

# SAFE – a Solidarity Action and Fund for the Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs

**draft for comments and preliminary endorsement by key partners  
(version 5 March 2016)**

## Background and justification

Indigenous peoples and traditional caretaker communities<sup>1</sup> are on the frontline in the struggle to preserve, protect, restore and defend the “natural commons” and, in particular, the territories, areas and nature they collectively conserve on the basis of their traditional knowledge and customary practices, laws and institutions. Such locally conserved territories exist in all world regions, are extremely diverse and embody some of the most precious biological and cultural values that exist on the planet. Their names are (and should remain) innumerable, and only for the sake of communication we refer to them collectively as “natural commons and ICCAs”.<sup>2</sup>

The largest gathering of conservationists that ever took place,<sup>3</sup> recently concluded: « ...we recognize that threats to nature, its biological diversity and protected areas are now at the highest level in human history, due to a convergence at immense scale of the impacts of human consumption patterns, population growth, and industrial activity. Many protected and conserved areas are at risk (...) and many rangers on the frontline have sacrificed everything for this cause. This reality must be faced directly, truthfully, and collaboratively. Bold vision and concerted action are required if we are to meet both conservation goals and human aspirations for current and future generations. There is no time to lose. »

That their conserved areas are at risk and that there is no time to lose is also the opinion of those who defend the community commons and ICCAs from various forms of land, water and natural resource grabbing and misuse. The role of community leaders and local activists, in particular, is pivotal in countering the increasing pressure that many rural and indigenous communities face from extractive industries, large-scale monocultures and major infrastructures bound to destroy habitats and traditional lifestyles. Unfortunately, this ends up exposing the members of such communities to discrimination, intimidation, abuse, and violence. In 2014, Global Witness reported that: “Each week at least two people are being killed for taking a stand against environmental destruction. Some are shot by police during protests, others gunned down by hired assassins.... at least 116 environmental activists were murdered in 2014 ...a shocking 40 % of victims were indigenous, with most people dying amid disputes over hydropower, mining and agri-business.”

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter referred to as “communities”.

<sup>2</sup> See the literature listed in Annex 2.

<sup>3</sup> World Parks Congress, Sydney 2014

The organisations that have decided to partner to develop the current initiative are extremely concerned about the on-going violations of customary laws, and especially of those customary laws that have demonstrated a capacity to produce sustained environmental conservation. Very often such violations are also closely connected with abuses of human and indigenous peoples' rights, including the murder or severe harming of their members and leaders who resist land conversion and imposed "development" processes. This is an unfortunately frequent occurrence in the global South, and particularly severe in places where local resistance and mobilization to defend the community commons and ICCAs has led to the *militarization* of territories. In too many cases, national armies, para-military security forces and guerrilla groups end up backing the interests of corporations and private investors at the expense of communities that— once culturally vibrant and autonomous, including in food production— may be reduced to conditions of poverty, vulnerability and despondency.

What is more, the majority of cases of murder and severe harm perpetrated against the defenders of the community commons and ICCAs<sup>4</sup> remain unsolved, with both instigators and executors of such crimes rarely identified and brought to justice. In light of that, physical violence and the systematic elimination of members and leaders defending their community commons and ICCAs weaken the resolve and the morale of the young generations, who feel increasingly vulnerable and unprotected and less inclined to respect the customary laws that secured their livelihoods, identity and pride for generations. The risk of losing one's life in the attempt to protect the community commons and ICCAs and the likelihood that that sacrifice will remain unrecognized and unpunished represent, in fact, a sure disincentive for people to engage in resisting undesired land conversions and "development" schemes and, in general, in equitably governing and sustainably managing their land, water and natural resources.

In the absence of the security of justice that would restore rights and assign proper punishment to perpetrators, the families of the murdered and harmed defenders bear the long-term consequences of their loss, including loss of security and livelihoods. Some of them face a lifetime of poverty and marginalization. Moreover, many communities of the murdered and harmed defenders remain deprived of some of their most aware, active and generous members. Organisations representing indigenous peoples and peasant communities have been drawing attention to this plight for some time, but we are extremely far from having sufficient 'safety nets' in place for the harmed defenders, their families and their communities.

