Conservation Initiative on Human Rights

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Context for the Initiative

- Growing recognition of rights & conservation links
  - Healthy ecosystems contribute to fulfillment of rights
  - Secure rights (e.g., land tenure) contribute to conservation/sustainable use
  - Exclusionary approaches infringe on rights
  - Where rights are not respected, leads to conflicts that can impede conservation
Context for the Initiative

- Interest/concern by NGOs to strengthen & expand their work
  - Respecting, supporting, promoting integration of rights in practice
  - Development of institutional policies and accountability systems
  - Common learning needs
Background on the Initiative

- IIED presentation on social accountability to Conservation CEOs group
- Staff working group convened in 2008, with technical support from IIED
- **Goal**: “Improve the practice of conservation by ensuring that participating organizations integrate human rights into their work.”
- 2009 workshop – rights and accountability experts

1. Respect human rights

- Respect internationally proclaimed human rights; and make sure that we do not contribute to infringements of human rights while pursuing our mission.

2. Promote human rights within conservation programs

- Support and promote the protection and realization of human rights within the scope of our conservation programs

* As contained in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other applicable international instruments.
Common Principles, cont

3. Protect the vulnerable

- Make special efforts to avoid harm to those who are vulnerable to infringements of their rights and to support the protection and fulfillment of their rights within the scope of our conservation programs.

4. Encourage good governance

- Support the improvement of governance systems that can secure the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of our work on conservation and sustainable natural resource use, including elements such as legal, policy and institutional frameworks, and procedures for equitable participation and accountability.
Implementation Measures

1. Further develop these principles and implementation measures in consultation with our constituencies.

2. Establish relevant institutional policies
   Establish our own institutional policies to ensure that these principles are fulfilled; communicate our policies internally and externally and periodically review and revise them as needed.

3. Ensure implementation capacity is in place
   Determine the competencies needed within our organizations to implement these policies and principles and ensure that the necessary capacity is in place.
Implementation Measures

4. Address conservation-human rights links in the design, implementation and monitoring of our programs, including by:
   - Undertaking impact assessment and consultation in advance of conservation actions – including free, prior, informed consent of indigenous peoples
   - Reflecting local concerns in design and implementation
   - Monitoring human rights implications and adapting for ongoing improvement

5. Establish accountability measures
   - Monitoring and evaluating adherence
   - Complaints procedures

6. Apply principles in work with implementing partners
CIHR Objectives (2010-2013)

1. Develop and maintain a common set of **human rights principles** as they relate to conservation

2. Identify and test **measures for implementing** these principles and demonstrating compliance with them.

3. Support members in implementing human rights principles and measures, especially through **shared learning** among participating organizations, stakeholders and experts

4. **Promote integration** of human rights principles in conservation and communicate relevant experience

5. **Report** on members’ activities in putting in place measures for implementation and monitoring of their human rights principles
Implementing a Rights Based Approach at CI
A Rights Based Approach in Action

Integration of Rights:

• NORMS,
• STANDARDS &
• PRINCIPLES

Into:

• POLICY,
• PLANNING,
• IMPLEMENTATION &
• OUTCOMES ASSESSMENTS

To help ensure that conservation respects rights in all cases and also supports the realization of rights
CI’s Rights Based Approach

**Vision:** We imagine a healthy prosperous world in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature, our global biodiversity, for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth.

**Mission:** Building upon a strong foundation of Science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity.

**Core Values:** Passion, Respect, Integrity, Optimism, Courage, Teamwork

Conservation International respects human rights and supports their further realization by integrating the following principles into all aspects of our work to care for nature for the well-being of humanity. Within the scope of our work, we will:

- **Respect human rights:** Respect internationally proclaimed human rights and take no action that contributes to the infringement of human rights.
- **Promote human rights and human well-being within conservation programs:** Support and promote the protection and realization of human rights, while respecting the cultural values of local populations and the sovereignty of States within which we work.
- **Protect the vulnerable:** Protect the [people or peoples] who are most vulnerable to infringements of their rights and the ecosystems that sustain them.
- **Encourage good governance:** Support the improvement of governance systems, including elements such as legal, policy and institutional frameworks, and procedures for equitable participation, conflict resolution and accountability.
- **Work in partnership:** Seek and incorporate the knowledge and contributions of partners to ensure that our work results in lasting and fundamental improvements for nature and human well-being.
CI’s Internal Policies and key Social related Policies and Principles

SOCIAL POLICY

SOCIAL PRACTICE

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Tools
Good Practices
Institutional Protocols
Common Framework

Rights Based Approach
Social Safeguards
Stakeholder Engagement
Valuation of Cultural Services and Values
Impact on Human Well Being
Indigenous Advisory Group and representation on CI Board of Directors

Indigenous Fellows Program and collaboration with Indigenous partners on capacity building

Support and collaboration on policy development
Training on key policy issues and support for engaging with delegations

Grants to indigenous communities and organizations

Direct engagement on the ground developing a common agenda
Specialist Group on Indigenous Peoples, Customary and Environmental Law and Human rights (CEESP/CEL)

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