

The ICCA Consortium



Joaquin Meliñir of the Cooperativa Pewenche de Quinquén (Consortium Member from Chile) and Jorge Nahuel of the Confederacion Mapuche de Neuquen (Consortium Member from Argentina) meet Luvuyo Mandela—great-grandson of Nelson Mandela— at the IUCN World Parks Congress Sydney 2014, and proudly display the flag of their Mapuche indigenous nation.

2014 Annual Report

March 28, 2015

A word from the President, Global Coordinator and Treasurer

Today, international conservation policy can no longer ignore ICCAs— something impossible to imagine ten years ago. After the recent CBD COPs the World Conservation Congress of 2012 and the World Parks Congress of Sydney 2014, “conserved areas” are recognized by more and more people to be *at least as important as protected areas* in conserving the basis of life in our planet. This, however, is not lessening the risks for ICCAs. In the short term, it may actually heighten such risks, a fact of which we have been aware for some time. For instance, increased visibility and interference in their internal affairs— in particular external intervention in ICCAs’ governance institutions—are likely to generate destructive conflicts within the ICCA caretaker communities. Even explicit initiatives and policies that aim at recognizing and supporting ICCAs can easily become inappropriate, and end up damaging—more than strengthening—the relevant communities. Yet, **the “genie” of the conservation value of ICCAs is out of the bottle**, and we must learn fast how to control its power. In other words, now that the world knows that ICCAs have conservation value, we must try to make sure that the recognition of such value is appropriate and non-destructive. Very similarly, enhanced awareness of the carbon stock value of ICCAs amplifies the threats of misappropriation and programmes such as REDD+ must be accompanied by specific safeguards.

In general, ICCAs embody all sorts of cultural, political, spiritual and economic values, bound to attract exploitative interests that can undermine them at their core. Potentially the most benign of all such interests is a government interest to “count” ICCAs as part of the national conservation coverage to meet CBD’s Aichi Target 11. If all forms of green grabbing are excluded, and if governments are respectful and open, this may actually promote a win-win situation, where the recognition of the conservation value helps fend off all sorts of other exploitative uses of land, water

and natural resources. This is, in fact, one of the very reasons why many indigenous peoples and local communities ask governments to recognize their ICCAs—they hope to add an extra layer of protection to whatever rights they possess. In this light, governments and the public at large should understand that, for their conservation value to remain viable, ICCAs ought to be properly **understood, respected, defended,**

recognized and supported.

The economic powers coveting ICCAs must be reined in, and the primacy of nature,

culture and collective rights must be reaffirmed. This requires proper attention in national legislation, policy and practice... but also proper means to defend and secure ICCAs from the many dangers they face. As we write this note, a disastrous fire is ravaging the ancient *Araucaria* forests of Chile. Apparently the government is focusing on protecting the forests included in national parks and not doing enough to protect those conserved (some would say better conserved) by the local indigenous communities as their own ancestral territories, source of livelihoods and identity. This must change.



Smoking Ceremony at Taromak to initiate a meeting of the newly created “Union of Indigenous Conserved Territories of Taiwan”. The Consortium President brings the support of the entire association.

The Consortium has the will and capacity to support its Members and their countries to advance action in support of ICCAs. Strategically, it has chosen to focus on promoting **ICCA coalitions and federations** at the national level, which augment the voice of indigenous peoples and local communities in national situations. Examples of national ICCA networks and federations that the Consortium has accompanied and promoted include Bukluran in the Philippines, Taafo Mihaavo in Madagascar, the ICCA Network in Nepal, UNINOMAD in Iran, Iniciativa Comunales in Spain, the ICCA Working Group in Indonesia and China and the recently created Union of Indigenous Conserved Territories in Taiwan. The networks, coalitions and federations engage with relevant ICCA policy, legislation, national initiatives and in a variety of struggles. More ICCA working groups and coalitions are emerging in Canada, Chile, Bolivia, Guatemala, Senegal, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Interestingly, many of our members already *are* federations, coalitions and networks. In their case, the Consortium's task is one of encouraging them to properly and more effectively engage in ICCA work.



Consortium International Policy Coordinator, Holly Jonas, & Honorary Member Jeremy Ironside met in Phnom Penh in early 2015...

This is where we are, at this moment of heightened danger and opportunities for ICCAs, for which the awareness and engagement of all Consortium members are fundamental. Will we manage to rise to the challenge? There is only one way to do it, and it is with the help of everyone. ***“You are the Consortium!”*** is the title of a new section in our [Newsletter \(see here issue 9 of March 2015\)](#). Please go to that section right now... Ask yourself what you can offer, easily but steadily, generously and effectively, and follow-up your own answer with action. If you are an honorary member, you may wish to offer a word of advice, help to identify the right persons to engage in the Policy and Legislation Working Group and Teams, facilitate a link between specific communities and your regional Coordinator or offer yourself to work on a *Briefing Note* or help

plan new initiatives. If you belong to a member organization, you may make sure that someone in your organization is active as a point of contact with the Consortium and as a channel/ multiplier of information, benefits and learning. If you are a community or IP representative make sure that the Consortium knows your ICCA well, that it knows your problems and opportunities and what your community wishes to do. And if you are inclined to deal with policy and legislation, make sure to join one of the teams in the ICCA Working Group on Law and Policy coordinated by Holly Jonas. The important point is: please do not only watch from the sidelines... get active, *be the Consortium* by joining others in action!

