



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

actalliance

NCA Radar

a quarterly newsletter about NCA and partners in Brazil
#1/2014 (august-december 2013)



Changes in cooperation expected with new right-wing government in Norway

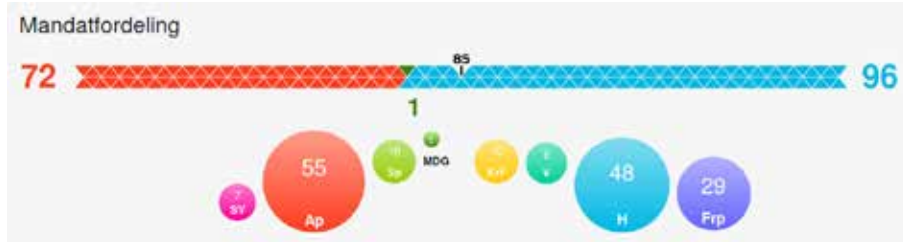
A political turnover already expected in Norway eventually took place in September 9, 2013: the social-democrat coalition lost the parliamentary elections to a coalition of right/extreme-right parties. The conservative parties have reached wide majority in the Norwegian parliament.

Right after election, the four parties that form the conservative block, led by Høyre of Erna Solberg, engaged in long negotiations behind close doors to measure divergences and test the possibility of forming a government coalition with all four parties together, including both conservative-liberal FrP (Fremskrittspartiet, Progressive Party) and center parties KrF (Christian democratic party) and Venstre (Liberal party). Much was speculated on the probable combinations and the risks to the smaller center parties of being part of a government with too much influence from FrP. KrF and Venstre play an important role

to tip the balance towards the conservatives, as Høyre and FrP alone do not have the majority, depending on support from one of the two smaller.

In early October, 2013, newspapers announced that KrF and Venstre had decided not to be part of the government, but closed a deal to support the new government in parliament, including priority issues for them. The disclose of the negotiations was the creation, for the first time in history, of a government coalition of two right wing parties.

Development cooperation was not a priority in the negotiations. The only party that has cooperation as a priority is center KrF, that decided to remain out of the government. The first bad news came with the extinction of the development ministry, responsible for cooperation and aid policies, which fall now under the ministry of foreign affairs. The new government wants to gradually cut the



Division of chairs in the Norwegian parliament: the social-democrat coalition won 72 chairs, while the conservatives won 96. Source: NRK



Conservative duo Erna Solberg and Siv Jensen are thrilled to take over the wheel for the first time. Pics: Fredrik Varfjell e Paul Weaver

cooperation with Latin America and strengthen focus on Africa. Small cuts were announced in the cooperation with Latin America already in 2014.

As for the Climate&Forest policy, despite the positive tone of the first official declarations, the government announced a cut of NOK 400 million (US\$ 65 million). After some struggle in parliament, the cut eventually remained, but was smaller than the originally proposed by the government. This first episode shows how important the role of the parliament is likely to become, as the government's coalition is in minority and depends on support from other parties.

The new government declared the interest in supporting international cooperation initiatives aimed at struggle against corruption, good governance and respect to human rights.



Pic: Henrique Fornazin

NCA under espionage from Vale

Mining giant Vale has been in the center of a polemic about the use of espionage practices against social movements, environmentalists and other critics of the company. An in-depth article published last October 2013 by investigative journalism agency APublica1 revealed the scheme used by the corporation involving infiltrators in social movements, bribery of public servants to obtain privileged information (e.g. federal police) and illegal phone tapping. Such practices used to be current under the dictatorship regime in Brazil, when the company, still under state control, had close relations with the military and used to hire private militias in some "problematic" regions, such as the Amazon, due to the presence of gold diggers, loggers, land grabbers and gunmen. Today, the modern version of these militias are private security firms hired by Vale for "surveillance" services.

Among the documents presented in the article, NCA is mentioned in connection with its participation in the 2009 World Social Forum, when the idea for working with the aluminum production chain in Barcarena was first discussed. Today, partner IEB works for the organization of a multi-stakeholder forum with participation of Norwegian Hydro, the largest company in the Barcarena industrial complex, which bought Vale's aluminum operations in 2009. Hydro announced the acquisition of Vale's aluminum operations as the largest acquisition in Norwegian corporate history.

