

## The ICCA Consortium



## 2012 Annual Report

*January 23, 2013*

## *A word from the President, Global Coordinator and Treasurer*

We open the 2012 Annual Report with the image of a woman from Pastapur (India) showing the wonderful plant combination she grows in her field. The Deccan Development Society (DDS) and the *sanghams* (organisations) of the Dalit women of Pastapur were “discovered” by some Consortium Members when DDS hosted the Consortium Fifth General Assembly in October 2012 (other Consortium members had been working with them for years). Indeed DDS and these women—who are now our most recent Member— provided an ideal setting for our meeting and its deliberations. They were as knowledgeable and inspiring in showing us their marvellous wealth of seeds—passed on from woman to woman, from farmer to farmer for generations— as they were welcoming and generous in sharing with us their food, their songs and the learning from their mix of cultivated and wild ICCA landscapes. For many of us, the image of colourful seeds on the hands of these women will remain forever the symbol of what on earth is most precious and irreplaceable, far ahead of any luxury product, precious stone or gold.



Just think about it. Seeds cannot truly be kept for more than a few years. They thus need to be regularly planted, cared for, regenerated and renovated. They need to pass through the hands of people and be chosen by their eyes, their sense of taste, the vision of what would be good for them in the future... If tomorrow we will face a combination of a major environmental disaster (possibly related to climate change) and economic meltdown (likely related to the arrogance and greed at the roots of our global financial architecture), where would humanity pick up again? We might rest hope in many of the features of us humans that already give us hope today and make us be the “best we can be”: solidarity, decency, ingenuity, patience, curiosity, a sense of justice, a sense of limits and a sense of fun. We might rest hope in our elders and in the accumulated wealth of knowledge in our libraries, audio-visuals and the Internet (provided they will remain available and we will manage to separate the wheat from the chaff... the ocean of useless babble that has come to invade every means of communication). But we will *need* to rest hope in communities that draw their livelihoods through their traditional knowledge and practices in local environments. In a world without imported foods and supermarkets, with uncertain salaries and money worth the paper it is



printed on, life will need to pick up from the kernels of wisdom found in people capable of working together, choosing the right seeds, finding medicinal plants, regulating water, helping their animals to graze, knowing where and how to fish sustainably. We will *need* to rely on knowing how to conserve nature, how to preserve it, how use it sustainably, how to restore it.

The indigenous peoples and communities that learned to live with their environments— a compact of

biodiversity and agro-biodiversity but also knowledge, institutions, practices, languages, rules, ways of doing and ideas to respond to change—are the complex equivalent of seeds selected through time for their marvellous properties and capacity to function and provide. Such communities— much like the seeds of the women *sanghams*— are the smallest units from which life and culture can indeed pick up and flourish. They are the most essential and precious way of being human.

*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 of 2003, World Conservation Congresses of 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"* (see the Consortium [Statutes](#)). This step was taken to strengthen the effectiveness of the Consortium not only in the international arena—where it mostly needed to consolidate and build upon prior results— but also **in the many national contexts** where ICCA-favourable international policies were still ignored or their interpretation was deeply flawed. A further step was then taken in October 2010, when the Consortium held a General Assembly and a planning retreat in the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan. The Members of the Consortium developed then a middle-term vision and a programme to approach that vision (see the Consortium [Vision 2020 and Work Programme 2011-2014](#)).

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. A proposal was generously funded by the Christensen Fund and a smaller grant was also 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 has been managed by Natural Justice in close cooperation with the Consortium.

Throughout 2012 the Consortium carried out activities at international, national and local levels. The number of engaged personnel (all on a part-time, semi-volunteer basis) varied throughout the year to a maximum of 18 Coordinators and staff working as part of an electronic network (frequent communication via e-mail and Skype but no dedicated offices). Only on the occasion of international events do some members of the Steering Committee and staff have a chance to meet and physically work together. These opportunities are rare, but extremely valuable.

In 2012, the work programme developed in Shirakawa continued to closely guide and inform our work. The programme includes 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.

During the middle 12 months of the grant period substantial accomplishments were achieved in both work-packages. Those are listed below grouped as follows: 1. Technical assistance for country-based initiatives; 2. Studies and publications; 3. International initiatives and partnerships; and 4. Managing the operations of the Consortium as an institution. We list only major activities and accomplishments where staff and members of the Steering Committee of the Consortium have directly taken part. It should be noted, however, that an important part of the value of the Consortium is due to the fact that it is an Association. The work of the Consortium is thus augmented by the work of each one of its Member organizations and individual Honorary members.

