

SIDE EVENT

# RIO 2012 – GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM ACCESS RIGHTS

# +20 RIO



www.accessinitiative.org

(International Rivers - Patagonia, Chile: 2011)

**Thursday, 30 June 2011**

**08.30 - 09.45**

**Room K (Press Center)**

The  
**Access**  
Initiative

## What are Access Rights?

- **Access to Information:** the right to request and receive environmental information from government
- **Public Participation:** the right to be heard in policy making and planning and development project permitting
- **Access to Justice:** the right to seek judicial remedy and redress in environmental matters

The Access Initiative would like to invite you to participate in a side event on the emergence of regional conventions in support of environmental access rights on **Thursday, 30 June, 08.30-09.45 in Room K (Press Center)**. Environmental access rights are the implementing devices of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration, which states that decisions about the environment are best made when all relevant stakeholders have a voice in the process.

**The Access Initiative (TAI)** is a global network comprised of over 150 civil society organizations working in 50 countries over the last ten years to promote environmental access rights. TAI partners work to ensure that their governments provide the public with access to information, participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters, by using assessments to advocate legal, institutional, and practice reform, raise public awareness, and engage their governments in constructive dialogue to create change within their countries.

The workshop will discuss the following important question facing the Meeting of the Parties 4 (MOP4) of the Aarhus Convention:

- What are the best pathways to achieving universal application of Principle 10? Are regional conventions one such pathway?
- Who are the global champions of Principle 10 outside UNECE and how can we learn from their experiences?
- How can the Aarhus Convention Parties help in global efforts to implement Principle 10?
- What should the message of the Aarhus Convention Parties be to Rio+20?

## Speakers:

- **Dr. Csaba Kiss**, Regional Lead for Europe, The Access Initiative & Deputy Director, Environmental Management & Law Association (Hungary)
- **Kiril Ristovski**, Country Lead, The Access Initiative Macedonia & Program Director, Florozon, Center for environmental Democracy
- **Barbara Ruis**, Legal Advisor, U.N. Environment Programme Regional Office for Europe (*invited*)
- **Michael Ewing**, Coordinator, Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership
- **Angeles Pereira**, Country Lead, The Access Initiative Argentina & Executive Director, Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente