

ICCA Consortium – Strategic considerations and preliminary plan for 2014-2017

MISSION

To promote the ***appropriate recognition of, and support to, indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs)*** at local, national and international levels.

This purpose is set in the context of the broader vision of conserving biodiversity and ecological functions; nurturing the sustainable livelihoods and well being of indigenous peoples and local communities; and achieving their self determination and the full respect of their cultural diversity and individual and collective rights and responsibilities.

VISION

In 2012, the Consortium developed a complex and rich [vision for the desired future](#), encompassing improved knowledge and consciousness of individuals and groups; desired change in civil society, state governments and national legislation; change in international organizations and policies; and evolving direction for the ICCA Consortium itself. In a nutshell, that vision will be realized, throughout the world, ***thriving bio-cultural landscapes and seascapes*** where ***collective land tenure*** by indigenous peoples and local communities will be a ***central component*** within a mosaic of tenure regimes.

ICCAs will enable indigenous peoples and local communities to exercise their ***collective rights and responsibilities for the governance of nature*** and their ***self-determination*** about the development and conservation initiatives that make sense to them. ***ICCAs*** will enable people to locally conserve ***biodiversity*** and ***agro-biodiversity***, achieve a good measure of ***food sovereignty*** and maintain and develop their ***distinctive languages and cultures***. And ***ICCAs*** will keep providing the ground upon which communities are able to ***adapt***—as much as feasible—***to climate change***.

To prevent the dangers inherent in all heterogeneous and multi-culture societies, the grounding of communities in their own unique territories and identities will be balanced by widespread attention to ***universal human rights***, backed by effective and impartial justice and enforcement system.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES and RULES

The ICCA Consortium currently uses the ISE Code of Ethics as broadly accepted ethical guidance (recently, the development of a specific “ICCA code of ethics” has been proposed). In all Consortium activities Members, Honorary members and staff agree to seek participation, transparency, accountability, equity, integrity, fair process, free prior informed consent in the use of information,

ICCAs

A close association is often found between a specific indigenous people or local community and a specific territory, area or set of natural resources. When such an association is combined with effective local governance and conservation of nature, we speak of “ICCAs”.

For many people and communities that relationship is much richer than it can be expressed in words. It is a bond of livelihood, energy and health. It is a source of identity and culture, autonomy and freedom. It is the connecting tie among generations, preserving memories from the past, and connecting those to the desired future. It is the ground on which communities learn, identify values and develop self-rules. For many it is also a connection between visible and invisible realities, material and spiritual wealth.

With territory and nature goes life, dignity and self-determination as peoples

and a search for the common good. The activities of the Consortium are regulated by its **Statutes** and **Operational Guidelines**.

The CONSORTIUM'S REASONS TO BE

The Consortium mobilizes and enhances the awareness, knowledge, technical capacity and political weight of its Members and Honorary members and links them strategically at various levels.

The Consortium helps its Members to create networks, coalitions, federations and alliances to reach ICCA-related policy objectives and desired practice at national, regional and international levels.

The Consortium helps its Members to develop and convey a focused common voice in international, regional and national policy arenas, providing credible, high-quality, trusted analysis and information on the value of ICCAs for conservation, sustainable livelihoods and the support of collective rights and responsibilities.

Through awareness raising and strategic interventions the Consortium influences understanding, discourse and practice in key conservation and development sectors.

Strengths of the Consortium

The Consortium is an international association **uniting key social actors** concerned with ICCAs: the indigenous peoples and local communities who establish, govern and conserve ICCAs and their proven and trusted allies at various levels.

The Consortium has strong **credibility** and occupies a **distinct niche**. Despite its recent establishment (2010) as a legal entity, it has a **prestigious membership** (as of February 2014: 64 Member organizations and 140 individuals Honorary Members). Its elected Steering Committee comprises indigenous and non-indigenous leaders, scholars and activists.

Many of the current Members of the Consortium have been working together for many years – even decades -- providing a strong **sense of cohesion and “community” as a global group which is** nourished by shared work and electronic communication and renewed and strengthened with every face-to-face meeting.