## *Consortium accomplishments 2012*

### *Work-package A (obj. A1 to A4) – Technical assistance to Members and partners on matters relevant to ICCAs*

Support was provided to Members and partners and basic preparatory work to meaningfully develop the Consortium activities were carried out in the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Suriname, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

At a minimum, in each country the Consortium promoted and supported ***studies of recognition and support to ICCAs in legal and non legal terms***, and/or ***studies of current threats to ICCAs and responses by the concerned communities***. Many such studies – and their regional and international syntheses– have just been released and will be used to inform action in the years to come. They constitute an important foundation to meaningful ICCA work in each country at stake. The Threats and Responses studies, however, are ongoing, including the testing and use of an ***ICCA Resilience and Security Tool*** and participatory methodology for communities to develop their ***Photo Stories***.

Information on national situations where initiatives were carried out ***in addition to and/or beyond specific studies*** are reported below.

#### ***Argentina***

The Consortium assisted its Member Newen Mapu in the development of a concept project to strengthen indigenous governance in Nahuel Huapi National Park, submitted to GEF-SGP.

#### ***Bangladesh***

The Consortium provided inputs for amendments to the Bangladesh Wildlife Protection Act on inclusion of ICCAs, to be tested through a community conservation programme in the Sundarbans with Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh.

#### ***Bolivia***

Assistance and support were provided in defense of the Indigenous Territory and National Park Isiboro-Secure (TIPNIS) threatened by the opening of a road through its territory. Assistance was



provided to Consortium Member Kereimbás in preparing projects for GEF SGP to strengthen the governing bodies of the Kaaya del Gran Chaco National Park and elaborate a management plan for the Bañados del Isoso—a sacred place for the Isoleño-Guarani people and a buffer zone of the Kaa Iya del Gran Chaco National Park (in extreme danger because of the expanding agricultural frontier). Other projects deal with the management of peccaries and tupinambis species for the use of indigenous communities in the Isoso Indigenous Territory and Kaa Iya del Gran Chaco National Park through Isoleño Guarani trained as “indigenous para-biologists”.

### **Canada**

Support was provided to groups fighting to maintain control and integrity of their ICCAs, e.g. against the crossing of a major oil pipeline in their territory. A meeting specifically to discuss the appropriateness and value of the ICCA concept and practice by indigenous peoples in Canada has been planned for 2013. Funding for that meeting has been secured.

### **Chile**

A national network of indigenous organisations entitled “Territorios de Conservación de Pueblo Originarios” (TCPO) was established in August 2012, with an important focus on ICCAs (experiences and legal recognition). A Photo Story on the ICCAs of the Mapuche Pewenche people is being developed. A regional meeting on ICCAs has been planned for 2013.

### **Colombia**

Direct assistance was provided to ICCAs in the Amazon region and ICCAs of black coastal communities to facilitate dialogue with national authorities on issues of: 1. natural resources management; 2. free, prior and informed consent; 3. ways of strengthening food systems; and 4. ways of improving the collective organization of local subsistence economies.

### **Croatia**

The Consortium supported lobbying and advocacy measures to maintain local governance rights for the ICCAs of pastoral communities, which are being endangered as Croatia is joining the EU in July 2013 (legal harmonization is a buzzword, and may importantly affect community conservation in the next decade). The aim of the lobbying efforts is the formal/ legal recognition of “pasturing communities” as governing bodies for the territories (many of which are flooding plains) they actually managed and conserved for centuries.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC)**

The Consortium conceived, co-organised and facilitated a national workshop entitled « *Les Aires et les Territoires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire (APACs) en République Démocratique du Congo: vers le respect des droits et des capacités des peuples autochtones et des communautés locales pour la gouvernance de la biodiversité* » (Towards the respect of the rights and capacities of indigenous peoples and local communities in the governance of biodiversity) that gathered representatives of indigenous peoples from the ten provinces of the country and resulted in a powerful affirmation of the value of ICCAs in RDC as expressed in the [Kinshasa Declaration](#) (see the [workshop report](#) and the [event page](#) here). As a consequence of the workshop, a project proposal is being developed for submission to GEF SGP in the RDC, and the theme of ICCAs has been included in the agenda of the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa (FIPAC) to be held in Likouala (Congo Brazzaville) in April 2013.

### **Guatemala**

Support was provided to fill and send to the ICCA Registry a submission from the Women Association Mujeres Ixpiyakok, ADEMI. A regional planning workshop for the work of the Consortium in Central America is being organised for March 2013.

