THE ICCA CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

The Global ICCA Support Initiative is born!

We start 2014 with wonderful news: all that the Consortium could have hoped to achieve in its short life isactually happening! Indeed, the decision to remain "an ambitious movement backed-up by а lean organisation" rather than the contrary has paid off... [☉] Let us explain.

Our key partner UNDP GEF/SGP (Small Grants Programme of the Global



Environment Facility administered through the UN Development Programme) has confirmed that we are soon to collaborate even more closely for a Global ICCA Support Initiative financed to the tune of 12 million euros by the Federal Ministry for the Environment of Germany (BMU). The funding has already been received in toto by the UNDP and most of it will go towards community-based ICCA initiatives in countries all over the world through the usual and well proven assessment, disbursement and evaluation processes of GEF/SGP. A reasonable part of the funding – variably spread in the next 5 years – will also go to the organizations that are providing technical back-up to ICCAs on a global scale, namely the ICCA Consortium (€400,000), the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (€350,000) and UNEP WCMC (€300,000). The three organizations – and the Consortium in particular – will closely collaborate with GEF SGP to support ICCA-related capacities at regional, national and local level. In addition, the Consortium will promote and back-up specific initiatives (e.g., pilot ICCA cases, exemplary processes, civil society organisations to multiply successful "ICCA types" while keeping a close eye on quality of process, national analyses and plans, etc.). The IUCN will encourage countries to enhance the diversity and quality of governance for their protected and conserved areas (e.g., via changes in national legislation and policy, provision of adequate support, changes in reporting, etc.). And UNEP WCMC will further develop the Global ICCA Registry, rendering it fully adept to receive, document, record and demonstrate the conservation contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities all over the world.

What will it all amount to? Indigenous peoples and local **communities** all over the world **can look forward to a dependable avenue of support** to regaining their confidence and pride in

taking into their own hands the governance of their territories and areas for livelihoods, identity and conservation. This includes restoring, nourishing, developing, protecting, consolidating, defending and strengthening their ICCAs and establishing linkages among themselves to enhance mutual learning and support, and effective action. This means not only that **nature** in their ICCAs will be more likely **conserved** and **allowed to thrive**, but also that their **customary institutions to govern land**, water, natural resources and means of **livelihoods will be strengthened**, and restored where needed. It also means that indigenous peoples and local communities will be ever more conscious of their **collective rights and responsibilities** towards nature and one another.

This important initiative in support of ICCAs would not have been possible without the Consortium calling attention to the reality of the "ICCA phenomenon" – demonstrating and highlighting its pervasiveness, its anchoring in peoples' history, culture and sense of identity and its global importance for **conservation**, **livelihoods**, **justice and resilience**. This needed an international outlook grounded in exemplary field-based initiative, the capacity to convince tough conservation advocates and even tougher indigenous rights' advocates. It needed mutual trust and partnership with key players such as GEF SGP, the IUCN and the CBD Secretariat. And it needed to make sense and be proven viable in the multiple ecological and socio-economic realities of different peoples and landscapes. All this, the Consortium managed to do.

For us, this convincing result also means that the approach consciously taken by the Consortium – who decided not to develop a formal NGO structure but to remain a lean association in support of "a global movement" - to use the words of our President - has proven effective. Remaining a lean association means that all that we do in the field is carried out by our Members, we have no formal offices, we offer encouragement and support to the Members from a relatively large number of **semi-volunteer staff**, and only occasionally we provide **limited financial support to accomplish specific tasks.** This is a new model of work, which would have been impossible even twenty years ago, and which we can now embrace by making significant use of electronic communications. This is a model of work by which we do not funnel resources into office rent, cars and salaries but we rejoice when – like with the global ICCA initiative – resources go directly to the indigenous peoples and local communities who need them in the field. This is a model of work by which staff is directed more by local needs than by global planning: our regional coordinators create their own work plans, and the global support staff - mostly young professionals - learn by doing in a flexible environment. This is a **model of work entirely dependent on people** liking what they do, believing that their work is important to build a better world, and doing it with understanding, sincerity and passion. We are delighted to have embraced this way of working, which for many of us also adds to the meaning and quality of our lives.

We are deeply grateful for the excellent working relationship with GEF SGP managers at all levels, the resources generously allocated by the German Ministry for the Environment and for the trust and support bestowed upon us by The Christensen Fund and the UNEP Energy and Environment Programme until now. We look forward to continuing working with all our Members, partners and sponsors in the years to come.

Grazia, Taghi and Stan

International issues

The VIth ICCA Consortium General Assembly in Spain: "Amigos para siempre!" (forever friends!)

By Sergio Couto, Regional Coordinator for West & Southern Europe; Isis Alvarez, Communications Officer; Emma Courtine, Intern Assistant; and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Global Coordinator.



On October 4-6 2013 the ICCA Consortium held a major meeting and its VIth General Assembly in Valdeavellano de Tera, province of Soria, Spain. This spectacular location was selected by the local ICCA Consortium staff as it offered numerous examples of ICCAs where excellent community forest management practices have been occurring for generations. The Consortium participants in the GA did visit some such ICCAs involved in the 'Montes de Socios' project.

Read more about the Montes de Socios (in Spanish)

During the first day of the meeting, 33 participants— including ICCA Consortium Members, Honorary members, Steering Committee, staff and observers— shared experiences based on their work in their conserved areas and territories. Colorful pictures, lively videos, and testimonies were included in presentations by representatives from countries as diverse as Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Bolivia, Croatia, Niger, Canada, The Philippines, Madagascar, Italy and Taiwan. The presentations pointed at the different struggles that peoples and communities need to engage in to defend their territories and their rights to autonomy. A general review on ICCAs was given by the Consortium's Global Coordinator, describing the threats that many ICCAs have to face, and the responses to such threats that the communities themselves are providing, the ones provided by international policy – notably recent decisions under the Convention on Biological Diversity – and the ones provided by some national governments.

The morning of the second day was occupied by a field visit, and the afternoon by separate meetings focusing on topics of specific interest to different Members. For instance, some focused



on EU policy affecting ICCAs recognition in Europe. One of the conclusions of such a meeting was the need to organize a stronger ICCA network at European level and reinforcing knowledge of, and support to, ICCAs in major European countries such as Germany, Greece or France.

The GA's main session on October 6th unfolded through a long and hard-working day, which provided room for discussion of the Consortium's program (via regional and country-based reports), membership, communication system, financial resources (via the Treasurer's report), current fundraising, etc. Some time was dedicated to a revision of the Statutes – mostly to satisfy the requirements for official registration in Switzerland – and the election of the new Steering Committee. Most members of the new Steering Committee had previously played that role except one: Dominique Bikaba, from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

A welcome break in the day was provided different by local dancers from generations who performed several kinds of traditional dances and music in the village's main square, generating a great moment of conviviality. After ending their meeting at nearly 10:00 p.m., the participants still had the energy to organize a lively cultural evening, sharing some of their 'histrionic' talents: some played guitar, some did storytelling, some sang, some recited poetry...



The GA had expected to also review the priorities of the ICCA Consortium for 2014 and a Strategic Plan 2014-2018, but this was not possible on October 6 for sheer lack of time. People wrote down their priorities, however, and those were discussed the next day in the bus taking the participants back to the airport. In a feat of engagement, Simone Lovera of Global Forest Coalition even managed to compile the priorities while still in the bus (amazing work!). The different areas mentioned for future priorities included:

- Institutional development
- Communication
- International advocacy and alliance building work on specific themes
- Support to regional and national priorities
- Food sovereignty as it relates to ICCAs
- Commonalities in spirituality and ethical values among ICCA supporters
- Restoration work

On the basis of the compiled document prepared and shared by Simone and comments provided via mail, the Global Coordinator shortly afterwards prepared, distributed and received further comments on a document entitled *"ICCA Consortium – Strategic considerations for 2014-2018"*. The document is currently been used as basis to submit proposals to donors and partners.

Read the minutes of the GA in English

New bonds between the ICCA Consortium and the Spanish local communities



The GA in Valdeavellano de Tera was a milestone for ICCA recognition in Spain and Europe. For the first time, representatives of different federations and associations of Spanish local communities managing common lands and seas met and agreed to fight together for the recognition of their current and historical contribution to preserve the social, economic and environmental values of their land, water and natural resources.

Usually, organizations and associations of local communities feel quite isolated and lonely. As they work almost exclusively in the context of their sectoral issues (fisheries, forestry, etc.), they have to explain and defend their values and attitudes related to "governance", "social sustainability" or "common rights" to local and regional governments and national or multinational companies... not among the most sensitive actors about such topics.

Thanks to the meeting of the ICCA Consortium, however, these communities now feel that they are part of a global community and were surprised to notice that local needs and struggles can be very similar in Galicia, Soria, Taiwan or the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Valdeavellano it was clear for everyone that we must learn from and help each other. Being part of the ICCA Consortium is a great way to do so, while enhancing our capacities and building up a synergy with everyone else.

The meeting in Valdeavellano gathered representatives of the main three kinds of common forests recognised under Spanish law: the association of "Neighbour Common Forests", several presidents of "Communal Forests" and organizations and representatives of "Montes de Socios". In addition, RECOPADES (representing Spanish artisanal fishery communities), AGRAMAR (representing shellfish-gatherer guilds) and LONXANET – with an astonishing background on artisanal fishery governance –supported and contributed strongly to organize the meeting. In representation of pastoral communities, there were delegates of the "Spanish Association of Shepherds", the association "Transhumance and Nature" and the Foundation "Entretantos", working at national level to protect and recover extensive livestock management and the traditional "migration roads" along Spain. Other key actors attending the meeting were the National Federation of Hunting Societies (UNAC), delegates of associations related with participatory rural development, such as "Heliconia" or "Micorriza", researchers on the commons in Spain and very important conservation NGOs such as "SEO/BirdLife". All these organizations are used to work at a sectoral level, meaning that each of them tends to focus only on its field of expertise (forestry management, fishery governance, transhumance added values, etc.). Times are changing, however, and all of them increasingly recognise that their own goals, threats and needs are the same of other communities and organisations that live from, and enjoy managing and protecting, their common lands, seas and natural resources.

One of the results of the meeting Valdeavellano was in the creation of an organization under name of "Iniciativa the Comunales". The "Declaration of Valdeavellano de Tera" was also issued. The declaration is currently under participatory gathering support revision, beyond the initial signatories. And a roadmap has been produced, to outline a common strategy for the future.



For more information, visit the webpage dedicated to this event

The ICCA Consortium and the Indigenous & Community Lands & Seas Forum at WILD10, Salamanca, Spain, October 8-10, 2013

By Sharon Shay Sloan, ICLS Program Director



The Indigenous & Community Lands & Seas (ICLS) Forum at WILD10—the 10th World Wilderness Congress—highlighted the unique and crucial historical and contemporary role of indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) in protecting both nature and culture. Throughout history, their traditional knowledge systems, customary laws and governance, and cultural practices have, in many cases, been perfectly compatible with nature and often supported it, sustaining wilderness.

The overarching goal of ICLS is to inspire and advance a vision for the future of conservation—for the protection of all life—inclusive of and rooted in the best practices of indigenous peoples, local communities *and* institutional and contemporary conservation. The challenge of working toward such a common vision, however, is not to be underestimated, particularly in the context of wilderness conservation. The need for reconciliation and building mutual trust continue to be the core elements of this process.

Toward this end, WILD10 provided an opportunity for extensive and effective cooperation and collaboration with the ICCA Consortium. Our deepest appreciation to Grazia and all who remained in the planning process through its several iterations...and to all of the delegates who travelled far and wide to participate in the Congress. In total, 80 ICLS delegates were presenters in the Forum. Of these, 50 were indigenous and local community leaders representing 40 distinct nations and communities from 34 countries. The ICCA Consortium delegation comprised a large number of them, and the overall contributions of the Consortium were tremendous.

The ICLS process illustrated and affirmed that wilderness—often characterized as "pristine," "uninhabited," "untrammelled by man"—is also ancestral domain, homeland, and the birthplace of culture and humanity. This was supported by a workshop organized by the ICCA Consortium focused on the paradox of "wilderness" and "nature" in cross-cultural contexts. Presentations illustrated "people as custodians and part of wilderness," highlighting strategies that communities have used for centuries for conserving nature while ensuring their own livelihoods. Twelve presenters powerfully articulated that "wilderness is well-conserved nature that intrinsically includes people."

This was one of the most important workshops in the ICLS Forum as it successfully and poignantly addressed "the place of people *in* wilderness." Differing points of view on this issue have, in some cases, been detrimental to IPs, LCs and, some would argue, to conservation as well; time and time again, the forced removal of peoples from their rightful homelands has proven harmful both to the peoples *and* the lands. This history has oftentimes been a primary stumbling block to bringing IPs, LCs and the conservation sector together toward shared goals and objectives. This workshop was pivotal to advancing this conversation toward greater coherence—and to the overall process at WILD10—and was supported by a number of key conservation leaders, including Vance Martin, Chair of the World Wilderness Congress.

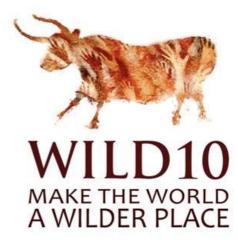
Following this event, the Consortium hosted a two-part workshop on governance, which demonstrated how traditional governance systems are able to take and implement decisions that result in the conservation of nature and natural resources and simultaneously integrate people, culture and economic development.

Throughout the Forum, presentations clarified the importance of asserting and adopting international instruments that protect and recognize the collective rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as the need to protect wild nature. These include the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Articles 10(c) and 8(j) of the Convention Biological Diversity, which uphold sustainable use and traditional knowledge and skills.

The official <u>WILD10 Statement from Salamanca</u> includes several points relevant to our collaboration and highlights the success of the ICLS Forum:

 Indigenous Peoples (IP) and local communities (LC) are serious stakeholders and contributors to global conservation efforts. Much more must be done to support indigenous and community conservation initiatives, including enhancing cooperation between IP/LC and multiple stakeholders, and implementing rights-based approaches to conservation.

Additionally, the statement calls upon "governments,



international institutions, the private sector, indigenous peoples, local communities, and the rest of civil society" to:

- Increase the global Protected Areas estate, and connectivity between Protected Areas, to the extent necessary to protect biodiversity and maintain the full range of ecosystem services, and meet the needs of human communities.
- Provide stronger support for indigenous and community conservation initiatives, promote rights-based approaches, and enhance cooperation between IP/LC and other conservation stakeholders.

The process of working together with the ICCA Consortium for the ICLS Forum created a solid foundation for future collaboration. The WILD Foundation is looking forward to the World Parks Congress and our continued partnership with the ICCA Consortium in many ways.

Participation in CBD Intersessional Meetings: Working Group on Article 8(j) and SBSTTA

Holly Jonas, ICCA Consortium International Policy Assistant & Jael Eli Makagon, Natural Justice (Member)

In October 2013, two intersessional meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were held in Montreal, Canada: the 8th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8(j)-8); and the 17th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-17). Several members of the ICCA Consortium participated in these meetings through legal submissions, articles in civil society newsletters, side events, and the negotiations themselves.

WG8(j)-8 recommended a draft plan of action on customary sustainable use, hosted an in-depth dialogue on connecting traditional knowledge systems and science, and discussed whether to change the CBD terminology to "indigenous peoples and local communities" (it will continue to be



deliberated into 2014). Key side events co-hosted by Consortium Members focused on community-based monitoring; the World Indigenous Network; the new IUCN Guidelines on governance of protected areas; and market- and non-market-based schemes for biodiversity conservation and prevention of climate-related disasters.

SBSTTA-17 addressed implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets through scientific and technical means, and the effects of measures taken under the CBD. Side events involving Consortium Members explored ICCAs and the Aichi Targets, and the role of the law in achieving the Aichi Targets.

Action Point: Most Parties to the CBD are currently revising or updating their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (<u>NBSAPs</u>) in line with the 2020 Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets. Contact your country's <u>National Focal Point</u> to find out how to get involved!

Upcoming CBD Meetings: 5th meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation and 18th meeting of SBSTTA (June 2014, Montreal)

Visit the webpage dedicated to this event

Regional issues

North America

Conservation of First Nations' Territories by and for First Nations: Workshop in Tla-o-qui-aht Territory, British Columbia

By Eli Enns, ICCA consortium Regional Coordinator for North America

This November 2013, ten First Nations representing vastly different geographies from across Canada gathered with friends and colleagues in Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia to discuss First Nations approaches to conservation, and the viability of establishing a North American ICCA Consortium.



Once folks got a sense of what the ICCA Consortium was all about, there was a natural ICCAaffinity shared by all in attendance.



Workshop participants were welcomed into the Territory of host Nation Tla-o-qui-aht at what is also the most eastern extent of the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park. The Tribal Park boundaries, defined by Tla-o-qui-aht themselves, follow ancient watershed management Natural Laws. Natural Laws, which also provide the management directives for the Tribal Parks, have a balanced focus on environmental stewardship and sustainable livelihoods. Intact Ancient Cedar Rainforests of Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks provide habitat for a variety of species including wolves, bears and eagles.

After a tour of the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park, workshop participants received another warm welcome by Tla-o-qui-aht Hereditary and Elected government representatives in the Conference centre at the Tla-o-qui-aht owned Tinwis Resort in Tofino. Keynote speaker world renowned Tla-o-qui-aht artist spoke with urgency about the importance of standing up for the environment in a collective effort.

Nation participation included Xaxli'p, Haida, Nanwakolas, Shabot Obaadijiwan, Ermineskin Cree, Tahltan, Kichenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Gwininitxw, Saddle Lake Cree, Tla-o-qui-aht and the North East Superior Regional Cheifs Forum from Ontario to British Columbia spanning a distance of over 4,000km. A balance of youth and elders, male and female participation was struck as well as a healthy mix of leadership and technical folks. Primary financial support was provided by Tides Canada, The Swift Foundation, The WIATT Foundation and the Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction Project based out of the Vancouver Island University.



After several davs in workshop, participants were ready to report back on their group outcomes. Similar challenges were identified across the various regions, and there collective was а acknowledgement that there is a strength found in the realization that First Nations are not only alone ICCA Consortium President Taghi Farvar and North American Regional Coordinator and workshop organizer Eli Enns on the open Pacific Ocean side of Esowista Peninsula during an unplanned afternoon session on the beach called to order by a rare break in the cloud cover! Tla-o-qui-aht elders encouraged the break away from the workshop classroom as a reminder of what is most important.



in the Canadian context, but that there is also a wide range of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities from around the world that are striving for the same basic human dignities. Perhaps most unexpectedly, there was a powerful exchange of acknowledgement between the Treaty Nations and the non-Treaty Nations present, and expression of gratitude which eventually led to the identification of a key advantage of the eventual development of a North American ICCA Consortium.

