

The ICCA Consortium newsletter

Issue No. 1, February 2012

www.iccaconsortium.org



The ICCA Consortium

The ICCA Consortium (hereafter 'Consortium') is an international association dedicated to promoting the **appropriate recognition of** and **support to ICCAs** (Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories) in the regional, national and global arena. The Consortium is directly linked to the **grassroots** through its **Members** (which include **Indigenous Peoples** (IP) and **Local Community** (LC) **organizations** as well as **civil society organisations** working with IPs/LCs), and **Honorary members** (individuals with relevant concerns and expertise). As a global institution, the Consortium is collaborating with [GEF SGP](#), [UNEP WCMC](#), [IUCN](#), the [CBD Secretariat](#), research and advocacy organisations and various UN mechanisms promoting human and indigenous rights.

A significant development for the Consortium in 2011 was the successful application for two project grants (from The [Christensen Fund](#)-- TCF and from the [UNDP Energy and Resources Group-- EEG](#)) which are currently supporting it as an "emerging institution". A third grant was obtained from [Swedbio](#) for a collaboration initiative between the Consortium and its Member [Natural Justice](#), which is the grant manager. The TCF and EEG grants allowed the Consortium to recruit its first ever staff, including a full time communication officer (CO), nine part-time regional coordinators (RCs) and a part-time global coordinator (GC). Other regional coordinators are in various phases of recruitment. Each regional coordinator has a special area of geographic and thematic focus (see the 'SC and [Staff contact](#)' page of the Consortium website). Most of the newly recruited staff were able to attend a planning retreat in Bali in October 2011 (see below).

Our newsletter

This is the Consortium's first newsletter!

We hope to produce an edition every four months and make it an avenue of information and communication among Consortium Members, Honorary members, Partners and staff. We begin with the highlights of the Consortium's work since July 2011. We hope you enjoy it!



Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (Global Coordinator- GC) and Vanessa Reid (Communications Officer-CO)

Follow the Consortium on the web...

Visit the Consortium's Facebook, Twitter and Vimeo pages by clicking on the icons below. **Please disseminate these links to your networks also!**

News of Consortium Members, honorary members, international Partners and any ICCA-related news in general is posted within these pages. For details on how the Consortium plans to use these social media tools, particularly for its '*ICCA Alert system*', [click here](#) to read '*A descriptive document on the purpose and functioning of the ICCA Consortium's Information and Communication System (ICS)*.'



Consortium events...

ICCA Consortium Fourth General Assembly (GA), CIFOR headquarters, Bogor (Indonesia), 12 October 2011

This GA was attended by **31 people**, including representatives of the Consortium's Member organizations, Honorary members, key international Partners, Steering Committee Members and staff. Besides those physically present at the GA (from Indonesia, Paraguay, Iran, India, Malaysia, the UK, the Philippines, Switzerland, USA, Panama and Bolivia) other Consortium Member representatives and Honorary members attended via Skype from Jordan, Senegal, the USA, Panama and the Netherlands. Reports were offered by the President (Taghi Farvar), Global coordinator (Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend), Treasurer (Stan



The fourth GA at CIFOR. Photo courtesy of GBF

Stevens), Auditor of Accounts (Maurizio Farhan Ferrari), Chair of the Statutes Committee (Harry Jonas), Regional Coordinators (Lorena Arce, Francois Depey, Kail Zingapan, Neema Pathak and Christian Chatelain) and Communication Officer (Vanessa Reid). The Assembly adopted the 2012 Budget and revised Statutes, and noted the draft Procedural Guidelines and Membership Policy, and the Information and Communications System (ICS). For the GA minutes, [click here](#).

ICCA Consortium planning retreat, Bali (Indonesia), 6-11 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, GC, SC members, representatives of Members and the CO, 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, communication and Consortium's participation at international events were also thoroughly fleshed out.

The retreat allowed participants to trace 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 and terminology in general** were amply discussed. The meaning of "ICCAs" in particular was unpacked, leading to the current shorter but hopefully all-encompassing formulation:

ICCAs = indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories

For a report on the retreat from the Communication Officer, [click here](#).



Retreat participants. Photo courtesy of GBF

Regional Coordinators in the field...

The Americas

Working with Kuna Yala communities, Panama, November 2011

By Jorge Andreve (jladdpennypa@yahoo.com)

In November 2011 Jorge held a meeting on ICCAs with the *Ustupa* Kuna Yala community in Panama. The focus of the meeting was ICCAs in relation to Indigenous territories and how the ICCA concept might help the Kuna Yala people claim territorial rights to their land. He described and explained the mission, plans and purpose of the Consortium, and some issues surrounding the

ICCA terminology. The meeting resulted in the community deciding that ICCAs will be one of their main work priorities and asked Jorge to help them prepare a project to protect one of their sacred sites, which is of great significance for their traditional, cultural and spiritual wealth. During the week, Jorge visited the sacred sites and agreed to help facilitate the community, especially with issues relating to endogenous development and community management of the ICCAs. The community is waiting for financial help to start activities.