Another document from private security firm Network, hired by Vale, suggests the existence of a Barcarena network, under their responsibility, with a budget of around two thousand dollars in October, 2010, for payment of infiltrators in social movements, according to the article. NCA rejects the use of such methods and expects that Hydro takes all the measures needed to definitively eliminate such practices, with transparency.

* <http://www.apublica.org/2013/09/abrindo-caixa-preta-da-seguranca-da-vale/>



Pics: Walter Mesquita

Annual Meeting OD Program

The annual meeting of the OD program "Youth and the Right to the City" took place from October 16-18 in São Paulo, hosted by partner Ação Educativa. The meeting convened project officers and youth involved in the projects developed by the six partners of the program: Ação Educativa, Diaconia, Fase, Ibase, Koinonia and Viva Rio.

The main issue under discussion was the mid-term evaluation process and the definition of the future goals of the program. During the three days, youth and people involved in the projects presented the works under development, and debated the evaluation with the consultants Fátima Nascimento and Leandro Lamas Valarelli. The meeting highlighted the diversity of approaches, methods and contexts under which the projects are inserted. Despite such diversity, it was possible to reach common ambitions and goals for the last two years of the program.

The main goals agreed among participants is to gain deeper insight on climate/environmental issues, and more knowledge about the situation of disabled youth, with a starting point in the territories where the projects are developed. Two activities are planned in 2014 on these themes: a partner meeting on the issue of environmental racism, to be organized in the first semester, and a mapping of the situation of disabled youth in the regions of the projects, with the participation of all six partners.

Finally, as the evaluation points to the diversity of experiences and methods used by the different partners, extra resources will be allocated to systematize these experiences, beginning in 2014. The mid-term evaluation report can be found here: <http://www.kirkensnodhjelp.no/no/Arbeidet-vart/Hvor-vi-jobber/Latin-Amerika/Brasil/Artikler-om-Brasil/external-review-of-the-od-programme-in-brazil/>



Pic: Transition Culver City

Seminar gives visibility to shale gas impacts in Brazil

NCA has been supporting throughout 2013 the mobilization of civil society in Brazil for the discussion and collaborative monitoring of socioenvironmental impacts connected to the production chain of oil&gas. Partners Ibase, Fase, ISA and Diaconia organized and/or participated in three meetings for mobilization of civil society (March, May and June 2013), gathering also representatives from oil labor unions and affected grassroots communities.

As part of this agenda, partners Ibase, ISA and Fase, plus Greenpeace and Centro de Trabalho Indigenista – CTI, organized the seminar "Socioenvironmental Impacts of Shale Gas in Brazil" on November 13, 2013. Although virtually unknown in Brazil, shale gas exploitation gained momentum after the first round of concessions for shale gas announced by federal agency ANP1, on November 28, 2013. Extracted from sedimentary rocks in great depths, through the technique of hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking"), shale gas has been acclaimed as the new energy revolution in the USA and more recently in other countries. Now Brazil wants to be part of this new wave. The problem is that hydraulic fracking has been causing severe social and environmental impacts in the USA, mainly linked to underground water contamination. The two largest scientific organizations in Brazil sent a request for moratorium to president Dilma Rousseff based on the environmental risks involved. There is no regulation in

1 ANP - Agência Nacional de Petróleo

Brazil about hydraulic fracking, and not enough scientific expertise to eliminate risks, let alone to remedy possible cases of contamination of underground waters. The Guarani aquifer, one of the largest drinking water underground reservoirs in the world, is under threat of contamination from possible shale gas exploitation.

Participated in the seminar environmental organizations, labor unions, public servant unions, scientific organizations among others. The event resulted in the mobilization of several civil society organizations, including a complaint filed to the public prosecutor and two public hearings made in Congress. This contributed to share more light over the issue of shale gas. The Ministry of Environment criticized the oil agency for being too rushed, and even oil giant Petrobras, which acquired most of the blocks under offer, declared itself willing to return the blocks if necessary. A bill of law proposing a moratorium on shale gas was presented in Congress. Even the rural sector has been manifesting concern over the fracking technology because of the potential risk of contamination of aquifers and the impact over large scale agriculture.

