

VI General Assembly of the ICCA Consortium Valdeavellano – 6 October 2013



Minutes compiled by gbf and Sarah Ryder from notes by Isis Alvarez and Vanessa Reid

The President opens the GA at 09:30, welcomes the participants and reads the agenda. Documents are on line but participants experience difficulties in accessing them (limited band-width). Simone Lovera laments the delay in distributing the documents prior to the meeting and stresses that the plan needs to be agreed before approving the budget. Proposes to skip much of the rest and discuss the plan. The President stresses that the plan needs to be rooted in the report of the members and secretariat, asks for flexibility and willingness to remain working late. Simone: budget can be approved via e mail.

The agenda is adopted with some minor changes.

1. Report from President

Taghi Farvar runs through recent history of policies and discourse related to 'local governance' of protected/conserved areas, which saw the ICCA Consortium as a prominent participant. He discusses how, ten years ago, some still lobbied for a separate 'category' of protected areas for ICCAs. The breakthrough, supported by the Members of the Consortium, was the understanding that ICCAs are not a management category ("what we do about the natural resources") but a governance type ("who decides what we do"). The ICCA movement began within the IUCN, when many of the Members and individuals who are now in the Consortium gathered around a pioneer inter-commission group called TILCEPA. Through their work, IUCN brought to broad attention the concept of ***governance of protected areas***. Further, it called attention to field based ***realities*** rather than pronouncements and legislation, showing that ***territories and areas de facto conserved*** by indigenous peoples and local communities have enormous conservation values.

IUCN set the agenda and showed the way, and CBD agreements followed, becoming national law for 194 countries. The CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA)

was approved in 2004 and includes a full element on *Governance, participation, equity and benefit sharing*. This was recently followed by the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which strengthen some similar points. Taghi also recalls the recent Nobel Prize in economics that went to the late Elinor Ostrom in recognition of her work on common property and its results for conservation—all very much part of what the Consortium is all about. Among recent milestones are also volume no. 64 in the CBD Technical Series, dedicated to ICCAs and other Consortium publications, as well as the partnership with WCMC, which agreed to dedicate a special Registry to ICCAs. As a crowning to the process described so far, in 2013 the proposal developed by the ICCA Consortium and partners for a STREAM on “Enhancing diversity and quality of Governance for Protected Areas” at the next World Parks Congress (Sydney, 2014) has been accepted. The Consortium is already very active developing the programme and organizing for the work ahead.

This alone would suffice to describe how the Consortium has been effective in its work during the past year but, in addition, we should recall the close partnership with GEF-SGP that adopted ICCAs as top priority. In recent years, the Consortium has participated in capacity building of GEF SGP personnel and grantees and we have collaborated on developing initiatives all over the world, from Africa to Asia, to Latin America. Currently, we are poised to collaborate for the next five years, on a major initiative by which the BMU (German Federal Ministry of Environment) will support ICCAs through small grants to communities, delivered by UNDP GEF-SGP, with whom the Consortium will collaborate closely, providing technical support. This is our major funding prospect in the years ahead, although we also have hopes of continued support from the Christensen Fund (our current main donor) and we are also actively engaging other donors. At this time we have excellent prospects but nothing solid and signed. That is the reason why we cannot discuss a detailed budget today.

Importantly, Members can continue to fundraise *with the help* of the Consortium. In many countries, this is proving a successful way to defend ICCAs. In Iran, the Members I represent have just done that for a major initiative to promote and strengthen the ICCAs of nomadic tribes, which is now under way with funding from the European Union.

2. Members' Reports

All the attendees introduce themselves and offer some highlights from their work on ICCAs.

Stan Stevens, Nepal – Speaking as Honorary Member (HM) with strong ties with Members in Nepal, stresses the delicate situation with the National Parks Authorities and the country-wide institutional impasse. Also, problems of acculturation of communities and fast cultural change. One ICCA initiative in the Sherpa territory is currently tackling this and learning lessons. A book will be launched at WPC detailing everything that has happened in the last 10 years about ICCAs in the country.

Eli Enns, Canada – Is the new regional coordinator from North America, currently working with IPs and organizations with the intention of registering as Members of the Consortium. Indigenous worldviews are critical in various other contexts around the world.

Vololona Rasoarimanana, Madagascar – Is an HM and represents Tafo Mihaavo, a Member of the Consortium which is a coalition of 482 community institutions (*fokonolona*). The coalition is determined that the *fokonolona* are recognized as governing bodies of their customary territories. Four Constitutions of Madagascar have stated this, and there is even a national law of 1973, which has been kept ‘hidden’ for a long time, which recognizes the

governance rights of the *fokonolona*. The GELOSE law, approved in 1996 recognized that communities only have limited and conditional *management* rights and needs to be reviewed. The Anja declaration set up to do exactly that. Vololona stresses Madagascar's cultural and biodiversity richness. There is a World Heritage Site (WHS) where they work, but problems of poor governance- unrelated to local communities- led UNESCO to declare it endangered. The issue is that before an area is declared WHS, it needs to be a *national* heritage site, and before that a *local* heritage site as well. GEF SGP is active in strengthening the capacities of local governing institutions. (For more on Madagascar, see Vololona's ppt [here](#)).

Gleb Raygorodetsky, Canada - Is an HM and reports on his work in the Altai region of Russia, helping LCs fundraise. He is helping Eli Enns to organize the upcoming workshop on ICCAs in Canada. On his agenda is also the upcoming WPC, where he is working on Stream 7 (on indigenous and traditional knowledge and culture) with the United Nations University.

Raúl Petsain, Ecuador – Is an HM and recalls the struggle of Ecuadorian communities to have their ancestral territories recognized under their governance. Stresses that indigenous peoples possess complex and effective institutions (such as the General Assembly of his own Shuar Arutam people, with different persons responsible for different sectors, specific commissions and regulations that organize their territories, and evolve with time, etc.). The eleven peoples recognized as 'nations' according to the Ecuadorian Constitution of 2008 are currently working to identify their ICCAs. They work on land use maps and overlap on that their own territorial rights. This initiative started about one year ago. 90% of land in indigenous territories is being conserved, no outsiders are needed to enforce this, just the internal regulations of their own governance systems. (For more on Ecuador, see Raul's ppt [here](#)).

Stefano Lorenzi, Italy – Is an HM and Secretary of one of the oldest, well-recognized and supported ICCAs in the world, now also declared World Heritage Site: the commons of the Regole of Cortina d'Ampezzo. They have promoted a national association for the study and promotion of the commons in Italy and hope to collaborate on the setting up of a similar association in Spain, and other European countries.

Felipe Gomez, Guatemala – He represents a Member (OXLAJUU AJPOP - Conferencia Nacional de Ministros de la Espiritualidad Maya) but was also nominated as regional coordinator for Mesomerica, with main attention on issues of indigenous peoples. He explains ideas and expectations for 2013-2016, working towards recognition of the dignity of Mayan peoples & territories. A key example is the ancient organization called 48 Cantons of Totonicapán, in Guatemala, which holds in common a huge forest essential to conserve the watershed of the lake Atitlán—a major body of water in the country. He explains the lack of understanding of ICCAs, the importance of the spiritual dimension of conservation— the practice of indigenous peoples' values, knowledge, institutions and norms, and the crucial role of calendars and sacred sites. He stresses the threat of mega-projects to all that (especially, but not only, mining projects). He plans for the Mesoamerica network to identify ICCAs and find support for some in depth case studies (if the communities agree), sharing experiences with other peoples; and developing effective strategies to defend ICCAs, including lobbying at the political level for changes in the mining, forestry and hydrocarbons legislation. (For more on Guatemala, see Felipe's ppt [here](#)).

Simone Lovera, Paraguay – Represents a Member (Global Forest Coalition) that is itself an international association of organizations working towards alternatives to corporate

globalization of forests. She details her ICCA-related work with Rio+20 and the Women's Major Group and would like to see more collaboration between such women's movements and ICCAs. She is active in advocacy work in CBD, UNFCCC, bringing IPs and southern voices to international policy arenas, where ICCAs are shown as alternatives to market-based approaches (e.g. REDD). Now she is working on Post2015 agenda and SDGs using ICCAs as an example of positive alternative models, and looking at resilience of ICCAs confronting external threats.

Sergio Couto Gonzales, Spain – Is an HM and regional coordinator for Europe (will report later in the meeting) – He did the study of ICCAs in Spain as part of CBD Technical series no.64.

Aboubakar Albachir, Niger – Represents a Member, which is a coalition of IPs in Africa (IPACC). Offers photos of pastoralist festivities organized every year during winter in an area of Niger where pastoralists come to fatten their herds, and many cultural activities take place. There is water and grass there, their animals can rest for two or three weeks and this is their collective ICCA—essential for the livelihood of every tribe. He explains the conflict with a company who wants to use water to exploit uranium. The ICCA is in the middle of a storm.

