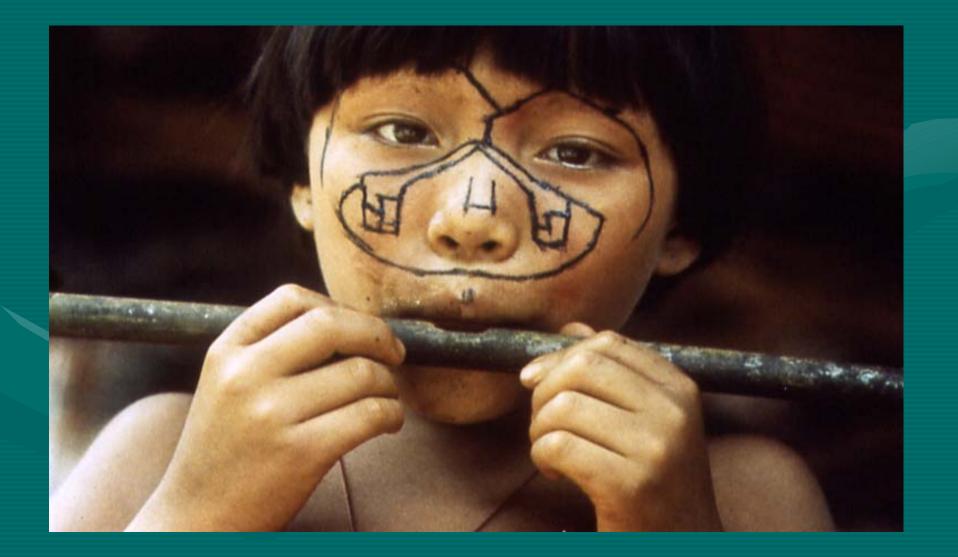
Forest Peoples, Plantations and Intensively Managed Forests

Marcus Colchester, Forest Peoples Programme, Presentation to The Forests Dialogue, Gland, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2005

#### Planting forests with respect for human rights



### **Forest Peoples and Plantations:**

- Forests cover 12% of the world's land surface
- Almost all forests are inhabited
- Half of the world's one billion very poor people can be considered to be forest-dependent
- At least half of these are long term forest residents with legitimate rights to derive their livelihoods from forest lands
- About half of all timber plantations and most tree crop estates established in converted forest

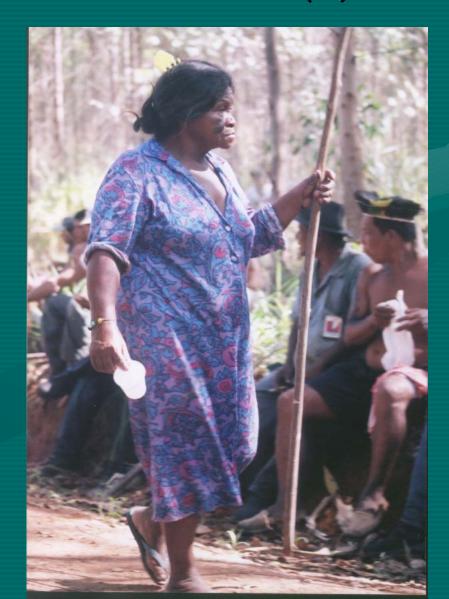
## Problems of Plantations (1)

- Concessions or title issued without respect for indigenous interests
- Removal of original ecosystem
- Livelihoods lost or at best transformed
- Culture lost
- Wealth and land concentrated



# Problems of Plantations (2)

- Rights extinguished, displacement common
- Benefits limited
- Impoverishment
- Loss of political control
- Protests
- Repression and human rights abuses ensue
- Conflict







## Conflict



# Reclaiming the land



### Not a certifiable plantation



### **RSPO**

- Consumption of edible oils forecast to double by 2025
- 5-10 million hectares of oil palm planned to meet this 'need' (similar targets for soya)
- Concerns about deforestation
- Business community with WWF set up RSPO
- Business to Business initiative, voluntary
- Standard setting, adoption and 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification

# **Emerging RSPO standards**

- Plantation land not legitimately contested
- No land acquisition without Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Recognition of customary rights in land
- Negotiated agreements, recognition of peoples' institutions
- Labour standards (ILO) or above
- Protection of children, women, migrants
- No clearance of primary forest or HCVF

#### **Unresolved** issues

- GMOs
- Pesticides: current wording allows eg paraquat and aldicarb
- Small holder representation
  Unfilled place on board
  Not directly represented on CWG
  Standards not suited to small scale production
  Unclear re gaining fair prices from mills

#### Successful conflict resolution

 Recognition of rights Good participation (FPIC) In negotiations with the companies In setting national standards During audits In dealing with specific disputes

### 'Win win scenarios'?



#### **Role of State**

Can these problems be resolved project by project?

- Land Use planning
- Recognition of local community and indigenous peoples' rights
- Regulation of private sector

### The Way Forward

• In the long term, national legal and policy reforms are needed in many countries if local communities and indigenous peoples' rights are to be accommodated by plantations. • The private sector can lead the way in pioneering just and sustainable solutions, respecting forest peoples' rights and encouraging governments to reform accordingly.

