

The [Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations](#), the [ICCA Consortium](#), the [Living Oceans Society](#) and their supporting partners [Tides Canada](#), [Swift Foundation](#) and [Waait Foundation](#) and the International Community University Research Alliance/ Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction initiative (ICURA/PAPR) are pleased to announce the forthcoming workshop:

**Conservation of First Nations' Territories
by and for First Nations
November 4-8, 2013
Tla-o-qui-aht Territory – Tofino (British Columbia, Canada)**

**Workshop announcement and call for participation & contributions
(deadline for submissions Sept 15, 2013)**



A close association is often found between a specific indigenous people or local community and a specific territory or area— including coastal and marine areas. Often, 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, seascape and nature goes life, dignity and self-determination as peoples.

In British Columbia, some Tla-o-qui-aht peoples refer to that bond as *Teechmis Okin*. Other names are used by other peoples and, with different names, diverse strategic approaches have also been developed to keep that bond alive in practice. The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations developed and asserted an effective model called Tribal Parks. A workshop will be held at the

[Tin Wis resort](#) in Tofino, in the heart of Tla-o-qui-aht territory and in premises owned by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, to share their experience and know-how with other Indigenous Peoples, and to place the Tribal Park model in the context of other concepts and approaches asserted in BC, in the rest of Canada and in other countries.

Over the past decades, efforts to respect the rights and responsibilities, recognize the cultures, and support the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities have evolved and made strides in many parts of the world. As part of that, the recognition of the essential contributions made by indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation of nature and the recognition of the



bonds between unique peoples and communities and their territories, landscapes and seascapes is paramount. One of the terms that emerged in the international discourse to describe such bonds is “ICCA” – an abbreviation of the phrase “Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Territories and Areas”. The term is little known in Canada, as locally appropriate terms such as *Teechmis Okin* better capture the essence of the relationship with nature that is at the heart of the livelihoods and culture of the First Nations. The term “ICCAs”, however, has been used by activists, indigenous peoples and local communities as a generic encapsulation of phenomena that are extremely complex and specific to each context. As such, it has helped to increase focus on them, and fostered a reshaping of international conservation policies and practices. In turn, national policies are now taking notice in number of countries.



The workshop will provide an occasion to visit, discuss and understand the phenomenon of “conservation of First Nations’ Territories by and for First Nations” and discuss the strategic approaches and institutional arrangements that can help describe and defend it in the current context in BC, and in Canada in general. The Tribal Park model will be described in more depth but other models from BC, the rest of Canada and other countries will also be considered and compared. Approaches for both

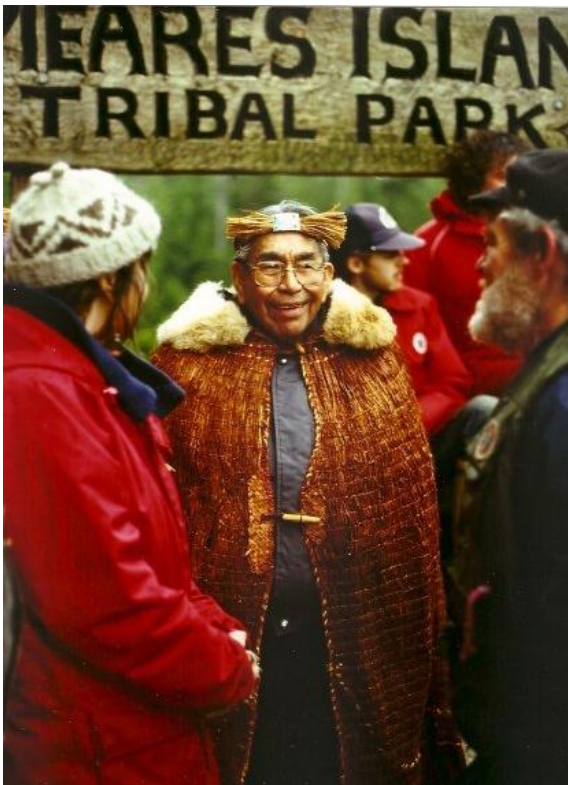
shared governance (also referred to as co-management) and primary and direct governance (ICCAs) will be illustrated via examples and compared in terms of their pros and cons.

The workshop will provide to First Nations from BC an occasion to share experiences with indigenous peoples from other parts of the world – from the Philippines to Iran and USA – who are defending territories and managing natural resources in various evolving processes of recognition of their collective capacities, rights and responsibilities. It is expected that a summary document will be produced, to capture and share the learning that will take place.



Workshop objectives

- Review examples of territories and areas conserved by First Nations and local communities in BC in accordance with indigenous knowledge and customary law, focusing on the Tribal Parks model asserted by the Tla-o-qui-aht.
- Discuss the Tribal Parks model as a governance option in a spectrum from sole and direct governance to shared governance arrangements with government agencies and other parties.



- Review a few experiences of indigenous peoples from other countries, including cases of national coalitions and federations that embraced “ICCAs” as a strategic concept to defend their territories, support sustainable livelihoods and secure their collective rights.
- Review the legal and political context and assess the relevance and applicability of the Tribal Parks model and the ICCA concept as part of comprehensive strategic approaches to promote conservation of First Nations’ territories by and for First Nations in British Columbia.
- If applicable on the basis of the results of the workshop, develop a preliminary action plan to compile the workshop’s learning and further its recommendations.

AGENDA of the workshop

Date	Time	Activites
Day 0: Monday Nov. 4	AM/ PM	Travel to Tofino and field visit: 10:00 a.m. charter bus leaves Nanaimo 12:00p.m. pick up boxed lunches in Port Alberni (high tide 12:32pm) 12:30 – Guided Tour of Ha'uukmin Tribal Park on trip into Tofino from Port Alberni
	Eveni ng	Dinner reception Tin wis Conference Center -- Introductions (low tide 7:10pm)
Day 1: Tuesday Nov 5	AM/ PM	(high tide 1:37am – low tide 7:08am) Presentations and discussion of experiences from BC and Canada in general, including illustration of the legal and political context (high tide 1:14pm – low tide 7:56pm)
Day 2: Wed. Nov 6	Morni ng	(high tide: 2:25am – low tide 7:55 am) Introduction to the ICCA concept, related international policy and examples of national policies and practices Presentations and discussions of experiences of indigenous peoples engaged in ICCA recognition struggles in other countries
	Aftern oon	(high tide 2:00pm) Group work on comprehensive strategic approaches to promote conservation of First Nations' territories by and for First Nations in British Columbia.
	Eveni ng	Cultural celebration (low tide 8:44pm)
Day 3: Thur. Nov 7	Morni ng	(high tide 3:16am – low tide 8:47am) Small field trips to Tla-o-qui-aht territory and discussion of specific issues with its Tla-o-qui-aht governing bodies
	Aftern oon	Some participants leave The remaining participants finalize the group work reports Reports from group work and synthesis of strategic approach applicable in BC Development of workshop's recommendations (high tide 2:50pm – low tide 9:37pm)
Day 4: Friday Nov 8	Morni ng	(high tide 4:11am – low tide 9:48am) 10:00am ALL participants depart via charter bus
	Aftern oon/E ve	Travel back to Nanaimo Afternoon/evening session at Vancouver Island University Campus for any additional "wrap up" required
Day 5: Sat. Nov 9	Morni ng	The last participants and organizers leave



Pictures courtesy of Eli Enns and Francois Depey