Joseph Itongwa, Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC) – Represents a Member (the coalition of IPs in the Democratic Republic of Congo- REPALF) and is regional coordinator in Central Africa. Explains that the laws of RDC do not recognize indigenous rights. Thanks to the support of the Consortium, a major national initiative is under way: communities gathered in three representative locations to identify and document their ICCAs (also with video) and discuss their status and value. A study on legal options for their recognition is about to start. The next step is a national policy workshop with government & parliament representatives to outline the value of ICCAs and the available options to recognize and support them in the country. (For more on RDC, see Joseph's and Christian's ppt [here](#)).

Sutej Hugu, Pongso no Tao (Island of Tao people) – represents a member (Tao Foundation) and is regional coordinator for East Asia. Explains the work of the Tao Foundation to help indigenous peoples affected by nuclear waste, stored on their island over 30 years ago. Action to lobby the government to remove the nuclear waste has been on-going and now formal government promises to remove it have been made. In Taiwan, he is promoting a coalition of IPs for tribal sovereignty and survival of their commons (ICCAs).

Salatou Sambou, Senegal (via Skype) – Is regional coordinator for marine ecosystems in West Africa and represents a Member (APCRM—a small fisherman association which developed its ICCA and got it legally recognized). People are proud to have set examples for others. Recent extension of ICCA to bring benefits to all fishermen in the rural municipality. After communication programmes in the local language were diffused via radio, several communities want to establish their own ICCAs. Two are well advanced in the process and Salatou is supporting them.

Remark from the participants in the meeting: restoration of degraded tropical fishery environment happened fast and doubled the income of fishermen. This is the ideal environment for new ICCAs to demonstrate their value.

Guthuru Mburu, Kenya – represents a Member (regional association ABN) based in Kenya and working in support of sacred sites in several countries. In South Africa ABN supports a

sacred site in the Limpopo region, striving to protect it from mineral extraction. Also working on sacred sites projects in Kenya, Benin and Uganda, promoting ICCA-awareness. Stresses that 'recognition' must happen by the community themselves, as they have the rights. Identified major threats: coal mining in SA; gold mining in Ghana. He asked how the Consortium will address the issue of mining, which is a major issue affecting ICCAs all over the world.

Vanessa Reid, UK – HM, worked in the past for the Consortium as communication officer and can help if ICCAs want to register with the ICCA Registry at UNEP WCMC in Cambridge. Explains new project proposal developed with Member GDF- based upon 4-5 case studies of food sovereignty and looking at food systems.

Gino Cocchiaro, South Africa– represents Member Natural Justice and is regional coordinator with Lesle Jansen for Eastern and Southern Africa. He will detail initiatives later.

Iris Benes, Croatia – is coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe and represents a Member, a small NGO called BED that has spent the last 2 years engaged in advocacy and lobbying to protect a pastoral flooding area that they consider to be a threatened ICCA. Iris shows photos of invasive species that, if not grazed, expands massively. BED introduced endogenous breed of cattle, manages the breeding and establishes a management plan for the ICCA. In this sense the NGO—whose members are all local— is the 'community' taking care of the ICCA. But Croatia is under pressure as it has entered the EU: change on two laws on land & nature protection actually worsened provisions for community conservation! The figure of 'pastoral communities' is disappearing from the Croatian legislation and subsidies are in jeopardy as a consequence. (For more on Iran, see Iris's ppt [here](#))

Bas Verschuuren, Netherlands – represents a Member (Sacred Natural Sites Initiative, SNSI-- an international initiative) helping traditional custodians of sacred sites and lobbying for them at international events. Shows and explains the SNSI website. He would like to see better exchanges between government PAs and indigenous peoples' sacred sites in Asia. There are messages he will bring to the WPC. He welcomes the Consortium increasing attention to the importance of SNS. Working on a tool box for legal support to SNS, similar to what ICCA did.

Marco Bassi, Italy – is an HM and works with others in Europe to promote better support to the recognition of community/common property rights and conservation capacities in EU policy.

Antonino Morabito, Italy – is an HM and represents a Member (Fondazione Mediterranea Falchi) from Italy. Describes proposed new Italian legislation that can destroy local community governance and local institutions for nature conservation. Need to save local and traditional knowledge. The EU is not always a problem it can be an opportunity and the challenge is about working with the EU, not against it.