For more information, visit the webpage dedicated to this event

Africa

An international workshop on ICCAs in Kenya

By Mburu Gathuru, African Biodiversity Network (Member)



The International Workshop on Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) was held on 4th to 9th October at the Cravers Hotel in Thika, Kenya. The four-day workshop was organized by Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE) in collaboration with Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). The main goal of the

workshop was to provide space where SSNC and partners together with representatives of ICCA Kenya group can engage in proactive and fruitful discussions on the subject of ICCAs and how the concept can be used to improve their work in different countries. The workshop was attended by 23 participants drawn from 8 different countries – South Africa, Malaysia, Ethiopia, France, Indonesia, Philippines, Uganda and Kenya.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- Exchange knowledge and experiences on ICCAs and how ICCAs function in different regions;
- Deepen the knowledge on ICCAs and their potential role in protecting of ecological land social values;
- Provide useful tools to define and develop ICCAs, including the question of who identifies them;
- Strengthen coordination among organizations involved in ICCA related work;
- Better understand how to make use of legal frameworks (constitutions, conventions) to protect community rights to land.

All the participants shared problems associated with mining in their countries. It was clear that most governments are mining on conserved areas, denying the communities the rights to protect them. The communities, however, at times accept to exchange the land in return for large amounts of money. Communities get excited on seeing big international companies and tend to focus more on empty promises other than the impact mining will have on them. The next section of the workshop highlighted the experiences of different participants. The participants shared experiences on challenges and threats to ICCAs and how they respond to them. Some of the common challenges and threats that emerged were mining in the conserved areas, little or no recognition of the communities living in or around the areas they conserve, and lack of policy framework to guide community conservation in some of the strategies that each organization will use in supporting communities to protect ICCAs.

Legal Instruments that contextualize ICCAs

This was discussed in the context of the current Kenyan situation, where great strides have been made to recognize and protect customary governance systems for sacred natural sites and other areas protected by communities. This is a huge departure from the substance of past laws that were used to undermine customary governance systems of indigenous communities. However, the drafting and implementation of relevant laws from the current Constitution is a different thing, and therefore communities need to be vigilant to ensure the gains made in the Constitution are not lost. It also came out that the biggest challenge is that few lawyers understand sacred places, and therefore the voices of the custodians are rarely heard. Participants agreed to go study the legal situation in their own countries to understand any windows of opportunity available for legal recognition and support of ICCAs.

Strategies in Supporting Communities to Protect ICCAs

The workshop identified the following strategies for use in their work with communities: Advocacy;

- Documentation and communication media engagement helps to raise awareness;
- Support for local institutions of governance and gender involvement;
- Nature Connecting to nature and protecting it;
- Mobilization of resources;
- Exchange visits between communities;
- Strengthening networks;
- ICCAs Registry the need to register all the community conserved areas.

Key Resolutions and Way Forward

The participants discussed and resolved as follows:

- To initiate and or strengthening national coalitions to ensure that ICCAs are recognized;
- To keep networking and remain connected even with other open minded organizations;
- Advocacy: To lobby governments to develop, implement or strengthen laws supporting ICCAs;
- Raising awareness on the value of ICCAs at the grassroots;
- Capacity building within our organizations, so that ICCAs as a tool is integrated in the strategies used;
- Understanding the benefits of voluntary conservation.

Les APACs et la Gouvernance forestière en Afrique centrale

Par Joseph Itongwa, Coordinateur Régional du Consortium APAC pour les écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique Centrale & Christian Chatelain, Co-coordinateur Régional pour l'Afrique Centrale et de l'Ouest

Un atelier d'opérationnalisation du Groupe de travail sur la Gouvernance forestière en Afrique centrale s'est tenu du 23 au 24 octobre 2013 à Brazzaville en République du Congo. C'était une occasion pour le Coordonnateur Régional du Consortium APAC pour les écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale, invité à cette réunion, d'apporter un message fort sur les APACs. Cette réunion organisée par la commission des forêts d'Afrique centrale



COMIFAC avec l'appui de la GIZ, a réuni 40 participants venus de l'espace pays COMIFAC; constitués en majorité des représentants des Directeurs charges de forêts en des Ministères de l'Environnement et Forêts des pays d'Afrique centrale, et des représentants des réseaux spécialisés de la Conférence pour les Ecosystèmes des Forêts Dense et Humides de l'Afrique Centrale (CEFDHAC). L'exposé sur les

APACs qui a trouvé un espace dans l'agenda de la réunion, a été programmé le deuxième jour de l'atelier avant la cérémonie de clôture. Les informations fournies sur le concept d'APAC et les différentes illustrations à travers les régions du monde, ainsi que le projet pilote d'identification et de reconnaissance légale des APACs en RDC, ont attiré suffisamment l'attention des participants qui ont soutenu ce mode de gouvernance traditionnelle qui reconnait et valorise la responsabilité des autochtones et des communautés locales dans la gestion de leurs territoires et des ressources naturelles qui s'y trouvent.

Il convient de signaler que lors des différentes présentations dans l'atelier, il a été reconnu que l'amélioration de la gouvernance forestière est tributaire de la responsabilisation des peuples autochtones et communautés locales dans la gestion de leurs territoires et ressources traditionnelles détenus et gérés en vertu de la coutume et règles traditionnelles, et qui ont maintenu l'état actuel des écosystèmes d'Afrique centrale. A la fin de la présentation, des recommandations ci après ont été formulées par les participants :

- 1. Vulgariser les résultats du projet pilote sur les APACs qui est mis en œuvre en RDC ;
- Inviter les membres du Groupe de travail sur la gouvernance forestière en Afrique centrale à l'atelier de haut niveau de plaidoyer pour la reconnaissance légale des APACs en République Démocratique du Congo et qui aura lieu en Kinshasa au premier semestre 2014, pour que cette thématique soit aussi prise en compte par la COMIFAC;
- 3. Organiser un atelier régional sur les APACs en Afrique centrale, au delà de la sensibilisation prévue au Forum International sur les Peuples Autochtones d'Afrique Centrale.

L'analyse des options légales favorables aux APACs – Un préalable pour leur reconnaissance légale en RDC

Par Joseph Itongwa, Coordinateur Régional du Consortium APAC pour les écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique Centrale & Christian Chatelain, Co-coordinateur Régional pour l'Afrique Centrale et de l'Ouest

La République Démocratique du Congo est le premier et plus grand pays forestier d'Afrique et particulièrement du Bassin du Congo, avec biodiversité et écosystèmes riches et

diversifiés. Une grande partie du massif forestier non classée, se présente dans un état de conservation satisfaisant principalement en raison du fait que les peuples autochtones et communautés locales qui dépendent de l'usage direct de ces forêts ont grandement contribué à leur conservation de par leurs pratiques traditionnelles, non destructrices de ces ressources.

La reconnaissance légale de leur rôle dans cette gouvernance judicieuse de ces ressources ainsi que la protection juridique de leurs territoires traditionnels constituent un volet du projet de reconnaissance légale des APACs que le REPALEF et le Consortium APACs mettent en œuvre en RDC avec l'appui du Programme Micro de financements du GEF et du forêt Programme et conservation de la nature en Afrique centrale dela GIZ. C'est



ainsi qu'en date 15 novembre 2013 dans le bureau de la GIZ un accord de contrat de service de consultance a été pris entre un consultant juriste de l'organisation CODELT (Conseil pour Défense de l'Environnement par la Légalité et la Traçabilité), la GIZ et le REPALEF.

Dans son travail le consultant juriste devra analyser une série d'**options légales réalistes** (par rapport à la juridiction en vigueur en RDC) **et appropriées** (sur la base des leçons apprises par diverses APACs dans le monde) pour la reconnaissance et l'appui aux APACs en RDC. Il articulera et décrira en détail des options qui s'inscrivent dans ce qui suit :

- 1. Identification des lois existantes qui pourraient n'être pas connues ou appliquées même si elles sont théoriquement en vigueur et qui seraient favorables à la reconnaissance effective des APACs et/ou pourraient assurer la gouvernance des territoires conservés par les peuples autochtones et/ou les communautés locales ;
- 2. Analyse en profondeur du code forestier pour déterminer si des modifications ponctuelles de la normative existante pourraient assurer la reconnaissance effective des APACs et/ou la gouvernance des territoires conservés par les peuples autochtones et/ou les communautés locales ;
- 3. Analyse en profondeur de l'ensemble législatif en relation avec la conservation de la nature (Lois sur l'environnement, Lois sur les aires protégées, Stratégie nationale de conservation de la biodiversité, Stratégie nationale REDD, etc.) pour identifier si des modifications ponctuelles de la normative existante pourraient assurer la reconnaissance effective des APACs et/ou la gouvernance des territoires conservés par les peuples autochtones et/ou les communautés locales ;
- 4. Analyse en profondeur d'autres lois sectorielles liées à la tenure foncière (Lois foncière, Lois sur la décentralisation, Code minier, Code agricole, Lois sur les hydrocarbures, etc.), pour identifier si des modifications ponctuelles de la normative existante pourraient assurer la reconnaissance effective des APACs et/ou la

gouvernance des territoires conservés par les peuples autochtones et/ou les communautés locales ;

- 5. Analyse en profondeur des projets de lois et des édits en cours (par exemple en relation avec la protection des droits des peuples autochtones) pour identifier si des éléments ponctuelles pourraient être promus pour assurer la reconnaissance effective des APACs et/ou la gouvernance des territoires conservés par les peuples autochtones et/ou les communautés locales ;
- 6. **Proposition d'une loi** *ad hoc* adaptées au contexte de la RDC pour la reconnaissance effective des APACs et/ou de la gouvernance des territoires conservés par les peuples autochtones et/ou les communautés locales.