Many thanks in advance!

Taghi, Grazia and Stan

Executive summary

2014 has been a year of prolonged transition between the emergence of the Consortium and its consolidation. In January 2014 we started with some savings in the bank but no active source of funding after completion of our initial main grants, and with a huge opportunity ahead of us—the key organizing role in the Governance Stream at the World Parks Congress (WPC) of Sydney 2014, for which we were and had been actively working as volunteers since early in 2013. We felt relatively “safe” in terms of budget, as the UNDP Global Support Initiative (GSI) was supposed to start imminently... but we nevertheless decided to embark on special fundraising efforts to fully take

advantage of CBD COP 12 and WPC to consolidate the recognition of ICCAs in conservation. Indeed, this proved to be a saving grace. Our timely efforts helped us to succeed in organizing the most ambitious series of events we have ever attempted, but also allowed the Consortium to continue functioning even during the continuing wait for GSI to start (we have now been waiting for 15 months). This would have been impossible without our wonderful Consortium Coordinators, most of whom continued working as much as they could, with or without money.

Technically, the year saw the launch of several important publications, including the first issue of the new Consortium *Policy Brief* series. We also developed and brought to wide attention the new concept of “governance vitality”, inspired by some of the best characteristics of the institutions governing ICCAs: wisdom and learning from social and ecological history, flexibility in responding to change, local knowledge and creativity, true empowerment that links collective rights to collective responsibilities.

As you all know, the ICCA National federations, coalitions and networks are at the heart of the strategic approach of the Consortium. In 2014 those have consolidated and expanded, with The Philippines in leading position (the Second National Conference on ICCAs took place in 2014 and a specific piece of ICCA legislation is under discussion in Parliament) but ICCA work proceeding in many other countries and specific positive developments registered in Canada, Bolivia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Iran, Senegal, Spain, and Taiwan. Yet, attacks on ICCAs remain numerous and unrelenting. A tip of the iceberg: throughout the past 15 months the Consortium was engaged in ICCA alerts and awareness raising on issues that ranged from fracking in Argentina to primary forest logging in Finland, from human rights abuse of indigenous nomadic pastoralist tribes in Tanzania to the dangers of privatizing access to the sea in Honduras. We are very aware that we are often able to provide relatively small responses to these and many other critical situations, but we were told that our intervention at times did make the difference... which is most rewarding to hear. On the basis of our short but rich experience, in 2014 we decided to revamp our communication strategy. Work on that has been relatively slow to develop, as we must plan this carefully and closely link it with the long term strategy of the Consortium as an institution.

We are happy to report that our network continues to strengthen and expand. In 2014, the growth of membership has increased its pace to reach, at present, 80 member tribes, federations and organizations and 173 individuals who are honorary members, from more than 70 countries (data of March 2015). We have engaged in institutional cooperation with the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, the CBD Secretariat, UNDP GEF SGP, WIN, the Equator Initiative, UNEP-WCMC, Vancouver Island University, Macquarie University and the WILD Foundation. Most importantly, we have been instrumental in bringing about an increased **recognition of the crucial value of ICCAs for the conservation of nature and for promoting human, indigenous and community rights**— a recognition that will bear fruit for years to come.



Members of Iniciativa Comunales (Spain) with the “Declaration of Valdeavellano de Tera”.

As mentioned in the opening statement of this report, however, the Consortium must now gear up to respond appropriately to the threats that go with the opportunities ahead.

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). As the ICCA concept gained momentum in the international policy arena (e.g., at the World Parks Congress of 2003, the World Conservation Congresses of 2004 and 2008, and in the 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 current [Statutes](#), approved in 2013). 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 on the occasion of the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan. The Members of the Consortium then developed a middle-term vision and a programme to approach that vision (see the Consortium [Vision 2020 and Work Programme 2011-2014](#)).

The Vision 2020 and Work Programme 2011-2014 were reviewed in 2014, and a work plan 2014-2017 (see early version in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) was approved by the Consortium Steering Committee in order to submit meaningful project proposals in 2014 (e.g. to The Christensen Fund and to UNDP GSI). Under on-going refinement, this work plan has been guiding the work of the Consortium in 2014 and continues to be followed in 2015.

