



Promoting Global Rights-Based Development

2013 Annual Report

By the Bank Information Center (BIC)

Table of Contents

I.	Executive Summary	3
II.	Policy Campaigns	
	A. Strengthening International Rights Standards	5
	B. Promoting Land Rights of Forest-Dependent Communities	9
III.	Capacity Building	
	A. Access to Information	13
	B. CSO Monitoring Network on the African Development Bank	13
	C. Reforming Socially-Disruptive Projects	14
	C. Supporting Community Engagement in Transitional Countries	20
IV.	BIC's Gender Work	28

*Cover photo from [Reuters](#) website (Credit: Reuters/Soe Zeya Tun)

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013, BIC continued to promote rights-based, transparent, accountable and sustainable social and environmental policies at the World Bank Group, and helped project-affected communities seek redress and justice. BIC made the following advances:

Policy Campaigns and Institutional Strengthening

• **International Rights Standards**

- Confirmed support from a growing number of World Bank Board chairs to expand the scope of the safeguards review to include development policy lending (DPLs). This has the potential to eliminate a massive loophole in safeguard rights coverage, since DPLs account for 30-40% of all World Bank lending;
- Disability rights, child rights, and climate have been identified as important “emerging” areas to address in the safeguard review;
- High quality submission of BIC’s [Environmental and Social Assessment and Management \(ESAM\) Model Policy](#), a major undertaking that benefited from the input of prominent experts in the field;
- Effective coordination and coalition-building among CSOs in the North and South; and
- More organized and informed CSO groups in Asia and Latin America who are weighing in to strengthen the World Bank’s standards on forest, involuntary resettlement, and environmental assessment.

• **Forest and Land rights**

- In October, the World Bank’s Forest Investment Plan approved \$50 million for projects in Peru that will promote the protection of the country’s irreplaceable and rapidly disappearing forests and ecosystems. Representatives of indigenous organizations and communities will directly implement the activities they are responsible for the agreement, including indigenous territorial titling, community forest management, and community governance.
- In March, we won a significant policy change at the WB Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to allow disclosure of emission reduction payment agreements for the first time, expanding transparency of carbon finance transactions at the WB and setting important precedents for REDD performance based payments more broadly.
- Also in March, the R-Package Assessment and FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks were approved, both with significant inputs and improvements from CSOs and IPs. This is a reasonably robust assessment framework with an important emphasis on participatory process at the country level; the second framework will at least ensure regular external evaluation of the FCPF.
- BIC/Forest Peoples Programme support for the Suriname IP delegation to 14th Participants Committee meeting proved important in assuring a victory there—approval of Suriname’s REDD proposal was conditioned on further work with indigenous and

tribal peoples and an independent analysis of the implications of the IACHR Saramaka Judgment on the REDD+ process.

Services to Partners/Capacity Building

- **CSO monitoring network on the African Development Bank:** In 2013, BIC continued to assist the African-led coalition on the African Development Bank (AfDB), as the coalition participates in AfDB's review of its social and environmental policies. BIC in particular has pushed AfDB to include greater protections for and recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and BIC staff participated in AfDB's first ever forum on Indigenous Peoples in February. Meanwhile, as AfDB plans the return of its headquarters from Tunis to Abidjan, BIC is helping to develop the roadmap for the Coalition to transition to Abidjan.
- Seeking community redress on **problematic World Bank Group projects** that disrupt people's livelihoods:
 - **Tata Mundra coal power plant in India.** In September, communities saw a partial victory when the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman found the International Finance Corporation (IFC) guilty of violating several of its policies that is resulting in thousands of fishing families to suffer from air pollution, contaminated water and destroyed marine resources from the IFC-funded Tata Mundra coal plant. Communities are awaiting IFC's remedial action plan.
 - **Oyu Tolgoi Gold/Copper mine in Mongolia.** In January 2013, BIC organized a Board Seminar that was attended by several World Bank Board members, hosted by BIC and the New Zealand Executive Director's Office. BIC facilitated the attendance of a local herder from Khanbogd and representatives from several other NGOs. BIC also supported the filing of the second two complaints to the CAO by the herders in February 2013. The group of complainants has entered into the CAO-facilitated dispute resolution process. In October, BIC facilitated the visit of another herder leader from Gobi Soil to relay continued concerns to Bank's senior management and board members.
- BIC continued to assist **Burmese, Tunisians, Egyptian, and Yemeni citizens/communities** in **meaningfully participating** in development decision-making as the World Bank prepares to re-engage these conflict/ transitional countries. BIC helped **Bolivian and Peru** CSOs in advocating for stronger environmental impact assessment system in their countries.

BIC's Gender Work

- BIC continued to strengthen its **gender mainstreaming** efforts in six areas including enhancing participation of women's groups in our campaigns, and supporting the World Bank's Gender Unit.

II. POLICY CAMPAIGNS

A. STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS STANDARDS

BIC is currently working to strengthen international social and environmental rights standards on forests, social and environmental assessment, rights of vulnerable groups, natural habitat, and climate by advocating for stronger standards at the World Bank.

Below are our main 2013 **outputs**:

Analysis and Recommendations

- Prepared and submitted an [Environmental and Social Assessment and Management \(ESAM\) model policy](#), after rigorous vetting and input from CSO allies. The model policy presents recommendations on environmental categorization, the use of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments, mitigation hierarchy, and cumulative impacts. It also argues for the uniform, effective application of safeguard requirements to all Bank activities. It also included language requiring child impact assessments. The model policy served as a basis for discussion with several decision-makers.
- Convened and prepared [joint recommendations on forests and critical natural habitat standards](#) with several environmental NGOs, which highlighted the need to: recognize cultural and ecosystem service values provided by natural habitats; involve local communities and prioritize community-based management of natural resources; expand ‘critical natural habitat’ to include all intact forest and high conservation value areas; and prohibit conversion and degradation of critical natural habitat.
- Prepared and submitted a **comprehensive policy recommendation on involuntary resettlement** to the World Bank entitled [Reforming the World Bank’s Policy on Involuntary Resettlement](#). BIC also helped secure the involvement of the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Raquel Rolnik, who [submitted to the UN Human Rights Council clear recommendations](#) for the World Bank on the need to respect the right to adequate housing in the context of its safeguards review. BIC facilitated Mrs. Rolnik’s participation at the World Bank spring meetings in April, where she presented her recommendations.
- Two [case studies](#) on the impacts of Bank projects on children were also submitted. The first case study entitled “The Impact of Involuntary Resettlement on Children: A Case Study of the International Development Association Funded Bujagali Hydro-Power Dam” shows the negative impact of resettlement resulting from the World Bank-funded Bujagali hydropower project on affected children. The second case study entitled “The Need for Child Impact Assessments: A Case Study of the International Development Association Funded Uzbekistan Rural Enterprise Support Project-Phase II” shows the need for safeguard policies to include a requirement that assessments specifically assess the unique risks of the project for children as well as a labor safeguard in line with core International Labour Organization standards.
- Prepared and submitted contributions to the World Bank safeguards review on the [architecture and scope of the safeguards review](#); [the growing percentage of Bank operations not covered by the safeguard policies](#); [why development policy lending](#)

[\(DPLs\) should be part of the safeguards review](#) (with Global Witness); why [country assistance strategies](#) (CASs) should be part of the safeguards review; and [effective implementation of the safeguards](#) (with Forest Peoples Programme and Urgewald).