Successful collaborations with the CBD Secretariat, the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, UNDP GEF SGP and UNEP WCMC have strengthened the Consortium's **convening power**, and established its active **presence** and **influence in policy arenas**. This has led to the ICCA concept being enshrined in CBD decisions and today needs to be reckoned with in the national policies and programs of its 193 Parties.

The Consortium Members and Honorary members include a diverse array of **expertise** and **capabilities**, which can be fairly rapidly and effectively mobilized. The Consortium's conscious decision to promote **coalitions, federations** and networks among its Members has been effective, enhancing the visibility and success of their national struggles.

The Consortium has embraced a **frugal and cost-conscious way of work**, relying on the enthusiasm and dedication of its staff and Members, who contribute to all its initiatives on a volunteer- or semi-volunteer basis. While this approach does not eliminate the need for donor support, such support is made to go much further than normal (the Consortium has a budget 40 times smaller than other international organizations with comparable aims).

Weaknesses of the Consortium

The Consortium has undeniable weaknesses, first among which the fact that it **depends entirely on core funding provided by donors**. Although this funding is relatively limited, it is not yet envisaged that it could be replaced by membership fees in the next few years, maintaining the need for external support. Interestingly, the Consortium is about to engage in the provision of services, including technical support and capacity building as part of a major UN Programme. With time, as membership grows and with the experience in the provision of services becomes more important, the Consortium will lessen its dependency on donors' funding.

Some members of staff who developed their professional experience and qualifications with the Consortium have been unable to keep working as semi-volunteers and have moved on in search of better-paid employment. With the growth of membership and experience, the Consortium may transform itself into a trusted service provider, capable of assigning normal salaries to its staff.

The volunteer spirit of Members and staff are at times stretched and some of the staff works far beyond a normal call of duty. This means that the Consortium is **dependent on** the energy and time of a few **dedicated individuals** who cannot yet be replaced at the conditions under which they work. This issue needs to be kept in mind by actively grooming a renewed potential leadership.

While the technical output of the Consortium has been impressive, the **broad communication outreach** has been **limited**. Professional communication skills still need to be enhanced and focused on strategic, well-defined purposes.

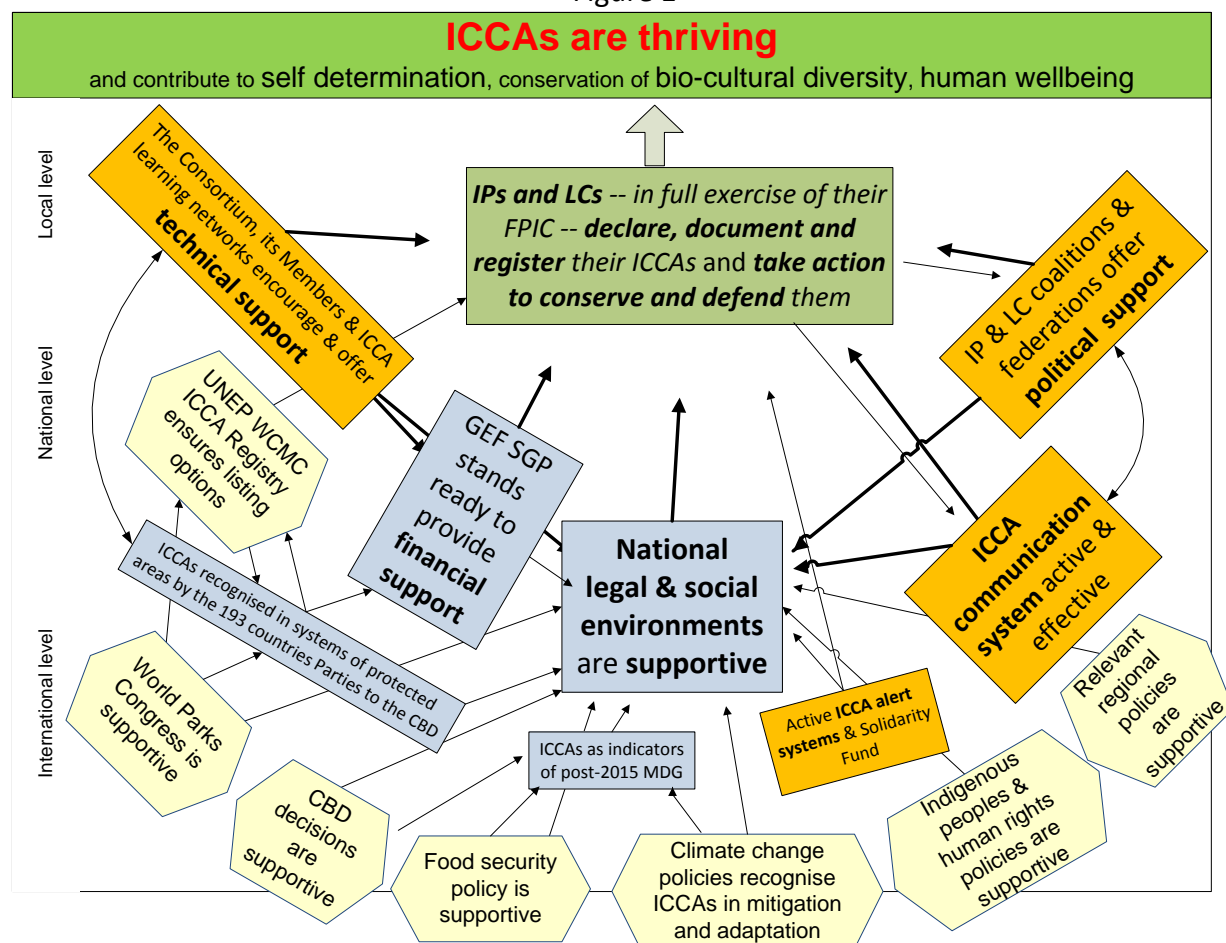
The Consortium **membership** is still **scant in some regions** (particularly Oceania and the Pacific, Central Asia, the global North).

