



**Forest Policy and Environment Group
Overseas Development Institute**

Project Title: Support to Norwegian People's Aid on Rights-Based Approaches

Year / Time Period: December, 2004 to May, 2005

Country: Global

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Client: Norwegian People's Aid

Objectives:

1. Research into RBAs by international NGOs and solidarity organisations
2. Research into NPAs' adoption of a RBA to date and future needs
3. Seminar on RBAs for NPA's Development Section

Results:

ODI synthesised findings on the adoption of RBAs by international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) in order to better inform NPA's approach. The work combined a mix of interviews with INGOs (by phone or in person) with desk-research. Work also included a desk-review of NPA's strategy and current programmes, as well as interviews with key NPA staff. Particular attention was paid to NPA's specific challenges in its adoption of a RBA, in particular its status as a solidarity organisation, some of the difficult contexts in which it operates (such as the absence of fair and effective states in much of the Horn of Africa), and its commitment to work with 'oppressed groups'.

Policy Relevance:

Since the official adoption of a RBA, NPA has engaged in discussions on how the approach can best be operationalised. As Overseas Development Institute research on RBAs suggests, a major challenge for organisations is *how* to move from a policy statement to practice. This requires developing a consistent understanding of the approach across an organisation, identifying what needs to change and what can be built upon, including how to combine service delivery and a RBA, and developing a communication strategy and tools to put the approach into practice. For organisations like NPA which works closely with local partners, this process involves sharing the approach with partners, examining the extent to which existing partnerships can continue and how they need to be amended. The design and monitoring of projects and programmes may need to be revised to reflect the RBA, both in terms of objectives/results and processes.

Outputs:

1. An overview report on lessons learnt on the adoption of RBAs by INGOs
2. Delivery of two seminars at NPA's headquarters in Oslo