- Together with the Sierra Club, BIC submitted to the World Bank in February a briefing that describes in some detail how the Bank could address climate mitigation and adaptation in its safeguard policies. This includes language on steps to make its projects more resource-efficient, cost accounting of greenhouse gas emissions, and prioritization of low and no-carbon initiatives. These recommendations featured as an official input into the Bank's April expert meeting on climate change in the safeguard policies, where some of BIC's nominees attended.
- BIC will soon submit the "Model Policy Proposal: Climate Change Assessment Process (CCPA) Safeguard Policy" to the World Bank. The proposed language requires climate change assessments for *all* lending instruments for *both* low and middle-income borrowing countries.
- Wrote an [informational brief](#) on lending trends at the World Bank. The document forecasts a further decline in safeguard coverage and points to signs of a return to higher risk/reward lending, if status quo prevails.
- In October, BIC and Inclusive Development International published a compilation of [eight case studies](#) that outlines several cases where the World Bank used its funds in ways that threaten the human rights of the most vulnerable people in the world's poorest countries. The title of the publication is "Human Rights and World Bank: Case Studies from IDA Countries."



Workshops

- Organized workshops in Asia (two in Bangkok, one in Philippines, one in Indonesia), Latin America (Lima, Buenos Aires, Guatemala), and the Middle East (Cairo, Egypt, 16 participants, including 7 women, March 2013) to prepare CSO representatives for the phase one global consultations, and led to position statements by CSO representatives that were submitted to their respective World Bank board member representative;
- Held the Asian People's Forum in March in Bangkok, Thailand, in collaboration with Aksi, Focus on the Global South, International Accountability Project, and TERRA. The event brought together 40 representatives from grassroots organizations and multi-sectoral groups from Asia. CSOs articulated, discussed and debated on their views of Safeguards, and drafted an initial list of 'fundamental principles' of the 'People's Safeguards.'
- BIC held a first ever [consultation with children](#) on the World Bank Safeguards. The majority of participants were children between the ages of 10 and 18. The



consultations were held in 4 countries with a total of 108 children (59% girls and 41% boys). Details: Lima, Peru on August 16 (25 children, 68% girls and 32% boys); Ventanilla, Peru on August 17 (17 children, 65% girls and 35% boys); Sana'a, Yemen on September 3 and 4 (24 children, 46% girls and 54% boys); Rourkela, India on September 7 and 8 (25 children, 64% girls and 36% boys); Siem Reap, Cambodia on September 14 and 15 (17 children, 53% girls and 47% boys); Philippines on October 5 (22 participants, 40% male and 60% female). The consultations resulted in serious and well considered recommendations from the children, including ways in which the World Bank safeguards could be revised to improve project outcomes for children and adolescents, as well as their families and communities.

- BIC held a World Bank and Safeguards 101 training in Kampala, Uganda on November 13 (40 participants, 70% male and 30% female).
- BIC, with the support of DAR and at the request of Peru's Ministry of Environment (MINAM), organized a workshop on environmental impact instruments including Environmental Impact Assessments for internal staff of MINAM.
- In June, BIC held a training in Manila for our Philippines partners on World Bank 101 to help them get additional advocates involved in the Disability and World Bank Safeguards Campaign. Eighteen people participated in the training (50% male and 50% female).

Advocacy Meetings

- Conducted several round of discussions with World Bank management and the Board on BIC and partner recommendations on climate, environmental assessments, disability rights, child rights, involuntary resettlement, and forest.
- Prepared a letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew in July, asking Treasury to support a small number of key CSO positions in advance of the July 23 safeguards briefing at the World Bank Board of Directors.
- Following the children's consultations, eight children from Yemen, Cambodia, Peru, and Uganda who participated in their country consultation traveled to DC to share the message of the consultations with decision makers at the World Bank and within the US Government. The children were joined in their meetings by one member, and one former member, of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child who explained how the children's recommendations could be operationalized in World Bank policies.



Convening

- In April 2013, BIC convened a meeting of close to 50 CSO organizations from around the world that work on World Bank advocacy. The meeting served well to further strengthen the collaboration that will carry forward the CSO agenda as the World Bank continues to review its environmental and social standards.

Media

- Significant media attention around the World Bank Independent Evaluation Group's Forest Evaluation, as well as meetings with WB board members (also called Executive Directors or EDs) and management, raised the profile of these issues and framed what will be a contentious debate on the role of WB support for industrial logging in moist tropical forest countries.

Advances

- **Climate:** Convinced the World Bank to include climate change among a limited set of 7 key issues it will consider tackling in the safeguards review. BIC accomplished this by engaging officials at the highest levels of the Bank. BIC, through partnering with specific government representatives, succeeded in convincing the World Bank to propose requiring climate risk assessments for low-income countries.
- **Climate/Energy:** Through BIC and several CSO partners' advocacy efforts for several years, the World Bank finally adopted a new Energy Sector Directions Paper that will significantly limit lending to coal projects.
- **Development Policy Loans (DPLs):** In large part resulting from advocacy on the basis of the ESAM Model Policy, the accompanying DPL primer, and a BIC-led CSO letter to US Treasury Secretary Lew, we have received support from a growing number of World Bank Board chairs to expand the scope of the safeguards review to include development policy lending (DPLs). DPLs occupy an increasing portion of the World Bank's lending portfolio, but currently are not subject to safeguards requirement.
- **Upstream planning:** A long-standing CSO objective has been to create better opportunities for engagement with the Bank on environmental and social issues at the early country planning stages, such as during the development of the country assistance strategy, before environmentally or socially harmful projects are locked into the Bank's project pipeline for the country. The safeguards framework presented by Bank management to the EDs on July 23 includes an upstream "strategy" level that would be new to the Bank's approach to safeguards, and at the same time the Bank is proposing to move from the current Country Assistance Strategy approach to a more analytically rigorous "Country Partnership Framework" (CPF). Working with partners, BIC will continue to pursue upstream planning objectives through the review of the environmental assessment safeguard.
- **Child Rights:** In an April 2013 presentation to civil society on the status of the feedback received by the Bank regarding the safeguards review, addressing the needs of children was featured right alongside the issues the Bank itself had initially identified as 'emerging issues.' BIC engaged with the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the drafting and revision of the General Comment on Children's rights and Business principle. Through these efforts, combined with the work of many other civil society

organizations, the General Comment calls on IFIs, including the World Bank to “have standards and procedures to assess the risk of harm to children in conjunction with new projects and to take measures to mitigate risks of such harm. These organizations should put in place procedures and mechanisms to identify, address and remedy violations of children’s rights.”

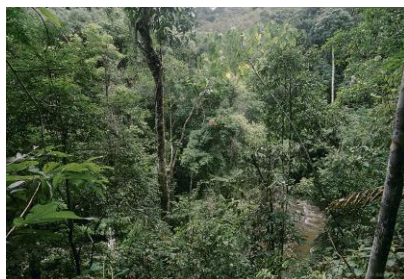
- **Disability Rights:** Included as an “emerging issue” in the Safeguards review. Advisor on Disability and Development at the World Bank created. Outcome Document of the United Nations High Level Meeting on Disability and Development encouraged regional and international development banks and financial institutions to include disability in “all development efforts lending mechanisms.”
- **Coalition Building:** The Forest/Critical Habitat and Involuntary Resettlement issue caucuses were solidified among a core group of CSOs. Coordination with European CSOs is helping to facilitate engagement with key Executive Directors. U.K. CSOs in London, and UK CSOs have sent a strong letter to UK ED Gwen Hines. Safeguard letters to EDs are expected soon from CSOs in Germany and Italy. BIC has also reached out to CSOs in Canada, France, Belgium, Switzerland, and the Nordics to encourage communication with EDs.

