

A new training programme
for organisations promoting
change in the forest sector.



CIDT

Civil Society: Representation, Activism and Influence



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON

This training aims to critically explore the role of civil society actors in promoting good governance; the challenges and tensions inherent in that role; and practical strategies and skills for influencing change.



The crucial role played by an active civil society in driving and sustaining governance improvements is widely recognised. In the environment and natural resource sectors non-state actors have the potential to influence positive change in a number of important ways: by providing external oversight, by applying pressure for greater transparency and accountability, by representing marginalised communities, and by influencing the development of legislation, policies and programmes which conserve the environment whilst protecting and promoting the rights of vulnerable populations.

Recognition of the benefits of an active civil society has led to a dramatic increase in the number of civil society organisations during recent decades. However, as the sector expands and changes there is a real and continuing need for CSO staff, activists and volunteers to reflect on their role within it; its boundaries and possibilities, and the practical skills and capacities required to bring about citizen-driven change.

This new, five day programme has been designed for NGOs and civil society networks working to promote change within the forest sector. It provides an opportunity for participants to examine the social, cultural and political context of civil society in their countries and to enhance their effectiveness as a force for change, individually, organisationally and collectively.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the workshop participants will be able to:

- Describe and critique different understandings of the role, value and function of Civil Society.
- Identify different types and levels of civil society actors in their context and map the interactions between them.
- Identify entry points for participation and influence in their national governance structures.
- Evaluate the essential skills and qualities of a good representative
- Identify the key challenges of representation and strategies for overcoming them.
- Describe and assess the practical implications of various accountability relationships for their organisation.
- Identify practical opportunities for collaboration and collective advocacy based on an enhanced appreciation of local civil society networks.
- Develop a clearly structured advocacy/campaign strategy
- Demonstrate effective negotiation and influencing skills;
- Network more effectively on behalf of their constituencies;
- Engage effectively with the media to influence change.



About us

The Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) of the University of Wolverhampton has a long and proven track record of providing practical capacity strengthening services in support of inclusive multi-stakeholder processes in the forest sector.

This exciting new training course builds on more than 10 years' experience of working on organisational development and independent forest monitoring with NGOs, civil society networks and community-led organisations across West and Central Africa, South East Asia and the Pacific.

The course has been designed for overseas delivery, based on requests from interested organisations, institutions and projects, and will be facilitated by CIDT's experienced trainers.

Facilitation and course materials available in English and French.

For further information please contact Sarah Thomas (S.A.Thomas@wlv.ac.uk) or visit

<https://cidt.org.uk/teaching-and-training>