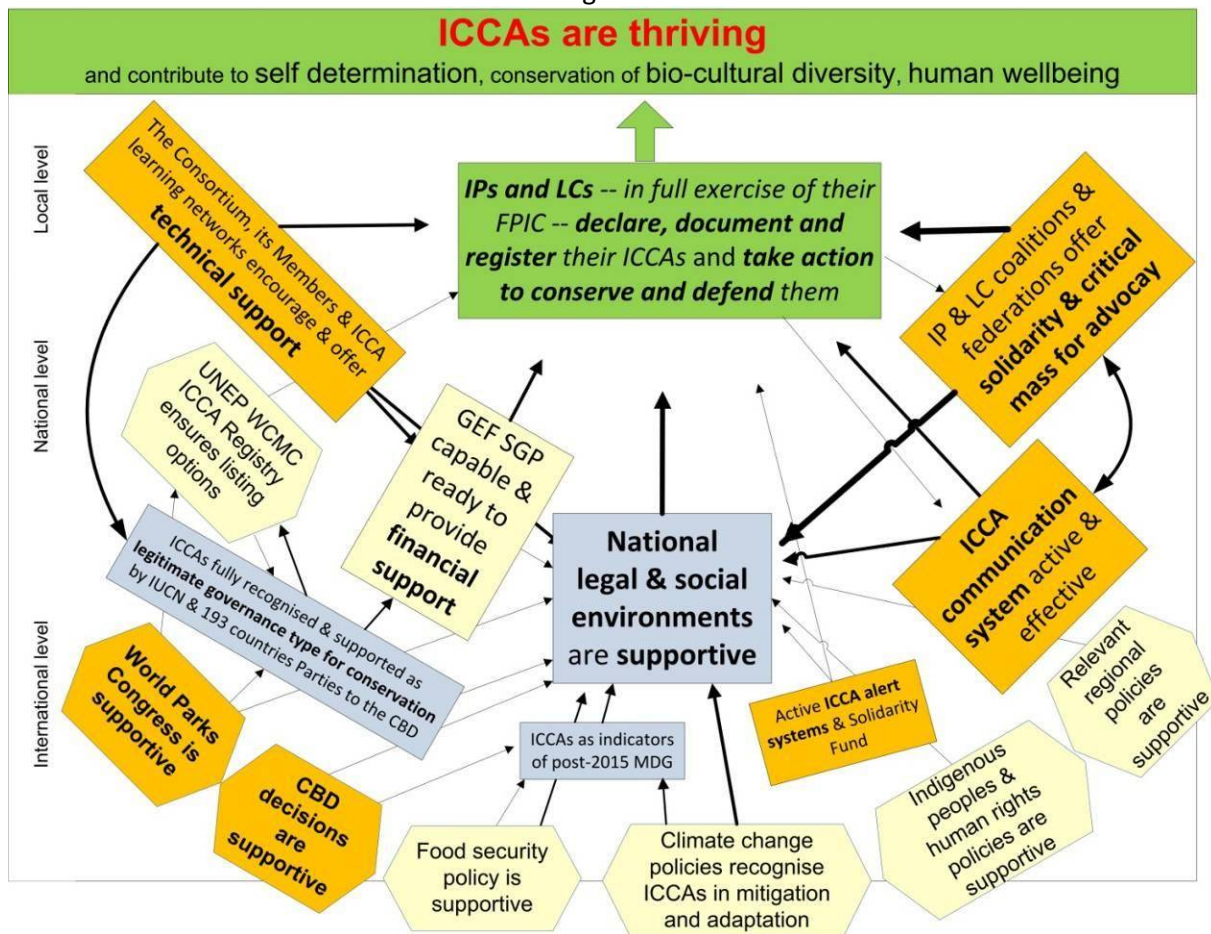
Throughout 2014 the Consortium carried out activities at international, national and local levels. The number of engaged personnel (the majority as full volunteers and 6 as semi-volunteers-- all on a part-time basis) varied throughout the year, reaching a maximum of 22 **regional coordinators and global staff**, working as part of an **electronic network** (no dedicated offices but regular communication via e-mail and Skype). Only on the occasion of international events did some members of the Steering Committee and staff have a chance to meet and physically work together. These opportunities are rare, but extremely valuable. Below we have listed only major activities and accomplishments where staff and members of the Steering Committee of the Consortium have taken part. It should be noted, however, that an important part of the value of the Consortium is 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 main accomplishments January-December 2014

1. Planning and fundraising

In 2014, the Consortium was engaged in **extensive planning and fundraising**, efforts that were both deeply satisfying and somehow also frustrating. We took satisfaction in developing the outline for the strategic approach **of the Consortium for 2014-2017**—which was used to develop project proposals, and in particular the one now at the heart of UNDP’s Global ICCA Support Initiative (GSI for short) and the 2014-2017 plan mentioned above. The current version of the strategic outlook is shown in Figure 1, below.

Figure 1



Designing specific initiatives to fit the strategic outlook, the Consortium obtained in 2014 three important new grants. The first one is a **US\$ 185,000 two-year grant from The Christensen Fund**, to support the overall work of the Consortium at international level (management, functioning and strategic direction of the Consortium, revamped communication strategy and alert mechanisms, participation in the World Parks Congress and other international policy events, support to a new Briefing Note series and other publications, exploration of a Solidarity Fund, etc.). The second is a **CHF 64,000 six month grant from the IUCN**, to support work on governance of protected and conserved areas closely related to the 2014 World Parks Congress. A smaller **grant of US\$ 24,400 from the University of Victoria Island (BC, Canada)** was also generously provided specifically to support the pre-WPC gathering on “Community conserving nature and culture” held in the Blue Mountains of NSW, Australia.

We have, however, been somehow frustrated by the long delay of the draft contract for the expected US\$496,000 grant from UNDP/ UNOPS that was to start “imminently” for most of 2014. As noted in the 2013 Report, UNDP GEF SGP confirmed in December 2013 a 12 million euro Global ICCA Support Initiative (GSI for short) to be implemented in partnership with the Consortium, the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme and UNEP WCMC. The delay in starting the grant is experienced by the three partners alike. The grant’s contracts are all still under discussion at the time of writing this report (March 2015). The delay of this grant is the main reason why most Consortium coordinators in 2014 had to work as full volunteers.

2. International policy advocacy

In 2014, the Consortium **continued and deepened its initiatives to bring about a positive recognition of ICCAs in international policy**. We dealt with conservation policy – the heartland of the Consortium—but also engaged with **indigenous peoples’ policy** and—to a lesser extent-- **food policy**.

Focusing on international policy at the interface between **ICCAs and the conservation of nature**, the Consortium produced a number of publications and actively participated in the 12th COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity (South Korea, October 2014) and the **World Parks**

Congress (WPC, Australia, November 2014). At COP 12, the Consortium co-organized two side events, two press events and a weekend workshop on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, Community Conservation and Customary Sustainable Use.

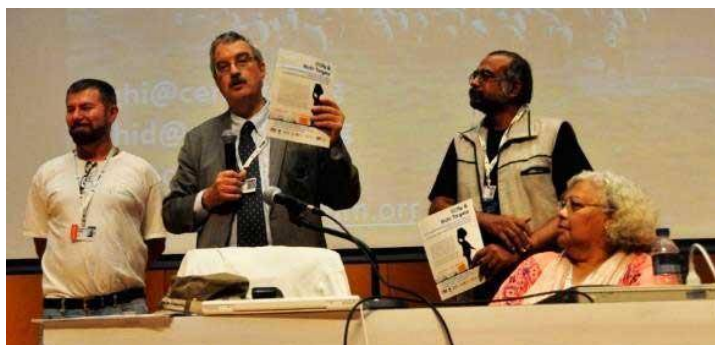
The participation in COP 12 did not draw resources from the Consortium’s budget as a number of separate travel grants were requested and obtained for our delegation there. Prior to that, another participation at no cost was achieved with a Consortium delegate (and Member of our Steering Committee) attending the CBD Expert workshop on Marine Spatial Planning (Canada, Sept 2014). With the remote support of a team of Consortium members and honorary members, our delegate was able to influence the "Consolidated Practical Guidance" and "Toolkit for Marine Spatial Planning" produced by the workshop, and to the recommendations it forwarded to CBD COP 12.

In conjunction with WPC, specific funding earmarked by the grants earned by the Consortium in 2014 allowed us to co-organise and carry out three specific initiatives:

- **Communities conserving nature and culture**– a gathering among indigenous peoples and local communities from five continents (“pre-WPC event”) in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, Australia (7 – 11 Nov. 2014)
- **Stream on enhancing the diversity, quality (and vitality) of governance of protected areas** at the IUCN World Park Congress (WPC) in Sydney, Australia (12 – 19 Nov. 2014)
- **Assessing, evaluating and planning to enhance the governance of protected area systems and individual sites**– a field-visit and capacity exchange event (“post-WPC event”) in Jervis Bay Territory (Country of the Dharawal, Durga and Wollongong Nations), New South Wales, Australia (20 – 25 Nov. 2014)



Yingyi Zhang (Consortium honorary member) speaking at the World Parks Congress of November 2014



John Scott (CBD Secretariat), Braulio de Souza Dias (Executive Secretary of the CBD), Ashish Kothari (Consortium Steering Committee) and Chrissy Grant (Consortium honorary member) at the launch of the Consortium Briefing Note on ICCAs & Aichi Targets (Oct. 2014).

Together, these represent the **largest and most ambitious coordinated series of events that the Consortium has ever attempted to organise or co-organise**. For the Pre-WPC gathering among representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities

from five continents, we collaborated for nearly a year with a variety of partners. For the post-WPC event we needed several months of preparation for the logistics and the local technical support (the field visits, the capacity exchange, etc.). And for the organisation of the Governance Stream at the World Parks Congress we engaged intensely during two full years.

