

THE SIEMENPUU FOUNDATION – LATIN AMERICA PROGRAMME
EVALUATION REPORT

Angela Cordeiro and Cesar Marchesino (evaluators)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE BY SIEMENPUU FOUNDATION

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations, 1

FOREWORD, 2

1. INTRODUCTION, 3

1.1. Evaluation scope and objectives, 3

1.2. Evaluation questions, 3

1.3. Methodology, 3

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION, 5

2.1. The Siemenpuu Foundation, 5

2.2. The Latin America Programme, 5

2.2.1. Programme Partners, 5

2.2.2. Projects description, 7

2.2.3. Monitoring and evaluation, 8

3. EVALUATION FINDINGS, 10

3.1. Contribution of Siemenpuu to the Partners Organizations, 10

3.2. Partners' perception about the Programme, 14

3.3. Networking, 15

3.4. Concepts and approaches, 16

3.5. Programme contribution to the Siemenpuu cooperation goals, 17

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, 18

ANNEX 1 - Terms of reference, 23

ANNEX 2 - Documentation reviewed, 27

ANNEX 3 - List of persons and organizations interviewed, 28

Please note: summary of the evaluation report is available in Spanish and Portuguese upon request.

PREFACE BY SIEMENPUU FOUNDATION

June 15th, 2015

The Siemenpuu Foundation evaluates periodically each of its eight cooperation programmes. The Latin America Programme was launched in 2009, therefore an external evaluation focusing on programme level took place between December 2014 and May 2015. The evaluation was conducted by two local evaluators with vast previous experience on the programme's thematic areas, key geographic regions, civil society contexts, as well as similar evaluation assignments. Agronomist, M.Sc. Angela Cordeiro focused on Siemenpuu's three partners (CNS, COIAB and GTA) in the Brazilian Amazon Region, whereas Ph.D. César Marchesino covered the three partners mainly working in the Spanish speaking Latin American countries (Acción por la Biodiversidad, WRM and ATALC).

The evaluation aimed to gain understanding of how the programme partners value Siemenpuu's support and see it within their overall work, to what degree the programme has helped them to network with other relevant actors, their identification with the programme, and the programme's contribution towards the overall objectives the Foundation has set for its cooperation programmes. The evaluators were also asked to assess the relevance of the programme themes for the regional context, and to present options for the future development of the programme.

The evaluators had limited time and resources to cover the six large partner organizations and networks of the programme spread over a vast geographic area. Siemenpuu is, however, very satisfied to learn that its partners truly appreciate the Foundation's approach, and that the evaluators recommend to advocate the approach towards other international actors supporting the civil society in the South. The evaluators also concluded that the programme's thematic focus is highly relevant in the region.

Siemenpuu is content to observe the formidable results our partners have reached in challenging policy contexts. For instance in Brazil the government allocated eight new indigenous and extractivist reserves and granted 33 user permits for extractivist reserves over the five years. The user permits materialize nearly seven million hectares of forest land under full management by traditional forest communities. In addition, a wealth of information was produced on the impacts of monoculture plantations and biodiverse small-scale agriculture to empower peasants working for food sovereignty in several countries in the region.

The evaluation process provided Siemenpuu also an opportunity to learn about needs for development, for instance regarding communication strategies within the programme and development of programme level monitoring tools. The evaluation process emphasized the aspects of enhancing dialogue and partners' identification with the programme along with the overall programme aims: analysis of the impacts of large scale monocultures and support to sustainable ways of managing natural resources and gaining livelihoods.

Siemenpuu would like to take the opportunity to thank Ms. Angela Cordeiro and Mr. César Marchesino for their excellent collaboration and valuable contribution for Siemenpuu to develop its future support to the Latin American civil society tackling environmental challenges. The evaluators have presented interesting suggestions for new partnerships and support modalities, which the Foundation will study further while planning the focus of the programme during the second half of 2015.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AcBIO – Acción por la Biodiversidad

APIB - Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil

ATALC - Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe

CESTA – Centro Salvadoreño de Tecnología Apropriada. Amigos de la Tierra El Salvador.

CENSAT Agua Viva – Centro Nacional de Ambiente Salud y Trabajo. Amigos de la Tierra Colombia.

CLOC –Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo, Via Campesina

CNS – Conselho Nacional das Populações Extrativistas

COIAB – Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira

COICA - Coordinadora de Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica

COECOCEIBA – Comunidades Ecologistas de la Ceiba. Amigos de la Tierra Costa Rica.

CONDRAF – The National Council for Sustainable Rural Development

CONSEA – The National Council on Nutritional and Food Security

CNPCT - The National Commission on Sustainable Development of Traditional Peoples and Communities

FoEI – Friends of the Earth International.

GTA – Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico

IPAM – Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia

MOVIAC - Movement of Climate Change and Corporations Victims

NAT – Núcleo Amigos da Terra Brasil

RECOMA – Red Latinoamericana Contra los Monocultivos de Árboles

REDES – Red de Ecología Social Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay

REDD - Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

RESEX – Reserva Extrativista (Extractive Reserve)

TNCs – Transnational Corporations

UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UPOV –International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

WRM – World Rainforest Movement

FOREWORD

The Siemenpuu Foundation is a Finnish NGO foundation founded by 15 Finnish environmental and development NGOs in 1998. It supports environmental work carried out by civil society in developing countries, covering areas such as ecological democracy, good living (*'buen vivir'*), environmental protection and conservation, human rights, social justice and cultural diversity. Since 2009, Siemenpuu has been supporting partner organizations of the Latin America Programme.

In order to assess Programme achievements, in the year of 2014 the Siemenpuu Foundation discussed with partners the terms of reference to carry out an external evaluation. Two consultants based in Latin America were hired in December of 2014 for evaluating the Programme results and presenting recommendations for its improvement.

This report presents the results of the evaluation process. Initially, the report describes the evaluation objectives and methodology. The next session brings background information about the Siemenpuu Foundation, the programme concept, partners and projects. The last sections of the document present the main findings considering the evaluation questions defined in the TOR and recommendations for the future development of Siemenpuu cooperation programme in Latin America.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Evaluation scope and objectives

This evaluation is focused on the achievements of The Latin America Programme developed by the Siemenpuu Foundation. Therefore, it is not a performance assessment of individual projects implemented by Programme partners. The objective of the evaluation is to verify the main outcomes of the Latin America Programme through the review of individual projects' results, generating recommendations for improving the Siemenpuu cooperation designing and strategy.

1.2. Evaluation questions

The Terms of Reference (see annex 1) defined the following questions to guide the evaluation:

- I. What is the **central area of work** of each Programme partner?
- II. What has been the **contribution of the Siemenpuu Foundation** to the Programme Partners' work? What are the impacts generated by the support provided by the Siemenpuu Foundation?
- III. What are partners' **perceptions about the Programme?** To what extent do partners identify themselves as part of the Programme? How do you perceive the role of Siemenpuu in relation to them?
- IV. How do partners develop **networking** with other civil society organizations? To what extent did the programme contribute to the existing networks? To what extent did the Programme contribute to the creation of networks between partners of the Programme and at civil society level in Latin America and globally?
- V. **Concepts** like "monoculture", "green economy" and "commodification of nature" have been used in the Program. To what extent do these concepts correspond to the work supported by the Program?
- VI. To what extent has **the Programme contributed** towards the objective shared by all of Siemenpuu's cooperation programmes: *"recognize the causes of environmental problems, promote environmental protection and deepen the dialogue on environmental issues between the South and the North. Does the cooperation programme also support south-south interaction and dialogue between partners"*?

1.3. Methodology

According to the ToR, two consultants carried out the evaluation during the first quarter of the year 2015. The consultant based in Argentina (Cesar Marchesino) covered projects implemented by AcBio, ATALC and WRM (RECOMA and Guayubira Group), involving several Latin American countries. The consultant based in Brazil (Angela Cordeiro) covered projects implemented by COIAB, CNS and GTA, all of them in the Brazilian Amazon.