Jorge on his way to visit the Kuna Yala community. Photo courtesy of Jorge Andreve



In the forests of Kuna Yala territory. Photo courtesy of Jorge Andreve

The project's objective is to formally establish two ICCAs in areas known locally as *Galú of Maniyala* and *Yandup*, with a focus on encouraging the rejuvenation of traditional knowledge within the Kuna Yala territory. The *Gula of Maniyala* - part of the forest near the mountain of the Cordillera de San Blas, located in the village of Ailigandi - and *Yandup* - located within a coastal marine community near Usdub - can be understood as both physical and metaphorical/spiritual spaces for the Kuna Yala community. For them, such places must be conserved to ensure the survival, protection and equilibrium of *Mother Earth*.

The Kuna Yala laws are oral, transmitted from generation to generation and based on the experience and expertise of their people. This project hopes to document these laws, restore their respect and ensure that they are never lost.

Por este documento en Español, [clic aqui](#).



British Columbia Protected Area Research Forum, December 2011

By Francois Depey (francois@iccaconsortium.org)

Returning from the ICCA Consortium gathering that took place in Bali in October 2011 and assembled there a whole crew of regional coordinators and members of the steering committee, I was inspired to start spreading the news regarding the Consortium and its potential to support North American communities and First Nations (indigenous peoples) in their ICCA initiatives. The British Columbia Protected Areas Research Forum (BCPARF) -- a bi-annual forum facilitating and promoting parks and protected areas research in British Columbia, Canada - provided an excellent occasion for that!

The Forum is a cooperative partnership between the research community, and provincial and federal governing agencies. "Adapting to change", the theme of the December 2011 event, seemed quite appropriate to introduce the concept of ICCAs and the work of the Consortium. In fact if ICCAs seem like an alternative to more conventional biodiversity conservation models, they also historically preceded any current system of protection achieved by communities and states. The timing was good and getting involved right away in the BCPARF event prevented me from waiting another couple of years for the opportunity to reoccur. Organizers welcomed our idea to introduce the theme of ICCA in their event that hosted an audience of around 150 participants, mostly accustomed to more conventional types of biodiversity conservation through state managed

protected areas. Even though academic research was the dominant topic, there were a few presentations related to protected area management. The ICCA presentation was directly followed by a rich discussion that provided an occasion for many participants to engage, share their points of view and experiences and inquire further about the idea.

In conjunction with the presentation, I also designed and brought two posters (see picture below) that provided information on the support provided to ICCAs by international conservation organizations such as IUCN and CBD. The posters were on display throughout the event and provided opportunities for one-to-one discussions with various participants.

Besides spreading the “ICCA word”, the Forum presented me with an opportunity to connect with a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. In 1994, following a long and active struggle to protect old growth forest from being logged by the forest industry in their watershed, the Tla-o-qui-aht identified a portion of their traditional territory and declared it their own “tribal park”. This was a very innovative initiative in Canada, which remains an inspiration for other First Nations. In 2010, they hosted on their territory an event on “Community Conservation in Practice” which focused on ICCAs. Even though at that time the ICCA Consortium was not yet officially in existence, many current Consortium Members and Honorary members were already involved in that event. Building upon those existing relationships could be a good starting point to get to know better the members of that Nation and their tribal park initiative, as it is critical to clearly understand how such initiatives work out for the land and water and people they encompass.



Two posters presented at the by BCPARF event by Francois. Image courtesy of Francois Depey

For me, participating in the BCPARF was a first attempt at reaching out to a broad group of conservationists. And it succeeded in initiating exchanges that I hope will lead to more interactions between the ICCA Consortium and other groups involved in initiatives that fulfil the three criteria of the ICCA definition.

Fostering such exchanges and networking among people in their territories may lead, in due time, to an ICCA gathering in North America. For now, we still need to expand our small core group of Members and Honorary members in North America to solidify our foundations in this part of the world. My participation in the British Columbia Protected Area Research Forum had thus many of the characteristics of a “first step”, but a step that sparked my desire of moving forward with our mission to support ICCAs in North America.