## **Kenya**

The Consortium began identifying communities and local organisations supporting ICCAs. It partnered with Kivulini Trust and Save Lamu, which work with communities governing their own areas, as well as Kenyan lawyers who support or are interested in supporting these communities. A proposal was developed and submitted to UNDP GEF SGP to support the rights of Borana communities' ICCAs in the Waso Rangelands of Northern Kenya. Another one, also for UNDP GEF SGP, was developed to assist Save Lamu (an association of about 35 smaller CBOs) to develop a proposal on ICCAs in Lamu District. Meetings took place with members of Lamu community to discuss rights issues associated with ICCAs in the Lamu and Tana Delta districts. Exploratory discussions were held around a Southern and East Africa regional meeting on ICCAs in 2013. And meetings took place with a group co-ordinated by the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme that appears keen to support ICCAs.

## **Indonesia**

Special support to existing Members and work to recruit new Members has been going on in Indonesia as a follow-up to the first National ICCA Symposium in Bogor (Oct 2011). Focus has been on providing information on demand, encouraging discussion of ICCA issues as part of national gatherings and events, stimulating the creation of a Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia (which today includes Sawit Watch, JKPP, AMAN, Forest People's Programme/Pusaka, WWF Indonesia, NTFP-EP, and Huma), facilitating the preparation of an [ICCA Photo Story of Bukit Bunyau in West Kalimantan](#), and developing a project proposal to document and respond to situations of heightened threats to ICCAs (Indonesian ICCA high-threat documentation series).

## **India**

The Consortium supported a meeting on Community Conserved Areas organised in Nagaland by our Member Foundation for Ecological Security and others. Throughout the year, it joined forces with our Member Kalpavriksh and the Community Forest Rights Learning and Advocacy Network to inform local and national meetings and to provide advice on the use of India's Forest Rights Act to secure legal recognition of community-governed forest areas including ICCAs. The key event of the year was CBD COP 11, for which many events and publications were prepared (see later). A google group of all Consortium Members in South and East Asia was also created.

## **Italy**

Besides supporting a national study on ICCA Recognition and Support, the Consortium has been active with contacts with the national network of organizations interested in supporting a rebirth of the "the commons" (*Consulta Nazionale della Proprietà Collettiva*) and introduced there the ICCA concept and movement. An ICCA alert was processed and an official letter was written and delivered to national authorities.

## **Iran**

The Consortium helped to establish two federations of nomads and farmers: the Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran (UNINOMAD) and the Union of Indigenous Camel Herders of Iran (UNICAMEL). These were later helped to affiliate with the Consortium as new Members. Among the many interventions with specific indigenous peoples and communities, the Consortium provided assistance to the Abolhassani Tribal Confederacy to carry out pilot experiences in participatory GIS to establish and demarcate the legal boundaries of their territory-based ICCAs and develop their own research and management plans. Communities concerned with the Anzali wetland were assisted to develop documentation for its recognition as an ICCA. In the Zagros Mountain Range, communities were helped in their own forests conservation initiatives. With the Bakhtiari Tribal

Confederacy, territory-based ICCAs were reclaimed and an existing SGP project was technically supported to secure the conservation of wild plants such as shallot, celery, Crown Imperial, etc. Support was extended to prepare project proposals on the ecological restoration of ICCAs, on strengthening customary institutions for natural resource management and on reclaiming good governance of their territories (Taklé tribe, Shahsevan confederacy; Heybatlu sub-tribe of Shish Bayli Tribe of Qashqai tribal confederacy; Qurt sub-tribe of Qashqai tribal confederacy). In a number of communities, Community Bio-cultural Diversity Registers and Protocols are being developed. National congresses have been enriched with ICCA reports and discussions. Participatory videos and photostories were developed on participatory plant and animal breeding and on sustainable management of natural resources to adapt to climate change. Some photostories on ICCAs are about to be completed.

### **Namibia**

The Consortium supported Integrated Rural Development and Conservation (IRNDC), an organisation striving to strengthen and restore its ICCA, through legal training and the development of a bio-cultural community protocol to obtain stronger protection to customary practices in agreement with government. Contacts were entertained with Nyae Nyae Conservancy around developing a bio-cultural community protocol also there to assist in protecting their communal land. Pictures were collected for a Photo-story on Bwabwata National Park.