WORK PRIORITIES and PLAN 2014-2017

An in-depth situation analysis and strategic planning meeting of key Members will be convened prior to the World Parks Congress of November 2014– if at all possible – or in conjunction with the Congress. The meeting will discuss key drivers of ICCA weakening and loss (e.g., perverse incentives and policies; “natural” disasters; land, water, and natural resource grabbing and green grabbing; imposed cultural change), as well as opportunities for appropriate ICCA recognition and support (e.g., decentralization and devolution policies; formal recognition of collective rights and responsibilities; increased awareness of the need to conserve agro-biodiversity and pursue food sovereignty; government interest in achieving Aichi Targets and climate change adaptation; etc.). In the light of this analysis participants will then review the thematic and organizational priorities of the work of the Consortium and offer a presentation to the 2014 Consortium's General Assembly.

As of now, and for the past years, the work of the Consortium has been informed by the broad understanding sketched in Figure 1. In that, the **key actors** expected to strengthen themselves and conserve ICCAs are **the indigenous peoples and local communities with relevant collective rights and responsibilities**. In turn, they can be supported technically, politically, legally and financially by other actors in society, including other indigenous peoples and communities, governmental agencies and UN agencies that provide financial support, such as GEF SGP, or provide a chance for international listing, such as UNEP WCMC. The Consortium seeks to positively influence these diverse relationships and provides **support to the communities directly**, but also **via other IPs and LCs** (e.g. by promoting their coalitions and federations), and **via governmental agencies and UN agencies** (e.g., by informing, encouraging and supporting them and promoting a supportive environment in international policy).

Figure 1



The priorities mentioned below were gathered in consultations in 2013, in particular in discussions among the participants in the ICCA Consortium VIth General Assembly (Valdeavellano de Tera, Spain, 4-6 October 2013) and in subsequent electronic exchanges. The plan was further developed and is waiting to be modified/ approved by the Steering Committee in February 2014.