We would like to acknowledge SWIFT foundation for making our participation in that event possible thanks to their financial support that covered all expenses to attend the forum in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Mapu Lahual network: a claim for appropriate recognition in Southern Chile

By Lorena Arce (lorena@iccaconsortium.org)

I have been working with the *Mapu Lahual*: a network of nine *huilliche* communities in the coastal edge of Southern Chile. Covering an area of almost 60,000 hectares, *Mapu Lahual* can only be accessed by sea or by foot, through a coastal path of 52 kilometres. For some time, I have been exploring how the wealth of the natural environment contrasts with the lack of opportunities and isolation of the local communities, which suffer from insecure land tenure, lack of local services and very precarious infrastructure. For the local communities, these have been major constraints to achieve their development and they have found difficult to obtain attention from the local government. This area should be recognised as a priority site for conservation due to its high number of coastal forests, secluded beaches, clear rivers, and unpolluted marine ecosystems. To see a video of the area in the Consortium Vimeo site, [click here](#).

Europe and Africa

Field mission: The ICCAs of traditional fishermen in estuarine West Africa, Nov.-Dec. 2011

By Christian Chatelain (christian@iccaconsortium.org) and Grazia BF



A meeting with the local Kawawana community members.
Photo courtesy of GBF

Grazia and Christian took advantage of independent travel to West Africa to carry out a mission to Senegal to contract the Consortium coordinator for marine and coastal ecosystems in West Africa – Salatou Sambou – and plan work with him for the months ahead. Salatou is the Executive Director of the [Association des Pêcheurs de la Communauté Rurale de Mangangoulack \(APCRM\) in Casamance](#) – a Member of the Consortium. He is also one of the most active and experienced ICCA advocates and “doers” in the region.

Grazia was contracted by IUCN for a training mission to Guinea Bissau on the topic of shared governance of protected areas where ICCAs can be prominently featured. In that context, she asked to subcontract both Christian and Salatou, as their experience could be of great use during the mission. The first week of the mission included an intensive training for multi-stakeholder teams representing all marine protected areas of the country. During the second week a “shared governance process start-up” was run for a specific protected area – the Natural Park of the Mangroves of Rio Cacheu – one of the largest expanses of mangroves in West Africa, and a repository of great wealth in terms of shrimps, fisheries and marine biodiversity in general.

During the mission in Guinea Bissau, the Consortium team had numerous occasions to describe the usefulness of the ICCA approach, including within state-declared protected areas, and Salatou discussed in detail the concrete experience of his own community ICCA, called Kawawana, facing audiences as varied as the Governor of the Cacheu province and local fishermen from the Bijagos archipelago and Cacheu. Salatou’s interventions were deemed so useful that numerous exchanges visits and mutual learning occasions have been planned and have already found financial support. Exchange visits between fishermen and other community members from Kawawana and fishermen

from several communities in Orango and Bolol (Guinea Bissau) will take place in the early months of 2012 and are expected to provide assistance to the emergence of a few ICCAs fully conceived and run by fishermen communities. Interesting, these will be ICCAs within state-declared protected areas, where a genuine situation of community governance (i.e., communities devising and enforcing their own management rules) has been already discussed and preliminarily agreed with the protected area system managers in the country.

Back in Senegal, Grazia and Christian spent a couple of days visiting Salatou's Kawawana community with the following objectives (i) providing support to the Kaninguloor team in charge of socio-economic monitoring and reviewing ICCA monitoring results up to date, (ii) testing the "ICCA Safety and Resilience Tool", (iii) advising on local ICCA expansion/ replication and promoting the development of a regional association to ensure ICCA quality, (iv) providing advice and support to the APCRM, in particular regarding further local initiatives that could be supported by GEF SGP, (v) collecting material towards a photo story on Kawawana, (vi) planning for the participation of Salatou in the Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology (Montpellier-France, May 2012). All the objectives could be effectively addressed.

The testing of the Security and Resilience Tool revealed that the self-analysis supported by the Tool can be completed by a group of ICCA-knowledgeable people in one workshop session of about 4 hours. The Tool is not extremely simple to use, and experienced facilitators are needed. But it can be improved with some simple modifications – and its testing for Kawawana allowed ascertaining that its conditions, both internal and external, are remarkable and support a considerable optimism for its long-term sustainability. The final Resilience and Security "Index" for Kawawana was calculated as 0.84 (maximum theoretical value of 1).



Participants in the governance training for marine protected areas, Bubaques, Guinea Bissau, November 2011

The founding meeting of an Association to ensure "ICCA quality" in Casamance was held in Ziguinchor on December 6th 2011, and the association is expected to be formalized in early 2012 with the aim of building upon the successful experience of Kawawana while insuring that further similar initiatives in Casamance will respect some basic criteria of genuine community governance and effective and equitable management.