### **Nepal**

The Consortium assisted its Members Forest Action Nepal and ICCA Network Nepal to hold [two national gatherings](#) on ICCAs: the fourth meeting of the ICCA Network Nepal and the Ban Chautari Consortium meeting on “Role of Indigenous and Local Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) in Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal”. A Federation of ICCAs in Nepal could not be registered as government officials rejected the application because all proposed members do not have terms “Indigenous”, “Community” and “Conserved Areas” in their name. In the ICCA Network gathering it was then decided to register a few more organizations and try once again. Meetings at Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation and media events were organized to discuss ICCAs and allowed the gathering of plenty of objections and critical feedback... as the concept (as all issues pertaining to Indigenous peoples) is politically controversial. Members of the ICCA Consortium in Nepal planned to identify, map and document ICCAs across the country outside but also within official protected areas, as for Khumbu (Sagarmatha National Park), Pungmo (Shey-Phoksundo National Park), Sikles (Annapurna Conservation Area), Tsum sacred valley (Manaslu Conservation Area), etc. They are gearing up to develop Photo Stories for Khumbu and Pungmo ICCAs.

### **Niger**

The Consortium facilitated the engagement of pastoralist communities in the official establishment of Termit Tin Touma— a protected area of 10 million hectares signed off by the Nigerian government on March 6, 2012. It also run participatory workshops on the history, challenges, threats and opportunities of the *Houroums* (ICCAs) of Malley and Kollangou Bangui and the communities' responses to all those (e.g., traditional boundaries and rules maintained by local chiefs in absence of legal recognition). The workshops also allowed the identification of a *Grand Houroum*— cross-border necklace of ICCAs spanning about 2000 km from southern Nigeria to the south of Algeria, used by pastoralists during their migratory paths, which the Consortium is now promoting as a possible focus of an FAO support initiative. The Consortium accompanied community representatives to present the results of their work and initiate support from GEF-SGP and the Ministry in charge of protected areas to conserve/restore their *Houroums*, to better organise themselves and to get legal recognition of their governance role. It is also helping in the development of a specific project proposal for GEF SGP. A [Photo Story on the Houroum of Malley & Kollangou Bangui](#) was prepared

and is available on line. Some ICCA material (extracts from the Briefing Note No. 10 published by the Consortium) was translated into Hausa.

### ***Panama***

Assistance was provided to develop and obtain funding for a GEF SGP initiative on sacred sites in the Usdub indigenous community (Comarca Gunayala). Communication on ICCAs was entertained with current Members and potential Members (e.g., Asociación SOTZ'IL y Aktenamit, Guatemala; Asociación de jóvenes Embera-Waunan, Panama) and national authorities in Panama.

### ***Paraguay***

The Consortium supported the development of an ICCA Photo Story in the territories of un-contacted Ayoreo people in the Chaco region. The Photo Story has been developed by contacted Ayoreo peoples who are relatives of the un-contacted ones. The Photo Story is currently being completed.

### ***The Philippines***

Field-based assistance was provided to several Consortium Members in the Philippines during the National ICCA Symposium of March 2012 (which produced the [Manila declaration](#)) and, in general, to promote good understanding of ICCAs in the country. Support by local Philippine Consortium staff included presentations and discussions in indigenous communities such as the Ilonggot of Aurora, the Tagbanua of Palawan, the Higaonon of Bukidnon, the Maeng of Abra, and the Ikalahan of Nueva Vizcaya. The Consortium is engaged in on-going identification of ICCA sites and progress towards a national ICCA network; support for the development of an ICCA Photo Story in Imugan in Nueva Vizcaya (under completion) and support to collect information for the registration of several ICCA sites in the UNEP WCMC ICCA Registry. A compilation of lessons from the Philippines has been prepared for use in Indonesia. An ICCA alert was processes and an official letter written and delivered to national authorities.

### ***Senegal***

The Consortium ran a series of radio programmers, including a live “questions and answers” period, to diffuse information on ICCAs in Casamance. It facilitated the establishment of the NGO KABEKA--dedicated to supporting the appropriate emergence, recognition and support of new ICCAs. And it provided assistance, through timely missions and exchange visits, to communities in Casamance and other regions desiring to foster the “emergence” of their ICCAs. Technical assistance to the Consortium Member APCRM was maintained to extend their ICCA Kawawana and rehabilitate rice fields through new dams against salt intrusion (linking community work for food security/sovereignty with community work for ICCAs). Some first steps were taken to establish a network of marine and coastal ICCAs in West Africa (Kawawana, Mlomp, Kaffountine, Kartiack, Fadiouth, Tenguene, Sokone, Bolol, Orangouzinho) although much needs to happen before the network will become operational. Several contacts were entertained with GEF SGP Dakar to develop projects to extend Kawawana, to support KABEKA, and to support each new ICCA eventually formally established in the country (support is mostly sought for demarcation and surveillance equipment). The ICCA Kawawana was honoured in 2012 with two international Awards: [the PRCM Prize](#) and the [Equator Initiative Award for 2012](#)

### ***Spain***

Besides a national study, the Consortium has promoted an analysis of threats to ICCAs and community responses that gave origin to a [Photo Story on the community hill of Santiago de Covelo](#). Currently, initiatives are developing on a network of organizations interested in supporting a rebirth of “the commons” as a basis for ICCAs in the Spanish peninsula.



