



A family receives some relief aid in Coron Island— an iconic ICCA in the Philippines, devastated by cyclone Hayan in late 2013

## 2013 Annual Report

*February 12, 2014*

## *A word from the President, Global Coordinator and Treasurer*

The year 2014 is ushering the Consortium into its “productive youth”. As you will be able to read from the Outlook section in the 2013 Report, we start 2014 with the wonderful news that our decision to remain “an ambitious movement backed up by a lean organisation”—rather than the contrary—has truly paid off. In the coming years we are called to accompany our Members, Honorary Members and as many indigenous peoples and local communities as possible to restore, nourish, develop, protect, consolidate, defend and strengthen their ICCAs and to establish linkages among themselves to enhance mutual learning and support, and effective action. The UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme has been assured the capacity to provide a dependable avenue of support in countries all over the world and the Consortium and its international partners will inform, encourage, assist and try their best to strengthen and multiply positive experiences.

This great news, upon which we elaborate in the report that follows and in its discussion, deeply encourages us... *and* makes us even more aware of the problems and dangers upon us.

It is all too human to set ourselves a target and to pursue it with determination, nearly forgetting that, in the meantime, other problems may be growing under our feet. When some of us started working for equity in conservation and the re-discovery of the capacity and institutions of indigenous peoples and local communities and the respect due to them... hardly anyone was talking about climate change. It was also such a daunting problem—in technical understanding, scale of issues, accumulation of contributing factors and patterns of consequences—that the natural thing to do was to hide our head in the sand.

The problem, of course, did not go away. On the contrary, it became more apparent in the lives of people flooded, frozen, burned and swept by cyclones all over the world. And yet there is still a reticence in many of us to tackle this immense existential threat facing humanity (and, first of all, crushing the most vulnerable and innocent among us). Some commentators recently put it this way: “...the implications of climate science, when you really begin to grasp them, are simply too radical, even for radicals.” (Wen Stephenson, *The Nation*, 24 February 2014).

What are the implications of climate science? [A very clear recent paper by Hansen et al., 2013](#) stresses that numerous impacts of ongoing global warming are already with us. Arctic sea ice has plummeted by more than a third in a few decades and sea level is rising faster than models expected. Mountain glaciers are receding all around the world, with effects on seasonal freshwater availability of major rivers. Affected areas and intensity of drought and wildfires have increased. The abundance of reef-building corals is decreasing due to ocean warming and, possibly, ocean acidification. Wild species show significant changes in where they live and in the timing of major life events. Precipitation extremes, cold spells and mega heat waves are becoming common. And biodiversity overall is declining, undermining ecosystem functions (e.g., pollination) and resilience.

Of particular concern for ICCAs, we know that wild species have already responded to climate change by shifting their habitat range. As reported by Hansen et al., three-quarters of marine species have already shifted their habitat pole-wards of as much as 1000 km and half of terrestrial species have shifted in the same direction by 600 km and upwards by as much as 400 m. In terms of shifting habitats, humans might have the greatest adaptive capacity, but political borders interfere with migration. Crucially, what would that mean for the indigenous ways of life, the traditional territories and resources, the local knowledge, skills and institutions associated with ICCAs?

Because of inbuilt inertia, the Earth climate has not yet fully responded to human-made changes of atmospheric composition, but impacts occurring while global warming is less than 1°C— including

rapid shifting of climate zones— are already so serious that society should reassess what constitutes a “dangerous level” of global warming. It is the same inertia that will keep the Earth warming even if we reduce or even halt our carbon emissions today. In fact, the measures we will or will not take in the next **two or three decades** will affect the planet for **hundreds of years**. Hansen *et al.* stress that estimating a 2°C temperature rise as “acceptable”— as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change may seem to suggest— means no less than gambling away with countless future human generations.

If a 2°C rise would be catastrophic, a 4°C is unthinkable. We can just fathom epical masses of climate refugees, dominated by despotism and violence, in a planet where the conditions for life have enormously shrunk. And yet, this is exactly where we are heading. We are still on a trajectory of **rising** and not shrinking global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. If we do not change really fast, our planet will see a global average temperature rise of *at least* 4°C by the end of this century.



