

“The Access Initiative: Good Environmental Governance - a Prerequisite for Sustainable Development”

National Strategy for Poland

prepared in partnership by the Institute of Global Responsibility (IGO) and the Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT)

Introduction and the context of this strategy

This strategy is based on the mutual interests and the capacities of LEAT and IGO in campaigning for the rights of the people of Tanzania, in particular the communities of Tanzania mainland.

This strategy refers to the advocacy activities of IGO and partner organisations in promoting the access rights, good governance and public participation in the global South countries. It reflects the needs consulted with the Tanzanian partners and the strategic focus of IGO in the debate of quality of aid.

The strategy is based on the following documents:

- The report (Sustainable Development and Environmental Democracy in Tanzania - An Assessment of Access to Information, Participation, and Justice in environmental decision-making)
- The Programme of Polish Aid
- The results of the “roundtable” meeting
- LEAT strategic plan

General and specific objectives

The general objective of the TAI (name in full as it appears for the first time here) & Development project is to promote rights to information, public participation and access to consultation and decision making processes in global South countries with a specific focus on Tanzania.

The main objective of this strategy and action plan is to strengthen good environmental governance in the particular communities of Tanzania mainland and empower local communities to execute their rights in accessing information, participation in decision making processes and also accessing justice.

The main objective is divided into two:

- influence the Tanzanian national policies, as well as local authorities of Tanzania mainland to enable people of those communities to execute their rights
- influence the private companies that operate in the communities Tanzania mainland to strengthen the ability of the local communities to execute their rights

In order to achieve this objective IGO promotes the recommendations of the report prepared by LEAT under the framework of the TAI & Development project and advocacy to integrate proposals on the level of programming and realization of the Polish Foreign Assistance to Tanzania by different stakeholders including MFA, NGOs, researchers and others.

Specific objectives to be achieved:

1. Increase the visibility of the activities conducted by LEAT in specific Tanzania mainland communities in national and international forum
2. Support LEAT activities addressing the national and local authorities in Tanzania by sending enquiries, support letters from different European stakeholders
3. Pressure the companies that plunder local community assets in the priority regions where LEAT conducts its activities
4. Address the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to raise the ODA expenses for Tanzania and consult the expenditures with the beneficiary communities.
5. Integrate recommendations of the TAI report in the programming of the Polish Aid and to include them in the strategy of the Polish Aid for 2009 by addressing the topics such as good environmental governance, capacity building for NGOs and local authorities, management of natural resources
6. Mobilize different support groups and potential partners in Poland to gain more public support for the campaign, e.g. schools, youth activists, etc.

Project schedule – key steps and responsibilities

Task	Responsibility	Deadline
Preparation phase		
Agree on the final objectives, course of action and tasks in the strategy	LEAT & IGO	19.09.2008
Prepare the materials documenting case studies of communities we focus our advocacy work (2-4 examples?)	LEAT	26.09.2008
Write an article about the problems of specific communities and the work that LEAT realises to enable people to execute their rights	LEAT	26.09.2008
Prepare translation of the situation and the work of LEAT	IGO	26.09.2008
Write an article and a short press release about the key objectives and actions that IGO demands to be taken by the Polish institutions involved in programming and delivering development assistance	IGO – interview with Elias	26.09.2008
Send an Open letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and support articles in the IGO Quarterly	LEAT & IGO	26.09.2008
Invite potential allies to join actions that serve the realization of the objectives of this strategy	IGO	02.10.2008
Include the descriptions of situation on the web sites of IGO, LEAT and other potential partners	IGO, LEAT	02.10.2008
Key activities		
Capacity building training for multipliers and potential allies in the society	IGO	03-04.10.2008
Send an Open letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and support articles in the IGO Quarterly	LEAT & IGO	05.10.2008
Publish the Open Letter and the support articles in the IGO Quarterly	IGO	10.10.2008
Promotion and distribution of the Quarterly	IGO	Start 10.10.2008
Presentation of the publication – Quarterly in an event co-organised by IGO and its partners including Polish Green Network	IGO	17.10.2008 (hosted by PGN)
Send the Quarterly and Forward the Open Letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the support letter from different Polish NGOs	IGO	15.10.2008
Contact and ask for formal reply the respective officials of the ministry of foreign affairs responsible for ODA	LEAT & IGO	20.10.2008
Organize capacity building training for NGOs in Poland involved in the advocacy	IGO	25.10.2008
Consult the achievements and progress between IGO and LEAT	Elias, Kordian	29.10.2008 (Sligo, Ireland)
Ask for a draft of the strategy for consultations – it should be available in English for transparent communication with the Southern partners	IGO	10.11.2008
Present different approaches and achievements of the different TAI partners in Europe (NMS)	IGO	10.11.2008
Follow-up and development of potential initiatives		
Mobilize the different groups in Poland to support the work of LEAT	IGO	31.11.2008
Promote the activities of the project and TAI partners to present IGO activities in the European context	IGO & LEAT	31.11.2008
Verify the possibility for a joint project between IGO and LEAT implemented in Tanzania	IGO, LEAT	31.11.2008
Assess the achievements and analyse conclusions	IGO, LEAT	31.11.2008
Write a report with recommendations for follow-up for all the partners	IGO	31.11.2008

* The specific deadlines to be agreed between LEAT and IGO.

Potential cooperation and development of the partnership – depending on the alliances and circumstances

IGO aims to strengthen the debate in Poland about access rights, rights based approach to development and partnership with the global South societies and people.

In order to strengthen the impact of our lobbying activities we could invite other NGOs and institutions to promote access rights and support our objectives.

What else could be done for dissemination of the information:

- Publish information about the report on the different web pages of partner organisations, as well as other NGO web portals: globalnepoludnie.pl , ngo.pl
- Consult the objectives of the strategy within the coalition of the NGOs working in the global South countries
- Promote the report and the recommendations of the reports both on local and national level in Tanzania, as well as amongst the development actors in Poland
- Promote different European approaches to the quality of aid and present the context of quality of aid: write an article about different conclusions from different TAI national strategies

Other possibilities to improve the quality of Polish Aid:

- Promote the ideas to integrate recommendations of the report in the operational planning of the NGOs i. e. The projects of the organisations should be based on reports, researches, national and local strategies, e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. (Promoting good practices in projects: prepare information table and suggestion box)

Potential to mobilize broader public that could support the strategy:

- Promotion of the report and the recommendations of the report
- Promotion of the activities of the project and TAI partners to present IGO activities in the European context
- Access to schools and trained personnel involved in development education
- Dissemination of publication under different projects of IGO
- Good relations with key organisations in Poland that could support the effort
- Potential to design and conduct project in Tanzania financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with grants from April 2009 (the joint project could bring additional resources to extend the action; by that time the two partners will finance their activities by themselves)