Next Steps

The year 2014 will be a particularly labor- and resource-intensive period as BIC positions its various policy change recommendations to influence the drafting of the new policy framework, as well as to analyze and respond to it once we obtain a copy. Influencing the draft will require significant coordination with CSO allies, engaging with the different drafting teams, and convening southern partners to interface with decision makers on the Board.

In addition, BIC will roll out key priority recommendations during a high-profile event on Environmental Assessment bringing technical experts to address the Board of Directors and other decision makers directly. Once a draft is available in 2014, BIC will convene a rapid-response team of key Southern partners to help analyze the draft and convey key messages to the board.

B. PROMOTING LAND RIGHTS OF FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES



The overall goal of our work on forests is to ensure that multilateral finance for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) delivers real results in mitigating climate change, in a way that is environmentally sustainable and protects the land tenure and resource rights of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities.

The year 2013 saw continued focus on putting in place the final pieces of the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Fund’s policy framework, with the approval of relatively strong frameworks for assessing REDD+ readiness progress at the country and international levels, and for monitoring and evaluation of the FCPF


as a whole. BIC continued to coordinate and support civil society organizations and indigenous peoples (IP) inputs into both of those frameworks and supported the organization of an international workshop to gather inputs.

BIC worked on the evolving policy framework at the FCPF Carbon Fund, with coordinated efforts by CSOs and IPs to influence the Methodological Framework and Pricing Approach and related guidance, including for the disclosure of information. This entailed participation in a series of REDD+ Design Forums hosted by the Carbon Fund (January, March and April), as well as preparation of submissions and regular coordination, discussion and follow up meetings with the World Bank Facility Management Team.

Regional work included:

- workshop on aligning REDD+ and EU-led Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Trade (FLEGT) goals and standards in Vietnam conducted in January. They were attended by 41 representatives from the NGO sector, academic/research institutions, and government agencies. Data from the workshop were used to inform Vietnamese CSOs and academicians in drafting their recommendations to the Vietnam Government and EU regarding the FLEGT process and its alignment with REDD+ standards.
- support for the organization of partner events in Mexico and Colombia (February)
- a delegation from the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders (VIDS) and Association of Saramaka Authorities (ASA) in Suriname (in March) was hosted with the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) around the approval of the REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).
- A delegation by AIDSESEP from Peru was coordinated with Amazon Watch, Global Witness and EIA around the Forest Investment Program governance meeting (in May) with the organization of a number of meetings with multilateral and bilateral donors.
- We also launched our Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) consultation case study in Costa Rica with the AMPB (also in May).
- In March, BIC and Indonesian CSO HuMA and debtWATCH conducted a writeshop to help write the SESA framework, as requested by the National Forestry Council. The document from the writeshop was used to inform the government's FCPF obligations and the National REDD Strategy.
- In May, debtWATCH worked with HuMa and BIC in conducting a workshop on rights-based safeguard on forests. Attended by 25 organizations working on human rights and forest, the workshop resulted in a plan for advocacy strategy and next steps on putting forward rights-based safeguards on forests.
- In June, BIC helped organize the "Indonesian Peoples' Event on REDD+, Forest Crimes and the Role of IFIs" in Jakarta and Lombok. As a result, sixteen Indonesian organizations agreed on a draft CSO platform to save Indonesian forests. These were presented to local NGOs and participants of the UNREDD and FCPF-PC meeting afterwards.
- BIC educational materials on the Common Approach were also finalized after comments and discussions with the WB, United Nations Development Programme and Inter-

American Development Bank and prepared for publication in English, Spanish and Khmer.

- BIC along with three Mexican partner organizations (Red MOCAF, Sakbe, and RITA) facilitated the creation of an expanded coalition for REDD advocacy from the local perspective by coordinating a workshop in June in Mexico City.
 - BIC is currently finishing up a case study on the Costa Rican government's early engagement process with the country's indigenous peoples around Costa Rica's national REDD+ strategy. Given that Costa Rica is a forerunner in REDD preparation, the purpose of the case study is to share potential models and lessons learned for other countries in the LAC region. The document will be published in Spanish and English in late December.
 - In September, BIC ran a training [workshop on safeguards in San Pedro Sula, Honduras](#) that was attended by representatives of indigenous peoples and peasant organizations from throughout Mesoamerica (attended roughly by 20% women). The workshop was in preparation for the Community Forestry Pre-Congress organized by BIC's partners, Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques. Over 200 peoples from 13 countries participated in the Community Forestry Pre Congress, with hundreds more following live video transmission of the conference online. The two-day conference centered on how to better support the community efforts that sustain and protect forests and involve forest communities, indigenous communities, civil society organizations, and governments.
- 
- In October, BIC met with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and IFC to gather information on the progress of various Forest Investment Program projects in Indonesia. The information gathered was shared to larger groups.

Advances

- In March we won a significant policy change at the WB FCPF to allow disclosure of emission reduction payment agreements for the first time, expanding transparency of carbon finance transactions at the WB and setting important precedents for REDD performance based payments more broadly.
- Also in March, the R-Package Assessment and FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks were approved, both with significant inputs and improvements from CSOs and IPs. The significance of the former remains to be seen, but is a reasonably robust assessment framework with an important emphasis on participatory process at the country level; the second framework will at least ensure regular external evaluation of the FCPF.
- Expanded FCPF safeguard debate to push Carbon Fund Methodological Framework beyond WB operational policies, potentially including new safeguard principles around natural forests, land, traditional knowledge and community rights.
- Supported the World Bank independent evaluation's findings on the Bank's forest strategy that urged the Bank to rethink its support to industrial logging concession

reform; the World Bank Board afterwards required management to prepare a Forest Action Plan.

- BIC/FPP support for the Suriname IP delegation to PC14 proved important in assuring a victory there—approval of the R-PP was conditioned on further work with indigenous and tribal peoples and an independent analysis of the implications of the IACHR Saramaka Judgment on the REDD+ process.
- In October, the Forest Investment Plan **approved \$50 million** for projects in Peru that will **promote the protection of the country’s irreplaceable and rapidly disappearing forests and ecosystems. Representatives of indigenous organizations and communities will directly implement the activities** they are responsible for the agreement. In addition, \$14.5 million will be allocated to the following three priorities: (1) \$7 million to **indigenous territorial titling**; (2) \$4 million to **community forest management**; and (3) \$3.5 million to **community governance**. This was the culmination of several months of advocacy work by BIC and the indigenous peoples organizations. BIC facilitated meetings between Peruvian leaders and the World Bank; the Inter-American Development Bank; the Forest Investment Program (FIP); FIP’s Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; government representatives of FIP; FIP observers; the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF); and other civil society partners.

III. CAPACITY BUILDING

A. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Throughout all our policy campaign and project monitoring work, BIC continued to facilitate access of civil society and communities to key World Bank policy and project documents. In 2013 BIC also updated its in-depth and accessible guide on understanding the World Bank's Access to Information Policy, [“Unlocking the World Bank’s Access to Information Policy: Your Key to the Vault”](#), in both English and Arabic. Earlier editions are also available in Russian and Spanish.

B. CSO MONITORING NETWORK ON THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Over the past several years, BIC has been facilitating the creation and growth of a CSO network focused on advocating progressive changes at the African Development Bank. Thru the efforts of BIC and the Coalition's key members, *the African-led NGO network on the African Development Bank (AfDB) is achieving concrete outcomes and strengthening its institutional capacity*. As a result of this NGO coalition's advocacy,

- a) the AfDB formally invited the Coalition to serve as the Executive Secretariat of the Joint AfDB-NGO Committee,
- b) NGO consultation processes on AfDB strategies and policies are becoming more common,
- c) draft AfDB policies and country strategies will now be disclosed regularly,
- d) first draft of AfDB's revised safeguards included explicit, though weak, requirements on indigenous peoples for the first time, and
- e) official complaint to the AfDB grievance mechanism resulted in concrete, binding actions by the government of South Africa and AfDB on the Medupi coal project. BIC continues to provide strategic advice and organizational support to the Coalition.