Carmen Miranda, Bolivia – is regional coordinator for the Amazon and represents a Member - SAVIA – that currently works in the Chaco region of Bolivia on assessing conservation issues and the impact of poverty and climate change. She also assists IP groups in rescuing their cultural and spiritual values, provides technical support for the management of wild fauna populations and SNSs, and fosters local learning about governance issues.

Dave de Vera, The Philippines – represents Member PAFID. As part of a UNDP mission, he has recently done many presentations on ICCAs at meetings across the Philippines. A recent policy paper for IFAD includes a whole page on ICCAs and has been very effective for disseminating information and spreading awareness about ICCAs. (For more on RDC, see Dave's ppt [here](#)).

Taghi Farvar, Iran – represents 3 Members: Cenesta, UNINOMAD and UNICAMEL. Describes current projects relating to camel pastoralists, and outlines current funding proposals. The ecological assessments of the territories of mobile IPs is taken as the basis for conservation plans within the territories, aiming to re-empower tribal communities. The ecological plan, which are also Life Plans, inform everything else. Local ethno-ecologists work with other scientists to construct community biodiversity registers. Barefoot and shoed lawyers are engaged to work with LCs on the basis on any existing laws. The Consortium Members are working to re-empower traditional governing structures within LCs. Groups of ICCAs are being supported to get the recognition they deserve. (For more on Iran, see Taghi's ppt [here](#))

Giovanni Reyes, The Philippines – represents member KASAPI. Explains the process of getting recognition and support for ICCAs in the Philippines. First, they worked in three sub-national regions, gathering indigenous peoples, reviewing with them their ICCA experiences and establishing sub-national guidelines. Then, they gathered support from several stakeholders for a national conference on ICCAs, which developed the Manila Declaration and signalled a national embracing of ICCAs. They have gathered data in many sites and set up an ICCA national registry and a Philippines ICCA Consortium, which is also moving internationally (COP 11, exchanges with Taiwan, participation in WIN, Australia, in Alta, Norway, etc.). They would now like to make an ICCA Corridor with Japan. During the COP 11 in Hyderabad, for the first time, a government officer and an IP representative sat together at an international event. Giovanni stresses that IPs NEED maps to transmit indigenous knowledge. (For more on RDC, see Giovanni's ppt [here](#)).

3. Programme Report

Grazia offers the **programme report** for 2013 (see ppt [here](#)) stressing that the Consortium works with and through its Members enhancing their ICCA-impact. It works at three main levels: local, national and international.

- At the local level, a number of initiatives to strengthen, restore and multiply ICCAs have been conceived and carried out (examples from Senegal, Bolivia, RDC, Iran, Kenya, Nepal, Taiwan, Niger, India, Paraguay, Argentina, Guatemala, Canada...).
- At national and regional level, the Consortium has enhanced capacities through direct encouragement and assistance, support to networking and federations, exchange visits, mutual learning (e.g., support to national ICCA Consortium in the Philippines, national events and meetings in Taiwan, a new and major project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the promotion of a new society for the study, recognition and support of the commons in Spain, a national meeting in Indonesia, numerous initiatives and meetings in Iran, new proposed projects in Nepal and Niger, regional ICCA meetings in Chile and in Mesoamerica and new regional proposals for the Mekong and the Amazon Regions).

Grazia asks Carmen and others to provide more details and examples.

Latin America

Carmen Miranda reports about Latin America, where there are 10 Member organizations, 30 HMs, 3 active members of staff (Lorena, for Cono Sur, Marvin for Central America and Carmen for the Amazon). Felipe Gomez is supporting for Mesoamerica. The

Communication Officer, Isis, is based in Colombia. 2 members of the Steering Committee are from the region.