Field mission: The ICCAs of indigenous pastoralists in the Sahel, 7-13 November 2011

By Christian Chatelain and Taghi Farvar (taghi@iccaconsortium.org)

Taghi and Christian (Europe RC) carried out a joint mission to Niger and Burkina Faso in November 2011, in close collaboration with [Réseau Billital Maroobé \(RBM\)](#) – one of the first Members of the Consortium. RBM is an association of pastoralist groups in the Sahel, founded by the three largest pastoralist associations in Niger, Burkina and Mali and later expanded to include pastoralists from seven countries in West Africa.

For the mission, Taghi and Christian took advantage of other sponsored travel and had three main objectives:

(i) identifying and contracting a Coordinator for the Sahel region for the Consortium, (ii) defining / planning with him/her a work plan to March 2012 and (iii) discussing ICCA issues with RBM and offering field-based support to in the launching of some concrete initiatives for the appropriate recognition of ICCAs in Niger, Burkina Faso and/or Mali. These three objectives were achieved and the results are the following:

- An ICCA workshop was held on 11 Nov in Niamey (Niger) whereby the concept and practice of ICCA in pastoral environments were thoroughly discussed, and a courtesy visit was made, in the presence of the chairman of RBM, to the King of Dori (Burkina). Two field-based workshops with large groups of pastoralists were also held on Malley and Bangui, (Madaoua – Niger).



Taghi Farvar with Safouratou in the Sahel. Photo courtesy of Christian Chatelain



Meeting of pastoralists in the Sahel. Photo courtesy of Christian Chatelain

- Safouratou Moussa Kane, a Fulani vice chair of RBM from Niger, was identified and contracted as “Sahel coordinator” for the Consortium as of 11 November. Christian is currently seeking financial support for Safouratou to be able to participate in the next Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology (Montpellier, France, May 2012).
- Two ICCA initiatives were launched in Niger during the mission, respectively for the ICCA recognition of the Malley and Kollangou/Bangui indigenous pastoralist territories in Niger. The first of them is well advanced and the other is currently being organized.

ICCA EVENTS

ICCA Network Nepal 3rd National Meeting, Kathmandu (Nepal), 21-24 December 2011

By Stan Stevens (stevens@iccaconsortium.org)

The ICCA Network Nepal, a Member of the ICCA Consortium, held its third national meeting and a 1.5 day workshop on the draft *ICCA Resilience and Security Tool* from 21-24 December in Lalitpur, Nepal. Jailab Rai and Naya Sharma Paudel of [Forest Action Nepal](#) (another Consortium Member) facilitated the meeting and led the workshop with financial assistance from the Consortium through its Christensen Fund grant. The meeting generated impressive enthusiasm for advancing appropriate recognition and respect for ICCAs in Nepal: work that will proceed in 2012 with the help of a grant from GEF-SGP to Forest Action Nepal in support of the ICCA Network.

Members from 16 different IP organisations and local communities participated in the workshop and discussed the details of legally establishing an ICCA Federation in their country. They hope to

complete the required procedures in 2012 and to be then better equipped to lobby for constitutional provisions and a new Protected Area Law or amendment to the existing National Parks Act to provide greater recognition, respect, and support for ICCAs within and outside of the national protected area system. Other priorities expressed by the participants included the need for ICCA documentation, building awareness of the network/federation among Nepal's Indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society, and government agencies, and increasing the number of members in their network to make the organization more geographically, ethnically, and ecologically representative in Nepal.

The first morning of the meeting featured a series of presentations on ICCAs and conservation in Nepal by government officials and the staff of intergovernmental organizations and conservation NGOs, followed by interaction with members of the ICCA Network Nepal.

The workshop session on *ICCA Resilience and Security* introduced ICCA Network Nepal members to an ICCA self-evaluation Tool currently under development and testing by the Consortium. Over the course of the workshop, participants discussed the Tool and had an opportunity to practice using it, which is crucial because in 2012 the ICCA representatives will lead community meetings in their home regions to employ the Tool to self-evaluate one or more ICCAs. Feedback on the workshop and from the field-testing sessions will contribute to revising the Tool, which is intended to facilitate community discussion of ICCAs' strengths, challenges, and needs.

Stan Stevens would like to acknowledge information for this article from Jailab Rai, Naya Sharma Poudel, and Tenzing Tashi Sherpa

Update on Khumbu Sherpa ICCAs in the Mt. Everest Region of Nepal, November-December 2011

By Stan Stevens



Stan Stevens, SC member

Stan Stevens returned to the Mt. Everest region for 6 weeks in November-December 2011, accompanied during the first week by Steering Committee member Ashish Kothari. It was Stan's 37th trip to Khumbu since 1979. Stan had the opportunity to

visit sixteen Khumbu Sherpa ICCAs and to discuss their current status and needs in the villages which maintain them. These ICCAs

continue to thrive, although there is much concern about inter-generational transmission of values and knowledge to Sherpa youth and the continuing need to raise awareness of and appreciation for ICCAs among government officials and outside NGO staff from outside the area. Stan discussed possible actions in a series of meetings with the leaders and members of the Khumbu Sherpa Culture Conservation Society, the Sherpa Pollution Control Committee (the regional Sherpa conservation NGO), and the Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone Management Committee.