A house damaged by cyclone Hayan in Coron Island

Why is so relatively little happening? Why is most of the world going on the path of ignorance and business as usual? On the one hand, there are enormous and clever interests at play. A quick check on the Internet takes you away from climate information to climate babble and name-calling tailored to attract the least-equipped among us. On the other, however, we can go back to the point that *“...the implications of climate science, when you really begin to grasp them, are simply too radical, even for radicals.”* If we wish to take action, we need to contribute to a game change of immense proportion and a revolutionary turn of affairs... if the world has ever known one. The needed draconian reduction in global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions means that the current engines of growth have to be halted. It means that different economies and different financial relationships need to emerge throughout the world. Not a simple matter, and not a simple call.

There is a positive spin in thinking about all this, if you get past the initial depression that is surely bound to take you. If you dedicate time to inform yourself about the insights of climate science and the myriads of other endeavours that seek to bring justice and sanity to the world, you will simply marvel at the amount of efforts, ingenuity and sincere care that people can pull together. There is even a remote possibility that this impending absolute disaster can lead us to become more aware, cogent and interconnected beings.

For the ICCA Consortium, there is a need to face the reality of climate change. We can feel good that we are squarely on the side of solutions. But we also need to understand that the climate disaster can nullify all that we have worked for and we care about. What *can* we do? We know we can link communities who have great local wisdom about land, water, nature, climate and people. We know these communities— often among the most vulnerable to climate change such as indigenous nomadic tribes— can contribute to mitigation and adaptation, in their ICCAs and beyond. We all need to do more to support them to foster change in policy and practice, to respond to the climate crisis and to promote climate justice. With the support of its Members and partners, this is what the Consortium will strive to do.

Taghi, Grazia and Stan

## Outlook and executive summary

This report about the work of the Consortium in the last 2.5 years must begin with an announcement, recently received, that fills us with enormous satisfaction: the **Global ICCA Support Initiative** has just been born!

### Outlook

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 euro** 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— spread variably in the next five 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 organizations to multiply successful “ICCA types”) while keeping a close eye on the quality of process, national analyses and plans, etc. While the funding will support semi-volunteer coordinators in many countries, we will still need to find institutional support for key policy events, communication, strategic initiatives and semi-volunteer personnel at the global level... but we are delighted that the core funding for the field coordinators is secured!

What will the ICCA global initiative amount to? Indigenous peoples and local **communities** all over the world **can look forward to a dependable avenue of support** to regain their confidence and pride in taking into their own hands the governance of their territories and areas for livelihood, identity and conservation. This includes restoring, nourishing, developing, protecting, consolidating, defending and strengthening their ICCAs and establishing links among themselves to enhance mutual learning and support, and effective action. This means not only that **nature** in their ICCAs is more likely to be **conserved** and **allowed to thrive**, but also that their **customary institutions for governing land**, water, natural resources and means of **livelihood will be strengthened**, and restored where needed. It also means that indigenous peoples and local communities will be able to gain a better measure of **self-determination** and become 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 initiatives, 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 with the generous support and foresight of the Christensen Fund, and for this we are extremely grateful indeed.

We started this technical and financial report by offering an outlook of the future as indeed **all that the Consortium could have hoped to achieve in its short life is actually happening**, and this is – for



us – an encouraging demonstration that our efforts have not been in vain. But we also need to report on our actual work.

### ***Work accomplished***

The highlights of Consortium work in 2013 comprise a mix of:

- steady **membership** growth, and promotion of **collaboration among Members** in various regions – as demonstrated by the variety of *new* national and regional networks dedicated to ICCAs that are active from Indonesia to Mesoamerica, from Chile to China, from Canada to Spain (details in this report).
- **new field initiatives** for which we obtained support on a country or regional basis—as demonstrated by the ambitious *Anchorage des APACs* project now unfolding in Democratic Republic of Congo and the current initiative in the Amazon basin that empowers communities to monitor the ecosystems in which they live, and evaluate the impact of development initiatives.
- new and **prestigious publications**, including the [IUCN Best Practice Guidelines on Governance of Protected Areas](#), co-produced with IUCN and the CBD Secretariat, expected to provide guidance to 193 countries, and to encourage them all to accept indigenous peoples and local communities as powerful and effective conservation partners.
- strengthened **institutional collaborations**, such as the co-leadership— with the CBD Secretariat, UNDP and GIZ— of the Stream on [Enhancing the diversity and quality of governance](#) at the World Parks Congress of 2014. This will bring high visibility to ICCAs at a major conservation event, with the related ambition of broadening the Congress focus towards ‘achieved’ conservation in the landscape/ seascape rather than ‘declared’ protected areas only.
- **emerging ideas**, including the idea of pushing the governance frontier well beyond protected areas into a demonstration of “better governed landscapes as models for sustainable living”.
- **emerging institutional roles**, such as the role of ‘**service provider**’ the Consortium will now take on, partnering with UNDP for the Global ICCA Support Initiative just described.