In 2013, BIC continued to assist the African-led coalition on the African Development Bank (AfDB), as the coalition participates in AfDB's review of its social and environmental policies. BIC in particular has pushed AfDB to include greater protections for and recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and BIC staff participated in AfDB's first ever forum on Indigenous Peoples in February. Meanwhile, as AfDB plans the return of its headquarters from Tunis to Abidjan, BIC is helping to develop the roadmap for the Coalition to transition to Abidjan as well.

C. REFORMING SOCIALLY-DISRUPTIVE PROJECTS

1. Tata Mundra coal power plant, India. In 2013, BIC continued to help the local communities in their complaint at the IFC's accountability mechanism – the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman (CAO). BIC helped with analytical work and coordination with different national and international CSOs. BIC helped organize a fact-finding mission by prominent experts in the fields of law, investigative journalism, marine science, gender, energy and human rights on the impacts to strengthen their complaint. These were done to strengthen the complainants' case before the CAO released final report in September 2013, after a 2-year long process. BIC also helped the community draft a detailed complaint for the Asian Development Bank's Compliance Review Panel. The complaint was formally lodged in September 2013.

In September, the communities saw a partial win with the CAO releasing its [findings](#), which confirmed the complaints of harms and serious violations filed by MASS, a coalition of fishing families from more than 30 villages. The CAO confirmed that IFC (i) did not address the environmental and social risks and impacts of the project, (ii) did not apply its land acquisition and involuntary resettlement policy to seasonal, migrant fishing families who were deeply affected by the project, which resulted in economic displacement and livelihood losses, (iii) did no reparation and restoration of marine biodiversity destruction resulting from project construction and effluence from the plant, (iv) did not comply with the minimum air shed and marine environment standards, and (v) did not undertake a cumulative impact assessment of the Tata Mundra coal plant.

After a 3-week silence, World Bank President Kim cleared the IFC management's dismissive [response](#), refusing to acknowledge policy violations and project harms, and issuing no remedial action plan. This was met with strong public backlash, both from India and from five continents.



In particular, over a hundred Indian networks and organizations [challenged Kim](#) to walk his talk on getting the WB to phase out from fossil fuel funding and demonstrate accountability by withdrawing funding to Tata Mundra. Their allies in nearly 70 organizations from 20 countries representing 5 continents reiterated the same strong call to Kim. Even the US-based [Physicians for Social Responsibility](#) intervened, where a doctor challenged a fellow doctor (Kim, himself a physician), for rejecting science and

allowing IFC to continue funding the plant that causes severe public health impacts, including higher mortality rates. There was also a strong global [media](#) coverage, generally in favor of the complainants and critical of Kim's decision.

Kim and the IFC management never responded to these letters except by publishing an [FAQ](#), which avoided accountability and relegates the remedial action to their client.

In November, it appeared that these strong messages were getting to Kim when he tasked the IFC to have a ‘forward looking statement’ in addressing the CAO findings. There is an expectation that the statement will come in the form of a remedial plan.

2. Coal plant in Odisha, India. Aside from spewing more CO₂ into the atmosphere, this IFC-financed coal power project (GMR Kamalanga) is (i) polluting the river that communities use for cooking, (ii) endangering the lives of residents and students from dynamite blasting, (iii) has displaced almost 1,300 families who have now lost their land, crops, and properties, and is forcibly acquiring the remaining private land, and (iv) is not providing any information on livelihood restoration plans in spite of repeated requests by community members.

BIC assisted the communities and CSOs to develop a strategy to make sure that the project goes for a full compliance review by the CAO. During the initial assessment period of CAO, BIC helped gather more information about the impacts of this financial intermediary-funded project to strengthen their case. In June 2013, CAO concluded their initial assessment, and decided for a full compliance review of the project. BIC continues to help the communities in the process.

This is the first time CAO has two full compliance review cases involving coal investments at the same time in a country.

3. Oyu Tolgoi Gold/Copper mine, Mongolia. Located in the Southern Gobi Desert region of Mongolia, the Oyu Tolgoi copper/silver/gold mine is one of the *largest undeveloped copper and gold deposits* in the world, possibly worth [\\$350 billion](#). The Mongolian GDP is expected to increase by 30% once Oyu Tolgoi begins production.

The IFC and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) have approved financing the project for as much as \$400 million each, with the hopes of raising \$4 billion with an assortment of other private investors.

Rio Tinto, who controls the mine, is also expected to build a *coal power plant* to help power the mine.

One of the most significant concerns regarding this project is *water resource management*. Oyu Tolgoi is located in the Gobi Desert, an arid ecosystem that is suffering the effects of increased desertification due to climate change. Mining is a notoriously water-intensive industry, and the large size of Oyu Tolgoi means that competition for water resources with the nearby nomadic herding community will be fierce. There are at least 8 other mines within a 500 km radius of Oyu Tolgoi, and all are facing water scarcity issues. The Government of Mongolia is proposing two river diversion projects to address these water limitations, but experts have claimed that these rivers may not survive the diversion.

BIC recently assisted a Mongolian NGO (OT Watch) in filing a complaint with the IFC’s Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman. It continued to provide strategic advice to Mongolian NGOs on how to engage the IFC and advocate for effective ways to mitigate the potentially serious environmental and social impacts of this massive mine.

In January 2013, BIC organized a Board Seminar that was attended by several World Bank Board members, hosted by BIC and the New Zealand Executive Director's Office, since he represents Mongolia at the World Bank. BIC facilitated the attendance of a local herder from Khanbogd and representatives from Oyu Tolgoi Watch, BIC, Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide, Sierra Club, and the Southwest Research and Information Center, who all presented their concerns and recommendations to staff from the IFC, Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman (CAO), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and several World Bank board members.

BIC also facilitated the filing of the second complaint to the CAO by the herders in February 2013. Herders in Khanbogd filed a second complaint in order to get the company to stop the diversion of the Undai River. The Undai is the sole source of surface water in the region, and the herders are afraid that the diversion will have significant irreversible impacts on their health and livelihoods. Some also contend that the company does not have the proper permits to begin the diversion. The CAO found the complaint eligible for assessment in late February 2013 and is currently conducting the investigation.

In October, BIC facilitated the visit of L. Battengel, a herder leader from the Khanbogd-based local grassroots organization Gobi Soil, to the Bank's Annual Meetings in DC. During his visit, he met with IFC and CAO staff as well as a number of Executive Directors to share photos and testimony of the impacts that he and the rest of the herding community has experienced as a result of the OT gold/copper mine. Battengel asked the Bank to withhold disbursement of the loan until it could guarantee access to clean water, clean air, and adequate pastureland for the herders so that they might preserve and continue their traditional livelihoods.

In November, nine civil society organizations from Mongolia, Europe, US (including BIC) and Australia [submitted their initial review](#) of the Oyu Tolgoi (OT) project's Operational Management Plans (OMPs) to the World Bank Group Board of Executive Directors in anticipation of the Board's November 19th technical briefing. The OMPs and the audit fail to address many of the key issues previously flagged to the IFC and the EBRD, including questionable stakeholder engagement and replacement of the Bor Ovoo spring. Critical components of the OMPs that would ameliorate these concerns, such as the Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation Programme and Water Monitoring Plan, and other unreleased reports, such as the Aquaterra groundwater monitoring report, have still not been disclosed.