Some conservation and human rights organisations have been sensitive to the situation of the defenders and tried their best to initiate adequate responses. For instance: **Friends of the Earth International (FOEI)** has operated for some time a Fund entitled *Mobilising global protection for environmental and human rights defenders*; **Global Witness** exposes the hidden links between demand for natural resources, corruption, armed conflict and environmental destruction; **the Gaia Foundation** has helped establish the *Yes to Life, No to Mining Campaign* (to connect communities across the planet, to collaborate and build their confidence through mutual solidarity, and support); and the **International Land Coalition** has just created a small *Fund for Land and Environmental Rights Defenders* (the fund aims at providing financial support to ILC members who face threats related to the defence of land rights).

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<sup>4</sup> Hereafter referred to in brief as "defenders".

In 2015 the **ICCA Consortium** shared a call<sup>5</sup> to explore the opportunity and feasibility of setting up a [\*\*Solidarity Action and Fund for the Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs\*\*](#), organised a number of events to discuss the issues, and commissioned three consultancies to explore the phenomenon in different world regions.<sup>6</sup> The studies gave a sense of the extent and diversity of the problem: a spectrum of occurrences that range from discrimination, stigmatization, intimidation and threats to the violent maiming and killing of individuals, from the forced displacement of individuals and communities to the confining of communities and the militarization of entire territories. The studies also showed that the phenomena are not evenly distributed around the world. In some specific areas, however, they are very serious and possibly on the rise. The studies lead to the idea that it is feasible to identify such areas and the communities “most at risk” on the basis of lessons learned from the past. In turn, this points to what is ***arguably a moral obligation to support and defend the communities “most at risk” who insist on sustainably governing and managing their commons and ICCAs.***

Overall, the studies also led to the conclusion that, despite some existing laudable initiatives, ***a Fund dedicated to the defenders of the commons and ICCAs is needed and should be established.*** They also noted that this is an ambitious endeavour and that a broad cooperation/ partnership among organisations with diverse experience, capacities and constituencies would have a better chance of responding to the need than any one of them alone. Such a partnership could run the Fund and possibly evolve into a clearinghouse and hub for various forms of awareness-raising and support related to the commons and ICCAs.

A variety of organisational options exist for the functioning of such possible partnership and fund, with different challenges and related strengths and weaknesses. Those reports were explored and discussed at a dedicated meeting held at the IUCN Headquarters, in Switzerland, on 19-20 November 2015. The meeting (whose minutes are available from [here](#)) examined the Fund in the context of a partnership among organisations that could take on the responsibility of establishing it, accompanying it and setting it to function. A small background on the meeting and the list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to this document.

This document describes one of the possible partners and operational arrangements for an ***Action and Fund***, which was baptised ***SAFE*** during the meeting. Potential financial partners of the initiative do exist and some linked to the November 2015 meeting in real time. Others, contacted after the meeting, have expressed their interest to learn more about the initiative.

**Partners in the SAFE Action and Fund (all the partners listed here have been involved in discussions but final actors and arrangements are to be confirmed)**

The following five organisations have participated in shaping this document and are currently engaged in getting it internally examined and discussed.

**The ICCA Consortium** is an international association under Swiss Law whose Members and Honorary Members are united by the goal of providing appropriate recognition of, and support to, the “territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities”, which are broadly referred to as “ICCAs”. The Consortium’s 96 Members include organisations and federations of

<sup>5</sup> See the [call described here](#) and Annex 1.

<sup>6</sup> The results of the consultancies are [available here](#).

indigenous peoples and local communities and NGOs working closely with them. Its 200 Honorary Members are individuals with demonstrated concern and expertise about ICCAs. Members and Honorary Members, together, span about 75 countries. Rooted in the global movement that has been promoting equity in conservation across the second millennium, the Consortium has been collaborating with IUCN and the CBD Secretariat to develop and promote global innovative policies in governance for the conservation of nature, some of which are now enshrined in global Conventions and Programmes of Work. With UNDP, it is currently implementing an ICCA global support initiative involving 26 pilot countries. In such countries, and in others, the Consortium supports and highlights field-based ICCAs while nourishing a critical mass of understanding, concern and action for ICCAs at national level, mostly via dedicated working groups, coalitions and federations.