- The first ICCA Regional Meeting in South America took place back-to-back with '*Congreso de Areas Privadas y Reservas Indígenas*', which invited indigenous peoples & local community representatives for the first time in ten years. This was an important opportunity for the ICCAs of Central America, and their representatives were outspoken. The main reflections were on private PAs and IPs. Both ICCAs and private reserves are private efforts that contribute to conservation but most private reserves are for profit (ecotourism). Indigenous reserves maintain their territories to preserve their livelihoods. See event website for full details, reflections and declaration from the event. A publication of the 24 exhibitions will be produced.
- Simone laments the fact that the very controversial issue of Private Reserves in Paraguay may have been ignored, despite being so important for indigenous peoples and local communities. Carmen explains that emails were shared in the organization of the events... this was an opportunity to be together, but not everyone responded.
- A regional priority is **documenting and exchanging experiences** about conservation of indigenous territories and livelihoods; also on overlapping PAs and ICCAs in different areas. SAVIA is to develop a **toolkit to monitor ecosystem functions**, to be used in addressing the **biggest threat: mining**. Some of the resources available to the Amazon could be available to other areas for monitoring conservation by indigenous peoples. Lobbying can look for ways to unify people and to monitor, and support, cases where people denounce what is going on (e.g. in the TIPNIS area). Four studies were produced as part of CBD Technical Paper 64. A shared objective at national and local level is to see how we can mobilize people and **accompany conflict communities in their efforts to protect their ICCAs**.
- In Mesoamerica, Marvin will follow up the conclusions of Totoncapán meeting (action plan, membership, networking, communication efforts). SAVIA's project to be funded by UICN-NL and deal with ecosystem functions through the perspective of communities (build capacity to track deforestation, mining, etc.) on the basis of several cases in South America. Carmen & Simone to see how they can support one another with the initiative.
- Discussions of controversial issues need to take place among Members and some communication gaps have been evident. **Grazia will discuss with Lorena, and Lorena – who is the Focal Point for Latin America – will make sure that all Members are better informed ahead of events.**

National coalitions and federations

- In Madagascar ICCA communities are federated around the resurgence of the power of the 'Fokonolona'. In the RDC, a similar network is starting now (extremely difficult and expensive communication). Initiatives need to be tailored to the context
- Sergio explains that, in Spain, there is a rich and varied potential for ICCAs in marine areas, forests, pasture areas. Society may be interested in defending this but there is little general awareness of the existence of ICCAs. We need to start branding the name of ICCAs, campaigning and educating society. We should write the basic vision in a *Declaration of Valdeavallano de Tera* and publish it with a press release. We will continue to work on the CBD Technical report, but there is a problem with language so this report – published in English – will not be read in Spain. The layout is very

important. In the short-term (1-1.5 years) to work on a congress with workshops on specific ecosystem issues.

- In July a new Board of directors was elected for The Tao Foundation. Sutej Hugu is Strategic Advisor, and a woman was elected as Director, for the first time. It is important to link up with the younger generation. There was a demonstration against nuclear power with the Youth Action Alliance. The law on the autonomy of indigenous people is being revised. A national network/coalition for tribal sovereignty and management of commons is being organized. Information is being exchanged with people from ICCA-Philippines. A research programme with the National Science Council is to start, if an initiative has insufficient standards then we can reject it, this will expose practices that are not beneficial for ICCAs.
- Bas Verschuuren is collecting information to write a code of conduct/guidelines for working on ICCAs, similar to the International Code from the Society of Ethnobiology. Interested people should link with him.

Grazia continues her presentation:

- At international level, the Consortium followed up the achievements of 2012 with an active presence at regional and international events (e.g., WIN, UNFCCC, EMRIP, RRI conference on land rights, regional conservation events...); a major new publication was produced for the IUCN ([Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action](#), IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 20,) and is about to be translated into Spanish and French (a copy is offered to all participants); a series of Briefing Notes on ICCAs is under development. Importantly, the proposal by the Consortium has been chosen and is shaping **an entire Stream of events at the World Parks Congress of 2014**.
- The Consortium now has a summary description as an **informative leaflet in three languages**, which was produced with input from all regional coordinators and many members, and has been excellently received.
- The membership is growing steadily and many Members are very active, as we will hear in the Reports from the Regional Coordinators.
- Problems: there have been a couple of unsuccessful project proposals this year (e.g. Swiss cooperation could not finance the 2013 GA; study for important restoration project in Casamance could not be financed). Also: still insecure funding for 2014 and beyond; limited effectiveness in communication and ICCA alerts; some coordinators lament the lack of better financial support; certain initiatives, such as the youth group, have not managed to take off.

Grazia asks Gino and others to provide more examples.

- Gino Cocchiaro is directly involved with communications, creating awareness and strengthening discussions. His organisation-- Natural Justice, a Member of the Consortium-- is involved with 8 countries on ICCAs and human rights, this is an opportunity for community land discussions. He is directly involved with African Biodiversity Network in organizing a meeting (November 2013) on ICCAs, with participants from Southern Africa and East Africa. They will be using the Consortium membership to network, strategize and look at the challenges facing ICCAs in this region.