4. Other Problem Projects

BIC continued to assist communities who are seeking redress from or reform of other problem projects:

- 1) Cambodia Airport II (IFC):** Scores of families (exact number being reconciled) from two village zones received compensation, with many of them moving to the resettlement site. From corroborating sources and BIC's field visit, the relocated families reported that they are "better off" than before their relocation. Some basic services such as water, electricity access, and drainage system are in place in the resettlement site. Scores of other families have reportedly been notified of their compensation package and their

relocation. The future of fifty three families (whether they will be relocated or not) remains uncertain.

- 2) **Gold and copper mining project by Mindoro Resources, Philippines (IFC):** The borrower has agreed to stop expanding the exploration into ancestral domains, and comply with IFC requirements while the financing is active. The CAO concluded the appraisal saying that it will initiate a full audit even without community request if there are verified reports that IFC and its borrower failed to comply with their agreements.
- 3) **Kosovo coal project (World Bank and IFC):** BIC worked closely with Kosovo civil society organizations and health, environment, and resettlement experts in producing solid case studies that were used in advocating to World Bank senior management and U.S. government officials that the planned lignite coal power plant is not in the best interest of the people of Kosovo. BIC's work is in support of global efforts in combating climate change and in helping address the energy needs of the people of Kosovo.

Together with experts, BIC showed the need for the World Bank to conduct a full assessment of Kosovo's water supply system, to ensure that the proposed lignite plant does not pose a risk to future water demand, which is expected as demand for drinking water and irrigation water rises. BIC showed data to U.S. government officials that the proposed Kosovo coal power project is not in line with the World Bank's commitments on climate change and gender, which was a requirement when the U.S. Congress authorized the 16th replenishment of funds to the World Bank. BIC's study showed that the planned project will harm women's and children's health and economic opportunities for women.

Together with experts, BIC showed that the standards set for the new Kosovo coal plant is far from best practice – allowing air pollutant emissions twice higher than the new U.S. emission standards, and significantly higher than current Chinese standards. Moreover, building the new coal plant is projected to cause close to 1,800 premature deaths. Preliminary data also shows that the coal project violates various international standards on forced displacement.

During the official 2013 World Bank/IMF April meetings, BIC arranged advocacy visits of several Kosovo civil society representatives and experts. BIC facilitated meetings between the head of Kosovo's energy labor union, two Kosovar doctors, representatives from Physicians for Social Responsibility, and KOSID representatives, and various members of the World Bank senior management, board members, and U.S. government officials.

Overall, BIC's strong campaigning with Kosovo civil society representatives and experts is making it more politically difficult for the World Bank to approve the proposed lignite coal power plant. It has become clear to the World Bank that citizens are watching them closely to ensure that the Bank follows its own rules. In addition, BIC's overall engagement in the last two years has allowed the Kosovo civil society organizations to establish a good scientific and pragmatic base to be able to engage decision-makers at the

World Bank and U.S. government, while building key relationships with some of world's most prestigious organizations and CSO groups in the U.S. and Europe. This will serve Kosovars well to further strengthen their campaign in the future.

- 4) **Giza North Power Project in Egypt (World Bank):** This project has had major impacts on farmers and surrounding communities' water and land. In February 2013, six Egyptian organizations, two regional CSO networks, and thirty five members of the project-affected community submitted a request for inspection to the World Bank's highest accountability body, the Inspection Panel. In April 2013, the Inspection Panel [officially registered the request](#), making it [the first official request to be registered by the Inspection Panel from Egypt](#). The Inspection Panel, as part of its process to determine whether inspection is the most relevant and needed course for this project, undertook an eligibility visit to Egypt in May 2013 to meet with Bank, government, and company representatives, and with civil society and affected community requestors.

BIC organized training sessions for both the CSO requestors and the affected communities on how to present their case to the Inspection Panel representatives, and attended the Inspection Panel's meetings with the CSOs and affected groups as an observer to the process. The Inspection Panel's [eligibility report](#) as well as the World Bank's [management response](#) are now available to the public, and while the Panel did not recommend investigation in this case, they recognized that there were harms but that they believe these harms can be solved through further communication and negotiation between the implementing company and the affected communities, with the oversight and guidance of the World Bank's management team. While in Washington, DC for the October World Bank Annual Meetings, BIC and four partner organizations met with the Inspection Panel to present new findings in the case, and pushed World Bank management to remain involved in monitoring negotiations between the implementing company and affected groups. With BIC's support and local CSOs' on-the-ground pressure, many of the issues faced by affected farmers and laborers have now been addressed to the satisfaction of those impacted.

- 5) **Egyptian Refinery Company (ERC) Mostorod Refinery Project, Egypt.** During a 3-day regional workshop on IFIs in the MENA region that BIC hosted in Tunisia in December 2012, several Egyptian partners expressed interest in investigating the impacts of the ERC Mostorod Refinery Project, which is being financed by the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's private sector arm. As a result of the December workshop, BIC developed the Mostorod-Monitor listserv, which has been active beginning February 2013, and has facilitated 40+ messages between groups, with active members including five Egyptian organizations, as well as three international IFI watchdog groups (including BIC), and one donor organization based in Egypt.

Currently, work on the ERC Mostorod project is in the investigative stage. An Egyptian partner has taken the lead on doing research on identifying the major issues found in the project, and has published their findings [on their website](#), and BIC has supported them by meeting with the ERC CEO and social specialists in March 2013, and by hosting two coordinating meetings while in Egypt. In October 2013, BIC facilitated an initial

meeting between partners following this project and representatives of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), which is the independent accountability mechanism of the IFC.

- 6) **Titan Egypt Cement Factory Project, Egypt (IFC).** BIC is supporting a partner CSO's investigations into the IFC-financed Titan Egypt company's cement factory project in Alexandria, Egypt. The Egyptian Center for Civil and Legislative Reform (ECCLR) has been following reports of labor rights violations by the company and of severe health and pollution issues, and is working directly with communities in Wadi al Qamr, the area surrounding the cement plants to organize the affected people to present a complaint to the IFC's accountability mechanism. In October 2013, BIC organized an initial meeting between ECCLR and other groups monitoring this project, and the CAO.
- 7) **Cairo Airport Project, Egypt.** BIC is supporting partner organization the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR) in compiling, translating, and publishing a report on the World Bank's application of its environmental and social Safeguard policies and its procurement policy in its financing of the Cairo Airport Terminal 2. The completed report will be available in hard copies in English and Arabic and on the BIC and ECESR websites.

8) **[Uzbekistan Rural Enterprise Support Project.](#)**

Civil society groups claim that this project is contributing to the perpetuation of forced labor (both children and adults) in cotton farms. On September 5, the Association for Human Rights in Central Asia, Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan "Ezgulik" and Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights filed a [formal complaint](#) to the World Bank Inspection Panel. BIC helped the complainants prepare the Inspection Panel case and also served as a liaison between the complainants and the Panel.



- 9) **Hydropower projects in Nepal.** BIC met with organisations in Nepal working on hydro projects and is in the process of developing a focused work on IFIs and hydro power in Nepal, to ensure transparency and participation of citizens at all levels.

D. SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN TRANSITIONAL COUNTRIES

Middle East and North Africa

BIC's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Program seeks to build the technical and advocacy skills of civil society in Egypt, Yemen, and Tunisia in order for them to effectively engage the World Bank in a way that pushes for greater transparency, accountability and participation at the World Bank Group's operations in their countries and consequently with their respective governments. In 2013, BIC also conducted an assessment in Morocco to explore the possibility of working with Moroccan civil society on monitoring and helping to shape the World Bank's operations – and hence the development agenda - in their country.