Ce rapport d'analyse légale s'ajoutera à d'autres outils d'appui au plaidoyer pour la reconnaissance des APACs en RDC, notamment les rapports et films des sites APACs déjà identifiés et documentés dans 3 trois paysages bio culturels à travers la RDC.

Africa Regional Symposium for Community Land & Natural Resources Protection

By Gino Cocchiaro, ICCA Consortium Regional Coordinator for East Africa



From 5-7 November, 30 pioneering community and civil society experts gathered in the !Khwa ttu San Community Centre outside Cape Town, South Africa, for the first Africa Regional Symposium for Community Land and Natural Resources Protection. The Symposium, was convened by Natural Justice and Namati. who facilitated an exchange of best practices on community empowerment for

strengthening land and natural resources rights among twelve African countries and more than two dozen communities.

The event set out to meet three interrelated objectives: 1) Share best practices, tools and strategies for empowered community land and natural resource management and protection; 2) Support each other to confront local and/or national challenges to community land and natural resources claims; and 3) Brainstorm new and innovative forms of legal empowerment and build a cross-disciplinary community of practice that fosters continued dialogue and learning.

The workshop consisted of a number of small group works and plenary discussions that addressed interrelated challenges at the community governance level (community definition, governance and leadership, equity and gender, conservation and stewardship, community driven development) and regarding communities' external interactions

(investor-community relations, and policies laws and governments). Discussions revolved around specific case studies, project experiences and broader advocacy strategies.

To ensure that the successful tactics and approaches that were identified during the dialogue are made available to a vast number of practitioners around the world, Natural Justice and Namati will facilitate a practitioner-written guide to community legal empowerment for strengthening landscape rights.

Workshop on ICCAs in South & East Africa

By Lesle Jansen, ICCA Consortium Regional Coordinator for South Africa



8th. November the On **ICCA** Consortium in partnership with Natural Justice hosted a workshop on ICCAs in Southern and Eastern Africa in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting was well attended by over 20 different organizations from across the African region-- all working around the protection of ICCAs. The representatives included nationals of Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania, Kenya and Liberia, amongst others.

The purpose of the meeting was to understand what is happening around community conservation in East and Southern Africa; to determine to which extent it is recognized in national legislations; and to draw out the challenges and key lessons. The day was structured around the ICCA Consortium Regional Coordinators for Southern and East Africa, Lesle Jansen and Gino Cocchiaro, who presented on the term ICCA, its position in international law, and the situation of ICCAs respectively in Southern and Eastern African countries. To conclude, the meeting strategized around the added value of such an event as well as around drawing together the key lessons applicable in each regional context. A short overview of the ICCA Consortium was also given, explaining about the Consortium structure and its membership.

The presentations on Bwabwata National Park (Namibia), Gabra Pastoralists from Northern Kenya and pastoralists in Tanzania were all workshop highlights. The presentation about a South African landmark decision – the Richtersveld decision – was discussed by a legal representative from the South African Legal Resources Centre. This decision is one of the leading court decisions for protection of the aboriginal land title of indigenous communities in South Africa. The day was a huge success. The organizations present showed great interest in joining the Consortium. A more detailed report will be compiled to be circulated among the participants, and will soon be available on the Consortium website.

Les APACs et la gouvernance des aires protégées en environnement marin-côtier... on en discute à Dakar !

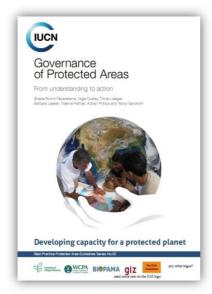
Par Grazia Borrini-Feyeravend, Coordinatrice Globale du Consortium APAC

L'Assemblée Générale du Réseau des Aires Marines Protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest et le septième Forum du Partenariat Régional de Conservation de la Zone Côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRCM) se sont tenus à Dakar du 21 au 29 Novembre 2013. Le Consortium APAC, invité avec son Coordinateur Régional Salatou Sambou et sa Coordinatrice Globale, a pris l'opportunité pour participer à plusieurs ateliers et débats et pour lancer le petit livre « II était une fois Kawawana », la vraie histoire de



l'APAC Kawawana en Casamance (Sénégal) racontée à travers les mots des personnes qui l'ont créée et continuent aujourd'hui à la nourrir de leur passion et de leur travail...

Kawawana est l'exemple phare d'une communauté qui a décidé de se battre contre la disparition de ressources naturelles en faisant revivre les traditions de leurs ancêtres. Tous les habitants de la communauté rurale de Mangagoulack connaissent Kawawana, et peuvent en raconter l'histoire. Dans le bouquin, ils témoignent des difficultés qu'ils ont du surmonter, des premiers succès et des défis pour une communauté disposée à relever la responsabilité de gouverner l'écosystème local qui la nourrit et lui donne identité et vie. Le



bouquin est tellement bien fait et « parlant » que toutes les copies rendues disponibles ont disparu très vite. La version pdf est disponible en ligne <u>ici</u>, et la version anglaise est attendue prochainement.

Le Consortium a aussi saisi l'occasion pour organiser un événement parallèle pour lancer en Afrique le volume des Lignes Directrices IUCN WCPA no. 20 : <u>Governance of</u> <u>Protected Areas: From Understanding to Action.</u> Le volume est pour le moment disponible en Anglais (version imprimée et électronique) mais sera bientôt disponible aussi en Français et Espagnol.

Dominique Duval-Diop, Coordinatrice Générale du <u>RAMPAO</u>, a débuté le travail par la présentation des

participants : Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend pour la description de l'ouvrage, et trois invités d'honneur pour la discussion : Aimè Nianogo – Directeur <u>UICN PACO</u>, Aboubacar Oularé, Directeur du Centre National de Gestion des Aires protégées de la Guinée et Charlotte Karibuhoye, Coordinatrice du Programme pour les Aires Protégées Marines pour la Fondation <u>FIBA</u>. La présentation par Grazia a traité des deux parties de l'ouvrage. A propos de la première partie, elle a illustré la distinction entre gestion et gouvernance, défini « qualité » et « types » de gouvernance des aires protégées, et décrit les multiples raisons pour lesquelles il est bien de comprendre et utiliser ces paramètres. Les aires protégées

sous gouvernance privée et sous gouvernance par les peuples autochtones et les communautés locales (Aires du Patrimoine Autochtones et Communautaire – APACs) ont été indiquées en tant que « conservation volontaire », un atout important pour faire face aux défis des changements globaux de nos jours.

A propos de la seconde partie de l'ouvrage, Grazia a mis l'accent sur la méthodologie proposée par l'UICN pour analyser, évaluer et agir à propos de la gouvernance d'un système d'aires protégées et/ou d'un site individuel. La méthodologie se déroule en plusieurs étapes, par exemple l'analyse de l'historie et des cultures de la région, l'analyse des acteurs et des institutions, l'analyse de la législation et des politiques nationales (qui peuvent admettre ou nier la possibilité d'une diversité de types de gouvernance pour les aires protégées), l'analyse du système sur la base de la Matrice UICN et surtout l'analyse spatiale de la gouvernance par rapport à l'état de conservation et des menaces qui pèsent sur le milieu naturel. Ella a conclus en rappelant le rendez-vous du Congrès Mondial des Parcs (Sydney, Novembre 2014), où un « Stream » entier sera dédié à l'amélioration de la diversité et de la qualité de la gouvernance des aires protégées.

Les personnalités qui composaient le panel ont ensuite donné leur appréciation de l'ouvrage et de son contenu. Aimè Nianogo a souligné son importance pour l'effective mise en place d'une approche participative à la sauvegarde des aires protégées. Quand les ressources naturelles se trouvent sur la pression croissante des industries extractives et des grandes infrastructures, seulement des communautés conscients de leurs histoire, cultures et identité entrelacées avec l'environnement auront la chance de défende la nature. Aboubacar Oularé a renforcé ce point en notant que la valeur de l'ouvrage réside dans sa franche ouverture à la gouvernance par les peuples autochtones et communautés locales surtout dans les pays qui ont des difficultés à se doter des moyens de surveillance étatique efficace (« tout ce qui appartient à l'état n'appartient à personne »). Charlotte Karibuhoye a ensuite bien noté que les politiques de décentralisation permettent des progrès tels que la reconnaissance officielle des APACs, mais il faut que la gouvernance (« appropriée en type, et bonne en qualité ») et la gestion (efficace) aillent main dans la main pour que la conservation des aires protégées de la région soit vraiment durable.

Un riche débat a suivi ces premières remarques et la trentaine de participants dans l'auditoire s'est exprimée avec vigueur bien au delà du temps assigné. L'étape suivante est maintenant le processus d'analyse, évaluation et action du système d'aires protégées du Sénégal, présagé en 2014, qui devrait suivre la méthodologie UICN en vue de présenter ses résultats au Congrès Mondial de Sydney.