Tensing Tashi Sherpa in Nepal.
Photo courtesy of Stan Stevens



Stan in Nepal. Photo courtesy of Stan Stevens

This led to an agreement to undertake a set of collaborative initiatives in 2012, which include school programs on Sherpa culture and conservation, cultural treks/camps for Sherpa children, research and dissemination of findings on ICCAs by Sherpa community researchers, and preparation of cultural maps and Sherpa conservation maps which will include ICCAs. KSCCS will take the lead in most of these activities, partnering with the SNP Buffer Zone and SPCC on mapping, research, and dissemination to give these them greater legitimacy and weight with vis-à-vis Sagarmatha National Park and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. Some funding will be provided for these activities by the SNP Buffer Zone and international sources to ensure that pilot projects will be underway in

key settlements in 2012. Additional funding will be sought from international sources.

Participatory seminar on “The ‘dos and don'ts of supporting forest conservation and restoration initiatives by local communities and indigenous peoples”, at the Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP-17, Durban (South Africa), 04 December, 2011

By Simone Lovera (simonelovera@yahoo.com)

This event was organised and carried out by the Global Forest Coalition (a Consortium Member) with a poster co-designed by the Consortium



The objectives of the participatory seminar were to provide a space for representatives of indigenous peoples, peasant movements, women's movements and local communities to voice and share their experiences and views on the most appropriate, equitable and effective ways in which outsiders can support the initiatives of indigenous peoples and local communities to conserve and restore their forests and other ecosystems that play a key role in climate change mitigation and resilience.

Seminar participants voiced **recommendations** for recognition of the values of and effective support from governments for: indigenous territorial rights, land reforms and autonomy; traditional knowledge and governance systems; sustainable agriculture, food sovereignty and sustainable alternative livelihood options; enabling IPs/LCs to share knowledge, strengthen their institutions and build alliances with like-minded movements; and campaigns against destructive policies/projects, including logging, mining, large tree plantations and land grabbing.

Poster prepared by Vanessa Reid and Simone Lovera. Image courtesy of Simone Lovera

Participants deemed some outside influences unhelpful or even destructive, in particular: REDD+ and other projects that convince IPs and LCs to sign false/unfair PES agreements; REDD+ projects

and policies funded through offsets from private-sector companies who are unlikely to provide support for legal and advocacy campaigns; REDD+ support for monoculture tree plantations

causing serious negative impacts on local communities, IPs, and forests; top-down forms of support that disrespect and undermine the rights, spiritual value systems, and governance systems of IP and LCs; projects and policies ignoring women's rights and needs; projects imposing economically unviable or otherwise senseless alternative livelihoods on IPs and LCs.

These recommendations were presented through a poster session at COP-17 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change itself, various media events, and at Forest Day 5, which was attended by over 1000 REDD+ policy-makers and researchers.

'ICCA in Indonesia' Symposium, CIFOR premises, Bogor (Indonesia), 13-14 October 2011

By Vanessa Reid and Grazia BF

The Symposium – co-organised by [NTFP-EP](#), the Consortium, WWF Indonesia, [Forest Peoples Programme \(FPP\)](#) and [KIARA](#) – was held to explore the current status, concept, practice, limitations and opportunities of ICCAs in Indonesia. Indonesia is the second highest biodiversity-rich country in the world and the livelihoods of an estimated 50 million of its people are dependent in various ways on forests. In light of this, it was considered that Indonesia could greatly benefit from examining the ICCA concept and possibly incorporating it in some way in its policies. The Symposium merely begun the exploration of the scope and magnitude of the existing and potential ICCA phenomenon in Indonesia, but did manage to highlight some issues and concerns in need of attention.



The participants of the symposium. Photo courtesy of GBF

The Symposium was attended by both international and Indonesian participants representing non-governmental, community and IPs organisations, many of whom presented ICCA case studies describing the achievements, shortcomings and threats that ICCAs face in their countries/regions. The Symposium participants also gathered into four working groups to discuss the ICCA **phenomenon** in Indonesia, the **types** of ICCAs found in the country, the barriers to attain their **recognition and support**, the **lessons-learnt** in the field and possible **future steps** for ICCAs in Indonesia. Key concerns and needs emerged from these discussions, including:

- **securing the rights and traditional practices** of indigenous people and local communities at local and national level, **and ICCAs as part of them**;
- addressing the **development needs of forest communities** in addition to their rights over resources;
- offering appropriate recognition to the customary institutions capable of governing natural resources, and to their accompanying knowledge and management practices;
- **tackling conflicting visions** of the desired future, **and poor communication** among indigenous peoples, conservation NGOs and national park staff;
- **enhancing** the level of **participation** and **consultation** of local stakeholders (including women);
- changing both the repressive approaches to conservation that are often still at play as well as the negative perceptions of conservation that generally accompany them;

- providing higher **transparency of information** and ensuring **prior informed consent** of relevant indigenous peoples and local communities wherever the government and/or private sector companies affect their land and resources;
- engaging in fair partnerships and negotiations;
- encouraging good governance and responsible leadership at all levels.

The symposium highlighted the current efforts of the government to adopt CCAs (community conserved areas and territories) into the new **biodiversity conservation law** but also spotlighted the need for **drastic forest tenure reform** within Indonesia. With regards to rights over resources this included, in particular, the needs of local communities to be informed and properly consulted about development and conservation initiatives on their lands, and the need for their traditional knowledge to be recognised in all decision-making processes. Finally, the Symposium shed light on local practices where **good governance** and **responsible leadership** can ensure fair negotiations and partnerships.

There are a number of Indonesian NGOs working on local community and indigenous people's livelihoods and land tenure issues. Based on the outcomes of the Symposium, it has been decided that follow-up meetings for national NGOs and the Consortium will be organised in the coming months to discuss the possibility of setting up a national ICCA Indonesian network. The first National NGO follow-up meeting took place at the new NTFP-EP office in Jakarta on 21 November. It included [HuMa](#), KIARA, FPP, [JKPP](#), and the Consortium and it dealt with the concrete steps needed to carry further the idea of the ICCA network. For a proceedings report of the symposium, [click here](#).

'Understanding community conservation in Europe', a 5-day workshop in Gerace, Italy, 11-16 September 2011

By Iris Benes (iris@bed.hr)

On 11-16 September over thirty-five people gathered in Gerace, in the Southern Italian region of Calabria, to assess the current state of community conservation in Europe and examine how local communities still do have a role in managing and governing their natural environments.

For me personally, it was an invigorating feeling being surrounded by people from all over Europe sharing similar thoughts, interests and activism and particularly interested in community conservation. It was evident from the start that issues relating to 'indigenouness' in Europe are highly complex and in many cases contentious, with concepts such as *commons* and *community* being interpreted differently according to varying historical social systems. It struck me as urgent the need to preserve traditional knowledge relating to the land. The last generation possessing it may not be alive for long and must thus transfer it to younger generations. There is a need for greater incentives to carry this process forward, giving power and rights to old and new communities to manage areas with precious natural resources. In most European countries, regardless of capitalist or socialist heritage, state policies did not stimulate, and sometimes outright abolished, community conservation practices. This



Participants of the Gerace workshop. Photo courtesy of Gary Martin

is why, today, one can find such practices mostly if not solely in far-away areas, among the communities who have managed to keep themselves “below the radar”. Reaching such communities, offering them adequate support and trying to form a network of people who have kept their unique capacities and practices because of their relative isolation is clearly a challenging proposition. The recognition of and support to ICCAs in Europe need a strategic, integrated framework and I look forward to collaborating with scientists, nature conservationists, governmental and non-government organizations and most of all communities in a joint effort to save the bio-cultural jewels of Europe.



The ICCA-Europe research team. Photo courtesy of Gary Martin

determined that there is a need to build a strong research base on ICCAs using social and natural science insights to provide evidence and documentation that can inform local, national, regional and global policies on ICCAs. Helen Newing, Marco Bassi, Colleen Corrigan, Gloria Pungetti and Basil Tselentis (workshop participants) formed a steering group to work towards the creation of a **European-based Research Network on ICCA cases** from around the world. The team is currently trying to identify sources of funding and support and hopes that this can become a useful model and resource also for researchers based in other regions. Updates will be provided to the Consortium as progress is made in the coming months. Watch this space! Colleen can be contacted at Colleen.Corrigan@unep-wcmc.org

[Click here to read more about the workshop, including links to videos, abstracts of presented papers and quotes from participants...](#)

Workshop on: 'Governance of Taiwan's Protected Areas: Recognising Co-Management and Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas', Taiwan, 23-25 August 2011

By Neema Pathak-Broome (neema.pb@gmail.com)

This workshop was organised by the Taiwan Forest Bureau, Tamkang University, National Taiwan University, Taipei Municipal University of Education, IUCN WCPA/CEESP TILCEPA, and ICCA Consortium. Participants included government officials, NGOs, and some indigenous people representatives. Ashish Kothari and Neema Pathak from the Consortium member Kalpavriksh helped to conceive of and run the workshop as resource persons.