Early in 2013, the Consortium had gained the important responsibility of co-leading the WPC Governance Stream. The role was assigned to us on the basis of a proposal we submitted as part of a team that included UNDP GEF SGP, GIZ, the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. With them, we spent two years designing the **overall approach to governance** of protected areas, assessing well over **400 submitted abstracts** and organising **25 workshops** and **9 side events** -- each lasting 1.5 to 3 hours -- with the help of over **70** individual experts from five continents which we had to identify, motivate, support and coach into becoming “**Governance Ambassadors**” at WPC. At WPC, we had to run the Stream, solve problems, gather the conclusions of each workshop and develop preliminary conclusions. After the Stream, we refined the conclusions in a participatory way into a statement that distilled that distilled [three strategic directions and twenty recommendations](#)..

In preparation for the activities that took place in Australia, the Consortium also took responsibility for carefully developing the **translation into Spanish and French of the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines no. 20 on Governance of Protected Areas**, and it follow-up their lay out, production and distribution. It also developed, designed, translated into Spanish and French and followed the production of a **Primer on Governance for Protected and Conserved Areas**, which was distributed at WPC. For WPC, the Consortium also produced **two original bags for delegates** and co-produced **four original posters**. Importantly, we produced specifically for distribution at CBD COP 12 and WPC the first issue of a **new Consortium Policy Brief Series**, an issue dedicated to ICCAs and the Aichi Targets.

Together, the three events we organised and supported in Australia combined to fulfil several objectives. For the 300 representatives of indigenous people and local communities who participated in the pre-WPC event, we offered an opportunity to exchange experiences, strengthen their voices and develop common statements to bring to the World Parks Congress. At WPC, we succeeded in our widely shared goal of consolidating and improving the understanding of governance of protected and conserved areas and equipping professionals and society in general, and indigenous peoples and local communities in particular, to take meaningful action on it. The [strategic conclusions of the Stream](#) and overall [Promise of Sydney](#) include important elements of innovation that reinforce the ICCA Consortium vision and reason to be. Finally, with the post-WPC event, we managed to pave the way for the ICCA Global Support Initiative and the Regional Learning Networks expected to bring to practice the learning from WPC. Overall, we were able to assist logistically, technically and at times also financially, about 100 Consortium members and honorary members who attended one or more of the events. Interestingly, as part of the events we held the VIIth Consortium’s General Assembly with the participation of about 120 people.



Reza Salehi and Ghanimat Azhdari of Iran offering a plenary presentation at the World Parks Congress of November 2014

The participation of the Consortium in CBD COP 12 and the World Parks Congress has already produced meaningful results. Decision XII.19 of CBD COP 12, for instance, reaffirms the value of ICCAs for conservation and restoration activities. And ICCAs were prominently mentioned in the statement made by the CBD Alliance in the plenary session of the High Level Segment of the COP—signaling that understanding of the value of ICCAs is moving well beyond the members of the Consortium alone. The WPC’s Promise of Sydney, has also signaled for the movement nothing short of a major milestone: “protected areas” and “conserved areas” are used in tandem throughout the ‘Promise’ and perceived as having the same level of importance for conservation. This, and the many specific recommendations from the Streams, will accompany implementation throughout the next decade and more. As an example “conserved areas” are now featured prominently in the WCPA Strategic Framework for Capacity Development.

At the national level, results are also impressive. The Consortium-sponsored delegations from the Philippines and Iran combined high level indigenous peoples’ representatives and government officials. Providing such delegations with opportunities to present together and see ICCA issues in the broader conservation context and in comparison with the policies of other countries stimulated – right after and as a direct result of the World Parks Congress – the first **reading in the Parliament of the Philippines of a new piece of legislation specifically on ICCAs** as well as several **new field initiatives in Iran, including ICCAs as prime examples of conservation and restoration solutions for wetlands**. Many other delegations-- from Indonesia to Bolivia, from India to Guatemala, China, Madagascar, Namibia, Australia and Chile participated in the Consortium’s organized events and carried home new ideas towards better legal and social support for ICCAs. Unfortunately, we suffered a setback regarding the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – one of the countries we had more closely supported and accompanied. Several Australian visas already obtained for indigenous and community delegates from DRC were cancelled at the last minute, exactly during the days of expected travel. This made us waste a large amount of resources, including flight tickets, and was truly disheartening. We are now supporting an **ICCA policy working group in DRC**, but the momentum that would have been generated by their participation in the Congress must now be recreated otherwise.

Focusing on **ICCAs and international indigenous peoples’ policy**, an ICCA workshop was co-organised with UNDP GEF SGP on the occasion of UNFPII (New York, May 2014, travel sponsorship of the Consortium delegation was obtained independently) and a side event was co-organised at EMRIP (Geneva, July 2014, travel sponsorship obtained independently). A Consortium representative also took a very active role in the [Panel Discussion on Indigenous Peoples at the 20th Meeting of the Human Rights Council](#) (Geneva, Sept. 2014) and participated in the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (New York, Sept 2014, again with independent funding covering travel).



Field visit on the occasion of an FAO GIAHS meeting in Peru. November 2014

Limited but promising focus was also placed in 2014 on **ICCAs and food policy**. A Consortium member from Colombia provided an introduction to ICCAs in a FAO international gathering on Cultural diversity, Food Systems and Traditional Livelihoods and in the Latin America network of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), in Peru, in November 2014.