ICCA Kenya Committee hosts Coast Meeting

By Maya Sikand, ICCA Kenya Committee

On December 9-10th the ICCA Committee in Kenya hosted a multi-stakeholder meeting in Ukunda, along the Kenya coast. The objective of the meeting was to initiate discussions on the idea of ICCAs amongst a wide range of community members involved in local conservation initiatives. Participants in the meeting included representatives from conservancies, rangelands, Community Forest Associations (CFAs), Kayas (sacred forests) and

Beach Management Units (BMUs) from all along the coastal region. As a member of the ICCA Committee in Kenya, Natural Justice was involved in the planning and coordination of the meeting.

Some key points raised during the discussions included:

- The linkages between the conservation work communities are already engaging in and the concept of ICCAs. As community members, do we identify as caretakers of ICCAs? Is there any difference between the ICCAs and the work we are already doing?
- Governance was determined to be a key point defining ICCAs. However, currently many



communities might not have as much governance over their natural resources as they would like to. To this end, the idea of ICCAs as an *aspirational* term was brought forward. Not everyone here might embody perfectly all the characteristics of an ICCA right now, but these discussions provide a framework for communities to discuss, reflect and work towards certain objectives. Developing an ICCA is a *process*. And it can empower communities to advocate for more governance. There is no ICCA that is absolutely self-governing as they are all subject to national law.

• There is a great need for *documentation*, such as mapping and surveys. This would be useful to capture and preserve traditional knowledge and histories, but also to provide communities with a baseline and evidence as they attempt to engage with policy and face more and more challenges.

Key challenges communities are facing:

- Lack of capacity in terms of skills to understand and comment on EIAs or Bills, and resources to enforce decisions that they make regarding the management of their conserved area. In addition, when communities do attempt to engage with EIAs or legislative processes, they face many other hurdles - the comment periods are too short, the NEMA office will be closed for long hours or it is impossible to get a copy of the document in question.
- Lack of transparent and consultative processes regarding the giving of permits or licenses (for example to fish, or harvest wood within a protected area), development or extractive projects, among others.
- Poor enforcement of laws, often due to conflicts of interest often representatives of the Fisheries Department or Forest Service do not support the community when complaints or requests are made. Later, communities have found that often there has been a conflict of interest as government officials also have commercial interests.

There were also presentations on the Kenya Forests Bill and Community Land Bill, both of which will greatly affect many of the communities present. The two-day meeting finished with a field visit to a local Kaya (sacred grove).

Read the lively and informative report of the event by Laura Vanessa Mukhwana of KENWEB

Un projet pour les Houroums du Niger

Par Christian Chatelain, Co-coordinateur Régional pour l'Afrique Centrale et de l'Ouest



Le Consortium APAC a collaboré au Niger avec l'ONG AREN et son réseau de pastoralistes nomades Billital Maroobe pour développer un projet d'appui aux communautés de Mallève et Kollangou (Commune Rurale de Département Bangui, de Madaoua, Région de Tahoua) qui désirent restaurer et améliorer leurs Houroums - zones de gouvernance pâturage en communautaire, gardées par des lois traditionnelles depuis de très

nombreuses années. Le projet, qui vient d'être accepté par le programme des petites subventions du fonds pour l'environnement mondial (PPS/FEM), a pour objectif le renforcement et la sécurisation des *Houroums* de Mallèye et Kollangou. Le terme *Houroum* correspond au terme APAC en langue locale et les *Houroums* sont des éléments clés des terroirs ancestraux conservés par la communauté peulh du Niger.

Le projet comporte trois volets. Le premier porte sur la restauration des sols, avec la création de petits ouvrages anti-érosifs (banquettes), des plantations d'arbustes, des semis d'herbacées et leur mise en défens. Le deuxième porte sur l'organisation communautaire et le renforcement de capacité de plaidoyer en faveur de la gouvernance communautaire des sites. Le troisième porte sur la recherche d'une reconnaissance légale des *Houroums* ainsi promus et appuyés, en collaboration avec les autorités locales de la décentralisation.

Pour informations complémentaires, voir la Photo Story réalisée avec les communautés locales elles mêmes, en <u>français</u> et en <u>anglais</u>.

Asia

Participation in the 1st Asia Parks Congress

By Bas Verschuuren, Sacred Natural Sites Initiative (Member) and Ashish Kothari, member of the ICCA Consortium Steering Committee

The first <u>Asian Parks Congress</u> (APC), held in the city of Sendai, Japan from $13 - 18^{th}$ November 2013 welcomed over 800 people from 22 Asian countries and from across

the world. It mostly consisted of plenary lectures and sessions, six Working Groups over 2 days, and side events in the mornings and evenings. The main outputs were an Asian Charter on Protected Areas (PAs) and statements from each Working Group, all directed at the World Parks Congress.



The ICCA Consortium and its Member Kalpavriksh participated with a Side Event on Protected Areas and ICCAs, offering an overview as well as case studies from Nepal & Taiwan. A Side Event on Threats and Challenges to ICCAs was organised by the Consortium with the Tao Foundation. including an overview and case studies from India, Nepal, Taiwan, and China. Presentations were offered within Working Groups on Governance of PAs (overview,

global status, needs in Asia) and on case studies from various countries (Taiwan, Nepal). A Side Event and Working Group session on Sacred Natural Sites were organised by the Sacred Natural Sites Initiative and WCPA. All Consortium affiliates present in the Congress participated with comments on key outputs, such as the Asian Charter, the Working Groups statements on Governance of PAs, Traditional Protected Areas, etc.

Overall, Sacred Natural Sites (SNS) achieved a high profile within the APC and substantial mention within the Congress outputs. "<u>An Asian Philosophy of Protected Areas</u>" was the title of the keynote presentation by Prof. Amran Hamza, from Malaysia, at the opening session of APC. His address brought Sacred Natural Sites directly to the attention of all the participants of the Congress as it included a discussion of the historic Asian ethics of harmony between nature and humans. A workshop on SNS, chaired by Robert Wild (SNSI) and Nao Furuta (IUCN Japan), included eight presentations featuring some iconic sites from Japan, Nepal,



Taiwan and Cambodia. As only last year the IUCN UNESCO Guidelines for Sacred Natural Sites were translated into <u>Japanese</u>, Japan was represented by case studies from two of Japans Holy Mountains, Hakusan (Mt Haku) and Fujisan (Mt Fuji). Another side event presentation was made by Bas Verschuuren and followed by group work where participants discussed input into the <u>Working Group 3 Outcomes</u>, inputs to WPC and

the potential for an Asian Sacred Natural Sites Network. The network would aim to improve communications on and recognition of Sacred Natural Sites in protected areas and the wider land and seascapes in the region. It would also focus on supporting Sacred Natural Sites at the World Parks Congress in Sydney next year and would be open to new members with an interest of being involved. The presenters are currently developing their presentations into online case study descriptions and articles for a publication on Asian Sacred Natural Sites, which will be presented at the World Parks Congress in 2014. Both the online case studies and the book are open to new submissions.

- If you are interested please contact <u>info@sacrednaturalsites.org</u>
 - Read more about sacred Natural Sites at the APC

On the disappointing side, what was originally supposed to be a 'Governance' Working Group became a co-management one; although governance was brought back into draft statements, and discussions remained open to inputs on governance quality and types. Overall, there was a heavy focus on government-governed PAs and co-management, with ICCAs being mentioned only under the label of 'comanagement' or 'joint management'. 'Real ICCAs' presentations were indeed too few. This was not surprising, as there was an



overwhelming participation of government officials and international organizations and almost no indigenous peoples and local communities participation... Substantial advocacy work will need to be done to bring focus to governance in general, and to ICCAs in particular, into the Asian process, including in the Asian PA 'Partnership' (access to its first meeting was denied to the Consortium representatives) and the 2nd Asian Parks Congress. At this stage, openings seem narrow and government control remains strong.

ICCA Consortium & UNDP-GEF SGP: promoting a good understanding of ICCAs in China

By Sutej Hugu, ICCA Consortium Regional Coordinator for East Asia and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Global Coordinator



A one-day workshop fully dedicated to ICCAs took place in Beijing on December 14, 2013 as closing feature of a threeday capacity building event for GEF SGP grantees in China. Hosted by UNDP GEF SGP China, the workshop gathered representatives of various organizations – including government organizations, think tanks, grassroots organizations, academics, and international NGOs such as Flora and Fauna International (FFI China) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC China). The ICCA Consortium was

represented by its Global Coordinator and the Regional Coordinator for East Asia.

The workshop sessions were designed to be participatory and interactive, with the participants spending the afternoon in six working groups roughly divided by region and key ecosystem interest (and thus type of "potential ICCAs"). In the morning, however, the participants had an opportunity to hear and discuss about the concept of ICCA, specific case studies and lessons learned from other countries and various contexts. Recalling the three characteristics that define ICCAs, it seemed to us that – in the light of the cases discussed in the workshop – in China you can still find the first characteristic, i.e. the strong bond between the communities and their territories, but the communities are not reported to be "capable of making decisions" about how to manage the natural resources. So the second characteristic is missing. In turn, the unclear tenure over resources has created many situations of "open access", with the consequence that even the third characteristic (actual conservation of nature) is often also missing. We emphasized that two dimensions of restoration may need to be undertaken: restoration of the environment and restoration of the community institutions that can collectively care for their environment. For ICCAs to flourish in China, the strong relationships between communities and their environments must be highlighted and revived. And for natural resources to be effectively conserved, the community capacity to take management decision must be strengthened.