All this signals a healthy and dynamic organization, which has worked hard and is ready to take on new challenges for the realization of its mission... notwithstanding the very dire overall situation for nature, people, and collective rights in much of the world.

## ***Background***

The Consortium is rooted in the movements that promoted equity in conservation in the first decade of the new millennium, when a group of volunteers – people and organisations – articulated the need to recognise and support Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs). As the ICCA concept gained momentum in the international policy arena (e.g., at the World Parks Congress of 2003, the World Conservation Congresses of 2004 and 2008, and in the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity-- CBD), the volunteers informally created a “Consortium” on the occasion of the 2008 World Conservation Congress. Two years later they further formalised it as an international association under Swiss Law dedicated to “*promoting the appropriate recognition of, and support to, ICCAs at local, national and international levels*” (see the Consortium current [Statutes](#), approved in 2013). This step was taken to strengthen the effectiveness of the Consortium not only in the international arena—where it mostly needed to consolidate and build upon prior results— but also in the **many national contexts** where ICCA-favourable international policies were still ignored or their interpretation was deeply flawed. A further step was then taken in October 2010, when the Consortium held a General Assembly and a planning retreat on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan. The Members of the Consortium then developed a middle-term vision and a programme to approach that vision (see the Consortium [Vision 2020 and Work Programme 2011-2014](#)).

On the eve of these developments, the **Consortium** submitted a request to TCF for a 30-month (2.5 year) grant to accompany its **strengthening as an emerging institution**. The proposal was generously funded for a total of **\$230,000**, with a start date of **1 July 2011** and an end date of **31 December 2013**. In parallel, a smaller grant (\$75,000 in total) was also requested and obtained from the Environment & Energy Group (EEG) of UNDP, running through the same period and focusing on the development of an information and communication system for the Consortium, and other specific outputs in synergy with the TCF grant. As a result of these funds being secured, a third grant was later obtained from Swedbio to carry out a review of national legislation supporting or hindering ICCAs. The grant (\$80,500 over 1 year, starting on Nov. 1, 2011) has been managed by Natural Justice in close cooperation with the Consortium.

For activities in 2011 and 2011, please see the corresponding Annual reports, available in [Life of the Consortium](#) web page. Throughout **2013** the Consortium carried out activities at international, national and local levels. The number of engaged personnel (all on a part-time, semi-volunteer or fully volunteer basis) varied throughout the year, reaching a maximum of **24 regional coordinators and global staff**, working as part of an **electronic network** (with no dedicated offices, relying on frequent communication via e-mail and Skype). Only on the occasion of international events do some members of the Steering Committee and staff have a chance to meet and physically work together. These opportunities are rare, but extremely valuable.

During 2013 we continued to be guided by the work programme developed in Shirakawa, and described in our grant proposal to TCF. The programme foresaw 2 main sets of activities:

**Work-package A**, whereby the Consortium assists its Members and partners at regional, national and local levels to:

- A1. **build the capacity** of indigenous peoples and local communities to appreciate, strengthen, and defend their own ICCAs;
- A2. **analyze and promote awareness** of the ICCA phenomenon in specific national or regional contexts;
- A3. **explore and analyze laws and policies** that do, and/or could, support ICCAs at national level;
- A4. provide effective **short term and long term responses to the needs and opportunities** that characterize ICCAs in specific national or regional contexts.

**Work-package B**, whereby the Consortium works at the global level and directly:

- B1. establishes and/or strengthens institutional collaborations, among others, with:
  - *The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*
  - *The UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme*
  - *The World Conservation Union (IUCN)*
  - *The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)*
  - *The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN Human Rights Council*
- B2. provides global analysis, guidance and support to Members, partners and the public at large (on ICCA matters);
- B3. manages the operations of the ICCA Consortium through a decentralized secretariat.

