

WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop

6.4

CITIZENS AGAINST CORRUPTION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Date and time of workshop

Sunday November 2, 2008. From 11.30 am to 1:00 pm

Moderator (Name and Institution)

Peter Eigen, Director Center for Civil Society and Chairman EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative)

Rapporteur (Name and Institution)

Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay, Vicechair of PTF and Chair of CIVICUS

Panellists (Name, institution, title)

- Pierre Landes-Mill, President, PTF (Partnership for Transparency Fund)
- Vugar Bayramov, Chair, CESD (Center for Economic and Social Development), Azerbaijan
- Dolgormaa Lodoisambuu, Toxic and Miner Officer, WWF, Mongolia

Main Issues Covered

The workshop explored **the links between corruption and mismanagement** of natural resources and its impacts in poor communities. Practical ways to mobilize civil society organizations to fight corruption and lessons extracted from the cases presented were also discussed.

The PTF rapport and the two case studies analyzed the **estimated damage to the environment** resulted from corruption and the benefits for the community of the CSO monitoring.



Emphasis was made on the **requirements for the CSO to achieve sustainable impact** and how to improve the work of CSO monitoring corruption.

The participants also discussed how to increase **the demand side** of good governance in the work of civil society monitoring corruption and how to strengthen a culture of demand.

Also **governance inside Civil Society** was discussed: strong internal structures in CSO are needed and CSO are also accountable and must be transparent and adhere to high ethical standards. Reputation, image, and strong CSO are the ones that can do better monitoring work against corruption.

Main Outcomes

- The workshop discussion demonstrated that **civil society activism can be very effective** in the fight against corruption, subject to conditions like a much disciplined monitoring work and the need of gaining respect from officials and the public.
- It was underscored that with very small grants it is possible to obtain measurable impact: **small money can do an important difference**, and examples from different parts of the world were presented. PTF gives grants for an average of USD 20,000 and it has been proven that they make a difference. Indeed, the survey supported by PTF in Azerbaijan uncovered that 81% of respondents talked about a massive lack of awareness and the findings disclosed that millions of dollars had been missused and 50 millions stolen.
- In the work of CSO monitoring corruption, it is crucial to obtain **measurable outputs** (solid research, reliable data, and trustworthy sources).
- The **non confrontational approach** seems to be more useful and leads to better results. Civil society must be creative in making coalitions and CSOs are stronger if they work with other partners, **alliances** seem to be a condition of success in many cases, and alliances among CSO as well as with other sectors were underscored. PTF seeks access for civil society, even in difficult environments to have their voices heard.
- In the emerging lessons from PTF, two strands were obvious: **financial support to organizations vis-à-vis technical support to organizations** and the need of a good balance of both approaches. PTF has more than 30 volunteers that support the applications and the design of projects. It was clarified that PTF can fund organizations that monitor government, private companies and also IFIs, as the World Bank.



- **The measure of success in the work of CSOs monitoring corruption** was discussed and elements as increased awareness of people's rights, strengthened knowledge base, stronger communities and sustainability were mentioned as ways to gauge CSO success. In reality **what you change** is the important point.
- Participants agreed that **Transparency alone does not produce results**, but social activism is needed to engage and promote change, and to access to the rights that transparency eventually improves. Civil society can exert pressure and be powerful, because of their relationship with communities.

Main Outputs

The panellists submitted 3 papers. The complete text of the papers will be available on the PTF website at: www.partnershipfortransparency.info

The first paper presents a summary report of the PTF activity and its almost a decade of experience supporting civil society activism related to monitoring corruption in public agencies.

1. Partnership for Transparency Fund: Pioneering New Ways to Support CSOs fighting corruption, by Pierre Landell-Mills, PTF

Furthermore, two detailed case studies were presented: they described and assessed projects where civil society has monitored official corruption in the exploitation of natural resources – oil production and mineral extraction.

2. "Anticorruption initiatives in oil sector in Azerbaijan: Do civil society organizations matter?" By Vugar Bayramov, CESD, Azerbaijan
3. Public Monitoring of corruption in the Mongolian mining sector, by Dolgormaa Lodoisambuu, WWF, Mongolia

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

The workshop identified concrete actions for the specific cases as well as general recommendations:

- In the case of Azerbaijan, the CSO aims to work with a new law on oil revenues; a system of accountability and the inclusion of CSO



13th International
Anti-Corruption Conference

IACC

Global Transparency:
fighting corruption for a sustainable future.
Athens, Greece | 30 October - 2 November 2008

representatives in the monitorin of oil funds.

- In order to **increase** to strengthen a culture of demand, PTF will keep supporting CSO that do good work and aims to concentrate resources in one country (several CSO working similar issues).

Signed

Anabel Cruz, Rapporteur, November 2, 2008
