

The ICCA Consortium planning retreat report

Prana Dewi retreat centre, Bali, Indonesia

06-11 October 2011

The planning retreat was a significant event for the **institutional strengthening** of the Consortium in 2011. For six days, without internet access, the newly recruited RCs, along with the President, Treasurer, Global Coordinator, some Steering Committee members, representatives of Members and the Communications Officer, gathered at the Prana Dewi retreat centre in Bali, Indonesia. The focus of the retreat was the compilation of **regional work plans** towards the **broader Consortium objectives** embedded in its **Vision 2020 and work programme 2011-2014**. Matters of funding, membership, Statutes, procedural guidelines, communications, and Consortium's participation at international events were also thoroughly fleshed out.



Retreat participants in discussion. Photo courtesy of Ashish Kothari

The first day began with individual introductions and sharing expectations of the retreat, followed by a **short history of ICCAs vis-à-vis protected areas** and the emergence of the Consortium and the discussion of issues from community conservation and livelihoods to human and indigenous rights, from international policies for biodiversity to climate change and REDD. The **Consortium's mission** was discussed, (and continued to be throughout the week, as well as the meaning of ICCAs, involving questions such as:

- What is the **correct terminology** for ICCAs?
- What is **not** an ICCA?
- What are the **political implications** of terms such as 'territories' and 'areas'?
- What are the **negative reactions** of some Indigenous Peoples organisations to ICCAs and why?

This led to the current, shorter but hopefully all-encompassing formulation of:

ICCAs = indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories



Artists of the Consortium banner. Photo courtesy of Grazia B-F

Day two began with a continuation of an 'introduction to ICCAs' which was interspersed with further discussions on ICCA- related issues and concepts. A presentation on the **Members, Honorary members and Partners of the Consortium** was delivered, outlining the organisations and individuals the RC can expect to work with. A review of **on-going initiatives and sources of support to the Consortium** followed, such as The Christensen Fund 'Institutional Strengthening' grant received in July 2011 along with a UNDP-EGG project grant received August 2011. The **work plan and budget** for these grants was presented in detail by the Global Coordinator in order to encourage each RC to start determining their own work plan and familiarise themselves with the current resources available within the Consortium.

Partnership with the Consortium's **international Partners**, such as the CBD, IUCN Protected Areas Programme, WCPA, CEESP, and the WILD Foundation were discussed in depth, with key questions posed to the group, such as: *what type of collaboration and association does the Consortium want with these partners and what types of MoU's are necessary?* The day closed with discussions on the **Phase II ICCA legal review** – and the **CBD recognition guidelines** with a focus on determining the **goals, objectives, and specific plans** ahead for these projects.

Day three witnessed discussions and smaller group work regarding **partnership with GEF SGP**, and **Equator Initiative** – including support to regional meetings, fieldwork and photo-story plans. A presentation on the **ICCA Registry** and **partnership with UNEP WCMC** followed, catalysing a group discussion into the **Consortium** and the **Registry's relationship** and how each intends to support the other. In short, it was decided the Consortium's RCs will each provide input into **disseminating awareness** about the Registry and where relevant, facilitate LCs they work closely with to **submit a case study** or **complete a questionnaire**, whilst all agreed there is still much discussion needed for determining exactly how this process will materialise. The **Consortium's funding policy** was discussed in regional group work with a consensus that caution and a very vigorous process when accepting funds is crucial. The Consortium's **membership policy** was covered, prompted by questions such as '*what contribution do Members need to make and what is our process of excepting/rejecting Members? Should we have a limit on the number of Members we accept per year? What is the purpose of membership?*' It was concluded the membership policy will develop with time and will become clearer depending on who and how many applications are received per year. Attempting to define a static membership policy at this stage is premature and possibly exclusive.



A Subak in Bali. Photo courtesy of Lorena Arce

Day four was a **field visit** to a local **Subak**: a traditional rice paddy, community-managed system in Bali. Participants were given a tour of the Subak and witnessed the traditional Balinese preparation for an annual festival. That night they continued with discussions on **membership, partnership** and **funding** from which a small synthesis document was prepared and can viewing by clicking [here](#).

Day five commenced with an overview of **recent ICCA-campaigning progress** within the **CBD COP-10 decisions** and all those who were representing ICCAs at international events in 2011 also gave their feedback, such as **Holly Shrumm** from **Natural Justice** and **Taghi Farvar** (Consortium President) who attended the **Expert Mechanism on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**

and **United National Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)**. Taghi talked about IP rights to decision making during UNPFII. These presentations evoked on-going discussions, begging the question of '*how to cross reference different recommendations emerging from international events as well as linking the information from the local, grass-roots level, to the larger international level?*'

A discussion regarding which international policy/decision-making events the Consortium should attend in 2012 followed, exploring which are the **most important/highest impact events** for advocating support and recognition for ICCAs at the international level. Such events include the 13th ISE Congress of Ethnobiology, UNPFII, Rio + 20, EMRIP, the World Conservation Congress and CBD COP-11. The day ended with a report on the functioning and purpose of the **Information and Communication System (ICS)** by the Communications Officer: a report of which is available by clicking [here](#).

Day six was a consolidation of the collective weeks work. After hours of discussing and sharing, finally the **work plans of the RCs** and the **results of the working groups** on issues such as **membership, partnership, funding**, and **future collaborations** were presented to the whole collective. Each region produced, within their regional working groups, **extensive work plans** for the next six months, involving **individual work plans** as well as **collective regional responsibilities**.

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