Telebriefing:
DEFORESTATION, REDD AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN ASIA
September 13, 2012

Organized in Collaboration with International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP)
and co-sponsored by IHRFG's Asia and Pacific Funders Working Group

Speakers:

- Niranjali Amerasinghe, Program Director, Climate Change Program, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Patrick Anderson, Policy Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme; Fellow, Samdhana Institute

Description:

The United Nations collaborative program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) provides financial incentives to curb deforestation by allowing carbon emitters to offset their emissions through payment of the protection of forests in developing countries.

Indigenous rights activists are divided about whether REDD will ultimately benefit or marginalize indigenous communities. Many claim that REDD increases government and private sector control over forests and threatens local land tenure. They claim that without legal title, local communities are unlikely to see financial benefits from REDD initiatives and they may be pressured to change their traditional activities. At worse, they could be resettled or evicted from their lands entirely. Others argue that if REDD is to be implemented then it should be done with the rights of indigenous peoples in mind.

In this telebriefing, funders explored...

- The controversy surrounding the United Nation's REDD program and how it impacts indigenous communities
- Efforts to promote free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from indigenous communities about REDD initiatives on their ancestral lands
- How to strengthen local, national, and international agreements that promote indigenous land and resource tenure
- Effective grantmaker strategies for supporting indigenous communities as well as possible entry-points for funders interested in incorporating this issue into their portfolio

To listen to the full telebriefing:

Visit IHRFG's website (you will need to enter the password "humanrights").