The methodology adopted a participatory approach, considering partners and Siemenpuu staff perspectives. The evaluation process included the following activities:

- i. Documentation review:** Initially, documentation review covered project documents such as project concepts, agreements between Siemenpuu and partner organizations, project reports and other documents provided by Siemenpuu (see Annex 2). After field trips and interviews, searches in the internet provided additional documentation to validate evidences about project results.
- ii. Interviews with Siemenpuu's staff:** Consultation with Siemenpuu staff and volunteers occurred before the field trips. Each consultant carried out skype interviews with staff members and volunteers having different levels of involvement and knowledge about the Latin America Programme (see Annex 3). Interviews focused on the interviewees' perception about the Programme and expectation regarding the evaluation.
- iii. Consultation with partners and other key informants:** Meeting partners was a key element of the evaluation process. After a list of focal points provided by Siemenpuu, consultants worked individually to define an agenda to meet partners. Since the evaluation period overlapped with the summer holidays in South America, contacting partners was time consuming. Each consultant defined the field trips according to partners' response and availability. Limitations of time and budget required to consider skype interviews as well. These interviews included both some project partners and other key informants considered helpful to triangulate information about project results. Annex 3 presents a list of all people consulted.
- iv. Analysis and validation of consultation results:** Each consultant prepared separately a preliminary report describing the results of the consultation with partners, in Spanish and Portuguese. Siemenpuu received both reports, assembling results of all projects covered by each consultant. Additionally, consultants prepared individual reports for sending to each Programme partner. Siemenpuu discussed the draft report results during an internal meeting and sent its comments to consultants. All partners sent their comments by e-mail or phone calls, except GTA that did not give any feedback. Comments sent by Siemenpuu and Programme partners were included in the final version of the preliminary reports and considered for the preparation of the evaluation report.
- v. Preparation of the evaluation report:** Consultants organized a five-day working meeting in Florianopolis, Brazil, for sharing evaluation findings and writing the final report. During this working meeting, consultants asked Siemenpuu approval for the report structure and format. The analysis considered the evaluation questions defined in the Terms of Reference.

The large geographic area covered by the Programme, lack of response of some partners (GTA), lack of details in the project reports, and limited time to carry out the evaluation created some constraints to verify Programme outcomes and impacts. Consultants tried to overcome these limitations triangulating information and searching evidences through documentation review.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1. The Siemenpuu Foundation

The Siemenpuu Foundation is a Finnish NGO foundation that supports environmental work carried out by civil society in developing countries, covering areas such as ecological democracy, good living (*'buen vivir'*), environmental protection and conservation, human rights, social justice and cultural diversity. It was created in 1998 by 15 Finnish NGOs with extensive work on environment and development issues.

Between 2002 and 2013, Siemenpuu supported more than 450 projects in 50 developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America. In 2014, Siemenpuu's budget was two million Euros, financed mainly by funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

The Siemenpuu Foundation recognizes the modern industrial culture and the economic growth approach as the underlying causes of environmental degradation. To deal with these challenges, the institutional strategy puts emphasis on long-term cooperation with partners from developing countries and promotion of continuous South-North and South-South dialogue. The cooperation work comprises eight programmes, including the Latin America Programme. Support to local partners involves grants to projects targeting issues related to the following thematic areas: *Buen Vivir*, Displacements, Forest, Local Communities, Mining and Water.

2.2. The Latin America Programme

Latin America has been a key region for cooperation since the very beginning of Siemenpuu's work. The Region hosts large world reserves of water, forest and agricultural land as well as a great sociocultural diversity. At same time, Latin America faces huge challenges to protect natural resources and to overcome social inequalities. Pressures on natural resources affect directly local communities' rights, resulting in displacement and increasing poverty in the suburbs of urban areas.

After a period of funding individual projects, the Siemenpuu Foundation decided to reorganize its strategy, designing programmes embracing projects implemented in the same geographic area. The Latin America Programme started in 2009 aiming to examine the harms caused by monocultures and to support ecologically, socially and economically sustainable ways of production. Additionally, the Programme promotes people's rights and food self-sufficiency, agricultural biodiversity, sustainable use of forests, and the local management of forest resources. Local community initiatives, networking of regional players and promotion of dialogue are core elements of the Programme.

2.2.1. Programme Partners

The definition of partner organizations to participate in the Programme relied mainly on previous relationship and knowledge of Siemenpuu staff/volunteers and the founding NGOs' network in the region. In addition, a grant application window was opened in 2008 focusing on large-scale monocultures in order to gain more information about the Latin American civil society actors working on the theme.

In 2009, during the World Social Forum organized in Belem, Brazil, Siemenpuu representatives met CNS, COIAB and GTA, Brazilian partners' members of the Forest Alliance, already known by Siemenpuu. After the WSF, Siemenpuu representatives went to Uruguay to meet other Latin

American organizations, some of them already funded by Siemenpuu through individual projects. At these meetings, Siemenpuu presented the Programme and discussed with partners their interests to join it. This consultation process defined the partners participating in the Programme.

The Programme comprises six partners, including: NGOs with technical expertise in specific thematic areas; network involving different stakeholders; and organizations representing social groups. Considering this typology, the Programme partners are presented below:

- i. **NGOs with technical expertise**: This group includes AcBIO, ATALC and WRM. These NGOs support grassroots organizations and social movements on strengthening their advocacy and resistance capacity, providing information and training on issues related to corporations' strategies in the region. They also play an important role on advocacy at regional and international level, organizing campaigns and disseminating information about environment and socio-economic impacts of monocultures and privatization of nature. More details about each partner follows:
 - **AcBIO**: Acción por la Biodiversidad is a regional NGO based in Argentina that promotes biodiversity conservation, both in natural and cultivated ecosystems. It was founded in 1999 and works mainly on information exchange and dissemination. AcBio together with Alianza Biodiversidad, a regional alliance, publishes the *Biodiversidad, sustento y culturas* newsletter and maintains a website in the Internet covering issues on biodiversity in Latin America. It also provides training on agrobiodiversity policies. AcBio keeps close collaboration with CLOC, the Latin America Coordination of Peasants Organizations. The *Biodiversidad, sustento y culturas* comprises a board of several organizations from different countries from Latin America. Before joining the Siemenpuu Programme, AcBIO received small grants from Siemenpuu to support the webpage maintenance.
 - **ATALC**: Amigos de la Tierra America Latina y Caribe is a coalition of Friends of the Earth focal points from 14 countries in the region. Not all ATALC members participate in the Siemenpuu Programme. ATALC selected partners involved in the thematic work on biodiversity, which included the following NGOs: Amigos de la Tierra Argentina, CESTA from El Salvador, CENSAT Agua Viva from Colombia, COECOceiba from Costa Rica, NAT from Brazil, Otros Mundos from Mexico, and REDES from Uruguay. All these organizations work at national level developing common activities defined in ATALC regional programme. COECOceiba, CENSAT Agua Viva and REDES received support from Siemenpuu before entering the Programme.
 - **WRM**: World Rainforest Movement is an international organization based in Uruguay that promotes peoples' rights on their forest and territories. It was created in 1986 and since then has been working on monitoring forest policies, industrial tree plantations and community-based forest management issues. WRM work involves research, information dissemination and networking between social movements, NGOs, local communities and activists to build a strong alliance for environment and social justice. WRM secretariat hosts RECOMA and Guayubira Group in its premises.
- ii. **Networks**: Despite all partners consider network action in their strategy, the Amazon Working Group (GTA) is the only partner that nominates itself as a network. GTA Network was created in 1992 to represent Amazon civil society organizations in the Pilot Programme for the

Conservation of Brazilian Rainforest – PPG7. Since then, GTA became a broad network involving around 600 organizations, including NGOs and grassroots groups of small farmers, fishers, riverine communities and indigenous people. GTA participates in several forums and consultation bodies, developing advocacy and training activities on sustainable production; socio-environmental diversity; monitoring of environment conflicts; communication at community level; education for sustainability; Pan-Amazonian cooperation; gender and citizenship. In 2007, GTA joined CNS and COIAB to revive the Forest Alliance, a joint initiative involving forest and indigenous peoples that started in 1989.

iii. Organizations representing social groups: This group includes CNS and COIAB, organizations representing *extrativistas* and indigenous peoples, respectively. Their work involve advocacy to ensure territory rights and access to government policies on sustainable production, health and education, among others. More details about each partner are described below:

- **COIAB:** The Coordination of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations from the Brazilian Amazon was created in 1989 to represent indigenous people organizations. Its membership comprise 75 local organizations distributed in nine Brazilian States, which covers an area of five million square kilometres. Estimations indicate that COIAB represents around 430 thousand indigenous people of 160 different ethnic groups. COIAB mission is to represent indigenous peoples on policy advocacy work to ensure territory rights and access to health and education services. COIAB is widely recognized as the representative of indigenous peoples from the Brazilian Amazon, participating in several forums and consultation bodies, both at national and international level.
- **CNS:** The National Council of Extractivist Populations was created in 1985, because of forest people struggles against deforestation in the Amazon. CNS represents people living in forest and coastal ecosystems that depend on harvesting of wood and non-wood products, and marine species as well. Its mission includes political representation of extractivists' peoples to ensure territory rights and access to government policies. CNS membership involves around 700 grassroots organizations, distributed in nine Brazilian States. Technical support is provided by the Memorial Chico Mendes, an NGO created by CNS to assist project implementation and monitoring.