**Friends of the Earth International (FOEI)** is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 75 national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent. With over 2 million members and supporters around the world, they campaign on today's most urgent environmental and social issues. FOEI challenges the current model of economic and corporate globalization, and promotes solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies. Their decentralized and democratic structure allows their autonomous member groups to participate in decision-making and operate with a shared analysis of the root causes of today's most pressing environmental problems. Their international positions are informed and strengthened by their work with communities, and alliances with indigenous peoples, farmers' movements, trade unions, human rights groups and others. The FOEI vision is of a peaceful and sustainable world based on societies of interdependent people living in harmony with nature, in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples' rights are realized.

**Global Witness** exposes the hidden links between demand for natural resources, corruption, armed conflict and environmental destruction. They campaign for full transparency in the mining, logging, oil and gas sectors, so that citizens who own those resources can benefit fairly from them, now and in future. GW believes that the only way to protect peoples' rights to land, livelihoods and a fair share of their national wealth is to demand total transparency in the resources sector, sustainable and equitable resources management, and to stop the international financial system from propping up resource-related corruption. The Global Witness team draws on a wide range of skills, from undercover investigations and painstaking financial research, to information gathering on the ground and close cooperation with partners and activists all over the world. They use many techniques to gather evidence including interviews, secret filming, photography, document research and dogged physical presence. GW reports are known for their meticulous attention to detail and are months and sometimes years in the making. They regularly make headline news on their release. The GW goal has always been to achieve system-wide change that will starve corrupt dictators and warlords of looted funds, stop brutal resource-driven conflicts, and protect the planet's natural assets for the benefit of all. They target decision-makers, campaign to change laws, demand accountability from political leaders and justice for perpetrators of crime and human rights violations. GW often work in formal and informal partnerships and coalitions with individual allies and like-minded organisations in Europe, the United States, Africa and Asia.

**The International Land Coalition (ILC)** is a diverse and growing network of more than 200 Member organisations in over 60 countries, providing a unique space where civil society and intergovernmental organisations come together on equal terms with a transformative vision for land governance: securing rights to land, water and other natural resources to end poverty. In many countries, ILC-supported national multi-stakeholder platforms have played a decisive role in influencing policy and obtaining reforms that allow women and men to build a more secure and dignified future. At the global level, ILC has contributed to the widespread recognition that land

rights are central to development agendas, and has raised the bar for standards of good practice in land governance. Building on its existence as a global network of civil society and intergovernmental organisations, ILC's focus has evolved to best achieve its mandate: from mobilising against hunger to promoting land rights; from awareness-raising to influencing policy; from contributing to the empowerment of civil society organisations to catalysing joint action. Currently, ILC supports its Members to achieve impact at the country level and on translating that impact into global action, regional frameworks, and appropriate benchmarks for land governance.

**Gaia Foundation.** The **Yes to Life, No to Mining campaign** was conceived in 2012 by a group of individuals, organisations and networks, all concerned with the wellbeing of our planet in the face of the exponential growth of mining over the last decade. They were moved to take action against the increasingly devastating impact of the extractives industries which are turning their efforts to ever more pristine and fragile ecosystems as easier to reach deposits become exhausted. Nation states lack the capacity and the will to control corporations so it is vital that communities stand up for themselves, for one another, for the wider Earth community, and force them to take action. The founding networks of Yes to Life, No to Mining, from Africa, Europe, North and South America, share a vision to connect communities across the planet, to collaborate and build their confidence through mutual solidarity, and support. The Gaia Foundation is a founding member of the YLNM Network. Gaia works to regenerate cultural and biological diversity, and restore a respectful relationship with the Earth. Together with long-term partners in Africa, South America, Asia and Europe, they work with local communities to secure land, seed, food and water sovereignty. By reviving indigenous knowledge and protecting sacred natural sites, local self-governance is strengthened. This enables communities to become more resilient to climate change and the industrial processes which have caused the many crises we now face.

### **Goal, vision and objectives of the SAFE Action and Fund**

The ultimate goal / vision of the **SAFE Action and Fund** is the continued **existence and proper life-support functioning of the natural commons and ICCAs**. With those, the world would go a long way to **securing the biological and cultural diversity** of indigenous peoples and local communities throughout the world, as well as their **food and water sovereignty, collective identity, pride and self-esteem and enjoyment of customary rights and responsibilities for the care of their environments and natural resources**.

More specifically, the **main objective** of the **SAFE Action and Fund** is to **protect and promote the rights of the defenders of the commons and ICCAs who are at risk and/or experience a spectrum of human rights violations**.