During the middle 12 months of the grant period, substantial accomplishments were achieved in both work-packages. These are listed below, grouped as follows: 1. Technical assistance for country-based initiatives; 2. Studies and publications; 3. International initiatives and partnerships; and 4. Managing the operations of the Consortium as an institution. We have listed only major activities and accomplishments where staff and members of the Steering Committee of the Consortium have taken part. It should be noted, however, that an important part of the value of the Consortium is the

fact that it is an Association. The work of the Consortium is thus augmented by the work of each one of its Member organizations and individual Honorary Members.

## ***Consortium accomplishments January-December 2013***

### **Work-package A (obj. A1 to A4) – Technical assistance to Members and partners on matters relevant to ICCAs**

Support was provided to Members and partners, and joint activities and missions were carried out in the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Kenya, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, South Africa, Tanzania and Taiwan.

In each country, specific ***gatherings, lectures or workshops*** were organized providing occasions to discuss ICCA-related issues and/or exchange experiences and plan joint initiatives. In many cases, the meetings were the ***starting point of initiatives*** that were subsequently planned and developed, often involving ***ICCA-related new projects***—from field based restoration initiatives to national legislation, from training and demonstration activities to the registration of ICCAs in the Global ICCA Registry of UNEP WCMC. In several cases, ***grassroots-based*** discussions led to the development of ***Photostories*** describing ICCAs, the threats facing them and the responses the communities are attempting to provide. In some cases, the meetings also involved the use of the ICCA Resilience and Security Tool. The highlights of work in diverse national contexts are noted below.

#### ***Argentina***

The Consortium assisted its Member, Newen Mapu, in the development of a concept [project to strengthen indigenous governance in Nahuel Huapi National Park](#), submitted to a private Foundation. The concept project has been accepted and Newen Mapu is currently pursuing its plan.

#### ***Bolivia***

Assistance and support were provided to the indigenous organization CABI in the development of an initiative for the restoration of its indigenous territory (the proposal has been approved by GEF SGP). Assistance continued to be provided to Consortium Member Kereimbás in the elaboration and implementation of a management plan for the Bañados del Isoso—a sacred place for the Isoseño-Guarani people within the buffer zone of the Kaa Iya del Gran Chaco National Park (in extreme danger because of the expanding agricultural frontier). A video-story on the Bañado del Isoso ICCA has been developed and is expected to be ready by February 2014. A regional initiative in the Amazon, involving several cases from Bolivia, was also developed and has received funding support from the Netherlands' IUCN Committee.

#### ***Botswana***

The Consortium regional coordinator provided support to a San community in Ranyane, which was threatened with eviction from its ancestral territory. The court case on behalf of the community was won.

#### ***Cambodia***

On the occasion of a workshop on business and human rights, in September 2013, the Consortium coordinator for South East Asia presented on ICCAs to numerous community representatives from the region. He will return in early 2014 to Cambodia, to train local partners in the Mekong Region in documenting their ICCAs and in conservation planning. Later in 2013, the Bunong community of Kbal Romeas was supported in developing a [photostory](#) describing their ICCA, which is under threat of being flooded by a basin created by a hydropower dam project approved by the government. No

proper consultation was carried out and the community is asking the Consortium to help them to resist eviction. The Consortium programme assistant is exploring an ICCA Alert in partnership with Avaaz.

### **Canada**

A major meeting to discuss the appropriateness and value of the ICCA concept and practice by indigenous peoples in Canada-- [Conservation of First Nations' Territories by and for First Nations](#)-- was organized in November 2013 in Tofino, Tla-o-qui-aht Territory, British Columbia. The meeting was very well attended and resulted in agreement, by participants from several indigenous peoples of Canada, to pursue a "**North American ICCA Consortium**". The network will support indigenous peoples and their ICCAs in their fight to fend off threats from mining and oil & gas operations. With the cooperation of the Vancouver University, Swift Foundation and others, the North America Consortium coordinator will assist in the development of this network and provide support to indigenous peoples who request it in 2014.

### **Chile**

In 2013 work focused on the organization (including funding) of the [first Latin American meeting of the ICCA Consortium](#) on the occasion of the [Xº Congreso Latinoamericano de Reservas Privadas y Pueblos Originarios](#), in August 2013. An FAO publication with the proceedings of the meeting will soon be available. A national network of indigenous organizations entitled "**Territorios de Conservación de Pueblo Originarios**" (TCPO) was established in August 2012, with an important focus on ICCAs (experiences and legal recognition). A project developed to support this network was submitted in 2013, but it was not approved. The Consortium coordinator for the Cono Sur region also assisted the Kawésqar of Puerto Eden in developing an initiative about their ICCA (no results available yet) and in applying for funding to attend the UNFPIL meeting in New York in May 2014 (approved).

