



Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (ICCA) and Access to Justice

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

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



Appropriate recognition of ICCAs is fundamental to realizing and implementing the collective rights of Indigenous peoples. Without recognition and respect for their ICCAs, Indigenous peoples cannot achieve self-determination, self-governance, livelihood security or cultural integrity. That legal recognition can be part of appropriate remedy and redress for past injustices. And the very process of recognition can empower Indigenous peoples through knowledge of their rights and duties, and of the legal mechanisms available to address issues concerning their lands, territories and natural resources.

The side event will explore challenges and opportunities related to ICCAs and access to justice, with specific reference to the experience of two indigenous peoples in the heart of Africa-- the Batwa people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Ogiek people of Kenya.

Thursday July 11, 2013 - 13:15-14:45 hours
EMRIP VI - side event in room IX

This side event is organized by Natural Justice (www.naturaljustice.org) and the ICCA Consortium (www.iccaconsortium.org). Moderators and speakers include: Joseph Itongwa Mukumo (PIDP-Kivu, REPALEF), Daniel Mpoiok Kobei (Ogiek Peoples` Development Program), Marie Wilke (Natural Justice), Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (ICCA Consortium) and Nigel Crawhall (IPACC).

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