### **South Africa**

Assistance was provided to a community in Kruger-to-Canyons (K2C) Biosphere Reserve that is actively seeking legal recognition for its own governance of specific areas.

### **Taiwan**

Besides the national study on ICCA legal recognition and support, assistance was extended to develop a project proposal for documentation of ICCAs. The Consortium facilitated the participation of Taiwanese Members in CBD COP11 where they highlighted conservation and ICCA issues in Taiwan. A Photo Story is planned to document threats in Lanyu Island, the ICCA of the Tao people.

### **Work-package A and B (obj. A2, A3, B2)—Developing publications on the basis of country-specific studies and analyses**

The following are the main publications developed by the Consortium (or with important inputs from the Consortium) in 2012:

[Recognising and Supporting Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#), Ed. by A. Kothari with C. Corrigan, H. Jonas, A. Neumann, and H. Shrumm, as **CBD Secretariat's Technical Series 64**; this includes 19 country level case studies, a global overview, and background resources on ICCAs. Released at the CBD COP11 (Oct 2012).

[Recognising and Supporting Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: An analysis of international law, national legislation, judgements and institutions as they interrelate with territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities](#), published by the ICCA Consortium, Natural Justice and Kalpavriksh. Released at World Conservation Congress V (Jeju, Sept 2012) and CBD COP11 (Hyderabad, Oct 2012).

[Community Conserved Areas in South Asia: Case studies and analyses from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka](#), Ed. by S. Bhatt, N. Pathak Broome, A. Kothari, and T. Balasinorwala, published by Kalpavriksh, India and released at CBD COP 11 (Hyderabad, Oct 2012).

Pathak Broome, N. and N. Hazarika, "India: Community Conservation at Cross Roads", in Dudley, N. and S. Stolton, [Protected Landscapes and Wild Biodiversity, Volume 3 in the Values of Protected Landscapes and Seascapes Series](#), IUCN, Gland (Switzerland), 2012.

[The Living Convention on Biocultural Diversity](#): A Compendium of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Rights Relevant to Maintaining the Integrity and Resilience of Territories and other Biocultural Systems – available on line, produced by Natural Justice with Consortium inputs.

New reprints (released in Oct. 2012) of [Bio-cultural diversity conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities – Examples and analysis](#)  
[La diversité bio-culturelle conservée par les peuples autochtones et les communautés locales—Exemples et analyses](#)

Numerous national and occasional publications and videos have been produced but are not listed here.

In 2012 the Consortium dedicated time and human resources to organize attendance and many specific events for international policy meetings, as reported below:

**13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology (Montpellier, France, May 2012)**

The Consortium participation involved a pre-congress workshop organised in collaboration with its Member Global Diversity Foundation, a special pre-congress session of the indigenous peoples' Forum and a few formal events at the Congress. The topical focus of the Consortium participation was "Conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities: participatory action research, diffusion and lobbying". A report was published and is available in three languages from [this page](#).

**United Nations Rio+20 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 2012)**

The Consortium was present in the United Nations Rio+20 Conference and in the parallel Peoples Summit, and co-organised events with the Equator Initiative and the Peoples' Sustainability Treaties, in particular on the topic of Radical Ecological Democracy. In all, it dealt with about fifteen events, not including marches and public demonstrations. One of the Consortium Members (*Association des Pecheurs de la Communauté Rurale de Mangagoulack*) was honoured with the Equator Initiative Award for 2012. The [Consortium Participants' Report in Rio+20](#) is available as part of the Rio+20 [dedicated page](#) in the Consortium web site. Among the documents distributed in Rio was the [ICCA Examples and Analyses](#) publication in three languages.

**Vth IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) – September 2012 in Jeju, South Korea**

The Consortium helped in the drafting and collection of endorsements for the motion on ICCAs, which was eventually adopted as [Resolution 5.094 Respecting, recognizing and supporting Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas](#), prepared background documents and briefing notes and supported advocacy efforts for other key motions discussed during the Members' Assembly, including the Gangjeong Village motion. The Consortium organised fifteen ICCA-related Forum events, including workshops, panels, book-launches and an all-day training. The [Consortium Participants' Report in the Vth WCC](#) provides links to specific descriptions of the organised events and the beginning of an analysis of the relationship between the Consortium and the IUCN. The key document launched by the Consortium at WCC in Jeju is the [ICCA Legal Review](#) publication in three languages.