### **China**

The ICCA Consortium & UNDP-GEF SGP joined hands to organize a one-day workshop in Beijing focusing on ICCAs (in December 2013) and aiming at a good understanding of the concept and its potential usefulness in the Chinese context. 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**.' Among other matters, the group will analyze the national legislation that could support ICCAs in China, identify exemplary ICCA cases and assist in their registration in the UNEP WCMC Registry. The group will also organize for some Chinese representatives to present on ICCAs at the Governance Stream of the World Parks Congress of 2014.

### **Congo**

The ICCA theme was highlighted by the Consortium coordinator for Central Africa at two international meetings in Brazzaville: the 2013 General Assembly of REPALEAC (Union of the Indigenous Peoples of the Congo Basin) and the Workshop on Forestry Governance in Central Africa (October 2013). In both cases, the coordinator offered ICCA introductory presentations and organised specific discussions. The interest of indigenous peoples from various countries in the Congo Basin to embrace ICCAs in their struggle for self-determination is very high.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

The Consortium closely assisted its Member REPALF in developing a major national project ("**Ancrage des APACs en République Démocratique du Congo**") that is documenting ICCAs in the country, exploring legal options for their recognition and engaging in social communication and lobbying to make that legal recognition a reality. This is a crucial initiative for the indigenous peoples of RDC, as they have never before organised nationally to claim collective rights over their



territories, and have their conservation capacities recognised. The initiative (budget of about US\$ 100,000) was approved by both GEF SGP and GIZ. Operations started in 2013 with close, on-going technical support from the Consortium. The project was closely informed by the [Kinshasa Declaration](#) of 2012 (see the [workshop report](#) and the [event page](#) here).

### **Guatemala**

The year saw the first ICCA Consortium regional meeting in Mesoamerica (March, 2013), which gathered Consortium Members and colleagues from countries across the region and beyond. The meeting (entitled “[Territorios indígenas de conservación y áreas conservadas por pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales en Mesoamérica](#)”) identified some “characteristic elements” of ICCAs throughout the region, and established the **TICCA Mesoamerican network** (“TICCA” is the name chosen in Spanish to refer to ICCAs— the “T” refers to the crucial word “Territories”), which is now functioning via Facebook and Skype. The meeting also appointed two Consortium regional coordinators: one focusing more on indigenous peoples’ issues, and one focusing more on local communities’ issues, in particular the ICCAs of fishermen communities. And the meeting introduced to several Consortium Members the example of one of the best ICCAs in Mesoamerica: the conserved forest of the 48 Cantons of Totonicapán.

### **Kenya**

The Consortium has been providing assistance to Kenyan NGOs and communities, seeking legal recognition of their ICCAs, in particular to develop GEF SGP initiatives, write letters to government, etc. Support was also provided in the form of key technical support for: a one day national conference on ICCAs in Nairobi, organized by UNDP GEF SGP; a workshop organized by Natural Justice, also in Nairobi; and several field-based meetings in Lamu County, with Orma pastoralist communities, Sanye indigenous people and fishing communities on Pate Island. The communities remain in touch with the Consortium coordinator for East and South Africa, for assistance in project development initiatives.

### **India**

Lobbying continued for the proper implementation of India’s Forest Rights Act-- which has the potential of securing legal recognition of community-governed forest areas, including ICCAs, and of enhancing local empowerment and conservation. Some local initiatives are emerging as “reclaimed/ restored ICCAs” and the Consortium coordinator for South Asia has provided them with ICCA information. She also joined forces with several Members and the Consortium programme assistant to facilitate a [photostory about the ICCA of Longsa and Ungma villages-- Mokokchung district, Nagaland](#).

### **Indonesia**

In February 2013, an Indonesian Delegation visited the Philippines for a Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange on IP rights and ancestral domains. On this occasion, various ICCA sites in the Philippines were visited and potential ICCA sites in Indonesia discussed. The Indonesian delegation, which was accompanied by the Consortium coordinator for South East Asia, included representatives of the key indigenous network in Indonesia (AMAN), government officials and parliamentarians, as well as academicians. The prospect for ICCA promotion in Indonesia is brighter today because of the proposed new law on IP rights, similar to the IPRA law in the Philippines. A further powerful similarity may unfold in work towards the recognition of ICCAs.