GOAL

Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas strongly contribute to the **self-determination, food sovereignty and sense of identity and well being** of their communities as well as to the conservation of **biological and cultural diversity**; they affirm **collective rights and responsibilities for nature and culture** in as many as possible social and ecological situations.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Local / national focus:

1. **Enhance the capacities of indigenous peoples, local communities and society in general** to, as appropriate,:
 - 1.1 **Appreciate** the status, needs and opportunities of their ICCAs, and **document, declare and register** them
 - 1.2 **Strengthen** them, and **defend** them against a variety of threats, including by developing **coalitions and federations** in their support
 - 1.3 Achieve their **national recognition and support** by legal and/or social means

Regional / thematic focus:

2. **Facilitate mutual learning and support**, and **alliances** among Consortium Members and partners

via **exchanges** of information and experience, ongoing **communication**, regional/ topical **learning networks** and **policy action**, as needed

Global focus:

3. **Consolidate and enrich the appreciation of ICCAs in international policy**, including:
 - 3.1 **biodiversity conservation policy**, in particular in support of CBD Articles 8J and 10c, the CBD Strategic Plan on Biodiversity and related Aichi targets, and protected area policy (governance, connectivity, “other effective conservation measures”, etc.)
 - 3.2 **climate change policy** (ICCAs as non-market based mechanisms for climate change mitigation and adaptation)
 - 3.3 **food security policy** (ICCAs as ingenious solidarity-based solutions to the vagaries of markets and climate, towards food sovereignty)
 - 3.4 **indigenous peoples policy** (ICCAs as effective grounds for self-determination of indigenous peoples)
 - 3.5 **human rights policy** (ICCAs as spaces of individual and collective rights, responsibilities, identity and pride)
 - 3.6 **post-2015 Millennium Development Goals** (ICCAs as key elements in the architecture of equitable and sustainable societies)

Institutional focus:

4. **Consolidate the ICCA Consortium** as a local-to-global institution with an **active and well supported membership**, enhanced social visibility and a diversified and sustainable funding base

EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

Local and national level:

- supporting **exemplary ICCA cases** and their efforts to **document their value** for conservation, sustainable livelihoods, food security and sovereignty and climate change adaptation (special emphasis on ecological restoration initiatives and on the grassroots production of Photostories)
- supporting the **listing of ICCA cases in national Registries and in the international ICCA Registry at UNEP WCMC**, with meticulous attention to respecting **Free, Prior and Informed Consent** procedures, attention to intellectual property rights, and minimizing risks to registrants
- promoting ICCA awareness by **diffusing information** via videos and photostories in social networks, articles in local and national media, interactive programmes in local radios (local languages), etc.
- supporting Consortium **Members** by facilitating mutual exchange of information, **mutual learning**, discussion of topical issues and active participation in national and international policy development initiatives
- promoting **national coalitions and federations** dedicated to the appropriate recognition and support to ICCAs, with a non-exclusive but important focus on promoting collective tenure of land, water and natural resources
- supporting the development of **national ICCA registries**
- promoting ever stronger **communication, collaboration and mutual learning** among Consortium staff, Members, Honorary Members, and **GEF SGP national coordinators and committees** (including identifying, supporting and learning from a number of exemplary ICCA cases)
- strengthening local capacities and assisting Members and communities to develop and implement a growing portfolio of **ICCA initiatives suitable for GEF SGP small grant support**
- completing (or updating, as appropriate) national **ICCA recognition studies** in as many countries as possible, with identification of emblematic cases, including cases under threat

- supporting **analyses of national legislation, regulations and plans** and the identification and compiling of **legal and policy options** under which ICCAs could be formally recognized
- supporting Consortium Members in **advocacy with governments, UN agencies and financial institutions** to adopt appropriate forms of legal and social recognition and support to ICCAs, including proper inclusion in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)
- linking with the international Consortium **ICCA alert mechanism**, and apply it timely to prevent/mitigate the negative impacts on ICCAs of impending threats or actual operations (e.g., extractive industries, mega-infrastructure, land, water and natural resource grabbing, green grabbing, undesired REDD schemes, etc.)
- linking with the **ICCA Solidarity Fund** in case of death or severe harm incurred by one or more individuals in the defense of their ICCAs.