**11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP11) – October 2012 in Hyderabad, India**

The Consortium was strongly engaged in preparing for CBD COP11, planning, organising and running and/or participation in many ICCA-related events, including official side events, workshops, book launches, press events and a full day [Colloquium on 'Role of ICCAs in Achieving the Aichi Targets'](#) co-organised with the CBD Secretariat. Technical submissions were made to the CBD Secretariat prior to the COP and collaboration was maintained with the CBD Alliance and IIFB, including daily meetings, preparation of documents, articles, etc. We focused on issues related to legal and non-legal ways to appropriately recognise and support ICCAs, governance of protected areas, the establishment of National ICCA federations and networks, and the role of ICCAs for food sovereignty and in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) towards achieving the CBD Aichi Targets. The major document launched by the Consortium at COP 11 is the [CBD Technical Series no. 64 on Recognising and Supporting ICCAs](#). We also launched again the [ICCA Legal Review](#) in three languages and distributed reprints of [ICCA Examples and Analyses](#), also in three languages. A

compilation of provisions from all COP11 Decisions of relevance to ICCAs and to indigenous peoples and local communities in general is available as part of the [Consortium's Participants' Report in CBD COP 11](#). Currently, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Consortium and the CBD Secretariat is being finalised/updated in light of COP11 outcomes.

**17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP18) – December 2012 in Doha, Qatar**

The Consortium participated there with its President and several Members, and organized and/or participated in a number of side events. The Participants' Report is about to be completed. The Consortium distributed copies of a [Discussion paper on REDD](#) and 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.

A number of other meetings were attended by the ICCA Consortium in 2012, and in all such cases the Consortium staff was specifically invited and supported. Examples of these meetings include the *National Engagement Strategy Roundtable Discussions* organized by the International Land Coalition (ILC) and the Asian NGO Coalition (Manila, the Philippines, June 2012); the *WILD/Native Lands Wilderness Council* (Pablo, Montana, USA September 2012); the *First Global Soil Week* (Berlin, Germany, November 2012); the 7<sup>th</sup> *Forum of Conférence sur les Ecosystèmes des Forêts Denses et Humides d'Afrique Centrale* (Kigali, Rwanda, Novembre 2012). In addition, there were several meetings of the GEF NGO Council and GEF Council Consultation with Civil Society, as the Consortium is now officially a member of the **GEF NGO Network** and asked to participate on a regular basis in the twice yearly GEF Council Consultations and associated meetings.

Throughout 2012, extensive collaboration continued with the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, CBD, WCPA, TILCEPA and GIZ for the development of the forthcoming **Guidelines on Governance of Protected Areas** as part of the IUCN series on Best Practice in Protected Areas. The ICCA Consortium is a key collaborating partner in this publication, expected in press in March 2013.

Collaboration and exchanges continued with the protected areas unit of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), in particular regarding new entries in the **ICCA Registry**, comments to Protected Planet publications and discussions around an ICCA Toolkit under development.

Regarding relative disappointments in terms of international relations we must report that the letter we sent to propose collaboration with the UN Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the subject of ICCAs has remained so far without an official reply. We also need to make more and better efforts to develop meaningful institutional collaborations with UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNFPII).

**Work-package B (obj. B3)— Managing the operations of the ICCA Consortium through a decentralized secretariat**

***Institutional life of the Consortium -- internal***

- Organised, run and reported about the [Vth General Assembly of the Consortium](#) (Pastapur, India, October, 2012)
- Replacement of a retired Member of the Steering Committee (Mr. Dennis Rose) with Ms. Chrissy Grant – indigenous person from Australia
- Organised, conducted and reported about two meetings of the Consortium Steering Committee

### ***Institutional life of the Consortium -- external***

- Strengthened and/or maintained institutional cooperation with GEF SGP, the CBD Secretariat, the IUCN, and UNEP WCMC
- Strengthened and/or maintained collaboration and communication with other partners and donors, including via the successful approval, running and completion of numerous new grants in 2012. Examples:
  - Swedbio grant of \$80,500 to support ICCA Legal Review studies -- via our Member Natural Justice
  - Grant from UNDP/EI to support studies for CBD Technical Series 64 -- \$15,000
  - Grant from Salvia Foundation to support ISE 2012 Workshop and follow up work in RDC, Senegal and Niger -- €15,000
  - Grant from the IUCN for ICCA work in marine and coastal areas in West Africa -- €2,000
  - Grant from SWIFT Foundation for workshop in British Colombia --\$20,000
  - GIZ support to Consortium General Assembly Pastapur (India) -- \$4,123
  - GIZ support to Kinshasa workshop about €30,000 via our Member REPALF
  - GIZ support to reprinting of ICCA volumes in English and French -- approx. €12,000 – via our Member Cenesta
  - Two travel grants from Institute of International Education (IIE)/TCF (\$5,000 + \$5,000) to support participants to Rio+20 and CBD COP 11
  - Successful applications to the CBD Voluntary Fund, CEESP, IUCN for travel of indigenous peoples and others to Rio+20, WCC, COP 11, etc.
  - Pending: support from Salvia Foundation for submitted project development in Casamance (Senegal) €20,000