The Consortium also provided support to its member Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Program (NTFP-EP) which has taken a very active role in pursuing ICCA documentation and in supporting the **Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia** (which the Consortium helped to set up in 2011 and 2012). The Working Group organized a major workshop on “*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 people participated and the workshop was extremely well received.

### ***Iran***

High level meetings on ICCAs took place throughout the year among government officials, UNDP GEF SGP staff and three Consortium Members: Cenesta, UNINOMAD and UNICAMEL. A GIS map was prepared which delineates Iran's official protected areas (some 250 of them amounting to about 10% of the surface of the country) together with nine overlapping groups of indigenous ICCAs, demonstrating the importance of ICCAs in meeting Aichi Target 11. Marine and coastal ICCAs were assisted to become officially recognized and to create a federation (currently in progress). The Governance of Nayband Marine and Coastal Park was devolved to its local communities, in a model process facilitated by the Consortium and its Members, hopefully to be replicated in other Iranian National Parks. The Consortium coordinator for West Asia and our Member Cenesta have assisted dozens of communities in their ICCA-related work as part of a major project in support of ICCAs sponsored by the European Union. As part of that, a few ICCA photostories have been produced in local languages (they are taking longer than expected to translate, but will eventually be available on the Consortium Photostory page).

### ***Japan***

The Consortium organized several events at the [Asian Parks Congress](#), in November 2013. Participants included Consortium Steering Committee members, Members, and Honorary Members from several Asian and Pacific countries.

### ***Nepal***

Consortium Members were active developing ICCA-related initiatives with Consortium support. One such [initiative by the Sherpa people of Khumbu](#), in the Mount Everest area, organized by the indigenous peoples' organization Khumbu Sherpa Culture Conservation Society, received financing from a private Foundation and is now ongoing. During 2013, their activities included a well-attended elders/youth dialogue on culture and conservation, a school assembly presentation on this subject at the major regional school, initial work on community mapping of ICCAs using GPS and GIS. They also planned for a multi-day “culture and conservation awareness trek” that actually took place early in January 2014, when elders and youth visited regional cultural sites and ICCAs, and discussed past and present issues with elders in various places. Another initiative (on networking among ICCAs in Nepal) was prepared and submitted but was not granted support from GEF SGP. Honorary Members are developing a photostory for the Pungmo ICCA, expected to be completed in February 2014.

### ***Nigeria***

The Regional coordinator for the Sahel has been in touch with the community of Kebi, who wish to join the Consortium and develop an ICCA initiative to be submitted to GEF SGP.

### ***Niger***

The Consortium facilitated the engagement of pastoralist communities in developing an initiative to restore and secure collective rights on the pastoral ICCA (*Houroum*) of the Malley and Kollangou Bangui communities, which was finally approved by GEF SGP in 2013 and has now started operations. A further small proposal to support a *Grand Houroum*— cross-border necklace of ICCAs spanning about 2,000 km from southern Nigeria to the south of Algeria—was submitted to a US Foundation and has just been agreed. The [photostory on the Houroum of Malley & Kollangou Bangui](#) is now available on line with English subtitles.

### ***Pakistan***

A presentation on ICCAs was made by the Consortium coordinator for South-East Asia as part of the regional Land Rights Workshop in Islamabad, September 2013.

## **Paraguay**

A photostory prepared by contacted Ayoreo peoples, focusing on the territory of their un-contacted relatives, initiated in 2012, has been completed.

## **The Philippines**

The Consortium coordinator for South East Asia has provided active support in the organisation of a national ICCA network in the Philippines. During a three-day conference, in February 2013, the network evolved to establish the [Philippine ICCA Consortium](#)— the first of what we hope will be similar well-structured networks in many countries. The first meeting of its Steering Committee took place in July 2013 and official registration has been pursued to obtain legal and juridical authority. In the meantime, ICCA orientation meetings were held with partners and numerous indigenous communities, including the Mamanwa and Manobo communities in Mt. Hilong-Hilong and Zamboanga Peninsula in Mindanao.