In 2014, some members of the Consortium carried the flag to follow the development of post-2015 Millennium Development Goals. In a similar vein, the

Consortium has only engaged in a limited but direct way with climate change policy.

3. Support to local, country and region-specific ICCA initiatives

Despite lack of specific financial backing, an important line of work of the Consortium in 2014 remained the support to initiatives on a local, national and regional basis. Some highlights and examples are summarized below:

South Asia

In **India**, forest based CCA communities have been asserting legal rights over their traditional areas and territories under the Indian Forest Rights Act of 2006, and formulating their conservation and development plans. In Nagaland, Community Conserved Areas have taken steps towards a state level forum. In **Pakistan**, a regional consultation on CCAs was held. In **Nepal**, while the existing ICCA national network has not yet managed to evolve into a Federation, mountain ICCAs as in Pungmo and Kumbu valleys were very active with internal meetings, strengthening of traditional activities and rules, and developing impressive [photostories](#).



Ifugao Representative and congressman Teodoro Baguilat Jr., Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Mundita Lim, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio, and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples chairperson Leonor Quintayo open the second Conference on ICCAs in the Philippines, 2014

South-East Asia

The ICCA Working Group in **China** remained active throughout the year, reviewing the ICCA situation and specific features in different provinces. In **Taiwan** networking intensified, nourishing an alliance of indigenous peoples towards Tribal Sovereignty and Eco-Occupation, in reaction to indigenous land and resource grabbing from both public and private sectors. Several ICCA advances took place in **The Philippines**— including a first regional evaluation of governance of protected and conserved areas in Mindanao and a [second national Conference on ICCAs](#)— consolidating the conservation alliance between government agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations. The ICCA Working group in **Indonesia** continued to meet and published a collection of seven impressive ICCA case studies.

North America

In 2014, ICCA activities flourished as a follow up to the November 2013 workshop on ICCAs in Tofino. At that meeting, the Nakwaxda'xw people First Nation were inspired to declare [their own ICCA in Ba'as](#)—an ancestral site within their territory. Similarly, the Tsilhqot'in First Nation declared its own [Dasiqox Tribal Park](#), just a few months after a historic Supreme Court decision granted them title to 1,750 square kilometers of disputed land. More broadly, ICCAs are now used as a tool for implementing their Nation's marine plans, and advocated as one of the few avenues by which **Canada** can reach the Aichi target of 10% marine protected areas by 2020.

Mesoamerica and the Caribbean

In 2014, two ICCA workshops were organized by the Consortium in **Guatemala**—one internal, for members only, which prompted the development of the current ICCA network in Guatemala. The second took place with the GEF SGP National Committee. A dedicated two-day workshop on ICCAs took place also on the island of **Dominica**—a biosphere reserve where further "intergenerational activities" are planned in 2015. An initial ICCA discussion was also held in **Trinidad**. The Consortium coordinator in Mesoamerica kept alive the ICCA network on Skype, taking steps towards the development of a regional program proposal.

Andes and Amazon region

In 2014, initiatives focused on the development of a Toolbox for Environmental Monitoring of ICCAs threatened by extractive development designed to empower the governing indigenous organizations. In **Bolivia**, this provided the occasion for in depth field-based activities to be carried out in the Isoso, Pilon Lajas and Moseten Indigenous Territory. Exchange visits were also organized to local indigenous organizations in **Brazil** and **Peru**. The Consortium Coordinator provided support to four indigenous communities to prepare ICCA-relevant projects for submission to GEF SGP.

Cono Sur of South America

In **Chile**, Consortium Members united in 2014 to advocate for a better new protected area law, taking better consideration of governance issues and asserting the role of indigenous people and communities. A CBD capacity building workshop was organized in the Araucanía region. The Manquemapu Community-- part of the ICCA Consortium Member Mapu Lahual Association-- received the Equator Prize 2014. In **Argentina**, the Mapuche people have kept mobilizing and fighting against oil and gas extraction in their territory. The Consortium Member Confederación Mapuche de Nequén



The Manquemapu Community received the Equator Prize in 2014

(CMN) has been one of the most active indigenous organizations in this struggle. An initiative was also supported to improve the capacities of the Mapuche Intercultural Council to co-manage their ICCAs within Nahuel Huapi National Park and incorporate the Mapuche “Life Plans” in the management plan of the protected area.

Southern Africa

ICCAs were featured in the High Level Dialogue on Improving Protected Area Governance for Livelihood Security and Biodiversity in Southern Africa (Windhoek, **Namibia**, May 2014), where the Consortium was invited to provide a key note address. It became the occasion to establish links with IRDNC, an important ICCA Federation which is now a member of the Consortium. More biocultural community protocols were developed in Namibia and Zimbabwe. In **Madagascar**, the *fokonolona* network was active in exchanges and policy advocacy.