The issue of shale gas in Brazil will hardly hit the big news in 2014, as other events will dominate the media (football cup and elections); even so, it is important that civil society remains mobilized to face this new challenge. NCA wants to continue the support to civil society on the theme of oil&gas in 2014.

Funding

On October 2013, the Funds For NGOs website published an article about corporate philanthropy as fundraising alternative aimed at the well-being of communities in poor or developing countries. Apart from polemics involved in the relationship between private banks and civil society, Funds for NGOs tries to point to new paths for the sustainability of civil society organizations. For those partners that have no restriction to support from banks in their respective fundraising policies, we selected the institutions that could support work in Brazil. The following are some options:

The Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation

Community development through support to local leaders, institutional development, education and arts. <https://www.db.com/usa/content/en/1066.html>

Barclays Support for Communities

Focus on youth: Building Young Future, Barclays Spaces for Sports and You C Be. <http://group.barclays.com/about-barclays/citizenship/supporting-our-communities>

Societe Generale Corporate Foundation for Solidarity

Focus on job creation for youth and eradication of illiteracy. <http://www.societegenerale.com/en/our-commitments/corporate-citizenship/the-foundation-for-solidarity/foundation-for-solidarity-works>

The Royal Bank of Canada's Community and Sustainability Program

Focus on education, environment conservation, climate change, mental health of children, sports, arts and culture. Only in regions where the bank operates. (RBC Brasil is a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada) <http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/apply-for-funding/index.html>

Citi Foundation

Focus on economic empowerment and financial inclusion of low and medium-income individuals and communities, youth education, emergency response. <http://www.citibank.com/citi/foundation/>

Macquarie Group Foundation

Health, education, arts, well-being and environment. Some level of involvement of the applicant with the staff is a requirement. <http://www.macquarie.com/mgl/com/foundation/about/grants-criteria>

Further reading: Which are the Banks that Give Grants to NGOs?

<http://www.fundsforngos.org/foundation-funds-for-ngos/banks-give-grants-ngos/>

Federal deputies paid by mining companies

The struggle to include social and environmental safeguards in the bill of law for the new mining code has not been easy. The lobby of mining companies is one of the strongest in Congress. Both the deputy rapporteur (Leonardo Quintão) and the deputy that presides the commission that analyses the bill of law (Gabriel Guimarães) are among the politicians that had their electoral campaigns financed by money donations made by mining corporations. Quintão had 20% of his campaign paid by companies as Arcelor Mittal Inox Brasil, Ecosteel Indústria de Beneficiamento Ltda., Gerdau Comercial de Aços S/A, LGA Mineração e Siderurgia Ltda. and Usiminas Mecânica S/A, accruing up to declared US\$ 800.000. Guimarães received declared US\$ 1,3 million to his campaign by mining companies Gerdau Comercial de Aços S/A, Concretos Rolim Ltda., Companhia Brasileira de Metalurgia e Mineração and Rima Industrial S/A, according to data from the Supreme Electoral Court. The information is part of the publication Quem é Quem na Mineração (Who's Who in Mining), organized by partner Ibase. Here's the link to the publication: http://issuu.com/ibase/docs/quem_e_quem_na_mineracao4



Deputy Quintão, spokesman of mining companies. Pic: Agência Câmara



Pressure from civil society postpones the approval of the new Mining Code

During 2013, the dispute over the new Mining Code in Brazil has been one of NCA's priorities. The National Committee in Defense of Territories Against Mining, a network of around 200 civil society organizations and social movements supported by NCA, has been successful in giving more visibility to the issue under the perspective of the local population affected by mining.

The Committee has advocated against the urgency regime imposed to the bill of law, demanding more time to discuss issues connected to social and environmental impacts arising from mining, and the rights of affected people. The Committee, of which partners ISA, Ibase, Fase, Inesc, IEB and MST are members, says the bill of law has been under discussion behind closed doors for the last four years exclusively between the government and mining companies, without participation of workers, affected communities and environmentalists.

