

General Assembly of the ICCA Consortium Nagoya (Japan) - 14:00-19:00, 24 October 2010



Minutes compiled by gbf on notes by Neema Pathak and Vanessa Reid

The President opens the GA at 14:00, welcomes the participants and reads the agenda, which is approved. He offers a report since the “formalization” of the Consortium at the Founding General Assembly held on 13 July 2010 on the occasion of EMRIP at the UN headquarters in Geneva. Four founding Members – Cenesta, IPACC, Pacos Trust and WAMIP – met there and signed the required documents (minutes and Statutes available from www.iccaforum.org). Before then, the Consortium was an informal association, established in Barcelona in October 2008. Since July 13, however, we are a legal association under Swiss Law. After the founding GA, the Statutes were circulated by mail in three languages and the prior “informal members” confirmed their status in writing. As decided in the founding GA, a list of proposed honorary members and Steering Committee members also received letters of invitation. The President briefly discusses the achievements the Consortium and its Members, which contributed to the recognition of indigenous peoples’ territories and ICCAs as crucial conservation assets; to the recognition of the “legitimacy” of ICCAs by the IUCN and CBD; and to the development of the ICCA Registry of UNEP WCMC, (but great care should now be exercised with that, and Free Prior Informed Consent should be secured in all related circumstances).

With ppt support (available from www.iccaforum.org), the President then recalls the Consortium’s Mission and the main elements of the Statutes (available in 3 languages from the web site) and were developed following a standard model under Swiss law. The Members of the Consortium are ICCA-relevant indigenous peoples’ organizations and networks (IPOs), local community organizations and networks (CBOs) and relatively small NGOs working closely with them. The Consortium also has “honorary members” who do not have “voting rights” and can be individuals. The honorary members provide most useful advice in the decision of the Consortium as the preferred modality of decision-making is not by vote, but by consensus.

The organs of the Consortium are: the General Assembly, the Steering Committee, and the Auditor of Accounts. The legal duty of the latter is only to ensure that the accounts are correctly reported; this could be expanded, however, to having an oversight of the overall functioning of the Consortium.

Up to today the Consortium includes 22 Member organizations (one still pending approval of its own Board) listed on www.iccaforum.org

Following questions from the audience, the President explains the process of accepting new Members (Article 5 of Statutes is read out loud) and states that we have 6 membership requests. **Decision: two organizations that participated in the ICCA technical meeting in the morning and are represented in the room – ICSF and MELCA – are immediately approved as Members of the Consortium.** For the other requests (Community Forestry International, Gaia Foundation, MARAG, Sons of Dana and Qadisiyah) decisions will be taken as per the regular procedure (i.e., after vetting by the Steering Committee and discussion with the general body via e-mail). The Coordinator explains that for all these organizations except the last one, information is available via their web site. For the last one, information will be sent specifically via e mail attachment.

Harry Jonas (Natural Justice) proposes that specific guidelines are developed to clarify on what grounds to accept or reject members so that too much power or responsibility does not rest with the Steering Committee. The President replies that the General Assembly (GA) can change the Statutes but proposed changes need to be sent at least three weeks in advance. Mohamed Hamdani (IPACC) proposes to include in the Statutes Council of Elders (Board of Trustees) who can advice on the problematic situations. **Decision: a Committee is constituted that will receive suggestions from Members and compile proposed changes in the Statutes before the next the GA. Committee members are: Harry, Ashish, Lili, Mohamed, Denis and Salatou.**

The Coordinator recalls that “large NGOs” are understood as possible Consortium partners but not Members, as their means may overpower other Members. She lists the partners so far: GEF SGP, UNEP WCMC, IUCN CEESP, IUCN WCPA, GTZ, CBD Secretariat, Swedbio IIED, IUCN Global Protected Area Programme, The Christensen Fund and the Equator Initiative. Partnerships with Bird Life International and the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research are under development.

