

The ICCA Consortium



2011 Annual Report

February 10, 2012

A word from the President, Global Coordinator and Treasurer

If you listen between the lines of many discussions among the enthusiasts, the professionals, the concerned and the very actors and subjects of conservation and development you often find a debate between two perspectives— both sincerely concerned with the future of communities and the environment. The first perspective argues— in brief— that it takes a critical mass of resources (information, technology, money, infrastructure, technical advice) for people to organize themselves, manage their natural resources well and take charge of their own livelihoods in a sustainable manner. Without such minimum of resources, a vicious circle between poverty and environmental degradation is likely to settle-in. The second perspective focuses on rights. It argues— again in brief— that without security of rights (and responsibilities) about those natural resources, it is highly unlikely that communities will ever emerge from poverty and inappropriate environmental management. One can imagine specific improvements because of large injections of resources... but will those be sustainable? And the resulting benefits, what chance will they have of being distributed fairly?

The ICCA Consortium is clearly positioned within this second perspective, although we do recognise that the first also carries a very lucid insight: no one can live on rights alone! We believe, however, that only by solving the question of rights will we have a basis on which a critical mass of resources will build effective and lasting results. As a matter of fact, the very concept of ICCA emerged, for many of us, from the basic question: “who has the right to decide here?” Attempting to provide an answer, we engendered the definition and exploration of *governance* issues in conservation. We kept asking “who has the right to decide where and how to conserve?” and we kept finding answers



Chief Raoni of the Kayapo tribe of Para cries over Belo Monte dam decision

<http://amazonwatch.org/news/2012/0119-brazil-mega-dam-washes-residents-away>

that pointed at the communities who lived the longest with nature, and learned how to do it sustainably. These people learned through time, together... and many of their ICCAs are still here. Other communities are gaining their rights as we speak. Their newly emerging ICCAs may not have the advantage of un-broken historical continuity, but they compensate with great collective determination, diplomatic skills and untold efforts and sacrifices in restoration and conservation activities.

Side by side the positive stories of continuity and renewal, however, the world is providing us with ample matter for despair. Land grabbing, water pollution, climate change, military operations and the havoc caused by extractive industries and mega infrastructures are the visible and physical counterpart of our global financial mess, consumerism frenzy, cultural loss and rampant inequality. Uncounted ICCAs, indigenous peoples and communities are being trampled upon by these processes, and many are left shattered.

As you will see from our report, the year that just ended brought about an important sense of consolidation for our Consortium, and many reasons to hope. But we also have clarity about the challenges ahead, and the huge forces at play. The image of the Chief Raoni of the Kayapo tribe crying over the Belo Monte dam decision is a symbol many cannot forget. The planet needs balance, and its inhabitants need to find a sense of limits and purpose. ICCAs are a symbol of such limits and purpose—they embody the simple material values of the *buena vida* but also the non-material values of integrity, beauty, identity and solidarity. And they embody the responsibility and privilege of caring for nature. Let us do all we can to make them last.

Taghi, Grazia and Stan

Background

The Consortium is rooted in the movements that promoted equity in conservation in the first decade of the new millennium, when a group of volunteers—people and organisations—articulated the need to recognise and support Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs for short). As the ICCA concept quickly gained momentum in the international policy arena (e.g., World Parks Congress 2003, World Conservation Congresses 2004 and 2008, Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity—CBD), the volunteers informally created a “Consortium” on the occasion of the 2008 World Conservation Congress. Two years later they further formalised it as an international association under Swiss Law dedicated to “*promoting the appropriate recognition of, and support to, ICCAs at local, national and international levels*” (Statutes available in three languages from the Consortium web site www.iccaconsortium.org). This step was taken to strengthen the effectiveness of the Consortium not only internationally—where it mostly needed to consolidate and build upon prior results— but also in the many national contexts where ICCA-favourable international policies were ignored or their interpretation and support appeared as flawed and at times even counterproductive. A further step was then taken in October 2010, when the Consortium held a General Assembly and a planning retreat on the occasion of the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan. The Members of the Consortium developed then a medium-term vision and a programme to approach that vision (also available in three languages from the Consortium web site).