The workshop participants also heard about ways to register ICCAs in the dedicated Registry held at UNEP WCMC in Cambridge (UK). It was discussed that ICCA is an effective governance type that can contribute greatly to the conservation of biological and cultural diversity and increase the coverage of effectively protected territories and should thus be properly registered and valued. Registration in the ICCA Registry, however, should not be considered as an end *per se*, but as a one element of an overall situation. It is that overall situation that needs to be understood by the organizations and peoples who wish to make a difference for ICCAs in the country. For instance, the need for FPIC processes and in-depth analysis of the ICCAs by their own caretakers communities were especially emphasised.



ICCA custodians should be strongly encouraged to develop their own analysis, their own plans and their own expertise, rooted in their unique Chinese experience. As a matter of fact, GEF SGP and the Consortium are developing country-specific strategies and the focus is, beyond listing ICCAs in the UNEP WCMC Registry, on developing meaningful analyses of what are the key opportunities and problems for ICCAs - individually and in the country as a whole – and how

can those be met effectively.

After the workshop, a small but critical 'Strategic Meeting for ICCAs in China' was arranged among a few enthusiastic veterans in the field of conservation and community work, who decided to establish a 'Working Group on ICCAs China.' Not even two hours after birth, the group was already endowed with a 'web chat group', taking advantage of the latest social media. The Working Group decided by consensus to start by identifying and analyzing the national legislation that could support ICCAs in China, digging out exemplary cases of diverse ICCAs, and organizing a team to prepare for a Chinese participation in the Governance Stream of the World Parks Congress (Sydney, 2014). The idea of a Chinese translation of the IUCN Guidelines no. 20 on Governance of Protected Areas was also proposed and Li Bo and Liu Yi agreed to seek support for it. And Hou Yuxin offered to share with the group materials related to his current research on "happiness and well being".

In term of exemplary ICCA cases in China, a few names were made, but it was discussed that people should not draw too much attention on ICCAs, as mass tourism could follow and mass tourism is one of the worst killers of ICCAs (and anything else!). On the other hand, the Chinese public should know that ICCAs exist and are precious.

Liu Yi, National Coordinator of UNDP GEF SGP China; Dr. Zhang Yingyi, Director of FFI China; Dr. Xie Yan, Director of WCS China: and the volunteer convenor of the working group Dr. Li Shengzhi, Director of Fieldworks, Shansui



Conservation Centre were all invited to become Honorary members of the ICCA Consortium, joining the current Honorary members Li Bo and Hou Yuxin. For 2014, GEF SGP China will support 19 new NGO/CBO projects. Among them, 14 are biodiversity projects, and 5 are climate change projects. There are 6 potential ICCAs that could be registered under the ICCA Registry via such SGP projects. At the very least, the registration process will provide the grantees (NGOs and local communities) with a learning process, and general ICCA awareness will increase. The Consortium also hopes to be able to organize a 'Conference on Community Governance and Management of Commons in China' in 2014 or 2015.

We don't need a hydropower dam – a call for hope in a powerful Photo Story from Cambodia

By Aurélie Neumann, ICCA Consortium Programme Assistant



And so here I was, after the (crowded) splendours of mysterious Angkor and the airy streets of lovely Phnom Penh, finally, in rural Cambodia, real Cambodia. Wondering how that Photo Story process could possibly work out, given everybody was busy harvesting the rice fields, our local facilitator had gone 'somewhere', and time seemed like a perfectly irrelevant measure to the villagers – yet mine was counted. And those cows and pigs and roosters and ducks and dogs wouldn't keep quiet, making my nights shortest than ever; and those kids wouldn't quit laughing at me while I was shyly bathing at the water pump in the middle of the village; and that white protein-less rice wouldn't stop filling my vegetarian (those *barangs*, really) plate morning, noon and evening.

And then, on the 4th day, photo-taking day, they took me for a (joy)ride. They showed me their grazing meadows, and their rice fields, and their vegetable gardens, and their river, and their burial area, and their houses, and – most precious of it all - their spiritual forest. And suddenly, it hit me, that beauty that had been lying all around - in the gorgeous golden light bathing the fields ripe for harvest, in the noble trees standing in a mystic halo, in the gentle breeze playing in their leaves, in the delightful symphonies composed in their branches by omnipresent birds, in the myriads butterflies painting, along with flowers, grasses in all colours; in the free roaming of all sorts of healthy farm animals, in the exuberant children's laughers out of innocence, in the comforting intimacy of the warm oil lamps, in the magic of incenses stick glowing like fireflies thanks to monks still too young not to make their walking evening prayers a bit of a game, in the kindness behind the smiles, and in the sweet



melody of the traditional music, conveying a simple – and how legitimate – wish for peaceful and sustainable and happy lives.



I just spent 10 days in Kbal Romeas village, home to a Bunong community. Their livelihoods are based on NTFP collection, rice & vegetables cultivation, fishing, and cattle raising. Relying on very basic equipment, their traditional practices guarantee the natural resources they are SO dependent on are not depleted. Following some ancestral beliefs, they also protect a spiritual forest (Prey Neak Ta in Khmer, Kot Bou in Bunong),

prohibited forests and burial forested areas. There, logging is strictly forbidden and no NFTP excepted resin is to be collected (this can be done in the 'other' forest all around). Those rules are respected by all, since cutting a single tree would bring disease and death upon the community. Although they do not have a specific name for it (especially not 'ICCA'), the

whole area they sustainably use and protect could be considered an ICCA, where the relationship between man and nature is creating biodiversity at the landscape level (e.g. the numerous butterflies and flowers in the meadows among the trees, created by cattle grazing in the forest), especially when the neighbouring land-use option is intensive logging by Chinese & Vietnamese companies, for timber export or commercial plantations like rubber.

But soon, that little Eden might just be a regretted souvenir. Indeed, the government of Cambodia has given the green light to a massive hydropower dam project by a joint venture of a Vietnamese, Chinese and Cambodian companies, which would flood an area of more than 800km², including the villages of 5,000 people, their farming lands, their fishing areas and their forests. Despite the (mandatory for every infrastructure



project) environmental impact assessment requirements, the companies have not conducted proper consultation with the concerned communities, and those have no clear idea of what the future beholds for them. They have tried their best to raise awareness and organize protest, but in a country where corruption is the norm and the space for civil society action very tight, it is currently very unlikely the dam will not be constructed and their village relocated – in a probably much less hospitable place, not even talking about the impossibility for them to move their spiritual & burial forests... Moreover, for some, being displaced once already under the Khmer Rouges' inhumane regime probably is enough for a lifetime (or two).

This is why they made this Photo Story, with the hope it will help them to make their voice heard by the very government supposed to represent them (yes, the Cambodia *People's* Party...) and their advocacy work backed up by more influent organizations. **Please do watch and share widely the beautiful Photo Story** they have put together with the support of the ICCA Consortium and <u>Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association</u>. We might soon solicit you to **join a campaign to demand the Cambodian & Chinese governments** to seriously consider the terrible impacts the dam construction would have on all the communities living along the river.

Watch the Photo Story
Learn more about the Lower Sesan 2 project

ICCAs as an advocacy avenue for customary forest rights in Indonesia

By Natasaya Muliandari, Non Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia (NTFP-EP) (Member)

On their very first event, the Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia (WGII, a group established at the aftermath of the ICCAs Symposium in Bogor in October 2011 and

comprising representatives from JKPP NTFP-EP, WWF Indonesia, Kiara, Huma, Pusaka, AMAN, Sawit Watch, WALHI), together with The Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Kayan Mentarang National Park (FoMMA), organized a workshop entitled "Recognizing and Strengthening the Management of Customary Forests and Conservation Areas by Indigenous Peoples (ICCAs): experiences and legal options" in Malinau, North Kalimantan. More than 70 representatives of NGOs and indigenous communities from 12 provinces gathered and discussed land reform, ICCAs and customary forests in Indonesia for 3 days (24-26 September, 2013). The Head of FoMMA, who is also the Head of the local parliament, together with the Vice head of the Malinau District officially opened the event.



The initial focus of the workshop was on **ICCA** documentation and registration, however the momentum created by the Constitutional recent Court landmark ruling that Customary Forest (or forest claimed and managed by indigenous peoples) is not 'hutan negara' (state forest) but another, rightful and separate category of forest land, convinced the

organizers to discuss ICCAs in the context of this new legal opportunity. A new focus of the meeting thus became the need to delineate a clear course of action for the recognition of customary forests and land in Indonesia. A fruitful discussion and exchange took place among the participants about their experiences on documentation, mapping and natural resource management of indigenous lands and conserved areas. During the workshop, participants reviewed criteria and tools for documenting and registering ICCAs and customary land. They also discussed how they can effectively use the political space and existing policies supporting indigenous peoples' rights to natural resources.

Malinau is one of the few districts in Indonesia that has issued a local law for the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples (2012). On the last day of the workshop, community representatives agreed on follow-up steps in their lands. In Malinau, the representatives of eight customary lands in and around the Kayan Mentarang National Park agreed to review and update the land use and resource maps they had prepared in 1998, and get ready for registration at district level. A community mapping training was organized by the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Kayan Mentarang (FoMMA) with JKPP and held on 29 November-1 December 2013.

The Constitutional Court decision is definitely a fundamental legal milestone. But it is also important to realize that a long process and serious effort is needed to document, register and get the forests recognized and gazetted. Foremost, the Court's ruling by itself is not enough. The districts and provinces have to issue enabling laws and regulations to establish the indigenous claims to forests. There are other challenges as well. Not all local governments are forthcoming and supportive of indigenous peoples' rights. Conflicts in and among indigenous communities are also likely to emerge and risk delaying the process of recognition. This workshop was a good occasion for communities to learn and get inspired from each other. More importantly, it was a great moment for communities to get new motivation for the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' rights. More partnerships and strong networks among indigenous communities will be important to move the process forward.