- Gino then introduces a policy paper produced by Ashish on which Ashish wishes to receive feedback. It outlines the five main goals of the Aichi Targets, and how they interrelate with the existence and support provided to ICCAs. The Aichi Targets are key for CBD, but influence the work of the entire United Nations, this is a very important consideration when looking at policy and leveraging national governments. The policy paper looks at the key targets (no. 11, no. 18), but also at each target, and how ICCAs contribute to them. Ashish has asked for input from the GA on the style of the paper. Gino will send out a draft of this paper. The following volunteer to provide input: Eli, Taghi, Simone, Marco, Stefano, Iris and Joseph. Holly (the International Policy Assistant) sent out some suggestions for the up-coming Working Group around Article 8J. Please reply to her as well.
- Joseph Itongwa wants the Central African IPs to benefit from the idea and practice of ICCAs. In 2013, he spoke about that in a number of regional and national meetings, highlighting the opportunity to gain from the experience of the Consortium in regard to the appropriate recognition of the ICCAs in RDC. Joseph participated in EMRIP where he made a speech in the plenary about ICCAs and also participated in a side event. It is crucial to share knowledge and wisdom about ICCAs. Themes for UNFPII are relevant to the work Joseph and his NGO are trying to do. We need to provide ICCA case studies there.
- Taghi comments that Joseph should focus on regional participation but must plan ahead as the participation in UNFPII in New York is very expensive.

Europe

Iris Benes stresses that we need more preparation time for the GA, and more discussion. She was involved by Grazia in a project and was able to make many presentations on ICCAs. She asks to nominate a new Regional Coordinator for Northern Europe. There is a crucial need in Europe, and it is to **influence the EU policies that are negatively affecting collective property and community conservation**. This is a huge topic – which was extensively discussed and agreed the day before, but neither she nor Marco can commit to do a review and draft a policy brief in the coming months.

Marco Bassi notes that the EU is responsible for much environmental destruction in terms of ICCAs. We had a European workshop on ICCAs and some studies for CBD 64 but there is still a big knowledge gap, and little ground for effective advocacy. Policies are not only at EU level but in different contexts. Natura 2000 is a big opportunity. We should network and research knowledge gaps. We could present results at the WPC in 2014. The European Forum for nature conservation and pastoralism is interested in the same discussion.

Taghi stresses the need to support ICCA initiatives in Spain and to link with pastoralists, which are an important network in Europe. We should follow-up and investigate opportunities for their understanding and support to ICCAs.

Sergio notes that he learned a lot through the production of the ICCA study for TS 64 for Spain. But he needs quality support to gather more information, even if he only focuses on Southern and Western Europe.

North America

Eli Enns works with a number of initiatives (Ecological Governance Project, Eco-Trust Canada, Plenty Canada) and has been trying to understand and promote sustainable

livelihoods with indigenous peoples. He describes a food tracking programme, which allows consumers to be more aware of where their food comes from and how it was produced (including fish). That could be used to support ICCAs, if the fish could be tracked to healthy environments conserved by indigenous peoples. Plenty Canada is indigenous founded and directed and Eli feels it will be important to explore its desire to become a Member.

The Global President's report and programme report are noted

5. Membership Report

Emma Courtine offers a report prepared by Aurelie Newmann. She explains the types of members we have, also the process and statistics of membership (including geographical and cultural coverage). There are 53 Members currently, and 127 Honorary Members. She explains the acceptance process.

6. Communications Report

Isis Alvarez mentions that she took over from Vanessa in May 2013. After a complicated transition period (web site programme was changed from Joomla to Wordpress), she is facilitating communication within the membership, sharing information via Facebook and Twitter... but more new tools are available and need to be explored. Isis suggests that a communications team, with adequate technical expertise, is set up to coordinate regional information and that communications staff is strengthened. This job is too big for one part-time person. We need to consolidate a photo library to share the combined wealth of photos amongst Consortium staff. We still need to design the logo. Some time ago there was a discussion whether the Consortium name should be changed, but it was decided that it will remain unchanged.



At about this time (not clear in the minutes) the SC interrupts its work to enjoy a performance of traditional dances and singing in the village square. Everyone is back about 1-2 hours later.



7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer Stan Stevens presents the preliminary 2013 reports approved by the Auditor of Accounts on 3 October. He outlines the current financial status of the Consortium. Both the current Christensen Fund and UNDP support will end in December 2013. The BC ICCA Workshop support is secured. In many cases, resources come to the Consortium via our Members and associates, when we work together. We have resources in Dollar, Euro and CHF accounts. Stan outlines total amounts of all Consortium accounts. Support from WILD has allowed us to organise this GA in Spain. We are looking into other donors, possibly Ford Foundation, IUCN-NL.