On the eve of these developments, the Consortium decided to prepare and submit a number of grant proposals to accompany its ***strengthening as an emerging institution***. This was accomplished in the first six months of 2011 on the basis of volunteer work. The Christensen Fund generously agreed on a 30-month (2.5-year) grant funded for a total of \$230,000, with a start date of 1 July 2011 and an end date of 31 December 2013. In parallel, another grant (\$75,000 in total) was also requested and obtained from the Environment & Energy Group (EEG) of UNDP, running through the same period and focusing on the development of an information and communication system for the Consortium and other specific outputs in synergy with the TCF grant. On the momentum of these accomplishments, a third grant was later obtained from Swedbio to carry out a review of national legislation supporting or hindering ICCAs. The grant (\$80,500 over 1 year, starting on 1 November 2011) is currently managed by Natural Justice in close cooperation with the Consortium.

As noted, the TCF grant was requested and envisaged to start on 1 July 2011. In practice, however, 1 July is the date when the grant was actually *announced* to the Consortium, and funding followed a few weeks later. A similar situation happened for the UNDP EEG grant. As of 1 July 2011 the Consortium had no personnel to carry out activities and quickly had to reshape the action plan and propose a revised budget to TCF, which was kindly and rapidly approved. The main Consortium existing personnel continued working on a volunteer basis up to 1 October which left enough time to advertise the new opportunities for collaboration and identify and recruit a team of regional coordinators. This also left enough resources to organize a first planning retreat, the IVth General Assembly of the Consortium and a Symposium on ICCAs in Indonesia (also in October 2011).

The work programme developed in Nagoya is the programme described in our grant proposal to TCF and we will closely refer to it in this annual report. The programme foresees 2 main sets of activities:

Work-package A— whereby the Consortium assists its Members and partners at the regional, national and local levels to:

- A1. build the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to appreciate, strengthen, and defend their own ICCAs;

- A2. analyze and promote awareness of the ICCA phenomenon in specific national or regional contexts ;
- A3. explore and analyze laws and policies that do and/or could support ICCAs at national level;
- A4. provide effective short term and long term responses to the needs and opportunities that characterize ICCAs in specific national or regional contexts.

Work-package B— whereby the Consortium works at the global level and directly:

- B1. establishes and/or strengthens institutional collaborations, among others, with:
 - *The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*
 - *The UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme*
 - *The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)*
 - *The World Conservation Union (IUCN)*
 - *The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN Human Rights Council*
- B2. provides global analysis, guidance and support to Members, partners and the public at large (on ICCA matters);
- B3. manages the operations of the ICCA Consortium through a decentralized secretariat.

We are happy to say that in 2011 we obtained important accomplishments in both work-packages, both before and after receiving some grant support. Those are listed below as far as feasible in chronological order, and with an indication of the relevant package activities in parentheses.

Consortium accomplishments 2011

- ✓ Organisation and running of a **Consortium Extraordinary General Assembly** in Whakatane (New Zealand) in January 2011. **(B3)**
- ✓ Participation in the IUCN/CEESP Conference Sharing Power (Whakatane , New Zealand, January 2011), running (with Consortium Members IPACC and Cenesta) a stream of events on **Bio-cultural heritage and indigenous values** that included a variety of papers and reflections on ICCAs, and actively participating in meetings between indigenous peoples representatives and the IUCN President that originated the **Whakatane Assessment initiative**, currently carried out by Consortium Member Forest Peoples Programme PP and IUCN. **(B1, B2)**
- ✓ Organisation of a side event on 'The Commons and Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas' and a panel discussion on 'Forest Rights Act, Community Forest Rights & Management of Community Conserved Areas' during the **International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) Conference**, Hyderabad, India, January, 2011—in association with Consortium Member Kalpavriksh. **(B2)**
- ✓ Participation in a meeting at the United Nation (Geneva, Switzerland) with Fareeda Shahid, **UN Independent Expert on Cultural Rights**, and discussion with her of the role of ICCAs for the maintenance and thriving of those rights. **(B1)**
- ✓ Provision of **substantial contribution and training sessions to the first and second Regional Capacity building workshops** organized by the CBD Secretariat on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (**PoWPA**) in Africa and Asia (Dakar, **Senegal**, May 2011 and Dehradun, **India**, December 2011). **(B1 and B2)**
- ✓ Provision of **field-based support to ICCAs communities, Consortium Members and partners** in several countries, including:

- ***Fiji*** (including field meetings and lectures at university gatherings, providing advice to the Fiji government and the IUCN, and writing letters to this effect on behalf of the Consortium upon local request) **(A1, A2, A3 and A4).**
- ***Madagascar*** (including actively participating in regional and national workshops at the request of GEF SGP and other partners, and preparing an extensive report that outlines a national strategy to effectively embrace ICCA recognition and support in the country) **(A1, A2, A3 and A4);**
- ***Mauritania and Senegal*** (in collaboration with GEF SGP Compact programme and the IUCN, this included field visits and integration of the ICCA approach in a proposed strategy for the shared governance of the biosphere reserve of the Senegal delta) **(A2 and A3);**
- ***Iran*** (in close association with Consortium Member Cenesta, this included the organizing and running several workshops to promote dialogue between government and mobile indigenous peoples; setting up systems of participatory monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity in ICCAs; and facilitating community initiatives to respond to specific ICCA-related problems and opportunities) **(A1, A2 and A4);**
- ***India*** (in close association with the Consortium Member Kalpavriksh, this includes numerous contacts with ICCA communities, information gathering, analysis and dissemination and on-going national policy advice and lobbying to further the ICCA cause) **(A1, A2, A3 and A4);**
- ***Taiwan*** (including a meeting on governance of protected areas co-organised by the Forest Bureau and Taiwan National University, with sessions focusing on ICCAs, and assistance to potential Consortium Members and their ICCAs in the country; activities held in cooperation with the Consortium Member Kalpavriksh) **(A1, A2, A3 and A4);**
- ***Niger and Burkina Faso*** (including an ICCA workshop in Niamey co-organised by the Consortium Member Billital Maroobe, and two field-based workshops with large groups of pastoralists in Malley and Bangui, also in Niger, which spurred initiatives for the appropriate recognition of indigenous pastoralist territories as ICCAs) **(A1, A2, A3 and A4);**
- ***Senegal and Guinea Bissau*** (this included discussions, agreements and practical planning to pilot ICCAs within government-declared protected areas in Guinea Bissau, and organization of exchanges visits and mutual learning between ICCA fishermen communities in Casamance (Senegal) and Guinea Bissau— all in association with the IUCN; providing support to socio-economic monitoring of an ICCA in Casamance; testing the "ICCA Safety and Resilience Tool"; advising on local ICCA expansion/ replication; and assisting in the founding of a new regional association to ensure ICCA quality in Casamance—all in association with the Consortium Member APCRM). **(A1, A2, A3, A4, B1 and B2);**
- ***Nepal*** (in close association with Consortium Member Forest Action Nepal and ICCA Network Nepal, this included convening the 3rd national meeting of the ICCA Network Nepal; holding a multi-day workshop introducing the draft ICCA resilience and security self-evaluation tool to the members of the ICCA Network Nepal; and holding visits and discussions with Sherpa communities in the Mt. Everest region (Sagarmatha National Park) to document their ICCAs and develop programs to strengthen awareness and support by Sherpa youth and national park officials). **(A1, A2, A4 and B2);**
- ***The Philippines*** (in close association with Consortium Member PAFID, this included organizing and running several region-specific workshops on the concept and practice of

- ICCAs and their relationships with both Ancestral Domains and official government protected areas in the country; supporting communities to explore the ICCA concept as a defence against unwanted exploitation by agribusiness and extractive industries and as preventive mechanism for natural disasters; preparation of a national ICCA workshop in collaboration with a major GEF initiative). (**A1, A2, A3 and A4**)
- **Panama** (discussions about the ICCA concept and the role of the Consortium with a number of indigenous communities; taking steps towards developing specific initiatives to protect sacred natural sites as ICCAs) (**A1, A2 and A4**)
 - **Chile** (visits and discussions with communities interested in pursuing the model of “Territorio Indígena de Conservación”) (**A2**)
 - **Canada** (discussion of the ICCA concept in view of its potential to prevent an oil pipeline from crossing traditional IP territories) (**A2**)
 - **Italy, France, Croatia and Bolivia** (visits to specific communities and discussion of the fitting as well as the potential and limitations of the ICCA concept in their specific situations) (**A2**)
- ✓ **Successful application for two main grants for the ICCA Consortium** (TNF and UNDU EEG), developed with Members’ support in a participatory way, including through diffusion of documents in three languages. (**B3**)
 - ✓ Provision of main writing contributions to the **CBD Resource Kit on Governance of Protected Areas** (to be launched at CBD COP 11 and contribute to enhanced national engagement with the innovative governance aspects of the Programme of work on protected areas of the CBD); this included specific meetings at the IUCN Hq., Switzerland. (**B1 and B2**)
 - ✓ **Participation in EMRIP IV** (Geneva, Switzerland, July 2011), and organizing and running there a **side event on ICCAs** in association with Consortium Member Natural Justice. (**B2**)
 - ✓ Hiring of a **Communication Officer** and development of an **Information and communication system for the Consortium**, including new goggle-groups, Facebook and Twitter pages, **maintenance and expansion of the ICCA Forum web site** and posting of new alert pages. (**B2 and A4**)
 - ✓ **Identification, recruitment and contracting of 15 Coordinators** (5 in the Americas, 3 in Asia, 4 in Africa, 2 in Europe plus a Global Coordinator – 10 contracts completed, 5 under completion; all Coordinators work on a semi-volunteer basis, with compensations ranging from \$150 to \$700/ monthly). (**B3**)
 - ✓ Provision of **technical support** on matters of ICCAs to the **Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) regional planning meetings**– via Consortium staff, Members and honorary members. Four meetings attended, with presentations offered and collaborations entertained: **Beijing**, China, August 2011; **Accra**, Ghana, Sept 2011; **Bratislava**, Slovakia, Oct. 2011 and **Managua**, Nicaragua, Nov. 2011. (**B1 and B2**)
 - ✓ Provision of technical support to **ICCA research in a Swiss university** (The Graduate Institute, Geneva) resulting on a small thesis/ report by two students on the ICCA subject. (**A2 and B2**)