2.2.2. Projects description

The first Programme cycle ran from 2009 to 2015, comprising 28 grants totalling 1,005,400 Euros (amounts as per allocations, not reported and approved project costs). Table 1 presents a summary of all projects approved by the Programme during this cycle. Important to mention that Siemenpuu provided support to other Latin America projects outside the Programme during the same period. A short description of Programme projects is presented below:

- **CNS** implemented three projects, all of them focused on institutional support for advocacy activities. The funds covered rental costs of CNS office in Brasilia (Brazilian capital that hosts the federal government institutions and the Brazilian Congress) and travel expenses of CNS representatives. CNS also managed the funds to cover the costs of the Programme Meeting organized in Belém, Brazil, in February 2014 and another small grant received in 2011. The four projects plus the small grant sum 150,700 Euros.

- **COIAB** implemented two projects focused on institutional support for advocacy and resistance activities. The funds covered operational costs to keep the Coordination activities, which includes *pro-labore* of the COIAB secretary and travel expenses of COIAB representatives. The amount of funds provided by the Programme was 78,700 Euros.
- **GTA** presented three projects, all of them focused on institutional support for advocacy and networking activities about REDD. The funds covered rental costs of one office in Brasilia, payment of GTA secretary and travel expenses. In 2013, GTA decided to close the Brasilia office and sent back the funds approved for the third project. Therefore, the total amount of approved funds was 124,700 Euros, but GTA executed only 79,700 Euros.
- **AcBIO** implemented four projects involving activities to protect biodiversity and to strengthen the resistance capacity of local groups by the means of networking, training and capacity building. The funds covered the publication costs of *Biodiversidad* newsletter, research activities and maintenance of the website “*Biodiversidad en América Latina*”, coordination meetings and advocacy in international forums. The total amount approved was 187,000 Euros, from which 50,000 correspond to the last project approved in year 2015.
- **ATALC** received funds for five projects, implemented in seven countries by national partners. Funds covered costs of networking and advocacy of some partners and training activities of local communities on issues related to monoculture impacts and REDD related false solutions. The amount of funds provided by the Programme was 220,000 Euros.
- **WRM** implemented four projects, all of them focused on actions of RECOMA and Guayubira Group for resisting the monoculture expansion in Latin America. The main activities included research about the impacts of plantations and violations of community and human rights resulting from false solutions to Climate Change. WRM disseminated information on these issues using different media, such as videos, books and reports. The amount of funds provided by the Programme was 129,000 Euros.
- **AcBIO/ATALC/WRM joint activities:** Siemenpuu also gave funds for joint activities involving these partners. These projects covered networking, publications, campaigns and advocacy at international forums, such as Rio+20 and Climate Change Summit. The amount of funds provided by the Programme for networking activities was 115,300 Euros.

2.2.3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Siemenpuu Foundation has defined tools and procedures to follow projects implementation. The Programme Coordinator is responsible to maintain close communication with partners by phone calls, skype and e-mail. Additionally, field missions to visit individual projects have been organized in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. Programme partners submitted progress and final reports answering a set of questions related to project development following a template provided by the Siemenpuu Foundation. External auditing in the end of each project cycle provided information about finances. Information obtained through these different ways has been shared and discussed by the Latin American Programme Working Group, which is composed by staff and volunteers. The Working Group meets approximately every two months to assess Programme

development and to discuss decision-making recommendations for the Foundation's board about individual projects.

Table 1: Projects implemented by Latin American Programme partners 2009-2015 (amounts as per allocations, not reported and approved project costs).

PROGRAMME PARTNER	Project Code	Planned period of Implementation	Amount Euros
CNS	09038LAT	12/2009 – 10/2010	34.700
CNS	10079CNS	05/2011 – 10/2012	47.000
CNS	11005LAT	09/2011-09/2011	7.000
CNS	13017LAT	06/2013 – 06/2014	45.000
CNS	13058LAT	12/2013 – 02/2014	17.000
CNS	Subtotal		150.700
COIAB	09043LAT	10/2009 – 09/2010	34.700
COIAB	10078LAT	01/2013 – 10/2014	44.000
COIAB	Subtotal		78.700
GTA	09036LAT	10/2009 – 12/2010	34.700
GTA	11007LAT	08/2011 – 11/2012	45.000
GTA	13046LAT	08/2013-nov/2014	45.000
GTA	Subtotal		124.700
ATALC	09037LAT	06/2009-03/2010	38.000
ATALC	10067LAT	12/2010-07/2011	40.000
ATALC	11008LAT	12/2011-07/2012	41.000
ATALC	13016LAT	07/2013-02/2014	41.000
ATALC	14017LAT	10/2014-04/2015	60.000
ATALC	Subtotal		220.000
WRM	09029LAT	01/2009-12/2010	39.000
WRM	10081LAT	01/2011-12/2012	40.000
WRM	11004LAT	09/2011-09/2011	5.000
WRM	13035LAT	01/2013-07/2015	45.000
WRM	Subtotal		129.000
ACBIO	09035LAT	10/2009-10/2010	37.000
ACBIO	10080LAT	02/2011-12/2012	50.000
ACBIO	13010LAT	01/2013-12/2014	50.000
ACBIO	15005LAT	01/2015-12/2015	50.000
ACBIO	Subtotal		187.000
ACBIOATALCWRM	09034LAT	06/2009-08/2009	20.300
ACBIOATALCWRM	10029LAT	03/2010-05/2010	5.000
ACBIOATALCWRM	11009LAT	10/2011-07/2012	30.000
ACBIOATALCWRM	13014LAT	06/2013-12/2013	30.000
ACBIOATALCWRM	14007LAT	07/2014-12/2014	30.000
ACBIOATALCWRM	Subtotal		115.300
TOTAL PROGRAMME			1.005.400

Source: Financial agreements between Siemenpuu and Programme partners

3. EVALUATION FINDINGS

3.1. Siemenpuu contribution to programme partners

3.1.1. Partners perception about Siemenpuu cooperation approach

All partners declared their appreciation for Siemenpuu contribution to their work. First of all, they emphasized that Siemenpuu cooperation approach differs significantly from current cooperation formats, highlighting the following elements:

- **Process versus results-based approach**

In the last two decades, the development cooperation moved to the results-based approach, creating several difficulties to fit project design to the local context. Generally, development issues faced by grassroots groups involve social processes that are time consuming. Moreover, the option for participatory approach and changes in the local context prevent being stuck to rigid log frames.

Partners considered that Siemenpuu fully understands these issues when it prioritizes process instead of short-term results. The possibility to obtain continuous funding for a reasonable period ensures work continuity, a key element to achieve results on issues such as territory rights and policy advocacy. During the last five years, the Latin America Programme has been supporting projects dealing with monoculture expansion. This is unusual considering that other cooperation agencies change their priorities constantly. Partners also mentioned flexibility to adjust projects during its implementation, saying that Siemenpuu has been open to discuss project's priorities and to make changes along the way.

- **Networking approach**

Partners also valued the importance Siemenpuu puts on network action, considering it as criteria to establish partnerships. In the case of AcBio, ATALC and WRM, the Programme provided specific funds for joint activities. Partners considered that this support was essential to strengthen networking among these organizations. Item 3.3 presents more details about networking issues.