As of now we do not know the level of resources we will have to work with in 2014, so we are unable to make solid commitments, but we hope to receive support as part of a major ICCA initiative that should be funded via UNDP in 2014. We will continue to discuss with TCF, and with UNDP for a major ICCA initiative. This, however, may not allow us to change much in our semi-volunteer compensations as we need about \$100,000/year just for personnel/regular consultants (regional coordinators include more than 20 people). So far, we have operated with semi-volunteers, the GA needs to decide whether we can continue that in the future.

We need professional help with the accounting and we are looking for a volunteer accountant as, in Switzerland, professional support would be impossible for us to afford.

Eli queries why the Consortium is based in Switzerland. Grazia explains the advantages of access to many international organizations, interaction with the UN, the IUCN, less bureaucracy, efficient banking facilities, many people pass by Geneva and can interact with us....

A discussion follows on alternative options when budgets are limited. Simone suggests we could have fewer staff but pay them more. She sees the need for a professional administrator as the GA needs to know the budgets to be able to decide on activities. The financial narrative report and overview of expenses need to be public to provide more transparency. **Grazia and Stan will try to provide more details.**

A discussion on staffing issues follows. Taghi says it was a deliberate decision to have more Regional Coordinators (RC) than initially foreseen in the original TCF project proposal. Basically, Grazia gave up her compensation (and the ones of the foreseen 3 other coordinators) to fund a much larger team that now goes above 20 people. Salaries vary according to living costs and minimum wages in any country. He does not believe that the organization could work with fewer people. We are a “global movement”, with no offices and no expenses. Bas feels we need more professionals working in communications and the provision of assets for the Consortium. He also stresses the need for a group moderator to be a point of contact. Vanessa feels you need to be in a privileged position to work for the Consortium as you must work without a proper salary. Carmen enjoys being part of a movement, it is important to think carefully *how* we grow. She highlights the bad experience of IUCN who used their membership to their benefit and separated from their original philosophy. She does not believe that the solution is to develop bureaucracy, but calls for information from each region on how they could grow and stresses the need for better communication capacities. She also stresses that only having one coordinator per region is no way near enough. We cannot have fewer.

Grazia feels it is an absolute priority for our movement to channel the energy of people in many regions. The ICCA concept is valid because it is a worldwide phenomenon. She does her best to be supporting and enabling of people working for the Consortium, but they are told when they start working what the conditions are... they work because they want to, and not because they get a salary. Maybe in the future we should have a salary wish-list and then see how we can meet that... Also, we always encourage the coordinators to develop projects and foresee a salary for themselves as part of that.

Taghi stresses the importance of establishing a balance between a bureaucracy that works and an organization that operates like a “global movement”. Simone believes that a middle ground can be found, the Consortium is built on trust, inspiration, ambition and enthusiasm.

It will be easier to agree on procedures if we start with the basics of bureaucracy. However, the Consortium should offer decent salaries. Grazia would like to maintain the energy that comes from people volunteering. Iris is concerned that relying too much on personal commitment is irresponsible, people can become worn out.

Sutej Hugu notes that his project expenses exceed his financial provision as a coordinator but he supports his projects because he wants them to continue. Eli adds that regional coordinators can get resources without the need to create bureaucracy. Vololona introduces the idea that maybe the Consortium doesn't need more staff but people to act as focal points or catalysts. In many cases coordinators are just that, they act as focal points, explains Grazia.

Taghi says that the nature of coordinators is that they are catalysts so they can't be called employees; many are indigenous peoples, working for the good of their own people. He asks everyone to be patient, support will come, but the day we need to hire professionals as coordinators... the movement will no longer be the same. **The Treasurer's report is approved by all Members present.**

8. Auditor's Report

The Auditor's Report is approved by all Members present.

9. Statutes and Operational Procedures

Grazia explains that 'Consortium APAC' is the official name registered under Swiss Law but we now need to add the word "association" to be officially registered in the Register of Commerce of the Canton of Vaud in Switzerland. This is necessary as we would like to become a Member of ECOSOC (the UN Economic and Social Council), and they demand an official registration number. This is a good occasion to review the Statutes and to also add a phrase that was discussed in the past and places our aim in a broader perspective. This phrase may actually facilitate our membership of the IUCN, if we ever decide to ask for membership with them.

Gino (a lawyer ☺ !) quickly reviews all changes, with a revised text with tracked changes projected on the screen. All approve the addition of the word 'Association' to the French name ("Association Consortium APAC") for the sake of legality in Switzerland, as well as the other changes and the broad "perspective" phrase.