Eastern Africa

A national ICCA Team including volunteers and professionals who work with ICCAs in **Kenya** was created to take advantage of the progressive constitution and ultimately form a national ICCA platform. Specific ICCA initiatives were supported by GEF SGP, in particular in the coastal and marine environments. Many ICCAs are under severe threat because of infrastructure development, extractive projects and development initiatives and Consortium members focus on supporting legal resistance to such destructive initiatives, including in forests. In **Tanzania**, eviction from traditional lands and human rights abuses attracted strong letters of ICCA alert from the Consortium, developed via ad-hoc coalitions of members.

Central Africa

A workshop on ICCAs, sponsored by the Consortium, was held on the occasion of the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples (FIPAC) in Impfondo (**Congo**) in March 2014. In September, the Consortium co-organized a two-day [National workshop of reflection and planning on ICCAs](#) in Kinshasa (**Democratic Republic of Congo**), gathering government officials and civil society. This provided an occasion to provide advice to the legal consulting company that was supposed to deliver

the final study on options for ICCA recognition in DRC. Earlier in the year, a number of [ICCA descriptive movies](#) were produced to use for ICCA advocacy in the country.

West Africa

Work was focused on **Senegal**, and the planned exchange visits in Guinea and Guinea Bissau were kept on hold due to the Ebola epidemics. The new decentralization policy offers even more opportunities for ICCAs to be officially recognized. Two more communities were regularly supported to obtain an official recognition of their ICCAs in Casamance and others are being facilitated to take the first steps along the process.

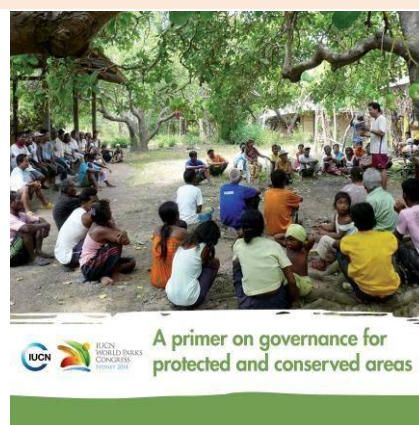
Europe

We greatly strengthened the ICCA network in **Spain** (Iniciativa Comunes), which has now developed as a legal association/ coalition dedicated to the promotion of the commons throughout the country. The network launched the Declaration of Valdeavellano de Tera at a [national event co-sponsored by the Consortium](#) in September 2014 and started the development of a volume on the commons in Spain, with the aim of influencing the commons throughout the Mediterranean region and spearheading similar movements in Europe. In Croatia, a position paper and recommendations advocated support to common pastures and the legal recognition of pastoral communities.

West Asia

Throughout 2014, the Consortium was very active in **Iran**, assisting in extensive activities carried out by our members in the country. Dozens of community workshops were held to go through field based processes by which communities identify and declare – with FPIC – their ICCAs. Following that, the communities are assisted to carry out their territorial (including mapping), ecological and governance assessments. All results are compiled into a national ICCA Registry run by our member UNINOMAD. Regional ICCA Federations are also being promoted and five multi-stakeholder initiatives to review the governance of protected areas were held. Exchanges took place with the 6 other countries bordering Iran to prepare for an international gathering in 2015 to foster collaboration on transboundary conservation that includes the recognition of ICCAs.

4. Publications and emerging ideas

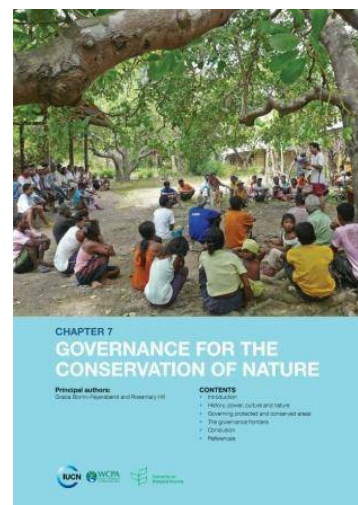


In 2014 the Consortium contributed as much as possible to enhance the documentation available to support recognition of ICCAs in several languages. These include the the [first issue of the new Consortium Policy Brief Series on ICCAs and the Aichi Targets](#), the Spanish and French translations of the IUCN volume 20 in the Best Practice in Protected Areas Series on *Governance of Protected*

Areas (available from [this IUCN site](#)) and the [Primer on governance of protected and conserved areas](#) in three languages.

The Policy Brief on ICCAs and the Aichi Targets was produced, peer reviewed, laid-out, printed and distributed at both CBD COP 12 and WPC.

The Spanish and French translations of Guidelines no. 20 were translated and laid-out under the supervision of the Consortium, and distributed with its help. The volumes were launched by the Executive Secretary of the CBD at the World Parks Congress. The Primer was produced, designed, laid-out and translated by or under the supervision of the Consortium.