**Four specific objectives** towards the main objective have been identified:

- **anticipating and reducing the risks that defenders are facing** (e.g., via research, documentation, analysis and monitoring of risks; capacity-building for self-defence and resistance to abuse; support to timely escape from extreme-risk situations...)
- **providing emergency support** to targeted individuals and groups/ communities (e.g., via monitoring and recording abuse; meeting immediate survival, medical, communication and legal needs...)

- supporting longer-term action to **secure justice for the affected individuals, families and communities** (appropriate visibility of abuse; legal and social action for restoration and restitution of rights; fair compensation to victims and punishment of perpetrators)
- providing “**solidarity compensation**” for victims who experience an inordinately long wait for, or very poor chances of, a just solution for their cases (with emphasis on the need for justice and on *not* reinforcing a culture of impunity)

## Activities and beneficiaries

The SAFE Action and Fund promote **two main types of activities**:

### A. Emergency activities

Emergency activities need to be extremely timely and effective. The aim is to prevent impending harm to defenders by **strengthening** their **security**<sup>7</sup> (e.g. enhancing communication, transparency and visibility in risk situation; facilitating rapid escape/ hiding/ moving from high risk areas to safe places) and/or by **assisting actual victims to meet their immediate needs** (e.g. survival and medical costs, communication and appropriate visibility of abuse, legal proceedings and support to seek legal redress and defend victims accused as part of legal intimidation tactics).

### B. Longer term activities

These activities need to be coherently thought-out and interconnected in order to strengthen and not diminish one another. They include: 1. anticipating and reducing the risks of the defenders; 2. securing justice for the defenders; 3. providing, in extreme cases, “solidarity compensation” to victims.

#### 1. *anticipating and reducing the risks of the defenders*

- carrying out **relevant research and analysis** to identify areas, communities and individuals “most at risk” of abuse on the basis of lessons learned in similar situations ;
- **identifying key defenders and informants** in such areas and communities, and establishing safe channels of communication with them;
- **enhancing the capacity for self-defence and peaceful resistance to abuse** of the “most at risk” communities and individuals (e.g., via distribution of information, networking and joint learning with other communities in similar situations, exchange visits, specific training, etc);
- if desired and if trusted that it could be effective, helping to secure **relevant insurance** for the “most at risk” areas, communities and individuals (e.g., fire insurance, land use change insurance, legal insurance, medical insurance...);
- **gathering truthful and fair information** on contentious issues and high-risk cases, e.g. via investigative journalism and committed academic and participatory research;

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<sup>7</sup> Providing arms is not to be included here.

- **collecting, storing** (databases) and **diffusing** (as appropriate) such **information** via local, national and international channels (this may include enhancing visibility of high risk cases via awareness-raising campaigns but also quietly collecting technical documentation of the biological and socio-cultural diversity and values of the relevant commons and ICCAs, and using that information to enhance national and international awareness and to promote improved policies and practices);
- identifying and **engaging respected/ powerful individuals, organisations and media** capable of taking action (e.g., dialogue and enhanced awareness of the global value of the commons and ICCAs and of the role of their defenders; diplomatic action; policy advocacy; legal action; and/or other action appropriate to each circumstance) **to prevent violence and promote the equitable resolution of conflicts.**

## 2. **securing justice for the defenders**

- gathering **truthful and fair information on abuse of defenders**, e.g. via investigative journalism, and committed academic and participatory research;
- **collecting, storing** (databases) and **diffusing** (as appropriate) **information on abuse** via local, national and international channels (this may include enhancing visibility of abuse via awareness-raising campaigns for the public but also quietly supporting policy change by decision-makers towards long term support to the natural commons and ICCAs, and to their defenders)
- **building the capacities** of the victimised communities and individuals **towards securing justice** (e.g., via distribution of information, networking and joint learning with other communities in similar situations, exchange visits, specific training, etc);
- **eliciting and sustaining legal action to obtain reparation and restitution** of rights for the affected communities and individuals, **and punishment** for the perpetrators;
- **eliciting and sustaining legal action to defend victims** against criminal charges that appear to be raised as part of smear tactics;
- identifying and **engaging respected/ powerful individuals, organisations and media** capable of taking action **to secure justice** for the victimised defenders of the commons and ICCAs (e.g., information, communication, social dialogue and enhanced social awareness of the global value of the commons and ICCAs, of the role of their defenders, and of the need to bring to justice the perpetrators of abuse);