The changes to the Statutes are thus formally approved. The Statutes will be printed and the changes will also be quickly translated during the night by Grazia, and added to the other language versions, so that people can sign the new Statutes in the morning.

The Operational Guidelines, however, were not revised in detail by the Members, and now there is too little time to do it in plenary. **The Operational Guidelines are not approved and their possible approval is moved to the next GA.**

10. New Members: one undecided case

When an application for membership is received, it goes through the Steering Committee and is then sent to the Members at large. If the Coordinator does not get any objections within 2 months, membership is agreed. As of now, we have a difficult case from an organization in Tanzania – the Authorized Association Consortium—that requested membership. They are well known as they sit on the only existing legal mechanism for Tanzanian communities to benefit financially from conservation (wildlife ranches). They

work in close relationship with the government, with whom they share revenues and who “authorizes” them, and are financed by USAID. There is a discussion about this organization, and whether its sufficiency represents the autonomy that usually characterizes the Members of the Consortium vis-à-vis national governments. **It is decided to ask for a decision from the membership at large.** Gino will gather and provide more information, which will be communicated to the Members at the time of the formal submission.

11. Steering Committee

One new nomination received, for a current HM from the Democratic Republic of Congo who is also the director of Strong Roots, a Member of the Consortium. Importantly, he is multi-lingual. Someone would need to be replaced? Not necessarily. Simone feels it is not clear whether all members “want to stay” on the SC. Grazia says that no-one has spoken about wanting to leave.

A discussion follows about the role and composition of the SC. Raul wants to look at the regional balance. Grazia suggests that people should be elected because of regional balance, but also because they are good at accomplishing their role. They should take part actively in the life of the Consortium. Carmen points out that there is no process of evaluation for the members of the SC and their engagement and commitment. Gleb believes that although the organization is very new it should have rules of procedure for several issues. It would benefit from clear guidelines. The statutes actually state that the election of the members of the SC is every 3 years. Mburu requests that the conditions on membership invitation and renewal be added to the Statutes. Grazia mentions that these rules could be included in the Operational Guidelines.

Stefano thinks that voting on the entire committee leaves no room for judgment; we should vote on each member that is proposed to be part of the Steering Committee. Taghi proposes that the GA should hear the names of the ones who are proposed as Members (either new proposals or re-proposed as they were members before). Eli proposes Emily Choo as a Member. Grazia mentions that she first has to have worked with/for ICCAs and have been nominated as an HM. It takes some time for people to understand what the Consortium is, and how to do their job well. She also explains that the Consortium must provide the Chamber of Commerce with names of new Steering Committee, and this is urgent, cannot be postponed. The General Assembly should simply elect the Steering Committee, and whoever wishes to propose a name should do so, also keeping in mind the merits of those who have been there and have carried out their duties.

The names of ten people are put forward: M. Taghi Farvar (Iran); Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (Switzerland); Stan Stevens (USA); Ashish Kothari (India); Chrissy Grant (Australia); Jorge Nahuel (Argentina); Juan Carlos Riascos de la Peña (Colombia); Dominique Bikaba (Democratic Republic of Congo); Kail Zingapan (Philippines) and Lili Sarah Fortuné (Niger). **All are approved by acclamation as Members of the Steering Committee. Maurizio Farhan Ferrari is also kindly asked to remain as Auditor of the Accounts.** It is noted that he has reservations about staying on if there’s no professional accountant to whom he can refer.

12. Priorities and key actions 2014

The participants are asked to start thinking about priorities for future work, and write down their 3 to 5 most important items, which will be discussed tomorrow in the bus to the airport. The Solidarity fund will also be discussed tomorrow.

The President closes the meeting at 22.17 pm, and all participants proceed to dinner.

Participants: Taghi Farvar, Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Vololona Rasoarimanana, Stan Stevens, Eli Enns, Raúl Petsain, Felipe Gómez, Stefano Lorenzi, Simone Lovera, Sergio Couto Gonzalez, Hugu Sutej, Antonio Jesus, Lucena Garcia, Mburu Guthuru, Gino Cocchiario, Iris Benes, Marco Bassi, Antonino Morabito, Carmen Miranda, Dave de Vera, Giovanni Reyes, Joseph Itongwa, Aboubakar Albachir, Gleb Raygorodetsky, Bas Verschuuren, Christian Chatelain, Vanessa Reid, Isis Alvarez, Emma Courtine & Mariam Abazeri