Egypt

We are pleased with how the work in Egypt has progressed over the past two years. We have been given a major opportunity to transition from working at a general level on issues of transparency and accountability of the World Bank in the MENA region to working on specific project and issue areas (housing and urban planning) through the use and application of the tools and mechanisms that we have until now been gathering and sharing information about. We are now moving toward replicating this transition in our other focus countries in the MENA region (Yemen, Tunisia, and likely starting work in Morocco late this year). We view our work in Egypt as a model to be built upon in our future projects and engagements, especially in terms of developing a hands-on method for applying and using tools, mechanisms, and policies of the World Bank to work toward and advocate for specific goals in policies and projects.

We have been working closely this year with 6-8 Egyptian civil society organizations. While each organization works differently and has differing levels of capacity, we are very confident in the level of interest of these groups in the project, and we are overall very impressed with some groups' capacity to engage with the World Bank at a policy and project level, and at other groups' growth and willingness to tackle new challenges in engaging at various levels. As we move forward, we believe one of the challenges ahead of us will be to broaden our engagement and reach out to a larger circle of 15-20 groups, while maintaining these strong, hands-on project relationships with the 6-8 key partners we are currently working with.

CSO groups successfully advocated for consultations on the World Bank Safeguard Review held in Egypt, and engaged the Bank during the Phase 1 consultation on the Safeguard policies. During this consultation, groups were prepared and competent, and presented clear asks related to the review in areas of interest ranging from involuntary resettlement, to disability and labor rights, to environmental assessment and land governance. Groups submitted these asks in writing to the Bank to add further weight to their recommendations, and are committed to continuing to engage the Bank throughout the Safeguard review in coordination with the global civil society campaign on this review.

In May 2013, BIC organized a workshop discussion in Cairo, Egypt with CSOs leading up to Inspection Panel visit (5 participants, 5 men, 0 women). Also in May, BIC conducted a training

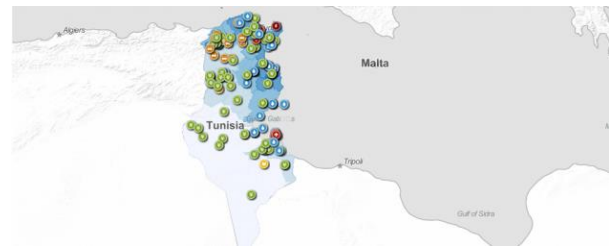
with local farmers, tenants and fishermen on presenting their case to the Inspection Panel. It was held at the Abu Ghalib village, Egypt (20 participants, 20 men, 0 women).

Tunisia

For the past two years, our work in Tunisia has been mainly focused on information dissemination and facilitating the engagement of CSOs with the World Bank particularly around the Bank's interim strategy for Tunisia and two budget support loans it gave to the Tunisian government to support it in implementing its reform program during the post-revolution period. Through these efforts, we were successful in laying the groundwork for future meaningful engagement between Tunisian civil society and the World Bank in the country.

A pivotal event for our work in Tunisia and in BIC's program more broadly - was a major regional workshop which we held in Tunis in December 2012 around the role of International Financial Institutions in the MENA region that brought together civil society organizations from across the region and where Tunisian civil society had the highest representation. In Tunisia, given that BIC does not have a historical presence in the country, the workshop was an opportunity to develop broad CSO interest in the World Bank and how it shapes the country's development agenda. The workshop also helped build our credibility in Tunisia and gave Tunisians an opportunity to see what BIC has been doing in other countries such as Yemen, Egypt and Lebanon.

In May 2013, BIC [published a study](#) on the role of the World Bank Group in Tunisia historically and during the current transitional period. In addition to highlighting the main development challenges affecting the country, the study also discusses the Bank's current operations in Tunisia and provides information on the different tools and mechanisms that Tunisian civil society and citizens can make use of to influence the Bank's activities in the country. The study benefited greatly from the inputs of Tunisian civil society and the World Bank office in Tunis.



Also during this year, BIC published a [country page on Tunisia](#) in English and Arabic with background information on the country, key issues, and resources for civil society.

Yemen

With the political transition well underway in Yemen, the World Bank is playing a major role as a donor, coordinator of aid flowing into the country, and provider of technical assistance at this time. Given this significant role, BIC has been working with different elements of Yemeni civil society to help promote greater understanding of the Bank and the opportunities to influence its operations.

Beyond our work with civil society in Sana'a, BIC worked hard to reach other actors to learn from them and to share information and tools for influencing the Bank. Specifically, BIC worked with journalists and civil society outside of the capital city of Sana'a.

In March 2013, BIC conducted a two-day training for Yemeni journalists from 5 governorates with a local CSO partner about how to access critical information from the World Bank, how to understand it, and read behind the headlines and press releases. It was held in Sana'a, with 20 participants, 5 of them women. We have maintained those relationships and have continued to provide these journalists with information as we receive it from the Bank in an attempt to enhance critical and accurate journalism about the Bank's operations in the country.

In June and July 2013 BIC conducted workshops on "community rights in Bank-funded projects" in the governorates of Hodaida (West coast of Yemen) and Aden (Southern coast). There were 22 participants in the Hodaida workshop, 8 of them women, and also 22 participants in the Aden workshop, 9 of them women. Due to security issues as well as the lack of an appropriate counterpart who could connect us to actors in those governorates, we had before 2013 focused our outreach solely in Sana'a. However, going out of the center of power and also to some of the areas that actually suffer greatest economically is essential and BIC took this leap successfully and is now working closely with CSOs in both of these governorates on how to ensure that the needs of their governorates will be adequately represented in the Bank's upcoming strategy for the country at large.

In 2013 BIC also published a [study on the Bank's role in Yemen](#) and how civil society can influence the institution.

Morocco

In July 2013, with the support of Novib Maghreb, BIC's MENA program conducted an assessment in Morocco to explore the possibility of working with Moroccan civil society on monitoring and helping to shape the World Bank's operations – and hence the development agenda - in their country. To achieve this, BIC-MENA set out clear objectives as guiding criteria, and based on the findings relevant to each of those objectives, we found the assessment to be an extremely positive one .

The Bank is playing an important role in Morocco both in terms of its lending to the country, and more importantly in shaping Morocco's economic and non-economic policies by supporting government reform programs. The country is also characterized by a strong and active civil society. Overall, we were excited by the capacity and the interest of civil society in working on the World Bank, and more importantly that they saw the value-added of our work and how it could complement their existing work. CSOs were interested in engaging on several issue areas such as transparency and country systems, as well as specific projects such as the "National Initiative for Human Development" (INDH) project through which the Bank is piloting its new Program-for Results- instrument, the Concentrated Solar Power project in Ouarzazate, the first and largest of a series of solar power projects being funded in MENA, and others.

We were also able to identify potential partners that we could work with should we have the opportunity to work in Morocco. Most importantly, there were clear opportunities that would allow our potential work in the country with civil society to achieve change. To this end, in 2014, we will explore funding opportunities for taking this work forward.

Asia

CSO groups in Asia are active engaged in the international campaign to strengthen the World Bank’s social and environmental standards, especially with regard to involuntary resettlement. BIC is also actively working with national groups on REDD standards in Indonesia, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

India

Anti-coal campaign in India. BIC is currently mapping financing of major coal projects in India. BIC is looking at 160 projects (106 private and 54 public) which are above 1000 MW in capacity and which were approved post 2006. In September, BIC published a report on one of the iconic coal projects – Sasan project, whose transmission lines are being financed by the World Bank. The report is currently being translated to Hindi. The report was used in the recent Conference of Parties held in Warsaw.