- **Funding format**

In the case of CNS, COIAB and GTA, the Programme provided support for institutional activities. The budget structure was very flexible and well suited to the organizations profile. This type of funding is very important for social movements and indigenous people's organization though unusual for most cooperation agencies. Therefore, partners appreciated that Siemenpuu cooperation strategy considers this type of funding. In the case of WRM, ATALC and AcBio, the possibility to obtain funding for joint activities was a key element to strengthen network actions as well as the joint production of research and educational materials in order to reinforce the local resistance process.

- **Solidarity and political support**

The appreciation of Siemenpuu's support is not restricted to funding. Partners highlighted the importance of political support and solidarity in campaigns and dissemination of information to the Finnish society. The Stora Enso campaign launched by ATALC involved close cooperation with Siemenpuu. Partners consider that previous knowledge and experience of Siemenpuu's staff in Latin American facilitates close collaboration.

- **Respectful relationship**

Partners highlighted the values of cooperation shared by Siemenpuu, which is based on respectful relationship. They appreciate the fact that Siemenpuu did not interfere in decision-making processes during project implementation and kept a horizontal process for defining projects design and Programme meeting's agenda.

3.1.2. Impacts of Latin America Programme

Many factors affect Programme impacts. All projects established objectives involving social processes and did not indicate measurable outcomes. In the case of the Amazonian partners, policy advocacy results depend on issues beyond partners' capacity. Moreover, Programme partners received funding from other donors to complement their budget.

Though is not possible to measure programme impacts properly, the assessment of individual outcomes at projects level indicates that the Latin America Programme contributed to achievements in the following areas:

i. Institutional development and capacity building:

- Training activities were a key component of ATALC, AcBio and WRM projects, covering a broader spectrum of subjects. Projects reports describe several training activities though not always providing details about them. AcBio organized a course on "*Public Policies on Biodiversity*". It also gave lectures on food sovereignty in Buenos Aires Faculty of Medicine, Mendoza and Rosario Faculties of Agronomy, among others. In 2013, the workshop on "*Seed law: resisting the plundering*" organized by AcBio in partnership with Paraguayan local groups. REDES organized regional seminars about GMOs - "*GMO crops in the Southern Cone*", and pesticides - "*Pesticides in the Southern Cone*", attended by researchers, activists and civil servants.
- Partners stated that training activities facilitated the access of grassroots organizations to relevant information for improving their own strategy at ground level. Otros Mundos organized workshops to discuss impacts of agro-fuel monocultures in Chiapas, involving more than 150 participants from El Campamento, El Encanto, Concepción Yocnajib, Pantelho y Chenalho and Pijijiapan. CENSAT implemented the "*Biodiversity Monitoring School*" involving hundreds of kids. The methodology used has been considered as an effective tool to protect and defend territories.
- Partners from the Brazilian Amazon mentioned the importance of the institutional support to keep their functioning and network action. Thanks to the Programme support, GTA, CNS and COIAB were able to carry out their advocacy activities. The second project implemented by GTA included support to develop capacity building on REDD. Activities included training and dissemination of information to grassroots groups. GTA hosted the coordination of REDD Observatory and became a focal point in this area and a key stakeholder on governmental consultation forums about REDD.

ii. Strengthening advocacy capacity at national and international level

- Programme partners played an important role in policy advocacy through different strategies. In Uruguay, REDES has contributed in the follow up of "*National Commission*

on Defence of Water and Life". REDES prepared a report showing the impacts of agribusiness on water, which provided inputs to denounce this problem during the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Water Human Right. In Chile, the Campaign against UPOV involved 16 workshops and lobby in the Congress, resulting that 21 senators voted against the law.

- In Brazil, COIAB lead the campaign against the PEC 215, a bill proposed by the Brazilian Congress that would weaken indigenous peoples' rights over their land. GTA lead the discussions on REDD and payment for environmental services, developing alternative safeguards that has been adopted by the Brazilian Bank of Social and Economic Development to run the Amazonian Fund. The Amazon Fund is supported by the Norwegian Government and funds sustainable projects in the Amazon.
- Position papers have been an important output of research activities supported by the Programme. AcBio, WRM and ATALC released several documents denouncing corporations' strategies in the region, disseminating this information at international forums and to policy makers. WRM published "*REDD: A Collection of Conflicts, Contradictions and Lies*", documenting 24 REDD projects or programmes that undermine forest peoples' rights and/or fail to address deforestation. The booklet "*10 things communities should know about REDD*" was prepared to inform local communities. AcBio, ATALC and WRM published a report on climate change "*Climate crisis: false medicines and true solutions*".
- Institutional support to CNS, COIAB and GTA helped them to keep their advocacy work in Brasilia. Participation in governmental consultation forums has been important to bring the Amazon perspective to policy makers. COIAB has a seat at the National Council of Health, the National Council of Indigenous Policy, the National Council for Sustainable Rural Development (CONDRAF), National Council of Women Rights, the National Council on Nutritional and Food Security (CONSEA), the National Commission on Sustainable Development of Traditional Peoples and Communities (CNPCT) and the Monitoring Group of Amazonian Fund. GTA and CNS have a seat at the CNPCT and CONDRAF as well.
- Governmental officers consulted in this evaluation stated that COIAB, CNS and GTA have been playing an important role at these boards. COIAB participation in the National Committee on Food and Nutritional Security (CONSEA) was considered very positive to bring the Amazonian indigenous people perspective to the national debate on food security. Thanks to that, CONSEA decided to organize a Regional Meeting in the Amazon as part of the preparatory process to the National Conference on Nutritional and Food Security planned for November 2015. The Amazon is the only Brazilian region that will host a regional conference during the preparatory process.
- Advocacy work carried out by CNS resulted in several achievements at policy level. The context of forest people living in the Amazon is very different from other parts of Brazil. Beyond the land demarcation, the access to basic services such as potable water, electricity, education, communication is an issue for forest people living in the Amazon. CNS has been working on all these areas, achieving important results. In December 2014, the Ministry of Social Development approved 10 million Euros project to provide potable water for more than 2,000 families living in Resex.

iii. Strengthening resistance at local and regional level:

- A better understanding about expansion of corporations' activities was a tool for improving resistance strategies. Otros Mundos published "*Trees plantations: ten answers to ten lies*" and "*Agrofuels: a true solution?*" and disseminated this information to local organizations in Chiapas.
- ATALC and WRM developed research activities about the corporations' strategies in the region showing evidences of links between plantations and financial capital. This research on investments in Argentina demonstrated that Harvard University owns 87,000 hectares of pine and eucalyptus plantations in Corrientes province.
- Research at ground level gave visibility to local communities' struggles and their solutions to address global problems such as climate change and deforestation. REDES carried out a research about the use of pesticides in Uruguay and published the leaflet "*Agricultural growth and the use of pesticides in Uruguay*". WRM produced the video "*Disputed territory: the green economy versus the economy of communities*" discussing the impacts of green economy projects on fisher communities (*Caiçaras*), afro-Brazilian communities (*quilombolas*) and Guarani indigenous people living in Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest.
- Dissemination of information was core element of projects implemented by ATALC, AcBio and WRM. Using different media, such as newsletters, bulletins, press releases Programme partners managed to spread the voice of civil society about the threats to biodiversity and territory rights. Some of these reports focused on green economy issues: "*Green Economy: the final assault on the commons*" "*Laws, policies and green economy at the service of dispossession of peoples*". WRM published around 30 books and reports on monoculture impacts and TNCs in Latin America, covering a broad range of themes such as agro-fuel and links between gender issues and plantations.
- Programme partners have developed campaigns to delay or interrupt different processes against the conservation of natural resources and people's rights. In 2014, AcBio launched the "*Campaign against seed law in Argentina*".
- COIAB has played an important role in the Brazilian Indigenous Peoples' Coalition as a protagonist of many actions to resist against the threats on indigenous peoples rights. The struggle against Belo Monte Dam involved campaign and demonstrations at the Dam site and in Brasilia, getting great press attention and a broad support of civil society. COIAB also sent a letter to the President declaring its position against the Belo Monte project. Despite the approval of Belo Monte Dam, indigenous people demonstration and advocacy work brought more visibility to the threats indigenous people are facing regarding their territory rights and revitalised the debate about the impact of big projects in the Amazon, both at national and international level.

iv. Reclaiming territory rights

- Recovering territory rights is a top priority of CNS and COIAB agenda. In the last five years, the landowners were empowered in the Brazilian Congress resulting in many bills against peoples' rights. The Programme support allowed CNS and COIAB to keep advocacy work on land demarcation.