Regional/ thematic level:

- identifying **regional policies with potential to unlock ICCA recognition and support** and following them up with appropriate **information-sharing and lobbying** initiatives by concerned Members ; this includes, for instance:
 - policies of African Union, African Development Bank, African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
 - policies of Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
 - policies of European Union, in Europe and elsewhere
- promoting **capacity building initiatives** (e.g., 3-5 day workshops) with focus **on key regionally-relevant topics**— with Members who have volunteered to play a pivotal role, including:
 - participatory ICCA mapping and natural resource inventories in South East Asia, including training of trainers (with Member PAFID);
 - participatory monitoring of ecosystem functions and impacts of development initiatives in Latin America (with Member SAVIA);
 - area management planning and rediscovery of traditional knowledge in Eastern Europe (with several HMs and Member BED);
 - ICCA documentation for the ICCA Registry and other ICCA-relevant skills in Africa (with Members APCRM, REPALF, Natural Justice, ABN, Kivulini Trust)
 - ICCA documentation for the ICCA Registry and other ICCA-relevant skills in Asia (with Members Forest Action and ICCA Network Nepal, and with Honorary Members in China)
- promoting **ongoing ICCA learning networks** with focus on specific regions, ecosystems, social conditions and/or challenges (e.g., about mangrove ecosystems in West Africa, pastoral landscapes in central Asia, indigenous territories overlapping protected areas in Latin America) via:
 - regional Facebook accounts and regular Skype exchanges
 - regional initiatives involving periodic meetings for mutual learning and support, including on-going planning and evaluation

Global level:

- taking full advantage of the forthcoming international policy events in biodiversity conservation-- **CBD COP12** (South Korea, Sept 2014) and **World Parks Congress** (Sydney, November 2014) to continue the close collaboration with the CBD secretariat, the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, UNEP WCMC and UNDP GEF SGP on advocacy for appropriate recognition and support of **ICCAs for the conservation of bio-cultural diversity**-- the current heartland of Consortium's international work.
- engaging Consortium Members in discovering, documenting and promoting new attention on the role of ICCAs beyond biodiversity policy – e.g. for mitigating and locally adapting to **climate**

change; conserving **agro-biodiversity and promoting food security and sovereignty** ; and ensuring the recognition of **collective rights and responsibilities to land, water and natural resources**-- in particular by carrying out policy analysis, running side events and engaging in specific advocacy sessions at relevant international policy events such as UNFCCC, FAO food policy meetings, UNPFII, EMRIP, UNHRC and UN meeting on post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.

- developing and articulating policy background and recommendations via a **Policy Brief series** to be diffused as part of events, side events and focused lobbying efforts organized at international policy meetings; ten titles are foreseen (for some, preparatory work is already under way) including:
 - ICCAs and the Aichi targets
 - ICCAs and land, water and natural resource rights
 - ICCAs and protected areas: overlaps, connectivity, conflicts and synergy
 - ICCAs and market- and non-market-based incentives for ecosystem services
 - Options for the legal recognition of ICCAs—a primer
 - “Indigenous peoples”, “local communities” and conservation: what roles in the CBD context?
 - ICCAs and food security and sovereignty
 - ICCAs and post 2015 Millennium Development Goals
 - ICCAs and collective rights and responsibilities for nature
 - ICCAs, restoration of nature and sustainable development
- In relation as part of the above, **greatly strengthening communication efforts** to develop a complete and compelling case for ICCAs for focused advocacy work with national delegations at policy events (via workshops, presentations, publications, video materials, exhibits, etc.), with focus on the **World Parks Congress** and beyond

Institutional level:

- strengthening and revamping the **communications system** of the Consortium via:
 - an in-depth **evaluation** of products, outreach avenues and awareness and action results
 - designing and carrying out a **major outreach at the Sydney World Parks Congress of 2014**, whose products and learning will also to be used to position ICCAs in policy arenas beyond biodiversity conservation
 - engaging with major media (e.g. National Geographic and GEO, television stations) to raise the general public’s awareness of conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities
 - strengthening the **effective communication and collaboration with UNDP GEF SGP** via frequent contacts between Consortium Coordinators and GEF SGP National Coordinators and Committees, including for **dedicated ICCA events and field visits**, and cooperation for **exemplary GEF SGP initiatives in support of ICCAs**.
- pursuing the evolution of the ICCA Consortium as **both an international association and a service provider** by:
 - consolidating work in all regions where it is currently present and expanding/ deepening the reach of its **regional coordinators and information system** in Central Asia, Russia, North Africa, Australia and the Pacific, Indonesia, Brazil and China
 - encouraging the applications by **new Members**, and supporting them to establish national and regional **networks, coalitions and federations** active on ICCAs
 - providing effective **support to Members**, in particular by facilitating mutual exchange of information, mutual learning, discussion of topical issues