In August 2013, during a meeting of the congressional commission that analyses the bill of law, around 100 members of the civil society committee protested for more time to discuss the new law. A working plan for several public hearings was conceived and followed. Although the private sector, being financier of the electoral campaigns of the deputies responsible for the bill of law, has dominated the public hearings, the civil society committee participated actively in all seventeen of them, and obtained political victories in the public hearing held in Minas Gerais state, where more than 300 affected people strongly criticized the bill of law in the public hearing held in the State Legislative Assembly, in Belo Horizonte.

The civil society committee advocates that the bill of law should incorporate safeguards such as the definition of areas free of mining, financial guarantees to cover environmental damages, and rights of affected communities, including the right to consultation prior to the installation of the mines.

After much negotiation, the government withdrew the urgency regime over the bill of law on September 2013. The rush, however, remained. The deputy leader of the commission had given signal that the bill would be voted by the end

of November. The government wanted the law approved by the end of 2013. None of them managed.

Proposal from deputy rapporteur triggers crisis between mining corporations and federal government

On November 11, deputy rapporteur Leonardo Quintão, declared spokesman of mining companies, presented his proposal for the new Mining Code. Substantially different from the proposal originally presented by the government, Quintão's text caused a dispute between the government and the mining companies, a factor that also contributed to preventing the law from being approved in 2013.

The major disagreement that triggered the crisis between the mining sector and the government lies on the system for authorizing mining. While mining companies want to keep the privileges from the actual priority regime, based on a first-come-first-serve principle that historically has led to speculation and corruption, the government wants to establish a concession round regime, similar to those existent in the oil and electric sectors. That would ensure better competition among companies and the extinction of individual privileges. Another disagreement has to do with the royalties to be paid by mining companies. The federal government wants to increase royalty payments while the companies resist. Considering the weight of mining companies in supporting electoral campaigns (see box), negotiations on political support are expected to be intensified in 2014 as elections approach (October 2014).

The demand for recognition of rights to people affected by mining is still considered marginal in the overall scenario, but the presence and proactiveness of the civil society committee gave more visibility to this issue to the media and the public in general. In 2014, the committee wants to further postpone the bill of law until after elections, so that the theme is reopened in Congress under a new government and parliamentary composition. Meanwhile, strengthening the committee network on regional and international levels continue to be priorities.

NCA Community of Practice Economic Justice Global Meeting in Brazil

Brazil was host for NCA's Community of Practice Economic Justice Global Meeting last November, 2013. The meeting's objective was to gather program officers from different NCA country programs under a specific thematic area in order to increase internal cohesion, expand networks and explore South-South cooperation potential.

This CoP meeting was organized around the priority area of Economic Justice, a thematic umbrella under which two main themes are focused: livelihood and trade (L&T) and resources and finance (R&F, which covers extractive industries and budget monitoring). Field visits were organized with partners Diaconia, Inesc, ISA, IEB and others like the National Catholic Bishops' Conference - CNBB, member of the civil society mining committee.

The CoP global meeting was divided in two groups, one for L&T and another for R&F. One group visited Diaconia's work in the semi-arid region of Sertão do Pajeú, Pernambuco state. NCA CoP members had the opportunity to meet Diaconia staff and present the work in their respective countries in contexts very different from Brazil, such as war or conflict zones (Afghanistan and Palestine). The group visited two farmer families that have transformed their livelihoods, with support from Diaconia, through agroecology and the use of social technologies that enable a good livelihood in the semi-arid region. According to farmer Ivan, "it's not about surviving, but living well in the semi-arid". The group was excited to see how the families have been facing this process of transformation, from a completely desert-dry area to the emergence of small green oasis of agroecological production. The participants described as inspiring the way Diaconia and partner families have managed to consolidate agroecological street markets, where farmers can sell their exceeding production and generate extra income.