- According to the Brazilian Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), Resex comprises 62 out of 320 protected areas, occupying more than 12 million hectares. CNS maintained continuous pressure on governmental bodies responsible for the creation of Resex and agroextrativism settlements. Thanks to that, in 2014 the Brazilian government created five new Resex, three of them in the coastal zone and another one in the Brazilian Savannah, expanding the Resex model to other ecosystems.
- Brazil has 462 indigenous land reserves officially recognized, representing 12.2% of Brazilian territory. COIAB together with other indigenous peoples' organizations keeps pressure to ensure land demarcation for several ethnic groups that did not get their territory rights yet. However, economic interests are affecting land demarcation. The approval of 80 proposals of indigenous land has been suspended. After demonstrations organized in April 2015 by APIB, COIAB and other indigenous people organizations, the Brazilian Government demarcated three indigenous land reserves in Amazonas and Para State.

v. **Development and expansion of biodiversity conservation initiatives**

- Since 2005 REDES has been organizing seeds markets called "*National Party of Local Seed Varieties and Family Agriculture*". This biannual event brings together around 1,000 participants for sharing local seeds and experiences on agrobiodiversity conservation.
- Environmental and economic sustainability of indigenous people territories is another front of COIAB's work, which requires persistently negotiation with government agencies. In 2012, the government approved the National Policy on Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous lands (PNGATI). COIAB participates in the Steering Committee of GATI projects, a pilot initiative for developing management plans for indigenous people territories.
- CNS has working to ensure that governmental policies recognize the specificities of forest people. They mentioned the importance of Siemenpuu support to organize the "*2nd Forest Call Meeting*", an event that joined forest people and governmental officers, including Ministries. Thanks to that, CNS managed to get a commitment from the Government to release specific policies to forest people living in Resex. In 2014, the Brazilian government started to provide technical assistance services to Resex. The CNS has been monitoring the implementation of these services and trying to improve the extension services model according to Resex context.
- Participation in the Programme activities strengthened CESTA capacity to promote community-based mangrove forest management.

3.2. Partners perception about the Programme

- ATALC, AcBio and WRM feel part of a Programme that fits to the framework of their work in the region. However, they consider do not have enough knowledge about the Programme. ATALC members mentioned they did not have enough knowledge about how the Programme works though they share political like-mindedness with Siemenpuu Foundation.

- On the other hand, the CNS, COIAB and GTA representatives interviewed in this evaluation did not express a perception of belonging to a Programme. They mentioned the project and not the Programme and considered the relationship at bilateral level, between the organization and the Siemenpuu Foundation.

3.3. Networking

Although not all project partners explicitly declare themselves as a network, all of them define network action as a core element of their strategy. The network action involves both the “internal network” among its associates/members as well as with other organizations/social movements/networks/civil society stakeholders that share common interests. Networking involves partnership to carry out campaigns, advocacy work, training and strategic planning. The range of alliances varies among partners and according to the initiative.

All partners consulted in this evaluation agreed that the support provided by the Siemenpuu Foundation through the Latin America Programme strengthened their network capacity, both to sustain existing networks and to expand alliances. Some evidences:

- In 2010, GTA, CNS and COIAB joined efforts with other organizations to create the REDD Observatory. The initiative involved NGOs, private companies, the Ministry of Environment of Brazil and representatives of rural labour unions and representatives of industry. Through the Observatory, GTA, COIAB and CNS developed several activities together, including training and a set of REDD+ social and environmental principles and criteria.
- In November 2010, COIAB together with Xingu Vivo Movement and other organizations denounced the Belo Monte Dam impacts to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, a body of the Organization of American States.
- In June 2011, GTA and CNS joined other civil society organizations to create the Brazil Committee in Defence of Forests and Sustainable Development. This initiative joined a broader range of civil society stakeholders, including environmentalist organizations such as Greenpeace and peasant movements such as Via Campesina and MST. The Committee defined a common position about the new Forest Code Bill and a common strategy to carry out the campaign, advocacy work and public demonstration against the new Code.
- In November 2012, COIAB and the Brazilian research NGO Ipam organized a side event at the COP 18 UNFCCC in Qatar. During this meeting, Sonia Guajajara (supported by the Siemenpuu project) presented the results of a broad consultation on impacts of climate change carried out previously in regional meetings involving 120 indigenous people representatives.
- CNS and APIB together with other civil society organizations have been developing advocacy work in the Brazilian Congress on the Biodiversity Access and Benefit Sharing Bill.
- Among other Mesoamerican ATALC members, CESTA is developing advocacy work on climate change issues at Mesoamerican level, in partnership with MOVIAC.

- ATALC, WRM and AcBio had a strong presence as network through a joint publication on Green Economy “*The green economy and peoples’ alternatives*” which were widely distributed in several international forums like Rio+20, among others.
- In April 2010, ATALC, WRM and AcBio participated in the Peoples Summit on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights, held in Cochabamba, Bolivia. They prepared and released a joint publication “*Climate change: false and true solutions*”
- In February 2012, RECOMA organized an exchange activity to visit Palm plantation sites in Guatemala, Peru and Honduras. The visit to Honduras and participation in the International Meeting on Human Rights and Solidarity to Honduras provided support to local communities struggle. The video produced during this trip was published in the internet.
- More recently, the Forest Alliance that includes GTA, CNS and COIAB is not as active as it used to be. Since the REDD Observatory interrupted its activities in 2013, the network flow reduced. Moreover, both GTA and COIAB are facing internal difficulties that prevent them to put more energy on the Forest Alliance. CNS is interacting with indigenous movement mainly through APIB, carrying out joint advocacy activities in Brasilia.
- Regarding exchanges between partners, the Programme contributed to strengthen collaboration between AcBio, ATALC and WRM. These organizations produced together publications on Green Economy and Climate Change. They also carried out advocacy work in international forums. The provision of funds for joint activities certainly contributed to these achievements. It is important also to consider that these organizations knew each other before joining the Program, which certainly facilitated the process.
- However, the same did not happen between Brazilians from the Amazon Region and the other Latin American partners. Beyond participation in Partnership Meetings, such as the Siemenpuu Partners’ meeting in Kenya in 2013 and the Latin America programme meeting in Belem in 2014, there is no evidence that the Programme contribute to promote networking between the Brazilians and other partners. Language barriers, lack of a networking strategy and tools at Programme level, communication difficulties, lack of knowledge about the Programme partners, lack of common vision on key issues are possible causes of this gap.

3.4. Concepts and approaches

The Latin American Programme conceptualization presents a critical view about the Green Economy approach, which is considered as a simplistic way to address the environmental crises or greenwashing business-as-usual under new label. However, not all Programme partners share the same opinion about the Green Economy concept.

WRM, AcBio and ATALC have a critical view about development assumptions based on “green growth” or commodification of life. As mentioned previously, they have produced several researches and publications to raise awareness about these issues. During Rio+20 Conference, they supported the “*NO REDD+! in Rio+20: A declaration to decolonize the earth and the sky*”. The Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on Climate Change released this

position paper declaring that: *“We cannot allow false solutions to climate change like REDD+ and the Green Economy to destroy the Earth’s balance, assassinate the seasons, unleash severe weather havoc, privatize life and threaten the very survival of humanity. REDD+ and the Green Economy are crimes against humanity and the Earth. However, we refuse to be the damned of the Earth and let the Earth be damned”*. WRM, AcBio and ATALC also signed the Declaration of the People’s Summit on Climate Change, Lima, Peru, which demanded *“recognition of the territorial ownership of communities who have traditionally lived on their lands”* and condemned *“external control of territories and the negotiation and implementation of false climate solutions.”*

On the other hand, the Brazilian partners do not share the same vision. GTA has been an active player to promote REDD+ though advocating the need to ensure local people’s rights. GTA coordinated the REDD Observatory and together with CNS and other Brazilians NGOs, the Observatory developed REDD+ safeguards. The document *“REDD Principles and Criteria to develop and implement programmes and projects in the Brazilian Amazon”* consolidated the Observatory proposals guidelines. During the COP 16, in Mexico, GTA released the document *“REDD+ Socio-Environment Safeguards”*. The assumption is that local communities could use these safeguards to protect their interest in REDD+ contracts.