- encouraging and **assisting Members** to participate in national and international policy development initiatives, and to develop relationships with policy institutions at national and international level
 - providing effective support to Members in cases of active or impending threats or damage by strengthening the existing **ICCA alert mechanism** (possibly in alliance with Avaaz, Rainforest Rescu, 350.org and other dedicated networks)
 - helping to set up a new **Solidarity Fund** to support individuals and communities severely harmed in the struggle to defend their commons and ICCAs
- developing a business plan and building a diversified and sustainable funding base for the Consortium as both an association and a service provider, also by organizing an agency and donor forum for ICCA support towards the end of 2015.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS 2014 / 2017

At local and national level

- Exemplary **ICCA cases** are **well documented** in writing and via pictures and Photostories in at least **20 countries**
- At least **fifty new ICCA cases** are **listed** in national or international **ICCA Registries**
- ICCA information has surfaced in **national media of 20 countries**
- **Three or more new national coalitions / federations** are formed and/or dedicate a component of their work to the appropriate recognition and support to ICCAs
- **National ICCA Registries** set up in at least **five countries** (meticulous application of FPIC procedures and security of registrants)
- The Consortium has an effective **institutional collaboration** with **UNDP GEF SGP** in at least **twenty countries**
- A rich **portfolio of GEF small grants delivered** in support of ICCA initiatives spans at least **20 countries**.
- **Ten** or more national **ICCA Recognition studies** completed and used
- **Ten** or more **analyses of national legislation**, regulations and plans **and identification and compilations of legal and policy options** under which ICCAs could be formally recognized
- **National legislation and policies** (including NBSAPs) mention and cater to ICCAs in at least **five countries**

At regional level

- **Regional policies** provide formal attention to ICCA recognition and support in at least **two regions**
- **Capacity building initiatives** held at regional level in **five regions**
- At least **five ICCA learning networks** active in different regions.

At global and institutional level

- The Consortium's organization **Members** are well above 100 and the **Honorary Members** above 200 with good distribution throughout the globe
- **ICCA Registry** at UNEP WCMC enriched with at least 100 **new entries** (meticulous application of FPIC procedures)
- An **ICCA Policy Brief series** (10 issues) is produced, published and distributed at key policy events
- An **active and effective ICCA communication system** is in place, with specific means targeting specific audiences
- **CBD COP 12** includes specific reference to ICCAs in relevant decisions

- The **Sydney World Parks Congress** includes specific reference to ICCAs in relevant recommendations
- ICCAs are taken into consideration and/or mentioned specifically in **climate change, food security and indigenous peoples and human rights policy**
- ICCAs are taken into consideration and/or mentioned specifically in UN preparatory meetings for the **post-2015 Millennium Development Goals**
- An **agency and donor forum for ICCAs** is held with productive results
- The Consortium has a **business plan**
- The **ICCA alert** mechanism is **effectively applied in** at least five instances
- The **ICCA Solidarity Fund** is **operational**.

EXPECTED LONGER-TERM RESULTS

- ICCAs are incorporated in the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020** and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of as many countries as possible, including as essential components of proper systems of protected areas and/or other effective area-based conservation measures
- ICCAs emerge as part of specific objectives in **climate change, food security and indigenous peoples and human rights policies**
- ICCAs are incorporated as descriptors/ indicators of **post-2015 Millennium Development Goals**
- The ICCA Consortium, its Members and various ICCA learning networks continue to provide encouragement and **technical support** to ICCAs in countries across the globe
- **UNDP GEF SGP** continues to provide **financial support** to ICCAs in countries across the globe
- **IP & LC coalitions and federations** provide **political support** to ICCAs in as many countries as possible.
- CBD Parties develop and set in place appropriate mechanisms and means for their **recognition and support** of ICCAs
- **National legal and social environments** are **supportive** of ICCAs in as many countries as possible

DESIRED IMPACT

- As many **indigenous peoples and local communities** as possible **declare, document and register their ICCAs** and **take action** to **conserve** and **defend** them, as appropriate
- **ICCAs are thriving** and contribute to **self determination** of indigenous peoples and local communities, **conservation of biological** and **cultural diversity** and **human wellbeing**