## 3. **providing “solidarity compensation” to victims (in extreme, unresolved cases)**

Compensation to the defenders of the commons and ICCAs who may have been victims of abuse to their individual and collective rights should be provided, first and foremost, by the justice systems of their own countries. Providing compensation in independent or parallel ways may reinforce a culture of impunity and should be generally avoided. At times, however, there is a compelling need to come to terms with the fact that **justice may not be forthcoming or at all likely**. In situations in which **severe hardship has been experienced and justice is very unlikely to be obtained** (extreme, unresolved cases), **the victims should be supported on the basis of human solidarity and a sense of justice that goes beyond the borders of given countries**. For that, the same mechanisms that might be called upon to decide on specific emergency initiatives may be summoned to decide on

appropriate forms of “solidarity compensation”, on the basis of rules that promote awareness of the values embedded in the commons and ICCAs and the need to ensure justice for their defenders. In all cases, “solidarity compensation” should be provided only to *bona fide* defenders of natural commons and ICCAs and always proceed in parallel with efforts to bring to justice the perpetrators of the crimes that affected them.

### Eligible beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of both the emergency and longer term “solidarity compensation” activities supported by the SAFE Action and Fund should be **individuals, families, communities and community-based organisations engaged *bona fide* for the care and defence of their natural commons and ICCAs**. The motivation for their defence work does not need to be directly or specifically related to the *conservation of bio-cultural diversity*. It is sufficient that the defenders are acting and possibly struggling for livelihoods, dignity and the human and environmental rights and responsibilities related to the governance and sound management of their natural commons and ICCAs.

While victimisation of the defenders of the commons is not a rare phenomenon even in the Global North, there are important differences in the type of consequences suffered in diverse countries. It is expected that the greater part of the work of the SAFE Action and the resources of the SAFE Fund will be dedicated to the Global South.

### **Operational considerations**

- **SAFE** is created among partners who adhere to a broad vision of a future in which the natural commons and ICCAs are secured and so are the related values, rights and responsibilities of their governing communities. SAFE is a “**coalition of the conscientious and willing**” with a diversity of strengths (e.g. in field-based research, analysis, fundraising, policy advocacy, legal support, community support, communication...) working together towards the same goal.
- The **partners of SAFE take first responsibility for the diverse activities necessary to nourish, support and run the operation of SAFE initiatives and the maintenance and disbursement of the SAFE Fund**.
- SAFE is open to informal support and affiliation to all trustworthy organisations willing and capable of contributing to its goal and vision and responding to a set of criteria (currently under definition). This openness, however, needs to be accompanied by consistency of operations, thus new partners can join SAFE only at specific times (e.g., only at establishment of the partnership, in early 2016, and at a main monitoring interval of 3 years).
- The operations of SAFE are multi-fold. A major component is **fundraising and disbursing of the fund** to sustain the necessary activities. Another one is the provision of timely and effective support for **emergency activities** (preventing immediate abuse and/or assisting actual victims). A third one is the provision of efficient and effective support to **longer term activities** (e.g., anticipating and reducing risks, securing justice for the defenders, providing “solidarity compensation” to victims in extreme cases). The work of the SAFE Action and Fund also needs to be effectively communicated to partners and donors, to the larger public and, most importantly, to the Fund’s intended beneficiaries. **Communication and networking services** are



thus foreseen as crucial. For all this, the institutional experience and capacities and the constituencies brought together by the partners in SAFE need to be managed for optimal complementarity and synergy by lean and well-functioning **coordination and administration services**.