- ✓ Organisation and running of **a regional meeting on Community conservation in Europe** (Gerace, Italy, September 2011) in close collaboration with the IUCN CEESP and WCPA Commissions and several other partners; (see [report on line](#)) (A1 and A2)
- ✓ Provision of substantial contribution to the **CBD Secretariat meeting on the participation of local communities in CBD's work** in accordance with Article 8(j) (Montreal, July 2011) and the **CBD 7th Working Group on Article 8j and Related Provisions** (Montreal, November 2011), where a **side event** entitled "Recognizing and Supporting Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities" was also organized in collaboration with Consortium Members Natural Justice and Fundacion para la Promocion del Conocimiento Indigena; development of a draft **Memorandum of Collaboration between the Consortium and the CBD Secretariat**, currently under review by the Consortium Steering Committee. (B1 and B2)
- ✓ Organisation and running the **first planning retreat of the Consortium** among personnel, Steering Committee members and Member representatives (Prana Dewi, Bali, Indonesia, 6-11 October 2011). Besides developing guidance for the newly appointed Coordinators, the meeting identified an important strategic direction for the work of the Consortium: "providing support to CBD Parties towards understanding the potential of ICCAs to fulfil CBD Aichi Target 11 (within and outside protected areas) in more effective, equitable and sustainable ways, and taking appropriate action about it". (B3 and B2)
- ✓ Organisation and running the **IVth General Assembly of the Consortium** (Bogor, Indonesia, 12 October, 2011) (see [minutes available on line](#)) (B2 and B3)
- ✓ Co-organisation and running of the first national **Symposium on ICCAs in Indonesia** Bogor (13-14 Oct 2011) in collaboration with Indonesian Members, honorary members and partners (see the [report on line](#)) (A1, A2 and A3)
- ✓ Substantial advances (e.g., contracts signed and work initiated for the development of case studies in about 20 countries) on the development of **a volume on the CBD technical series on the appropriate recognition of, and support to, ICCAs** and, in parallel, of a **global Review of national legislation supporting or hindering ICCAs**, in association with Member organizations Kalpavriksh and Natural Justice. (B2 and B1)
- ✓ Advances in the development of an **ICCA Resilience and Security Tool** (including an Index) and beginning its **field testing in Senegal and Nepal** as a tool for self awareness and analysis. (B2, A1 and A2)
- ✓ Development of specific proposals for **workshops and training sessions** on ICCAs/ governance of protected areas **for the forthcoming Vth World Conservation Congress** (Jeju, Korea, Sept. 2012) in collaboration with the Global IUCN Protected Areas Programme and several other partners. The proposals have been accepted and are currently under further development. (B1 and B2)
- ✓ Participation in the **GEF Council official consultation with civil society** in and in the preparatory meeting of the GEF NGO Network and the second meeting of the GEF NGO Network Indigenous Peoples Taskforce (Washington, D.C., Dec. 2011). This resulted in an **invitation for the Consortium to join the GEF NGO Network** and to participate on a regular basis in the twice yearly GEF Council Consultation and associated meetings (in 2012 these will include development of a GEF Indigenous Peoples policy).