During this evaluation, representatives from CNS and COIAB highlighted the contribution of Siemenpuu to expose them to different views about REDD. According to a COIAB representative *“Before the Siemenpuu Meeting in Belem we just knew the good REDD. Now we know that REDD could be bad as well”*. About the Belem Meeting, CNS representative said *“Siemenpuu helped us to open our eyes, showing that REDD is not just good things, but can be used against us”*. However, this statement does not mean that the institutional vision about green economy has changed.

Therefore, the evaluation findings suggest that AcBio, ATALC and WRM share the same vision as the Siemenpuu Foundation. GTA is more close to the *“win, win”* approach and sees green economy as an opportunity to protect the forest and to increase local communities income. CNS and COIAB is close to the GTA view though some people in these organizations became more open to discuss the disadvantages of REDD mechanisms after participating in the Programme activities.

Regarding the issues involving monocultures and land grabbing, all partners share a critical view and are in line with the Programme assumptions. However, monocultures of trees, soybean or agro fuels are not a priority theme for Brazilian Amazon organizations yet.

3.5. Programme contribution to the Siemenpuu cooperation goals

The aim of the Siemenpuu Foundation cooperation programme in Latin America is to examine the harm caused by industrial monocultures, to support ecologically, socially and economically more sustainable ways of production, and promotion of dialogue on these issues. The evaluation findings discussed so far indicate that:

- The Programme effectively contributes to deepen the analysis of harms caused by monocultures. Researches, documentation and training carried out by AcBio, ATALC and WRM disseminated information and analysis of these impacts among several organizations in the Region.

- Territory rights are the first step to ensure protection of tropical forests. Programme support to CNS and COIAB allowed maintaining advocacy work on territory rights. Demarcation of five Resex and three indigenous reserves happened thanks to CNS and COIAB advocacy work though these results did not meet CNS and COIAB expectations. The conservative political context in Brazil limited more achievements in this area. Colombia biodiversity monitoring school led by CENSAT offered tools to the local communities for defending and protecting biodiversity. CESTA promoted community sustainable management of the Bahia de Jiquilisco mangrove, combining nature conservation with local entrepreneurships.
- In terms of the North-South dialogue and South-South dialogue, the Programme contribution was less visible. In some cases, the previous relationship between Siemenpuu and partners facilitated the North-South dialogue, such as the case of ATALC. The Programme framework facilitated the dialogue among ATALC, AcBio and WRM. However, there were not dynamic exchanges among all partners, or between this group and the Brazilian Amazon partners. It seems the Programme did not have a clear strategy to facilitate dialogue. Additionally, partners presented different priorities and visions about key issues, limiting their interests or openness for exchanging.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation findings presented above provide evidences that the Latin America Programme of Siemenpuu Foundation contributed to strengthen partners' capacity to struggle against the causes of environmental degradation and to fight for people's rights. The thematic areas – fighting plantation and alternatives to deforestation - suited well to the region context. The funding format allowed the necessary flexibility for advocacy and capacity building work, core areas of partners' strategy.

Considering the achievements and the challenges of the five years Programme cycle covered by this evaluation, the main conclusions and recommendations are presented below:

i. The cooperation approach

Siemenpuu's cooperation approach differs from other donors. It considers long-term relationship and prioritizes process instead of short-term results. Programme partners highlighted that this cooperation approach suits better to projects dealing with development and environment issues. Unfortunately, the majority of cooperation programmes does not share this vision. Most donor agencies and international NGOs are oriented to results-based approach, ignoring the social processes involved in dealing with issues such as the environment crisis, poverty reduction and policy advocacy. Considering the experience developed by Siemenpuu so far and the importance to raise these issues in the international cooperation arena, the evaluators present the following recommendations:

- To document Siemenpuu's experience on long-term and process oriented approach in international cooperation, analysing the pros and cons and lessons learnt. Perhaps programme partners in Latin America and other regions could provide inputs.

- To disseminate the results of this documentation to other donors and international NGOs that support partners in the South, trying to influence the debate on international cooperation strategies.

ii. Programme Concept and Design:

The Latin American Programme goals are in line with the Region context. Being the major world reserve of water, forest and land, Latin America has been a key region for international corporations that rely on exploitation of natural resources. Deforestation, change in land use, mining and big dams have been intensified in the last five years, displacing local communities of their territories. At the same time, democracy is an ongoing process in Latin American countries not consolidated yet. Therefore, the Programme support to civil society organizations contributes to strengthen institutional capacity for influencing the decision making process on issues related to territories rights and protection of biodiversity. The funding format, which provided institutional support suits better to organizations developing advocacy work.

However, there are some opportunities for improving the Programme design. The institutional decision to organize a Programme instead of managing a set of individual projects presumed that this change would fit better to Siemenpoo's cooperation goals, which includes networking at South-South and North-South level. Evaluation findings suggested that not all partners shared the perception about being part of a Programme and networking did not involve all partners. These results raised the following issues:

- Since partners have been consulted during the Programme design phase, in meetings organized in Belém and Montevideo in year 2009, the Siemenpoo Foundation expected that partners would feel part of it. However, this evaluation revealed that not all partners shared this perception. Important to say that this is not a problem in the first place. The decision to structure Siemenpoo work through programmes instead of projects is legitimate. Nevertheless, if Siemenpoo wants to build a Programme that the partners feel more organically involved, perhaps it could consider improvements in the communication strategy and adoption of other mechanisms that could promote this belonging perception during Programme implementation.
- Networking and promotion of South-South and North-South dialogue are important elements of the Latin America Programme. However, network action occurs when partners identify commonalities and opportunities to share. The CNS and COIAB profile is quite particular. They are representative organizations, led by extractive and indigenous peoples respectively. Both are focused mainly on territory rights and sustainable management of forest resources. Whereas programme thematic areas such as the expansion of tree and GMO soybean monocultures are key issues for ATALC, WRM and AcBio, these issues are not the top priority of COIAB and CNS agenda. Partners also differ regarding their understandings about relationship with the State and how do organize resistance: confrontation or negotiation.
- Partners' diversity is interesting to promote dialogue between different contexts. However, it is important to consider that large differences of profile and perspective can put barriers to network action. This raises questions regarding the programme strategy, which is based more on geographic boundaries that not necessarily bring together organizations that share the same vision and priorities, limiting opportunities for dialogue and networking. It also reminds the need to consider partners' selection process and criteria.

Based on these findings, the evaluators presented the following recommendations:

- **To carry out an internal discussion about the Programme strategy, defining clear expectations about it.** Siemenpuu has the legitimate right to organize its work within the Programme without consulting partners, as an institutional strategy option. In this case, Siemenpuu could diminish its expectation about partners' perception. The feeling of belonging to a Programme is a consequence and not the starting point, depending more on mechanisms that create network dynamics and empathy among partners. However, if Siemenpuu decides to build a programme as a platform that partners feel part of since the very beginning, it could consider a participatory process during the programme design phase. It is a matter of option and both are valid.
- **To consider thematic programmes instead of geographic programmes.** Perhaps, the new formulation of Siemenpuu Programs could consider arrangements that facilitates networking between "pairs" (organizations with the same profile and sharing the same priorities) to establish more dynamic collaborative networks. Nevertheless, it is important to maintain mechanisms to facilitate dialogue between different. Exposure to diversity of ideas is fundamental to deepen own reflections and improve working strategy.
- **To consider clear criteria to identify partners.** Partners' identification was based on previous relationship of Siemempuu staff or board members. The results of this first cycle suggested that not all partners shared the same priorities, limiting networking and a common sense of a Programme. During the next phase, Siemenpuu could consider definition on clear criteria to decide which partners to invite to join the Programme.
- **To consider maintaining support to strength institutional capacity.** The availability of funds to support institutional capacity, such as those provided to CNS, COAIB and GTA, are essential for keeping policy advocacy work. Therefore, it is recommended that the future programme design maintain this funding format.

iii. Programme Implementation:

Siemenpuu runs the Programme in a flexible way that should not be lost. This is a quality very appreciated by partners, as mentioned previously. However, programme management could be improved:

- Improvements in monitoring system does not imply in heavy structures that brings additional work for Siemenpuu and partners just to satisfy donors' demands. Monitoring could be designed on participatory bases, as a tool that contributes for decision-making and strategy thinking during the Programme implementation.
- Communication is a key issue, both internally and among Programme partners. The Programme do not have a clear communication strategy. This is an essential element for a Programme that aims to improve networking and dialogue.