Philippines: after typhoon Haiyan, relief drive stepped up for Coron Island

By Giovanni Reyes, KASAPI (Member)



The aid drive for the iconic ICCA in Coron Island mounted by the Koalisyon ng mga Katutubo at Samahan ng Pilipinas (KASAPI, National Coalition of Indigenous Peoples the Philippines) in gathered more support after participants in the 1st Climate Change Adaptation Learning Highway (ALH) Conference (November 24-29, 2013). endorsed the coalition's relief drive for victims of Typhoon

Haiyan. The ALH conference was organized by the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and KASAPI with backing from the Philippine Association for Inter-Cultural Development (PAFID) and the Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF). It was held with support from MISEREOR, the German Catholic Bishop's Organization for Development Cooperation. Besides Kalahan indigenous leaders sharing their experience on traditional adaptation practices, key resource persons included Dr. Kristofferson Berse of the Office of the University of the Philippines Vice-President for Public Affairs and Ms. Floradema Eleazar of the GEF-UNDP New Conservation Areas Philippines Project (NewCAPP). The former is a disaster risk management expert specializing on climate-smart risk management, while the latter is Chief Technical Adviser of the UNDP-GEF project on Expanding and Diversifying the National System of Terrestrial Protected Areas in the Philippines (EDNSTPAP) also known as NewCAPP.

In a statement issued after the meeting, major indigenous peoples organizations (IPOs) coming from Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Nagaland, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines stated that: *"little has been heard of the terrible destruction that typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda wrought on indigenous communities"*. Earlier, Dr. Francis Richard Dorall, a world-renowned geographer, endorsed KASAPI's appeal and aid drive after Coron Island was cut-off from the outside world. These included two appeals read and circulated at the Warsaw Climate Change Conference on November 12 and 16, 2013 through AIPP. AIPP is an umbrella organization of indigenous peoples' movements in Asia and an NGO in special consultative

status with the UN Economic and Social Council. It has concrete working partnerships with major national and regional indigenous peoples' networks in the Philippines.

In the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, various indigenous peoples' organizations and NGOs moved in with a flurry of aid relief. These include the Kalipunan ng Mamamayang Katutubo sa Pilipinas (KAMP) or National Alliance of Indigenous Organizations in the Philippines, BALSA-Mindanao, Rural Missionaries in the Philippines, PAFID and the Samdhana Institute. Christian Aid came in through the Alyansa Tigil Mina (Alliance to Stop Mining).



Donors such as the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) also added their support.

In press statements, KASAPI said its aid transparency policy includes identity of source of donations, amount donated, use of donations, description of goods and name of recipient of donations and relief goods to be published in websites and other means accessible to the public. The Asian participants affirmed that "for millennia the indigenous Tagbanuas of Coron Island have played a critical role in conserving land and sea environment through customary laws and traditional governing systems and that management plans based on such systems were the result of working with KASAPI and PAFID". As an important step for the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights to govern their traditional territories, the participants resolved to "endorse KASAPI with whom we have trust to determine immediate rehabilitation needs not only in Coron Island but in surrounding Calamian Islands". The participants earlier made a site visit to one of KASAPI's climate change adaptation projects in a Kalahan ancestral domain (Caraballo Mountain Range, Nueva Viscaya Nov. 24-27, 2013).

Since 2010, KASAPI has identified 197 areas traditionally conserved by their communities. Banuang Daan and Cabugao (Coron Island), Maporac (Cabangan, Zambales), Banawen (San Felipe, Zambales); Portulin (Pangantukan, Bukidnon); Balmar (Kalatungan, Bukidnon); Sibuyan Island (Romblon); Maasin (Quezon, Palawan); and San Toribio (Esperanza, Agusan del Sur) are part of the first wave of such areas, documented and mapped as Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs). KASAPI is currently preparing an initial schedule to mount rehabilitation planning activities with its member organization in Coron Island.

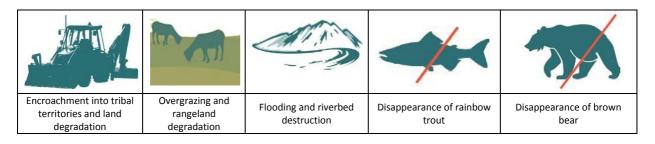
Restoration and management of ICCAs through biodiversity conservation in the territory of the Taklé tribe, Shahsevan confederacy (Iran)

By Mina Esteqamat and Morvarid Kamali, Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (Member)



The Taklé tribe, one of the 32 tribes of the Shahsevan tribal confederacy in Iranian Azerbaijan, covers a territory of about 12,000 hectares and extends from Mount Savalán as summering grounds to Mughan Plain as wintering grounds. The social structure of this tribal community includes 5 subtribes, 12 clans and 57 nomadic camps.

In recent decades, parts of their ancestral tribal territory have been allocated to outsiders and to government or private projects run by people with no sense of "belonging" there, which has accelerated the degradation of nature and its resources. One specific consequence of this degradation took place 5 years ago when disastrous floods destroyed the main riverbed of the Alidarvish River, along with the rainbow trout – the main native fish species and also the main source of livelihood for the indigenous community. Following the disappearance of the trout, the brown bear lost its main food source and left the area to find food elsewhere.

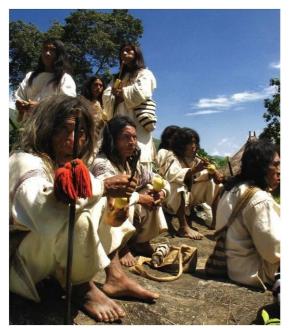


In this context, the Taklé tribe decided to restore their territory and its habitats, relying on their traditional knowledge and customary management practices. To address this issue and support their initiative, a project was prepared with the help of CENESTA and the support of UNDP/GEF/SGP. The project enabled them to start the rehabilitation of upland rangelands by seeding native species and constructing small earth dams, then repopulating the river with a fish-breeding program. Soon after provision of the food resource, the brown bear came back to its habitat. Restoration and rehabilitation of key elements of the ecosystem are among the ongoing successful results of this project towards sustainable livelihoods and conservation of nature.

Latin America

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta: some progress but serious challenges remain – Looking to the future

By Guillermo E. Rodriguez-Navarro, Fundación Pro-Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Honorary member)



The Constitution of 1991 has given to indigenous peoples in Colombia a measure of autonomy in the management of their land and recognition of the value of indigenous knowledge for that management, and the recovery of some of the forests and sacred lands. The construction of new indigenous villages in the indigenous reservation borders with support of the national government - a project called the Cultural and Environmental Belt - has increased the indigenous peoples' presence in the lower parts of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. This is one of the strategies to preserve this cultural landscape, but the threat remains of losing access to some of the culturally important places. In addition, there are continued displacements of population to lower places of

the Sierra, where contact with Western culture is stronger and tends to result in various degrees of acculturation. The ability of indigenous societies to exercise self-governance and independence is of crucial importance, especially since the national parks in which their territories lie are 'paper parks', not actually protected and preserved.

It is worth noting, nevertheless, that the Ministry of Environment and the Special Administrative Unit of National Natural Parks consider the ancestral traditional management of the indigenous groups of the Sierra Nevada to be a conservation tool that guarantees the maintenance of the ecosystem and its biodiversity. Agreements are under way to build adequate governance mechanisms that will ensure indigenous autonomy.

The *Cabildo Gobernador* head of the Indigenous Organization Gonawindua Tairona, Jose de los Santos Zauna Alimaku, has been invited to become an Honorary member of the ICCA Consortium. This is an important link and support to show how traditional governance systems are able to take and implement decisions that result in the conservation of nature and natural resources. Today, however, such traditional governance systems face a variety of external and internal threats including when dealing with the environmental authorities and protected areas.

Extractive industries are ominously interested in the mineral, oil and gas resources found within the ICCAs of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. To get at those resources, industries are more than ready to sacrifice the biological and cultural diversity there and harm their people. Weak governments, weak collective rights to the territories and natural resources,

and government-imposed protected areas contribute to such pressures and add to the threats faced both by the indigenous groups and the ecological system of the Sierra Nevada. The indigenous groups of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, however, have a *Consejo Territorial de Cabildos* that gathers all indigenous groups of the Sierra and is in the process of negotiating indigenous governance of traditional territories, including the management of Protected Areas.

time has come for The our industrialized and secularized society to learn from these indigenous societies, incorporate their moral values, and envelop an ecological understanding in social action and economic behavior. This knowledge must come to form part of a new mode of life that postmodern man will need to develop if he is going to have any chance to effectively protect the basic resources that assure the survival of



life on the planet. The spiritual significance of the cultural landscapes fashioned by the indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is being destroyed, and if it is not preserved, it may be lost to us forever. Only through a better understanding of natural processes and cycles and increased awareness of the detrimental effect that our 'toys' (as the indigenous groups call our technological devices) have on the environment, can we aspire to recover the meaning of our territories and the sense they give to life.