- ✓ Development of a **letter for the UN Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the subject of ICCAs** envisaging a specific collaboration with the Consortium (the letter is currently under examination by the Consortium Steering Committee) and contacts to organize a visit of the **UN Expert Advisor on Cultural Rights** to support a Consortium Member in the Russian Federation. (B1)
- ✓ Participation in **UNFCCC COP-17** (Nov.-Dec. 2011, Durban, South Africa) and organizing there a **seminar and a poster presentation** entitled 'The 'do's and don'ts of supporting forest conservation and restoration initiatives by local communities and indigenous peoples' in association with the Consortium Member Global Forest Coalition. (see [report on line](#)). (B2)
- ✓ Beginning work on a **Briefing Note on ICCAs, climate change and international climate change-related policies and mechanisms** focusing on specific opportunities, concerns, recommendations and "safeguards" for ICCAs vis-à-vis international climate change policies and mechanisms, in collaboration with IUCN CEESP and Consortium Member Global Forest Coalition. (B1 and B2)
- ✓ Continuing collaboration and exchanges with the protected areas unit of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), in particular regarding **sites to be listed as part of the ICCA Registry** from countries such as the Philippines, India, Chile, Iran. (B1)
- ✓ Acquisition of **five new Members of the Consortium** and about **fifteen new honorary members**; recruitment of a **new member of the Steering Committee**; holding of numerous Skype **meetings of the Steering Committee** throughout the year; managing numerous initiatives with financial implications and involving donor reporting; etc. (B3)

Discussion

Preliminary reflections/ lessons thus far include the following:

- ✓ Our **Vision and work programme** were well conceived and we have been able to obtain funding for them, and follow them in our practice.
- ✓ We made progress in our **international institutional collaborations** with the GEF Small Grants Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the GEF NGO Network and Indigenous Peoples Taskforce.
- ✓ Our **membership** is growing even in the absence of a recruitment campaign (which we are planning for the months to come).
- ✓ The on-going different forms of **collaboration between the Consortium and its Members** are a most remarkable and effective aspect of our work.
- ✓ We have chosen to hire 15 Coordinators rather than 4, as initially envisaged. This is intended to enable us to work in a closer and more capillary way in the variety of regional situations that characterize ICCAs, with individual coordinators able to devote their attention to smaller regions and numbers of Members. The wisdom of this choice will only become apparent through time, although we can already say that some people willing to accept part time, semi-volunteer work

in synergy with their pre-existing initiatives demonstrate remarkable enthusiasm and personal engagement... but others appear a bit overwhelmed and unable to cope.

- ✓ We are having some initial difficulties with a few of our staff members, and these will require adjustments in the months to come. Some are very engaged with prior work commitments that – although relevant for the work of the Consortium—appear to take more of their time and attention than anticipated. Others with undoubted good will and enthusiasm end up having to acquire a number of skills “on the job”, requiring extensive support from others.

For most of the initiatives and achievements listed above, the funding received from our main grants has ***synergized funding from other sources***, including CBD, UNDP, IUCN, GIZ, Swedbio, GEF, as well as Members and Honorary members of the Consortium and national NGOs and government agencies from Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Italy, Iran, Nepal, Taiwan, Madagascar, Fiji, the Philippines, Panama, Chile, India, Canada, Bolivia, Croatia, and Niger-- among others. Such collaborations are one of the elements of strength of the Consortium, rooted in the trust gained with those partners through the numerous prior engagements in the last decade.

Overall, while it is too early to analyze impact results, we can confidently affirm that sustained personal engagement and the funding obtained in 2011 allowed the Consortium to shift gears and multiply its engagements with individuals and initiatives in a variety of settings, a fact bound to multiply our impact. Importantly, besides continuing international initiatives, we have been very active at the ***national policy level*** (e.g., in Philippines, Guinea Bissau, India, Iran, Madagascar, Indonesia) and expanded ***local dialogue and collaborations*** with specific indigenous peoples and local communities, supporting locally appropriate action such as developing a national ICCA Federation in Nepal or physically and organisationally strengthening a specific ICCA in Senegal. We thus remain strongly ***committed to multi-level (local to international) work***, as a way to keep checking our relevance and adjust our work priorities.

Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend
ICCA Consortium, Global Coordinator
February 7, 2012

Cover picture: Tenzing Tashi Sherpa pointing out community forests and grazing lands, Khumjung, Nepal, Dec. 2011. (*courtesy of Stan Sevens*)

Back cover picture: Aissata Sambou shows the oysters collected in the mangroves of Kawawana, the ICCA of the rural community of Mangagoulack, Casamance (Senegal), March 2011. (*courtesy Grazia BF*)



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