- Decision making regarding the SAFE Action and Fund is carried out by a **Governing Board** composed of **representatives of SAFE key partners** integrated by **outstanding individuals operating as volunteers**, including individuals with direct experience of the situations SAFE responds to. The Governing Board has supervisory capacities with regard to the administration of the SAFE Action and Fund and responds directly to donors and the intended beneficiary communities.
- **Clarity and effectiveness of communication** about the SAFE Action and Fund are vital. Enhanced awareness about the victimisation of the defenders of the commons and ICCAs is desirable and change-inducing *in itself*. It is also essential to make a case for fundraising to meet existing needs.
- Crucial **criteria** to assess the work of the SAFE Action and Fund with regard to its **emergency operations** are their timeliness and effectiveness in their capacity to **prevent harm** and **meet the defenders' immediate needs**. For that, simplicity of applications for support and disbursement modalities are paramount, as are decentralisation and flexibility of operations, and trust among all the involved partners.
- Crucial **criteria** to assess the work of the SAFE Action and Fund with regard to its **longer term operations** are strategic focus and effectiveness in their capacity to **prevent abuse, secure justice** and deliver "**solidarity compensation**" in ways that relieve the suffering and humiliation of defenders but do not reinforce a culture of impunity. Ultimately, SAFE should succeed in eliminating the need for itself and the very existence of the Fund.
- The SAFE Action and Fund **build upon the existence and work of the institutional partners** and limited exclusive personnel. It is preliminarily envisaged that four professionals (a Global Coordinator, a Financial Officer, a Fundraiser and a Communication Specialist) should be sufficient to develop and run the work of the Action and Fund at the global level and nourish operations by injecting resources into the structures and activities of the key partners of SAFE and their Members in the field. Regional, national and local work could thus be carried out by staff and members of the partners themselves or by other organisations trusted by the partners to possess the relevant capacities to meet the identified needs. The approach would combine forward looking planning and flexibility, as human resources could be contracted as consultants from diverse organisations (including the partners in SAFE) and supported on the basis of results achieved.
- A monitoring system should be in place for the operations of the SAFE Action and Fund, with key performance indicators (KPIs) -- including reporting of incidents and threats, number of cases treated, number of cases resolved, etc. -- regularly evaluated by the Governing Board.
- Besides normal operations, the SAFE Action and Fund should take advantage of specific initiatives such as regular meetings (e.g. a **biennial Gathering of the Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs**) and a high-visibility dedicated **Award for the Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs**

that could be assigned by a coalition of organisations concerned with the commons and conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities.