A word on the Gerace workshop from Colleen Corrigan, Senior Programme Officer at the Protected Areas programme of UNEP WCMC

Great things happen when people get together to discuss ICCAs! During a brainstorming session at the workshop, it was



An exercise of PA governance. Photo courtesy of Ashish Kothari

They also visited Lanyu Island, where the Tao People are discussing its possible status as an ICCA to deal with the multiple threats they face, and to highlight their role in conserving its biodiversity. Membership of the Tao Foundation to the Consortium was also discussed.

Side event: 'Community governance and stewardship of traditional territories and bio-cultural diversity' at EMRIP (Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People), Geneva (Switzerland), 15 July 2011

By Holly Shrumm

This event was co-hosted by Natural Justice and the Consortium

This side event hosted a panel of five speakers. Grazia introduced this event by providing examples of ICCAs, illustrating their diversity of forms, motivations, values, locations, and impacts. She highlighted their worldwide significance as locally specific 'meeting points' of conservation and sustainable livelihoods, rooted in biological and cultural diversity and adaptive decision-making and management systems. Acknowledging the wide range of threats and challenges, she also noted the growing

recognition of ICCAs in international policy, particularly in the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

To continue reading about this side event, [click here](#).



Speakers at the side-event. Photo courtesy of Holly Shrumm

The ICCA Registry www.iccaregistry.org

The global ICCA Registry: a tool for communities

By Colleen Corrigan

Do you want to learn about different types of ICCAs, explore ICCAs from around the world, or register your community as an ICCA?

The ICCA Registry is a globally-relevant tool designed with support from members of the Consortium to create greater awareness and recognition of community-governed conservation practices. The Registry warmly invites communities



and those working with communities to explore this opportunity and participate in the Registry. With increasing international attention to biocultural conservation practices and policies that support these efforts, the world is eager to learn about the ways in which IPs and LCs manage precious natural resources and contribute to biodiversity conservation. So please consider sharing your experiences and visit <http://www.iccaregistry.org/>. Do you want to participate but don't know where to start? It's easy to start by submitting a case study to be featured on the website: http://www.iccaregistry.org/en/case_studies. This is the first step towards actual registration.

Case studies of ICCAs already on the website include:

- *Community marine sanctuaries in the Philippines*
- *An ejido and eco-tourism community in the Yucatan, Mexico*
- *Sacred forests in Kenya*
- *Indigenous spiritual sites in Australia*
- *Woodland Trusts within the United Kingdom*

Providing a case study is not the same as registering an ICCA, though it can be seen as a useful first step in the process.

Registering an ICCA requires going through a process of Free Prior and Informed Consent and submitting a filled questionnaire that helps us gather a critical set of data about ICCAs so we can build a collective understanding about their values and needs. To read more, [click here](#).



Collaboration between the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the Consortium

GEF Council Consultation with Civil Society, Washington D.C. (USA), November 2011

By Stan Stevens

Consortium Treasurer and SC member Stan Stevens represented the Consortium at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council Consultation with Civil Society in Washington, D.C. in November. He attended a preliminary meeting of members of the GEF Civil Society Network, followed by one-day meeting of the GEF NGO Network with the GEF CEO and President, Monique Barbut, the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Council members (representatives of the governments of 32 countries). This was followed by a three-day GEF Council Meeting. GEF is the world's largest conservation funder, implementing its programs (including the GEF Small Grants Programme) through a set of 10 organizations which include UNDP, [UNEP](#), [FAO](#), and the World Bank. Currently, IUCN, WWF, [Conservation International](#), and [The Nature Conservancy](#) are seeking to become GEF project agencies.

GEF consults with civil society twice a year in Washington, D.C. through meeting with members of the [GEF NGO Network](#), which is an association of 400 NGOs. Representatives from about 30 NGOs participate in the GEF Council Consultations.

This year the ICCA consortium was invited to attend, but did so as observer, as we are not yet a member of the GEF NGO Network.

Besides attending the GEF NGO Network preparatory meeting and the GEF Council Consultation, Stan participated in the meetings, discussions, and lobbying of the Indigenous Peoples Taskforce of

the GEF NGO Network (which included Fiu Mataese Elisara and Helen Tugendhat of Consortium Members Global Forest Coalition and Forest Peoples Programme). He also joined the Network's Central Focal Point Faizal Parish and Helen Tugendhat in working on the Network's presentation of its proposed changes to the draft GEF Policy on Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards.

During 2012 the GEF Civil Society Network will be developing what is hoped to become a GEF policy on Indigenous peoples. The Consortium was invited to apply to become a member of the GEF NGO Network and Stan was invited to participate in other forthcoming meetings in 2012.