Based on these findings, the evaluators presented the following recommendations:

- **To consider improvement of Programme monitoring system.** Improvement in report formats and use of other tools such as an online system focused on few and objective indicators,

using visual elements as much as possible. This recommendation does not mean adoption of heavy and time consuming monitoring systems.

- **To consider improvement of the Programme communication strategy.** Considering that Siemenpuu establishes relationship with partners that do not share the same language, the communication strategy could consider adoption of other tools such as short videos (using mobile phone) and pictures sent by programme partners. This could be an innovative way of reporting. Periodically, Siemenpuu could share a two-page electronic bulletin sharing information about Programme development.

iv. Future Programme Development

The evaluation TOR requested evaluators to present recommendations for the next cycle of the Latin America Programme. The proposals presented below consider three scenarios for each programme dimension: programme themes, programme partners and funding formats.

- **Programme themes:**

Three options could be considered: changing all themes, keeping the same themes and adding additional themes to those covered by the Programme so far. Considering the increasing pressure on natural resources in Latin America and continuous violation of community rights, the Programme themes are still relevant and should continue in the next phase. However, it could include direct support for legal assistance to protect community territory rights. This is an increasing demand that not find funding easily.

Therefore, the evaluators recommend that Siemenpuu considers the third option: keep the areas that already exist (expansion of monocultures and alternatives), adding the theme “territory rights”. This theme dialogues with issues that Siemenpuu already work, such as mining and displacement. The climate change could be considered in the conceptualization of the Programme overall framework.

- **Programme partners:**

Evaluators understand that it is not their role to indicate who should stay or who should leave the Programme. However, the evaluation findings can contribute to define criteria for future partnership. The definition of “what partners” could be guided by the following questions: a) *what are the key regions and zones that the Programme themes are relevant?* (b) *Where are the areas in which European/Finnish companies are threatening natural resources and peoples’ rights?* (c) *What organizations are working in these regions/zones and with the Programme themes?*

Answering these questions could raise three options: changing all partners, keeping the same partners, changing some partners. Due to the accumulated expertise and achievements of Programme partners, evaluators consider that changing all partners does not make sense. On the other hand, the lack of definitions involving GTA prevents to indicate the continuation of partnership with this network, at least in the near future. Important to mention that GTA Directors did not give any feedback to the preliminary evaluation report that indicated this situation. Therefore, the evaluators recommend that Siemenpuu consider:

- a. To keep the partnership with NGOs that have expertise on the Programme subjects and play an important role on dissemination of information and training of grassroots groups (AcBio, ATALC and WRM) and organizations that represent peoples politically and are active in the defence of territory rights (CNS and COIAB).
- b. To add new partners that could be relevant after answering the questions mentioned above. Some of these partners could be those that Siemenpuu already have in Latin America and are not part of the programme yet. In the case of Brazil, Siemenpuu could consider other regions that are more pressured by monocultures' expansion, such as the North Region of Minas Gerais State. This region has many examples of grass roots organizations representing indigenous peoples, traditional communities and peasants that are fighting against eucalyptus monocultures and mining that could be easily networked with other partners in Latin America. They already have some links with COIAB (Xakriaba indigenous people) and CNS that could facilitate networking at national level as well.

- **Programme funding format:**

Considering the experience of the first cycle, two funding formats are suggested. First of all the continuity of institutional support is crucial to CNS, COAIB and local partners of ATALC that are missing this kind of support. Additionally, Siemenpuu could consider a specific fund for supporting emergency local activities for defending territories rights. This fund could have the same format Siemenpuu used to support networking activities involving ATALC, AcBio and WRM. These “seed grants” could generate important process.

It is not about to create a new bureaucratic structure but to take advantage of the experience accumulated by the Programme. This fund should be targeted to support local groups on territory rights disputes and resistance. The Dema Fund in Brazil may be a model that Siemenpuu could approach¹ to learn about the mechanisms. In the case of Latin America, a working group composed by AcBIO, ATALC & WRM and CLOC-VC could be considered to manage this fund. These “seed grants funding” would allow Siemenpuu to support grass roots groups directly without increasing the administrative workload.

¹More details see <http://www.fundodema.org.br/>

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Evaluation of Siemenpuu Foundation’s Latin America Programme

1. Background

The Siemenpuu Foundation was founded in 1998 by Finnish environmental and development policy NGOs. The objective of the Siemenpuu Foundation is to promote environmental protection, defend human rights and promote democracy, as well as to support cooperation between environmental civil society movements from different continents. Conveying of and learning from the experiences in the South is a central part of the Foundation’s work.

Siemenpuu’s support to NGOs in developing countries focuses on sustainable use of natural resources and strengthening the democratic decision-making mechanisms serving natural resource management. The projects supported emphasize, alongside the environmental and climate themes, empowering the communities, creating ecologically and socially sustainable practices and supporting civil society.

Siemenpuu has eight ongoing cooperation programmes through which financial support is mainly channelled. The cooperation programmes aim at long-standing cooperation with Siemenpuu’s partners from the South, while emphasizing interaction based on equality. The content and practises of the programmes are developed together with each cooperation partner. For more information on the programmes, please see: <http://www.siemenpuu.org/en/programmes>.

Latin America Programme

Siemenpuu Foundation launched its Latin America Programme in 2009. The initial theme of the programme has been Alternatives to Monoculture Plantations. Through the programme critical analysis of monoculture plantations, as well as more sustainable ways of managing natural resources and gaining livelihoods are supported. The alternatives of monocultures mainly supported within the programme are community forest management and small scale, biodiverse agriculture. The programme stemmed from an open application round organised by Siemenpuu on the same theme in 2008. In 2009, a planning meeting between Siemenpuu and the identified partners took place in Uruguay.

The Latin America programme is based on collaboration with and support to six partner organisations, which all also receive funding from other sources than Siemenpuu:

Brazilian Amazon region in the framework of a loose network named Aliança dos Povos da Floresta:

- Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira (COIAB)
- Conselho Nacional das Populações Extrativistas (CNS)
- Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico (GTA)

Rest of Latin America:

- Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe (ATALC, Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Accion por la Biodiversidad (AcBio)
- The World Rainforest Movement (WRM)

In the case of the Brazilian Amazon region, Siemenpuu's support consists of institutional support to COIAB, CNS and GTA in order for them to defend the indigenous, extractive and traditional communities' rights. COIAB as indigenous peoples' organisations' umbrella body focuses on indigenous peoples land, health and cultural rights. CNS as the collaborative body of the extractive reserves focuses on the land and community forest management rights of the extractivists. GTA, within which a wide range of Amazon region actors have come together, has advocated for the interests of the region's civil society, including traditional communities' rights.

The other three partners supported: ATALC, AcBio and WRM, focus on critical analysis of monocultures and agribusiness, as well as promotion of small scale, biodiverse agriculture together with peasant communities.

The ATALC members receiving Siemenpuu's support (seven of the national Friends of the Earth organisations in Latin America) have focused the funding on awareness-raising and advocacy on national level, as well as collaboration with like-minded peasant organisations through trainings and joint campaigning. These seven organisations have drafted one sole application to Siemenpuu, coordinated by one of them in a rotating manner. The ATALC members included are Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

AcBio produces a magazine called *Revista Biodiversidad, Sustento y Culturas* in collaboration with 10 collaborators across Latin America on agricultural biodiversity. It also manages a web portal on the same theme (<http://www.biodiversidadla.org/>). Siemenpuu's support to this work has resembled institutional support.

The WRM has global scope in its work, whereas Siemenpuu's support is focused on Grupo Guayubira, a Uruguayan alliance hosted by the WRM and working on eucalyptus monocultures and pulp industry, as well as RECOMA (Red Latinoamericana contra los Monocultivos de Árboles), a Latin American wide network of NGOs critical towards monoculture tree plantations also coordinated by the WRM. Many of RECOMA's members are national Friends of the Earth organisations, and hence also ATALC's members.

In addition to supporting each programme partner, Siemenpuu has funded joint activities of ATALC, AcBio and WRM. These have included:

- Special edition of the *Revista Biodiversidad* on monocultures and plantations,
- Edition of the *Revista Biodiversidad* on the true and false solutions to climate change,
- Edition of the *Revista Biodiversidad* on green economy and peoples' alternatives towards Rio+20,
- Edition of the *Revista Biodiversidad* on commercialisation of nature after Rio+20 – green economy versus peoples' alternatives,

- Strategy meeting on monocultures in Latin America.