In August, BIC co-organised a “Workshop on Finance,” with a focus on World Bank project financing. The workshop was participated by 34 activists from 10 states, and provided an opportunity for participants to understand how development financing works and way for citizens to influence them.

Below is a summary of events that BIC organized or co-organized in India.

Date	Event	Location	BIC organised / co-organised	Total Participants	Women	Men
January 8	Community meeting on FI funded coal project	Orissa	BIC co-organised	20	5	15
April 10	Safeguard consultation preparatory meetings	Delhi	BIC organised	20	6	14
May 7	Meeting on ‘BRICS Bank as an alternative to World Bank’	Delhi	BIC co-organised	12	7	5
July 11	Planning meeting on IFIs in Indian Industrial corridors	Delhi	BIC co-organised	15	6	9
July 18	Meeting with media on IFIs	Delhi	BIC organised	15	4	11`
August 3-4	Community meetings on Bank funded transmission lines	Madhya Pradesh	BIC organised	60	25	35

August 6	Meeting on community exchange on coal	Delhi	BIC co-organised	30	5	25
August 20-21	Planning meeting on coal campaign	Haryana	BIC co-organised	13	3	11
August 23-25	Workshop on Finance	Himachal Pradesh	BIC co-organised	34	10	24

Burma

Twenty-eight (28) Burma groups formally lodged concerns with the WB's first project at the Inspection Panel. The National Community-Driven Development (CDD) Project is the first World Bank project grant after 25 years. The organizations have yet to decide if they plan to register their written concerns before the Panel takes the next process. The concern cites the Bank's failure to disclose design documents, failure to consult broadly and meaningfully before approval, failure to comply with the mandatory environmental and social policies, and allegedly inappropriate application of a policy (rapid response to emergencies and disasters) that enabled a rushed and ill-informed project design.

One recent development in coordinating Bank monitoring was the formation of IFI Watch Myanmar. A membership organization that involves volunteers and representatives of Burma groups from inside and outside the country, this emerging collective seeks to speak with one voice as local groups and communities monitor IFI activities and work to affect decision making in their investments and sector strategies. BIC supports IFI Watch Myanmar in the area of organizational strengthening, network building, capacity building and local outreach, as well as monitoring Bank projects.

Below is a summary of the training/workshop/panel discussion held mostly in Burma or Thailand for our NGO partners.

Date	Training/workshop/panel discussions	Location	Participants	F	M
January 28	Meeting with DRD	Nay Pyi Taw	10	3	7
February 13	Awareness raising for Shan State and township CSOs on IFIs and CDD in preparation for pilot project consultation with the DRD	Taung Gyi Township, Shan States	45	15	30
February 25	Awareness raising for Chin State and township CSOs on IFIs and CDD in preparation for pilot project consultation with the DRD	Hakha Township, Chin States	26	5	21
February 27	Awareness raising for Tanintharyi Division and township CSOs on IFIs and CDD in preparation for pilot project consultation with the DRD	Dawei Township, Thaninthayi Division	36	10	26
March 8	IFI Watch Myanmar review and strategy discussion on CDD	Yangoon	8	4	4
April 17	IFI Re-Engagement and Aid Coordination in Myanmar: A Panel Discussion	World Bank, Washington DC	73	45	28
May 3	Donor Aid in the Changing Myanmar: Doing No Harm, Doing Good?: A Panel	ADB AGM, India Export Center, New	49	22	27

	Discussion	Delhi			
March 8	Meeting with BIC & IFI Core members	ComReG office, Yangon	8	4	4
May 12-13	ADB Workshop	Chiangmai	13	7	6
May 15-16	Basic IFIs organized by ERI	Chiangmai	13	7	6
May 18-19	IFI Watch Myanmar Evaluation & Strategic Planning Meeting	ComReG office, Yangon	8	4	4
May 20	IFI 101 Training to TYA, TWO and TSYO	Lashio	18	11	7
May 20	Myanmar MPs	Nyapyidaw	23	4	19
May 22	IMF Consultation Mission - Myanmar	UMFCCI, Yangon	8	4	4
May 27	Donor Coordination Meeting	LRC, Yangon	45	25	20
May 28-29	Myanmar's Private Sector and the Potential Roles of the International Financial Institutions	Panda Hotel, Yangon	67	34	33
May 30-31	ADB 2-day workshop#	LRC, Yangon	28	16	12
June 15-17	IFI 101 - 102	Myanmar Literature Resource Center, Yangon	42	16	26
August 14-16	IFI 101 and 102 Training for Network for Environmental and Economic Development (NEED) members	Chiang Mai	13	6	7
	Total		709	336	373

Cambodia

In August and September, BIC met with Cambodian NGO groups and shared information to them that BIC gathered from the WB regarding its processes in developing the Interim country assistance strategy note, and opportunities where NGOs can engage.

Vietnam

BIC is working with partners in Vietnam by providing information on the World Bank's new lending mechanism called Program For Results that will be implemented in the country.

Below is a summary of workshops held in the Mekong region.

Date	Location	Event	Total Participants	Women	Men
April 1	Samarinda, East Kalimantan	Discussion on Rights-based safeguards in Samarinda, East Kalimantan	23	6	17
April 8	Indonesia	Workshop on Indonesia Forest Moratorium – evaluation and performance	30	13	17
June 19	Jakarta, Indonesia	Seminar on: "Between Needs and Reality: Financing for Forest Governance Reform and CBFM"	63	27	36
June 20	Jakarta, Indonesia	FGD on Forest Governance Reform and CBFM (Drafting common platform)	34	14	20

June 27	Lombok, Indonesia	Seminar: REVISITING THE REDD+ LOGIC AND SOLUTIONS-The IFIs, UN, Donor Governments, and REDD+ Proponents in the Governance of Indonesia's Forest and Climate Finance	42	15	27
August 19	Indonesia	Discussion on Indonesia FIP Projects	14	8	6
January 9-10	Ho Chinn Minh, Vietnam	Addressing Deforestation and Forest Degradation: A Closer look at REDD+ in Vietnam	39	7	33
February 20	Manila, Philippines	Preparatory meeting for 1st phase of WB Safeguard review consultation in the Philippines	12	5	7
March 10-11	Bangkok, Thailand	Asia peoples' forum on safeguards	40	21	19
March 12	Bangkok, Thailand	Asian CSO and People-led Meeting with the World Bank on Safeguards	20	12	8
June 25	Philippines	World Bank in the Philippines: How does it engage persons with disabilities?	27	15	12
August & September	Cambodia	Meetings with Cambodian NGOs re: WB Re-engagement	10	8	2

Below is a summary of some of the workshops held for Asian NGO partners in Washington DC.

Date	Location	Title	Total # Participants	Women	Men
April 22	U.S.	Expert workshop on WB Involuntary Resettlement Policy Review	25	17	8
April 18	U.S.	A panel discussion: IFI re-engagement in Burma: Focus on peace and investments in resource management	67	35	32
April 19	U.S.	A panel discussion: Comparative MDB safeguards:	50	28	22
February 20	Bangkok, Thailand	Business and Human Rights and IFIs in Burma	80	50	30
July 12	U.S.	Burma's energy development: challenges, needs and the strategies of the IFIs	20	12	8

Latin America

In Latin America, BIC is working with civil society and indigenous groups in Bolivia and Peru in strengthening the environmental impact assessment system of these countries. BIC also re-initiated efforts to help Latin America CSOs in advocating higher access to information and environmental and social standards at the Brazilian Development Bank.