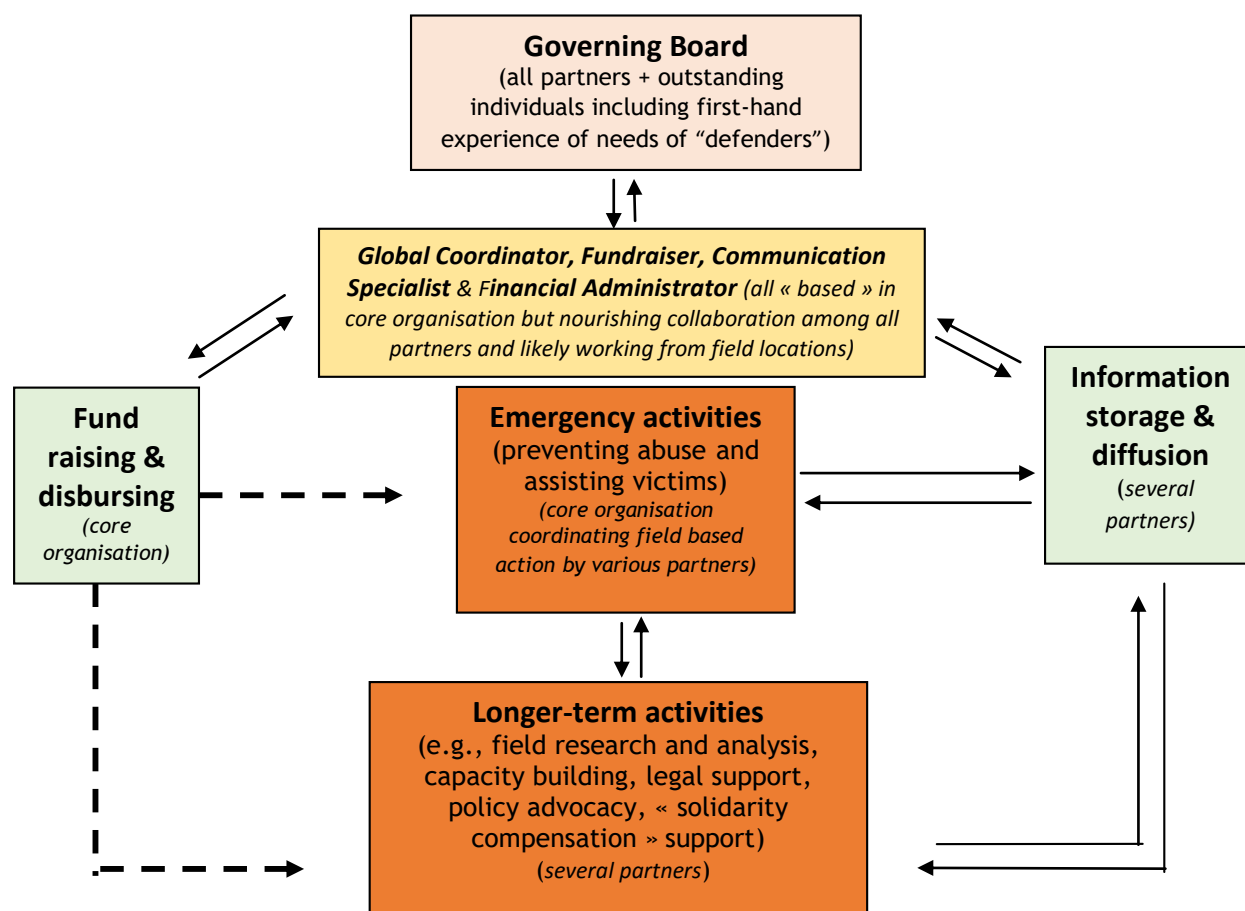
### Financial considerations

- Integrity and credibility of the Fund's sponsors and sources of financial resources
- Integrity and credibility of the Fund's Governing Board
- Management costs to be kept to the functioning minimum
- If the Fund's resources are invested, the highest social and environmental investment standards should be sought and maintained
- A financial administrator is needed— including to be able to respond to issues and requirements of specific donors, follow tax/ registration/ disbursement issues in different countries and scrupulously maintain consistent regulations and processes
- A phased approach to fundraising and operations is appropriate (e.g., start small, possibly with a limited number of regions/ countries and a few donors, aim to grow, promote matching of expectations and funds)

### Possible roles and contributions of the partners in the SAFE Action and Fund

As mentioned, several options exist for the sharing of tasks and responsibilities among the partners in SAFE. Figure 1 below illustrate *one* relatively simple option by which **one of the partners receives all the relevant funds and hosts all the dedicated personnel**, while nourishing the Action and Fund through extensive communication with staff and members of the other partners, striving to engage them on an *ad hoc* basis (ad hoc but well-planned and fairly compensated). Importantly, all partners would need to take on *some* role, from active scoping for cases in need of preventive action to seeking justice in specific cases. In addition, they all would take place in guiding SAFE via its governing board.

**Figure 1: A possible simple option for the distribution of roles in the SAFE Action and Fund**



## Annex 1: Background to the initiative and individuals and organisations involved so far in the process to explore the Solidarity Action and Fund – SAFE

[A call to explore the opportunity and feasibility of setting up a Solidarity Fund](#) for people killed or severely harmed in the struggle to defend their community commons and ICCAs was diffused by the ICCA Consortium on the occasion of World Ranger Day 2015. A dedicated small meeting to discuss the call also took place at the [EMRIP 8](#), in Geneva, in July 2015. Subsequently, many organisations (see list below) joined the call and several participated in person or via Skype in a meeting that took place at the IUCN Headquarters in Gland (Switzerland) on 19-20 November 2015. The November meeting was called to further examine the issues and take them forward, as needs may be, also on the basis of **three reports and case studies** commissioned by the ICCA Consortium to provide initial situation analyses for Asia, Latin America and Anglophone Africa.<sup>8</sup> The reports are [available on line from here](#).

The reports identify and describe occurrences of severe injury or murder committed against defenders of the commons or ICCAs, many of which received little response in terms of justice, legal or customary remedy and social solidarity. The reports describe a spectrum of occurrences that range **from discrimination, stigmatization, intimidation and threats to the violent maiming and killing of individuals, from the forced displacement of individuals and communities to the confining of communities and the militarization of entire territories**. These occurrences are found not to be rare in the regions that were examined, although their extent in different countries varies considerably. In most cases, the struggles supported by the injured persons remain ongoing.

The reports provide lists of existing support avenues and/or funds that do or could offer some form of solidarity/ compensation to injured defenders of the commons and ICCAs. Despite the existence of these, the reports unanimously conclude that a **“new” Fund dedicated to the defenders of the commons and ICCAs is needed and should be established**. A number of “organisational options” exist for the functioning of the Fund, with different feasibility and eventual strengths and weaknesses. The reports examine such options and contain lists of organisations that could partner with the Consortium in the effort to establish and support the Fund.