Releases & new initiatives and events

A New Toolkit for Supporting Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

By Colleen Corrigan, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (Partner) & Terence Hay-Edie, UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme (Partner)



In May 2013 at the World Indigenous Network conference in Darwin, Australia, a new resource toolkit was launched to support indigenous peoples and local communities in their conservation practices and build their capacities for it. The conference provided an ideal place to share the toolkit as indigenous land and sea managers from around the world were gathered to learn from each other and exchange experiences. The toolkit has been designed to assist civil society-led initiatives to voluntarily conserve Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs). The resource contains descriptions of over 100 tools covering a variety of topics including: (1) how to document ICCAs, (2) methods for simple monitoring of natural resources, and (3) protecting rights, and (4) building resilience to climate change. Sixteen case studies from around the world highlight innovative tools and approaches that local communities have developed to address critical challenges affecting their ICCAs.

The toolkit includes a diverse set of resources organized around five key themes (*documentation, management planning, monitoring and evaluation, communication, and finance and values*). The publication also offers a suite of tools to support the effectiveness and viability of ICCAs as governance structures for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

In addition to being a valuable resource to practitioners, the toolkit, which was developed as a partnership between two UN agencies, provides a reminder to policy-makers that the achievement of the emerging post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs) will need to be linked to a an assessment of how best to communicate and document the linkage between ICCAs and the provision of ecosystem services, as well as to be spearheaded directly by local civil society and grassroots initiatives.

With the financial support from the Governments of Norway and Germany, both UNDP and UNEP worked with the ICCA Consortium to design the toolkit in order to meet the needs of ICCA Consortium members and partners from around the world. The ICCA Toolkit in English can be downloaded <u>here</u>. Translation of the toolkit in French and Spanish will be available in early 2014, with plans for additional languages later in the year.

If you have any comments on your use of the toolkit, suggestions for additional tools or case studies to include, or recommendations for additional languages for translation, you can contact <u>colleen.corrigan@unep-wcmc.org</u> and <u>terence.hay-edie@undp.org</u>.



ICCAs Featured in First Stage of Global Project on Aichi Targets

By Harry Jonas, Natural Justice (Member)

The Legal Preparedness for Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Program is a global initiative launched in 2012 by the International Development Law Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), with seed funding from the Japan Biodiversity Fund. The Program will build up new knowledge and practical tools to support actions to directly assist CBD Parties to design legal approaches to achieve national goals related to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and incorporate these into countrytailored National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. In this context, Natural Justice worked with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre to develop a scoping paper on Aichi Target 11, which includes discussion of the possible role of ICCAs, sacred natural sites, locally managed marine areas, and other area-based conservation measures in achieving the Target. The scoping paper was launched at a side event at the 17th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA, October 2013). The next phase of the Program involves the development of both a number of briefing notes on innovative legal approaches from around the world and a guide for legislators. Considering the volume of existing high-calibre guidelines on various aspects of Aichi Target 11, this will likely be along the lines of a 'guide to guidelines'. We welcome the involvement of any Consortium members interested in contributing to the Program, please write to Harry Jonas at harry@naturaljustice.org.

Download the Scoping Paper on Aichi Target 11

The GESA Wellbeing Initiative: a Global Food Sovereignty Initiative

By Vanessa Reid (Honorary member)

In August 2013, Consortium Member Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) held the Global Environments Summer Academy (GESA) in Bern, Switzerland. The academy brought together twenty individuals from around the world, ranging from PhD candidates to young professionals working in the field of environmental and social change. Among them, Vanessa Reid (Consortium Honorary member and previously Communications Officer), Yuki Yoshida (GDF) and Kaylena Bray (Cultural Conservancy) decided to develop the Wellbeing Initiative, with food, and food sovereignty, at its core. Throughout GESA, questions around food and well-being (which were not straight-forward to answer, often with complex and subtle narratives) kept emerging, hence why the initiative came into being and was catalysed by questions like:

- What role does the global food system of production, distribution, and consumption play in human well-being?
- Are we connected to the food we eat, the hands that grew it and the land that produced it, or is the current, and pervasive commercial food system only adding to a sense of anonymity and unaccountability within this daily exchange?
- Does the food we eat reflect our political orientations and our social and environmental ethics, or exactly the opposite?

In an effort to understand the diversity of the food sovereignty movement and its political, social and economic ramifications, Vanessa, Yuki and Kaylana, along with GDF staff Susannah McCandless and Emily



Caruso, decided to turn these discussions into something tangible and quantifiable, and thus set up the initiative. One of its key functions is to provide an on-line platform for information

and resource sharing of the team's case study research, as well as sharing resources and content from networks, individuals and institutions working towards a shared vision of food sovereignty. The web platform will eventually gather and share case studies of wider wellbeing initiatives - stepping beyond the issue of food. The team have already begun carrying-out case study research that explores commonalities and differences between diverse social, economic, and cultural approaches to food sovereignty, examining how they are redefining the current food paradigm and what 'food sovereignty' means in practice in different contexts. Each member of the team is backed by the NGOs they work with/are affiliated to, which support the initiative (in-kind, with expertise and advice). The team are fortunate enough to have Michel Pimbert, Consortium Honorary member and Director at the Centre for Agroecology and Food Security at the University of Coventry as a mentor and advisor throughout the process. Thanks to funds from the GESA Alumni Seed Fund, they have begun their research and started to visit case study sites. The team plans to attend the International Society of Ecological Economics in Iceland in the summer of next year - to present a synthesis of initial findings from their initiative, whilst highlighting achievements and limitations within the food sovereignty movement at large.

The initiative is inspired by the wider, transnational global agrarian food sovereignty movement that proposes an alternative food paradigm, creating practical, sustainable and democratic alternatives to the current and pervasive industrialised food model. Contrary to the dominant capitalist framework of food production and distribution, food sovereignty is premised on the view that our food system must feed our global population in a way that is equitable and sustainable with its control and management coming democratically from civil society. In this way, the movement seeks to build local market exchanges and re-localize decision-making processes, challenging neo-liberalism in favour of diverse means of engaging in agricultural production, and empowering small-scale producers as powerful economic actors in trade markets.

The Wellbeing Initiative falls under a wider framework – based on the Indian notion of *swaraj* or self-rule – known as the <u>Radical Ecological Democracy</u> (RED) currently co-led by Ashish Kothari, founder of Indian NGO Kalpavriksh (Consortium Member) and co-founder of the Consortium. Ashish is also an advisor and mentor to the team, providing critical insights and a wealth of resources for developing our methodological framework. The RED framework – a Consortium supported initiative – focuses on meeting human needs and aspirations of well-being through direct or radical democracy, localized economies embedded in ecological and cultural landscapes, notions of human well-being that relate to actual needs of people and to qualitative values like satisfaction and social security, democratic knowledge and technology generation, and sustaining cultural diversity and exchange. It proposes a mix of localization and globalisation, the former providing communities essential control over means of production and consumption, the latter affording possibilities of intercultural exchange and mutual learning. It is intended that findings from the Wellbeing Initiative will feed-in to the wider RED movement.

For any questions, please email Yuki, Vanessa and Kaylena at: <u>yyoshid29@gmail.com</u>, <u>nessiereid@gmail.com</u>, <u>kaylena.bray@gmail.com</u>.

Life of the Consortium

New Members & Honorary Members

The Consortium is delighted to welcome two new Member organisations and two new Honorary members:



The Ekuri Initiative (Nigeria)



Prof. Arturo Escobar (Colombia/USA)



The Kivulini Trust (Kenya)



Mr. José Eugenio Gutiérrez (Spain)

Seven new Members and twelve new Honorary members are in the process pipeline and expected to be confirmed in February 2014.

Staff announcements



We are enormously pleased to welcome **Octaviana Vihocencu** as **Accountant for the ICCA Consortium**. Octaviana is based in Switzerland and earned a Bachelor in Philology at the University of Bucharest, Rumania. Her professional background is in the commercial sector and customer relations. Full-time mother, this is how she describes the very important relationship with her son: "I am trying to inspire my son with the moral principles that are at the basis of a harmonious life and will offer him satisfaction, power and, most importantly, happiness. I am teaching him respect for others, compassion, communication, dignity and morality— not just

abstract words, but highlights of a beautiful and accomplished life." Octaviana joined the ICCA Consortium as accountant in the hope of putting to good use the knowledge accumulated while attending accounting courses, but also in order to gain experience while being a full-time mother. She joined about five months ago, she slowly became more involved and is now willing to take on much of what before was done by Stan and Grazia. Octaviana has a passion for creating polymer clay jewellery, for travelling and doing Pilates. Contact: <u>octaviana.vihocencu@gmail.com</u> We also need to announce that Isis Alvarez is retiring as Communication Officer for the Consortium... but remaining as Volunteer Communication Assistant for the Spanish language (thanks so much Isis!)... and welcoming as **interim Communication Officer Eva-Maria Kandlinger**, based in Berlin, Germany.

Eva is a political scientist with an academic background in Governance and Public Policy as well as Peace and Conflict Studies. She gained international and intercultural experience and discovered the diversity of landscapes and their governance



systems while studying for her BA and MA—which she did in Germany, England, France and Costa Rica. She also travelled quite extensively in the Middle East, Central America and Oceania. Dealing with the biodiversity-development-nexus, she worked as graduate and teaching assistant at the <u>Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)</u>, the <u>University of Freiburg</u> and as program assistant at the <u>Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance</u>. Currently, Eva supports GIZ as an external consultant in biodiversity mainstreaming and reporting, and development-oriented approaches to nature conservation and protected areas. She is also dedicated to CEPA (Communications, Education, Public Awareness) and she worked on web sites, publications and recently on an <u>e-learning module</u> on Governance of Protected Areas for the CBD web site. Contact: <u>e.kandlinger@gmail.com</u>

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The ICCA

Consortium

www.iccaconsortium.org http://iccaconsortium.wordpress.com

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