### ***Membership and support to Members***

- Acquisition of about **fifteen new organizational Members of the Consortium** and nearly **50 new Honorary members** (see the [Consortium page](#))
- Managing overall database and facilitating decisions on Members' invitations and admissions
- Managing four regularly updated goggle-groups for internal communication among Members, Honorary members, Steering Committee and Staff
- Helping with logistical arrangements such as fundraising, travel, accommodation and registration of Consortium participants and provision of technical support for their interventions for all the international events along the year

### ***Information and communication***

- Fully revised and improved Wikipedia entry for "ICCA"
- Expansion of the ICCA Forum web site
- New blog: <http://iccaconsortium.wordpress.com/the-icca-consortium/>
- [2 issues of the Consortium Newsletter](#) (a third to be released in January 2013)
- [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for the Consortium
- The Regional Coordinators, members of the Steering Committee and Consortium Members and Honorary members in general participate in a variety of national events, present papers and compile and diffuse lessons learned in ICCAs. This is important on-going background work (effectiveness depends on the capacities of the involved individuals and specific contexts)

### ***ICCA Alert Mechanism***

- Our Internet-based alert mechanism is one of the least successful elements of the life of the Consortium so far. We have attempted alerts via [web pages](#) and e-mail, but our staff time is too limited and the size of our membership too small to engender a meaningful impact vis-à-vis other similar services (e.g., Avaaz or Rainforest Alliance) that specialize on these initiatives. We



thus decided to respond to the alerts received from our Members by developing official letters from Consortium officials to national high level officials in the concerned countries (e.g., the President of the Philippines, the Italian Prime Minister). Our letters are usually replied to, although it is difficult to assess their real impact in terms of affected decisions.

### ***Administration***

- Identified, recruited, contracted, assisted and supervised staff, including new Regional Coordinators in Africa and Europe for a total of 16-18 persons in any given month of the year; all Assistants and Coordinators work on a semi-volunteer basis, with compensations ranging from \$150 to \$700 monthly. Some are full volunteers.
- Coordinated yearly action plans, budgets and reporting for Members and donors.
- Managed the financial resources for all grants to the Consortium.

For most of the initiatives and achievements listed above, TCF funding has synergized funding from other sources, including Swedbio, UNDP, GIZ, IUCN, CBD, GEF, as well as Members of the Consortium and national NGOs and government agencies from France, Germany, India, Iran, Nepal, The Netherlands, the Philippines, Switzerland and Taiwan-- among others. Such collaborations are one of the elements of strength of the Consortium, rooted in the trust gained with our Members and Partners through numerous prior engagements in the last decades.

## ***Discussion***

### ***The Consortium as a Member-based organisation***

The Consortium is emerging as a local-to-global institution to conserve bio-cultural diversity, promote sustainable livelihoods and secure human and indigenous peoples' rights. As our institutional form is the association, our membership is crucial to us. In 2012 we have seen a steady growth in our membership up to the present 46 institutional Members from 25 countries and 100 Honorary members from 40 countries. We make an effort to be sure that membership is meaningful for both the Consortium and the applicant before accepting any new Member and we relate individually with each of them. Likely as a result, we are seeing examples of remarkable collaborations between the Consortium and its Members, in particular in developing joint publications, country-based studies and field initiatives. The Consortium provides an international ear and voice for many of its Members, and a possibility to engage in international initiatives and participate in international events as part of a group. In turn, the Members provide the institution with an on-going "relevance check" and with roots in concrete ecological and cultural contexts.

The Consortium has now consolidated its staff, which is providing services, expanding the membership and developing initiatives. Ongoing work needs to be pursued and initiatives need to be seeded in more countries where ICCAs still do exist but are poorly understood and under threat.

### ***The Consortium as an international actor***

The ICCA Consortium consolidated its international reputation during 2012 as an international coalition dedicated to appropriate recognition of and support to territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities. In many ways, however, we are still also engaged in promoting an appropriate "understanding" of ICCAs— a concept and practice that merge attention and care for bio-cultural diversity, sustainable livelihoods and human and indigenous peoples' rights.