NCA CoP members from several countries fraternize with members of the Civil Society Mining Committee. Pic: Fernando Mathias/NCA

The CoP members also traveled to Brasilia to get to know the advocacy work done by NCA partners in Brazil related to the mining industry. The CoP group participated in the public launching of the film Enquanto o Trem Não Passa (While the Train Doesn't Come), about the impacts of mining on local populations, that took place in the entrance hall of the Deputy Chamber, in Congress. The event was organized by the civil society mining committee. The CoP group also participated in a plenary session of the civil society committee and had the opportunity to interact with people coming from several parts of Brazil that are somehow affected by mining. Workshops on advocacy strategies with partners ISA and Inesc were also part of the CoP Global Meeting program.

Visit to Hydro's industrial complex in Barcarena

After Brasilia, a part of the CoP group continued the field trip to Barcarena, Pará state, to get to know the partnership with IEB in the construction of a multi-stakeholder forum of dialogue between civil society, private sector and local government. This is part of NCA's work to monitor Norwegian investments in Brazil, since mining company Hydro operates the largest alumina and aluminum plants in the region (Alunorte and Albras).

The visit to Barcarena included ten people from countries as Tanzania, Angola, Guatemala, Zambia and South Africa, where NCA works on monitoring of mining companies with focus on governance of resources, social control of public finances and monitoring of social and environmental impacts. NCA presented its work in the mentioned countries. The group visited Hydro's plants Albras and Alunorte, as well as communities affected by the industrial activity in Barcarena.

The multi-stakeholder forum in Barcarena is a space where companies, government and civil society can dialogue in order to build a model of development that is fair, democratic and sustainable to the municipality. IEB develops this project as part of its strategical priority of strengthening civil society, with support from NCA.



Mohammed, from Afghanistan, in search of water in the Pajeú drylands



Indigenous leader Pirakumã Yawalapiti, from Xingu, calls for calm policemen that advance over the indigenous demonstration in front of Brazilian Congress. Pic: André D'Elia/ISA

Mobilization for indigenous rights gather 13 thousand people in Brazil

On October 2013, demonstrations in several cities in Brazil gathered around 13 thousand people to protest against threats to indigenous rights. NCA supported the mobilization and invited two indigenous leaders from Guatemala to follow the political action and exchange experience with other indigenous groups in Brazil.

The goal of the mobilization is to ensure indigenous rights constitutionally recognized since 1988, that are under severe threat in Congress. The pressure from sectors such as mining and agribusiness to reduce indigenous rights has been supported by several congressmen and even the federal government. These threats refer basically to the right to land and the natural resources therein: land demarcation is frozen, there are proposals for limiting the demarcation of new

lands and reducing those already demarcated, and proposals for opening indigenous lands for development projects of "national interest", including predatory activities such as cattle ranching, mining and large scale agriculture. There are also proposals for limiting the right to prior consultation to indigenous peoples in case of military bases and protected areas.

The mobilization had immediate results, such as the suspension of the installation of the commissions that would go into some of these proposals. But the victory did not last long. After the protest cooled down, the rural sector is back in full charge to press for changes in the Constitution in order to limit indigenous rights. Such threats are expected to continue in 2014..

Finances

Financial reports/ Audits 2013

Final deadline for sending audits over consolidated financial statements for 2013 is 15/03/14.

Guidelines are on pages 3 to 5 of the Annual Support Agreement. For further information, please contact Moisés Pangoni at moises.pangoni@nca.no

Notes:

- FE-ACT: in the last meeting in August 2013, Arne Dale was elected as member of the coordination of FE-ACT.

- PAD: Arne Dale was elected as member of the coordination of PAD, representing the ecumenical agencies and EuroPAD. He replaces Mara Luz, from Christian Aid, as of February 2014.

Events:

12 e 13/2:

Meeting on Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), in partnership with Christian Aid
Venue: Instituto Pio XI, São Paulo

14/2:

NCA Partner Meeting
Venue: Instituto Pio XI, São Paulo

Trips:

Arne Dale
Christian Schøyen
Johan Hindahl
Fernando Mathias

Brasil, 7-24/2
Brasil, 2-15/2
Brasil, 6-15/2
Brasil, 22/1 to 20/2
Oslo, 21/2 to July