It is interesting to note that the Consortium originated in 2014 one of the valuable concepts that emerged at WPC Sydney—the one of “**governance vitality**”. For a preliminary treatment of the subject please see both the article “[Governance for the conservation of nature](#)” and the [Primer on governance of protected and conserved areas](#)

5. The ICCA communication system

The Consortium system for documentation, repository and dissemination of information about ICCAs comprises an information base (accessible via our web site), a number of communication avenues and an international alert mechanism. The system was to be reviewed and possibly revamped before the fall of 2014 but, because of unexpected delays in grant agreements, the review had to be postponed. In the meantime, the current system functioned reasonably well (launches of publications, press releases, web site regularly refreshed, Blog and Facebook entries and email discussions) although the visibility of the Consortium could have been more significantly boosted at WPC 2014. It is not a problem, however, not to have been overly visible as we have not yet clarified that we *wish* to be so. In retrospective, what is more problematic is that a publication such as GBO4 did not include much on governance of protected areas nor on ICCAs. It is unclear whether this can be imputed to a weak communication system of the Consortium (we actually managed to provide one of the very few example boxes on an ICCA case), insufficient political backing at some level, or a faulty process within UNEP (the Consortium and IUCN issued a joint request that was ignored).

In 2014, suggestions about desirable characteristics and possible tools of the Consortium communication system were gathered. Some stressed the need for a multi-avenue system, integrating robust technical products, such as the Consortium Briefing Notes series, with initiatives attractive for a larger public such as competitions and videos. Others advanced the possible use of cartoons in videos, and the desirability of engaging even very young audiences. Still others stressed specific local initiatives, such as radio programs in local languages.

6. The ICCA international alert mechanisms & solidarity fund

Our Internet-based alert mechanism has remained relatively limited in scope, but responsive and timely. We primarily responded to 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 Tanzania; the Governor of Palawan in the Philippines; the Head of the Protected Area service in Finland... more recent letters were sent to the Head of Parliament in Honduras and the Minister of the Interior in Chile). Our letters are only occasionally replied to, but they are often echoed in the media and the causes we have supported have had some apparent “success”, although it is difficult to assess the impact of our contribution *per se* as it is usually part of a chorus of efforts. A decision was taken at the General Assembly in November 2014 to establish a team to review the alert mechanism and learn from our experience. This team is chaired by Harry Jonas of Natural Justice.

With regard to the Solidarity Fund for Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs we have just started discussing when it may be appropriate and feasible to call for the meeting that should plan it in some detail. Progress on this has been minimal in 2014, although we have started thinking about where and when it would be best to set up the main planning event.

7. Managing the operations of the ICCA Consortium

One of the Consortium’s major accomplishments in 2014 was its ability to continue working and achieving results despite an interruption in **core funding** that lasted 8 months. Ultimately, however, **fundraising** efforts were very successful, and the Consortium closed the year with a budgetary surplus that will ensure work continuity in lean times.

The “**internal institutional life**” of the Consortium proceeded as expected, and we:

- organized, ran and reported on the [VIIth General Assembly of the Consortium](#) (Sydney, Australia, Part 1 Sunday 9th November, Part 2 Sunday 16th November) – the largest ever organized (attendance of about 120 persons), and the only one so far that lasted 1.5 days.
- Organised two physical meetings of the **Steering Committee** (in Switzerland in August 2014 and in Australia in Nov. 2014) and, on other occasions, members of the Committee met via e mail. The composition and short biographies of the current [members of the Steering Committee](#) are available on line.

The “**external institutional life**” of the Consortium also proceeded significantly, and we:

- finished and submitted our application for ECOSOC
- strengthened and/or maintained **institutional cooperation** with GEF SGP, the CBD Secretariat, the IUCN, and UNEP WCMC, but also a new cooperation with WIN Equator Initiative for a major pre-WPC event in Australia.
- strengthened and/or maintained **collaboration and communication with other partners and donors**, including for the development, submission and running of initiatives of Consortium Members. Support directly received by the ICCA Consortium Association in Switzerland in 2014 included grants from The University of Victoria Island University, IUCN, The Christensen Fund as well as successful bids for our delegates to obtain travel support to participate in international policy events.

In 2014, the steady **growth of our membership accelerated** and the **total number grew by 30% in one year** (as of March 2015, we have 80 organization Members and 173 Honorary Members representing more than 71 countries). Regardless of the rapid growth, we kept making efforts to ensure that membership is meaningful for both the Consortium and the applicant before accepting any new Member and we keep doing our best to establish specific relations with each Member in field initiatives and policy development.

In 2014 we managed our member **database** and facilitated decisions on Members’ invitations and admissions; we managed our **mailing lists** for internal communication among Members, Honorary

Members, Steering Committee and staff; we helped with **logistical arrangements** such as fundraising, visa, registration, travel and accommodation of participants in various events throughout the year and provided **technical support** for their interventions in such events (in particular for the November 2014 series of events in Australia, where about 100 Consortium members and 70 more non-members were assisted by us in various ways).

In 2014 we **contracted, assisted and supervised consultants** for specific tasks, including new staff such as a Consortium Programme Manager and Communication Assistant. We prepared **action plans and budgets, managed the financial resources** for all the Consortium's grants and **reported** for Members and donors.



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