The reports were illustrated and discussed at the meeting on 19-20 November, which examined the Fund in the context of a possible partnership of organisations that could take on the responsibility of establishing it, accompanying it and setting it to function. A number of possible financial partners do exist. Some linked to the meeting in real time. Others, contacted after the meeting, have expressed their interest and concerns.

### Organisations that agreed in 2015 to co-sponsor the call for discussion

Africa Biodiversity Network (Kenya), ANAPAC (Democratic Republic of Congo), ANGCOG (South-East Asia), Bukluran Inc. (The Philippines), CEMI (Colombia), Cenesta (Iran), Centre for Environment and Development (Cameroon), The Christensen Fund, CALG - Coalition against Land Grabbing (The

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<sup>8</sup> A consultancy was also engaged for Francophone Africa but did not conclude successfully.

Philippines), Coshikox (Peru), Forest Peoples Programme (UK), Foundation for Ecological Security (India), Friends of the Earth International, Gaia Foundation (UK), The ICCA Consortium, Iniciativa Comunes (Spain), International Association for the Study of the Commons (USA), International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, International Land Coalition, International Ranger Federation, IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, KASAPI (The Philippines), Krapavis (India), MELCA (Ethiopia), Oakland Institute (USA), Observatorio Ciudadano (Chile), OXLAJUU AJPOP (Guatemala), Putumayo Foundation (Peru), SAVIA (Bolivia), Thin Green Line Foundation (Australia), UNDP GEF SGP, UNICAMEL (Iran) and UNINOMAD (Iran).

**Participants in the meeting at EMRIP 8 on 21 July 2015 (UN Premises, Geneva Switzerland)**

Name	Affiliation
Anu Nettar	Global Forest Coalition (The Netherlands)
Christian Chatelain	Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa and Honorary Member, ICCA Consortium
Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend	Global Coordinator, ICCA Consortium
José Aylwin	Observatorio Ciudadano (Chile) and Member of the Steering Committee, ICCA Consortium
Lili Fortuné	Internationale Touareg (Niger) and Member of the Steering Committee, ICCA Consortium
Lola Garcia-Alix	Coordinator, International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
Sarah Ryder	Programme Manager, ICCA Consortium
Terence Hay-Edie	UNDP GEF SGP, GSI Coordinator

**Participants in the meeting at IUCN on 19-20 November 2015 (IUCN Hq., Gland, Switzerland)**

(in light yellow participants in person, in light blue via Skype)

Name	Affiliation
Terence Hay-Edie	UNDP GEF SGP
Taghi M. Farvar	CENESTA, UNINOMAD and UNICAMEL (Iran); ICCA Consortium
Sergio Couto	Iniciativa Comunes (Spain); ICCA Consortium
Sean Willmore	International Ranger Federation and Thin Green Line Foundation (Australia)
Sarah Ryder	ICCA Consortium
Rupert Quinlan	Global Witness (UK)
Myra de Bruijn	Friends of the Earth International (The Netherlands)
Maurizio Ferrari	Forest Peoples Programme (UK)
Marina Cazorla	Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (USA)
Kyra Bush	The Christensen Fund (USA)
Kundan Kumar	RRI (India)

Hannibal Rhoades	Gaia Foundation on behalf of Yes to Life, No to Mining Campaign (UK)
Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend	ICCA Consortium
Emma Lee	University of Tasmania (Australia)
Ellen Desmet	Putumayo Foundation (Peru) & Universities of Antwerp and Ghent (Belgium)
Elisabetta Cangelosi	Internal Land Coalition -- Protection fund for defenders of land rights
Diel Mochire Mwange	PIDEP, REPALEF and ANAPAC (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Didja Tchari Djibrillah	Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones (Tchad)
Delfin Ganapin	UNDP GEF SGP
Dario Novellino	Centre for Biocultural Diversity, University of Kent (UK); CALG; ICCA Consortium
China Ching	The Christensen Fund, (USA)
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#### Web sites and videos

- [The Promise of Sydney Vision](#)
- [www.iccaconsortium.org](http://www.iccaconsortium.org)
- [www.iccaregistry.org](http://www.iccaregistry.org)
- <https://vimeo.com/69209439>
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