GEF-SGP Regional meetings

By Grazia BF

Since July 2011, four regional meetings of the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) took place in Beijing (August), Ghana (September), Bratislava (October) and Panama (November). These are very important gatherings, involving all GEF SGP

National Coordinators and enaging them to plan ahead for their 5th Operational Phase (OP5-- from 2010 to 2014). In each meeting, Consortium

representatives were present, offering information on ICCAs and discussing options for future collaboration with their SGP colleagues. Dave De Vera of PAFID (Consortium Member) went to Beijing, Colleen Corrigan of UNEP-WCMC (Consortium honorary member) went to Ghana, Onel Masardule (Consortium Member) went to Panama and Taghi, Grazia and Iris Benes (Steering Committee members and staff), went to Bratislava. Following the meetings, Taghi and Grazia wrote to the top GEF SGP management in New York outlining practical ways by which the cooperation between GEF SGP and the Consortium could unfold in the years to come (for a copy of the letter click [here](#)). The GEF SGP management responded very positively and passed on the specific suggestions to all GEF SGP National Coordinators, suggesting they link with the Consortium's Members and staff most closely concerned with their areas of operations.



Consortium participants at the GEF-SGP regional meeting, Bratislava, November 2011

A GEF-SGP regional workshop: Bratislava (Slovakia), October 2011

By Iris Benes

The Consortium's President, Global coordinator and European coordinator attended the regional GEF-SGP workshop in Bratislava where they presented the ICCA concept and the work of the Consortium. It was noted that the Consortium can assist local communities and partners to develop GEF SGP initiatives, to strengthen specific ICCAs and safeguard them from impending threats and to restore and reaffirm governance rights and management capacity over ICCAs damaged by a variety of policies and circumstances. The workshop was dedicated to the launching of the GEF/SGP fifth operational phase (OP5) in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Arab States. In the policy document for the next four years, one of the specific objectives of the OP5 is to improve sustainability of protected areas and ICCAs through community-based actions.

Collaboration between the Consortium and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The 2nd Regional Capacity building workshop on the CBD Protected Areas Programme of Work (PoWPA), for South, South-east and East Asia, Dehradun (India), 6-10th December 2011

By Ashish Kothari (chikikothari@gmail.com)

CBD delegates from about 20 countries participated in this workshop along with a few civil society groups and a couple of indigenous peoples' representatives. Governance of PAs was one focus area, with almost a full day devoted to it. It consisted of a detailed presentation on the concept and practice of PA Governance, group exercises to assess the status of governance in each country, and discussions on next steps that countries could take. The exercises attempted to gauge the predominant governance type of PAs, provisions (if any) for non-governmental types of PAs (especially ICCAs), and what needs to be done to move the country towards more participatory, equitable, and diverse PA systems.



Ashish Kothari, SC member

There was overwhelming agreement that countries still have a way to go to meet the obligations under PoWPA (especially its [Element 2 on Governance, Equity, Participation and Benefit-sharing](#)), and that much more needs to be done to move towards shared governance (or co-management) as also identify and recognize ICCAs. However it also became clear that the understanding of governance issues and of ICCAs is very inadequate in most countries.

It is crucial to follow up any such exercise with actions back in the respective countries, including further governance assessments with participation of relevant agencies and individuals (particularly representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities), reviews of laws and policies towards more participatory and equitable regimes, and diversification of governance types of PAs. It would be good to discuss possible modalities to do such follow up, including collaboration with the CBD Secretariat to take it forward with the PoWPA Focal Points in each country. The background note, exercise sheets, and summary results of the exercises are available at request from Ashish at: chikikothari@gmail.com

Side event on recognizing and Supporting ICCAs, 7th Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, Montreal (Canada), 2 November 2011

By Holly Shrumm (holly@naturaljustice.org)

This event was co-hosted by the Consortium, the Union of Indigenous Nomadic Pastoralist Tribes of Iran and [Natural Justice](#) (Consortium Member)

This side event included a number of presentations describing Indigenous peoples' and local community experiences and lessons learned with regards to recognition and support of ICCAs in different contexts. To read more, [click here](#).



Women in Pa' Upan, Krayan Highlands Indonesia. Photo courtesy of Cristina Egghenter

New Members

Since July 2011, the Consortium has welcomed the following **new Members**:

- **The African Biodiversity Network**
- **The Office of the Wet'Suwet'en**
- **The Ancestral Land/Domain Watch -- ALDAW**
- **The Foundation for the Sustainable Development of Altai**
- **The Tao Foundation**

To view the Consortium's current list of Members, Honorary members and Partners, [click here](#)

To view the list of Steering Committee members and staff members and their contacts, [click here](#)

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