement and funding over the next two years.

Joseph Foti, WRI  
Teresa Flores,  
PRODNA

Andrew Williams,  
Consultant

**2. GFI Toolkit - Governance of Forest Initiative**

**‘Seeing the wood from the trees’: what is the value of understanding why indicators tell us what they do?’**

Objective: In depth analysis of the use of sector indicators in GFI toolkit Looking at ways to incorporate aspects of political decisions-making mapping into indicator assessments.

Dauida Wood,  
WRI, & Dyah  
Paramita ICEL

**3. EGI Toolkit – Electricity Governance Toolkit**

Provide an understanding of the EGI Toolkit, case study of its use, possible use to ensure change on the ground, its role in climate governance and future expansion.

Robin Murphy,  
WRI

**4. Media Training :-Between Ideas and Action**

How to create a clear communications objective, identifying and understanding your audiences, effective messaging, orchestration of media channels and how to measure your impact

12:00-12:30

**Official Closing Reflection on the Global**

Lalanath De Silva,

---

	<b>Gathering</b> –Closing statements Objective: An opportunity for TAI partners to reflect on the three days of the Global Gathering	WRI& Godber Tumushabe, ACODE
12:30-13:30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
13:30-16:00	Visit to Mabira Forest Reserve Guest Presentation and student’s performance with Dinner	