Bolivia

BIC and its Bolivian partners are currently working to influence the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of an emblematic road project (Ixiamas



– San Buenaventura highway) in the northern region of La Paz. After this road is built, it is expected to trigger a series of other mega-infrastructure investments in the area, such as a sugar mill industrial complex, airport, and a hydroelectric dam.

In January a delegation of the Bolivian indigenous peoples group CIDOB came to DC where BIC conducted a training workshop on the application of World Bank safeguards. Bolivia was part of a delegation of seven countries participating. In our efforts to advocate for upward harmonization of social and environmental safeguards standards, BIC and CIDOB had several meetings with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank. By using as leverage some of the components of the WB's project regarding strengthening of indigenous organization, we managed to negotiate with the IDB the inclusion of a similar component/plan to strengthen the CRTM (Tchimanés and Mozetenes) in the IDB's section of the road. It was agreed with the IDB that the CRTM/CIDOB would work and propose a draft terms of reference to hire a consultant to support them in the preparation of an Indigenous Plan for the Pilon Lajas.

Through this work, BIC's partners leveraged a commitment from the IDB to invest US\$300,000 for the preparation of an Indigenous Plan for the CRTM for the protection of their territory and Pilon Lajas Protected Area. Similarly, CIPTA succeeded in negotiating an increase of the budget of their Indigenous Peoples Plan from US\$700,000 to US\$1 million including a modification of the components of the IPP within the impact mitigation program of the World Bank Ixiamas – San Buenaventura project.

During the visit of the CIDOB in January, among other things we also discussed with the IDB and the WB the possibility of convening an inter-institutional dialogue with a number of relevant ministries in Bolivia to discuss territorial planning and use of tools such as cumulative impact assessments and SESAs in the northern region of La Paz. This idea came in light of one of the WB's project components that calls for the creation of a Working Group for Sustainable Territorial Planning. BIC would like to expand the scope to an area larger than just the Ixiamas – San Buenaventura highway. The idea has resonated with the IDB so far.

Peru

In Peru, BIC commissioned a study that reviews the Environmental Impact Assessment system in Peru against the World Bank's environmental assessment policy and international best practice and makes proposals to Peru and World Bank for improvements. A final draft is available, and has been submitted to experts for comments.

The report reveals both opportunities and challenges for operationalizing SENACE to strengthen environmental risk management practices. SENACE is the recently created National Institute for the Environmental Certification of EIAs (Servicio Nacional de Certificación Ambiental para las Inversiones Sostenibles).

In short, challenges include variability of standards and fragmented sectorial authority over approval of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), competing pressure of EIA efficiency over quality, gaps in transparency, participation and accountability, and weak enforcement

oversight. The recommendations in the report to ensure an effective SENACE include 1) a gradual, phased and controlled rollout of SENACE; 2) the tailoring of EIA TORs to the specificities of the highest risk projects and the undertaking of scoping for these projects; 3) include cumulative impact assessment in TORs, particularly for certain hydropower and mining projects based on potential direct and indirect impacts; 4) invest in institutional capacity building; 5) improve compliance oversight through more frequent site visits, penalties and possible disbarment; 6) develop unified procedures for consultation across all sectors.

Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES)

In June, BIC supported Bolivian indigenous peoples organization CIDOB and Amazon environmental lawyers network RAMA (Red Juridica Amazonica) in developing advocacy strategies for an Access to Information Policy at BNDES through a [workshop organized by DAR from Peru and IBASE from Brazil about BNDES' intervention in the region](#). The outcome was a commitment to leverage higher standards in terms of participation and access to information practices related to the World Bank and IDB sections of the Northern Corridor within the BNDES' section (Rurrenabaque – Riveralta). Another positive outcome of the workshop was a meeting with BNDES, where it committed to discussing the co-organization of an event to share best practices in terms of access to information and stakeholder participation, for which BIC and its partners' experience in projects such as the Northern Corridor are crucial.

IV. BIC's GENDER WORK

BIC is committed to maintaining a gender perspective in our external work because we are convinced that only by helping to bring all voices to the table, can we help design enduring and effective solutions. BIC conducted the following activities in 2013:

1) Gender justice objectives and tasks in the programs

- Incorporated gender justice objectives in BIC's safeguard campaign. As convener of the World Bank safeguard campaign, BIC is working with Gender Action and other gender-based organizations to ensure that their recommendations on how to strengthen gender safeguards are articulated in an effective manner in the safeguards review.
- BIC is considering ramping up its gender work on the safeguards campaign in 2014 to include LGBT issues, if additional funding is secured. It has met with several NGO representatives and World Bank management to map how we can go about this. Meeting participants include those from American Jewish World Service, Council for Global Equality, World Bank's GLOBE, Human Rights Watch, and representative from a World Bank board member's office.
- BIC's [primer](#) on why Country Assistance Strategy planning needs to be included in the safeguards review elaborated on a case study on Kosovo that emphasized how upstream planning failed to adequately address gender related social and environmental risks, and called to correct these gaps through strategic risk assessments in the new Integrated Safeguard Framework.

- The DC visit and [presentation](#) by Dr. Ciaran O’Faircheallaigh from Griffith University to advocate for Community Controlled Impact Assessment and Impact and Benefit Agreements in the Bank’s safeguard framework addressed how these mechanisms introduced novel methods for ensuring gender balanced participation in the negotiations with project developers

2) Promoting partnerships and women’s participation

- Informed and facilitated the participation of women’s rights and gender justice organizations in a consultation conducted by the U.S. Treasury on what their stance might be on gender and World Bank safeguards. The consultation took place in August 2013 and was attended by government representatives from Treasury, the State Department, the Labor Department, and the Office of the US Alternate Executive Director to the World Bank along with representatives from BIC, Gender Action, Human Rights Watch, and Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). Participants discussed the need for a gender safeguard, as well as gender mainstreaming in World Bank policy and operations. The CSOs detailed the issues with projects being only gender-informed in an institution where gender trainings and mainstreaming is not mandatory. The lack of a good precedent of a gender safeguard at another development bank seemed to worry those from U.S. Treasury leading the working group. However, they were very receptive to our ideas and seemed to understand why we take issue with Bank gender policy which they will hopefully keep in mind as they write recommendations for new safeguards policy.

3) Gender expertise and practice in the organisation

- Conducted a brownbag on BIC’s human resources and benefits policies to ensure all employees benefit equitably. The brownbag focused on identifying strengths and weaknesses in BIC’s work week policy and time off from work. Employees experienced how using a gender lens can affect the choice of specific policies.
- Participated in a graduate class exercise done by gender expert Aruna Rao, whereby five students interviewed some BIC staff to help design a gender audit for BIC. BIC’s Development Director participated in the group’s presentation and gave and heard feedback from each other on how BIC can strengthen its gender work.
- Assigned a new point person for BIC’s gender work, Martha Coe.

4) Communications

- Ensured that the language used in emails, proposals, and reports is inclusive and does not reinforce stereotypes.

5) The organisation applies gender analysis to its work

- Included sex-disaggregated data on workshops organized by BIC

6) Supporting the World Bank’s Gender Unit

- Continued to forge a working relationship with the World Bank Gender and Development Unit, to help identify ways of strengthening the unit's resources and profile with the Bank.
- Conducted gender-related panel events during the World Bank Spring and Fall Meetings, to help raise the profile of both the issue and the Gender Unit's efforts to mainstream gender in all Bank projects. The Fall meeting was entitled "Gender Justice: An Update on the World Bank's Gender Work and Views from the Ground." Panelists were: Jeni Klugman (Director of Gender and Development, World Bank), Odile Faye (Executive Secretary, AAWORD), Delphine Djiraibe (Human Rights Attorney, Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, Moderator Juerg Frieden (Swiss Executive Director, World Bank).