We regularly find that some indigenous peoples are suspicious of organisations and ideas that sound even marginally “conservation oriented,” while conservation constituencies continue to be wary of organisations and ideas that promote development and rights, despite progress made in the last decade to demonstrate that indigenous peoples and local communities can be very effective actors in conservation. The Consortium is thus called to strike a difficult balance... Through events, publications, videos and on-going interaction with existing and potential Members, both ICCA’s and our own “image” are hopefully becoming clearer, while losing nothing of their complexity, as time proceeds.

In 2012 we made important progress in our institutional collaborations with the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, and the GEF NGO Network. As a testimony, early in 2013 we are partnering with both GEF SGP New York and with the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme for two major grants proposals that – if approved – will determine a major part of the work of those organizations for several years. While we are very satisfied about that, we remain aware that these partnerships largely rest on the trust in some individuals working for the Consortium. It will take time for the organization to consolidate as an ***institution trusted because of itself*** rather than because of the individuals representing it.

There are also cases of institutional collaborations where our work must be intensified. For instance, we must renew efforts to develop a better and more substantial interaction with the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and we must keep nourishing work with the UN Special Rapporteurs.



### ***Political impact and orientation***

The Consortium has consolidated its international policy impact through CBD and IUCN. CBD COP 11 was a milestone for our work, especially through the renewed legitimacy offered by our close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, the TS 64 volume, the wording of new CBD decisions (as part of but also beyond protected area provisions) and the opportunity offered by CBD Aichi Target 11 to highlight ICCAs as both officially recognized protected areas and “other effective area-based conservation measures”. After the Vth WCC, and the approval of the ICCA Resolution, we are gearing up for another milestone at the 6th World Parks Congress in Australia in 2014.

Already, international conservation policy cannot ignore or bypass ICCAs— something impossible to imagine ten years ago. But we must go beyond that for ICCAs to find a meaningful and solid place in national policies and practice. This is becoming urgent today as information on the significant coverage of the earth by ICCAs, though still very incomplete, is better available and increasingly accepted. Considerable progress on the appreciation of the “conservation value” of ICCAs does usher in a renewed threat of inappropriate or inadequate recognition, in particular in view of CBD Aichi Target 11. In a similar vein, recognition of the “carbon stocking value” of ICCAs also amplifies

the threats of misappropriation. *Conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities should be fully respected, appropriately recognized and sufficiently supported*—and the Consortium has the will and capacity to support its Members and their countries to achieve just that.

Meanwhile, the Consortium has supported work in some countries where our Members, Honorary members and Partners managed to shift gear from the focus on exemplary ICCA single cases to developing ICCA coalitions and federations at the national level. This is exemplified by the Philippines ([Manila declaration](#)), Madagascar ([Anja declaration](#)), Nepal (national ICCA network determined to become a federation, despite strong political resistance), Iran (Brueguert declaration) and the RDC ([Kinshasa declaration](#)). Federations and coalitions augment the voice of IPs and LCs in national situations. In Senegal we are also seeing an NGO created by one of our Members with support from the Consortium *specifically* to make sure that the current wave of interest in ICCAs is not exploited and wasted by copycat operations without integrity... something that could happen in many countries.

Not all countries are (in the words of Delfin Ganapin, Global Director of GEF SGP, at CBD COP 11) already at the “maturity level” of developing ICCA coalitions and federations. Besides the countries just mentioned, the Consortium is thus focusing on others where, if the movement is not yet strong, appropriate recognition and support to ICCAs can make a substantial difference for conservation, sustainable livelihoods and the respect of human and indigenous peoples’ rights. These include countries where ICCA activities are only budding but have potential to develop significantly in the years ahead. With the active support of our Members we are confident we can continue our positive development and strengthen the influence the Consortium in 2013 and years to come.

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

Cover picture: A woman from the *sanghams* affiliated with the Deccan Development Society (Consortium Member) shows a sample of the wealth of diversity she cultivates in her field (Pastapur, India, October 2012) (*courtesy Ashish Kothari*)

Back cover picture: The “Minister of Culture” leads a traditional pigmy dance in celebration of the closing of the workshop on the role of indigenous peoples in conserving biodiversity co-sponsored by the ICCA Consortium (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, November 2012). The workshop gave origin to the [Kinshasa declaration](#) (*courtesy Christian Chatelain*)



Please visit: [www.iccaconsortium.org](http://www.iccaconsortium.org)