In addition to project support, two programme meetings between representatives of the partners and Siemenpuu have taken place during the programme implementation to discuss topical themes: one in 2011 and another one in 2014.

The project funding allocated through the Latin America programme has been as follows:

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Project payments / Budget EUR	125 250	133 062	157 519	105 737	176 368	220 000 (budget)	190 000 (budget)
Programme meeting costs EUR			9 442		17 000		

2. Aim of the Evaluation

Through the evaluation of its Latin America Programme Siemenpuu Foundation hopes to receive more profound insights to the implementation of the programme and inspiration for its future development. The results of the evaluation will also serve as background material for developing the Foundation's project support structure in general.

More specific evaluation questions include:

- Considering the environmental challenges and characteristics of different civil society actors in Latin America, as well as the characteristics and size of the Siemenpuu Foundation, which could be the most viable theme and partner options for the Foundation's programme in the region (please identify several possibilities)?
- To what degree has the programme contributed towards the common goals of Siemenpuu's cooperation programmes: "to reconcile the causes of environmental problems, promote environmental protection and deepen the thematic environmental dialogue between the South and North. The objective of the cooperation programmes is also to support the interaction and dialogue between the southern partners themselves."
- What is the core area of work of each programme partner? What has been the role of Siemenpuu's support in the partners' overall work? What impacts has it had from the partners' perspective?
- To what degree have the partners identified themselves as being part of a programme? How do they perceive Siemenpuu's overall role to them?
- How is each programme partner networked with other civil society actors? How has the programme contributed to the networks supported within it, to networking among the programme partners and wider within the Latin American / global civil society?
- Concepts like 'Monoculture Plantations', 'Green Economy' and 'Commercialisation of Nature' have been used within the programme. To what degree do they correspond with the work supported within the programme?

3. Methodology

The scope of the evaluation is more on programme and partner level, rather than individual project and beneficiary level. It will provide the Foundation with an understanding of past results, but is looking more towards the future. It does not necessarily cover all the work of the partners, but what is considered relevant from the perspective of the cooperation programme. The following methods will be applied during the evaluation:

- Analysis of written material, such as project proposals, narrative and financial progress and final reports, as well as materials produced within the projects.
- Written questionnaire to all the six partners, including members of their networks supported within the programme (Alianza Biodiversidad, ATALC, RECOMA, Grupo Guayubira, CNS, COIAB and GTA).
- Skype and face-to-face interviews in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.
- Conducted by a team of two people who are not directly involved in the partners' activities, but have good understanding and previous experience of their working context, environmental thematic in Latin America, civil society processes in the region, as well as knowledge of general development issues and development cooperation, and previous experience on conducting evaluations. One of the evaluators will focus on the Brazilian Amazon region partners and the other on the rest of Latin America, particularly Cono Sur.
- Suggestions for evaluator candidates will be enquired from the programme partners and other civil society donors supporting similar fields of activities in Latin America.

4. Timetable and Reporting

The evaluation process will take place during October 2014 – March 2015:

October - November 2014: development of the evaluation focus and methods within Siemenpuu's Latin America working group and in consultation with partners. Identification of possible evaluators and negotiations with them.

December 2014: approval of Terms of Reference by the Foundation's board and contracting of evaluators.

December 2014 – January 2015: analysis of programme and other relevant documents, inception report.

January – February 2015: questionnaires, interviews and analysis.

March 2015: draft report for comments, final report.

The exact amount of working days will be agreed upon with the selected evaluators, but approximately 20 working days will be needed per evaluator.

The evaluation report shall be a document consisting of maximum 100 pages, written in Spanish/Portuguese and including an executive summary in English.

ANNEX 2 – LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Programme Documents

- Concept papers of AcBio, ATALC, WRM, CNS, COIAB and GTA
- Proposals presented by AcBio, ATALC, WRM, CNS, COIAB and GTA
- Financial Agreements between Siemenpuu and programme partners
- Project reports presented by AcBio, ATALC, WRM, CNS, COIAB and GTA

Information available in the following websites:

- www.amigos.org.ar
- www.atalc.org
- www.biodiversidad.tv/alianza-biodiversidad/
- www.biodiversidadla.org
- www.censat.org
- www.cesta-foe.org.sv
- www.coaib.org.br
- www.coecoceiba.org
- www.foei.org
- www.gta.org.br
- www.quayubira.org.uy
- www.natbrasil.org.br
- www.otrosmundoschiapas.org
- www.redes.org.uy
- www.siemempuu.org
- www.wrm.uy

ANNEX 3 - LIST OF PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

1. THE SIEMENPUU FOUNDATION:

- Laura Niskanen – Member of Working Group of Latin America Programme (Skype)
- Ruby van der Wekken Ex-Coordinator of Latin America Programme (Skype)
- Titta Lassila – Vice-President of Siemenpuu, Member of Working Group of Latin America Programme (Skype)
- Kirsi Chavda – Programme Coordinator (Skype)
- Mervi Leppäkorpi - Member of Working Group of Latin America Programme, currently in Mexico (Skype)
- Mira Käkönen - Ex-president of Siemenpuu 2009-2013 (Skype)

2. PROGRAMME PARTNES:

i. CNS:

- Joaquim Belo – President
- Manoel da Cunha – Ex-President and current treasurer
- Juan Carlos Carrasco Rueda – Technical adviser of CNS

ii. COIAB:

- João Neves Silva – Secretary (current)
- Modesta da Silva Carvalho – assistant of COIAB and working with the project after Sonia Guajajara left
- Max Tukano – COIAB Coordinator (phone interview after delivering the preliminary report)

iii. GTA

- Ana Cristina – Fundação Vitória Amazônica - Executive coordinator
- Fabiano Silva – Fundação Victoria Amazônica – Programme coordinator
- Nilfo Wandscheer – GTA Vice-President (phone interview)
- João Batista Uchôa Pereira – GTA Regional Representative (phone interview)
- Maria Jocicleide Lima de Aguiar – GTA Regional Representative (phone interview)

iv. AcBIO

- Carlos Vicente – Overall Coordinator
- Lucía Vicente - Accountant
- Eugenia Jeria – President

v. ATALC

- Isaac Rojas – Coordinator of the Forest and Biodiversity Programme - FoEI/COECOceiba
- Claudia Ramos - Food Sovereignty and Agrofuels Programme - Otros Mundos – FoE México (Skype)
- Diego Cardona - Forest and Biodiversity Programme CENSAT- FoE Colombia (Skype)
- Karin Nansen - FoEI ExCom member and Coordinator of REDES Uruguay
- Florencia Delle Donne – Secretary of FoE Argentina
- Natalia Paola Salvático – President of FoE Argentina

- María Wanda Olivares – Treasurer of FoE Argentina
- Silvia Quiroa – Director of CESTA El Salvador (Skype)
- Rafael Vela - Director of Biodiversity Campaign - CESTA El Salvador (Skype)
- Fernando Costa Campo – President of FoE Brazil
- Patricia Gonçalves – Secretary of FoE Brazil
- Bruna Oliveira Missaggia – Board Member of FoE Brazil

vi. WRM

- Elizabeth Díaz - Member of the International Secretary team
- Winfridus Overbeek - Overall Coordinator

3. OTHER KEY INFORMANTS

i. BRAZIL

- Heloísa Aquino – Programme Officer, Secretary of Patrimony, Ministry of Planning, Management and Budget
- Leonardo Messias – General Coordinator of Traditional People Department, Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio)
- Maria Emília Pacheco – President of National Council on Food and Nutritional Security (Consea), linked to Presidency of Republic. She has wide work experience in the Amazon as Director of FASE (GTA member) and she is board member of the National Coordination of Agroecology (ANA).
- Pedro Lion – Programme Officer at the Secretary of the Amazon Land Regularization, Ministry of Agrarian Development
- Silvio Porto – ex-Director of National Food Supply Company, responsible for implementing agricultural policies, including those for forest products.

ii. Uruguay:

- Leonardo de León - Senator Frente Amplio
- Limber Santos - Director of Education Department for Rural Areas