She also recalls the roles decided in the Founding GA of July 2010: President: Taghi Farvar (WAMIP); Coordinator: Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (Cenesta); Treasurer: Stan Stevens; Steering Committee (SC): Juan Carlos Riascos (Ecozoica), Ashish Kothari (Kalpavriksh), Mohamed Handaine (IPACC), and Denis Rose (IP, Australia); Auditor of accounts: Jannie Lasimbang (Pacos Trust). The latter is not present and her charge of work has increased unexpectedly since her nomination. She requested Maurizio Farhan Ferrari (Forest Peoples Programme), present in the room, to take-on her role. The Coordinator proposes that the role entails watching over the overall functioning and governance of the organization, rather than only the accounting. **Maurizio will see what this entails and decide.**

Ashish raises the question: who can speak in the name of the Consortium? The President replies that every member of the Steering Committee can represent the Consortium, but for important decisions it is recommended that the members consult among themselves. The members then discuss the composition of the Steering Committee (gender balance, geographic balance, indigenous peoples and local communities). Following that, three more nominations are made and unanimously accepted. **Decisions: Article 10 of the Statutes now says that the Steering Committee has 7 members: it should change to read : “at least 7 and a maximum of 11 members” Kail Zingapan (PAFID), Lili Sarah Fortuné (IP, Niger) and Jorge Nahuel (Confederacion Mapuche) are elected as members of the Steering Committee, bringing their current total number to 10.**

Onel Masardule (FPCI) states that he will be available to help with the SC if needed. Mohamed stresses that three characteristics are important for SC members: experience, availability, efficiency. He mentions that every time the Steering Committee changes, one third of the composition should remain in charge for continuity.

On the suggestion by Ashish, the members discuss the Quorum for the GA. The President explains that a process for participating in the GA is described in the Statutes. Once the process has been followed, any number of Member *above three* who “attend” the GA constitutes the Quorum. There are three ways of attending the GA: 1. direct representation; 2. participation by proxy to another attending Member; 3. electronic participation via teleconference or videoconference. If the Members

wish to make changes to the Statute regarding the Quorum, they should submit those to Harry's Statutes committee, but all should know that under Swiss law we need to hold at least one GA each year. If the Quorum is fixed differently than it is now, this condition may become quite hard to meet, which would imply the legal dissolution of the Consortium.

The Coordinator offers a presentation on the programme of work of the Consortium informally established in 2008 (ppt available from the web site in both English and Spanish). The Consortium has attempted to obtain overall financial support for the programme via the European Union, but has not succeeded so far. Despite that, the Members have managed to accomplish – working alone or together – many of the objectives envisaged in 2008. The ICCA events at COP 10 in Nagoya (side events, dedicated workshop) testify to that but also the functioning web site, the numerous publications in many languages produced since Barcelona, the regional studies, international policy developments at SBSTTA and in several regions and countries, the ICCA legal advice now available in IUCN documents, the ICCA Registry of UNEP WCMC and the very fact that the Consortium is a legal body having its General Assembly, an Intern/Assistant and numerous professionals volunteering as President, Coordinator, Treasurer and members of the Steering Committee. Last but not least, the ICCA Consortium is now accredited with the CBD and close collaborations have been announced with both GEF SGP and the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme in view of the World Parks Congress of 2014.

The Treasurer then introduces himself and explains that the Members' fee has been set at CHF 50 per year, which is about 50 dollars / 37 Euro (no Member raises objections.) The dues can be paid in person, by wire transfer and via Pay Pal through the website (www.iccaforum.org). Up to now the Consortium has a bank account but zero funds deposited.

Upcoming events, where Consortium Members' meetings could be held include: the IASCP meeting on *The Commons* in Hyderabad (India) and the IUCN CEESP *Sharing Power* conference in Whakatane (New Zealand)-- both in January 2011; as well as the next UNFPII in New York (May 2011) and EMRIP in Geneva (July 2011).

A more technical session follows, with discussion of suggestions received for specific strategic directions and an action plan for the Consortium. These will be compiled and circulated as part of technical reports from Nagoya. The GA is declared closed at about 19:30, with a group picture session.



(these are the real faithful left to the end... .. but where is Lili?)