An Indonesian Delegation visited in February 2013 and ICCA matters were discussed in some depth. Another regional event hosted in the Philippines was the *Climate Change Adaptation Learning Highway Knowledge Exchange* organized by AIPP, KASAPI and KEF in November 2013 with participants from indigenous communities representing six countries. **ICCAs** were discussed **in relation to climate change adaptation**, and participants were keen to learn how to document their traditionally conserved areas and resource management systems, which are key to climate change adaptation strategies. Further presentations on ICCAs were made in the preparation of the Green SONA (State of the Nation Address) of the Green Convergence, the largest grouping of environmental organizations and advocates in the Philippines, in August 2013.

A proposal was drafted for UNDP-Philippines to launch a **National ICCA Programme to support communities in the governance and management of their traditional areas and territories**. The proposal will be submitted by the UNDP-Philippines to the UN Global Environment Facility (**GEF**) for funding. Once approved, the **5-year programme** would help establish a network of ICCAs as new conservation sites. The project partners include DENR-PAWB, PAFID, and KASAPI, among others. In general, the Consortium has been working closely throughout 2013, with the national agency DENR-PAWB and other civil society organizations, to harmonize policies that would formally recognize and strengthen support for ICCAs in the Philippines. Discussions are underway to determine which strategy would be most practical without endangering the self-determination gains under the IPRA Law. Also underway is the collaboration with other Members in the Philippines and government agencies to produce a **Manual on ICCA Documentation**, which will encapsulate the processes of documenting ICCAs in the country.

In August 2013, the Consortium contributed to an [ICCA alert](#) against the expansion of oil palm monoculture in Palawan called by our Member ALDAW. Our [letter to the Governor of Palawan](#) is available on the Consortium page on Alerts and Actions. The mobilization in Palawan is advancing a moratorium on palm-oil monocultures in defense of the ICCAs of the island's indigenous peoples and local communities.

## **Senegal**

The Consortium regional coordinator for West Africa carried out punctual missions, and facilitated ICCA exchange visits among several communities in Casamance and other regions. Two communities in Casamance (Mlomp and Kaffountine) were supported to prepare their ICCA management plans and governance structures and to submit a formal request for ICCA recognition by the Regional Council and Governor of Casamance. This has gained preliminary approval and will undergo final examination in March 2014. The Consortium provided assistance to the ICCA Kawawana throughout the year— in particular for surveillance, socio-cultural monitoring and the development of their community credit and loan schemes. The coordinator's leadership was also instrumental in a

successful local movement to save the local natural forest from a charcoal production scheme promoted by the local mayor.

The Consortium was invited to participate in a number of national and international gatherings providing presentations on ICCAs (including [PRCM](#) and [RAMPAO](#)), and continued to run a series of radio programmes, including a live “question and answer” session, to diffuse information on ICCAs in Casamance. It worked closely with the NGO KABEKA (dedicated to supporting the appropriate emergence, recognition and support of new ICCAs), and provided key technical assistance to develop a project proposal to be submitted to GEF SGP in 2014. A photostory on the ICCA Kawawana was prepared in 2013 and will be finalised by February 2014. A major initiative has also been planned by the Consortium in collaboration with the IUCN Regional Office for West and Central Africa and ANRAC (*Agence Nationale pour la Relance des activités économiques et sociales en Casamance*). The initiative will assist the communities of the Bolon of Bignona to restore their mangrove ecosystem, devastated by the imposition of a major dam, and to promote the renaissance of ICCAs in what have become, because of the dam, salt-infested territories.

### ***Slovakia***

As part of the second [Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas](#), in April 2013, the Consortium global coordinator offered a keynote presentation on governance of protected areas in general, and ICCAs in particular. A workshop was later facilitated on the same topics.

### ***Spain***

A major initiative in Spain was the provision of support for the staging of the [Consortium General Assembly](#), in October 2013, and, just after that, the co-organization of the [Indigenous and Community Land and Sea Forum](#) at the [WILD10](#) Conference in Salamanca. In 2013, the Consortium regional coordinator for Western Europe developed a data base including 160 Spanish local community representatives and organizations potentially interested in ICCAs, and capable of providing information on local ICCAs initiatives. The database was utilized to identify participants for a national meeting, which was held jointly with the ICCA Consortium General Assembly in Valdeavellano de Tera (Soria province) in October 2013. The meeting included the main representatives of the most important organizations dedicated to the commons and community-based conservation in Spain: associations of owners of forest commons, fisherman federations, shell gatherer guilds, hunting associations that own common hunting grounds, pastoral associations, etc. Together, these organizations decided to give birth to a national initiative called “***Iniciativa Comunes (Iniciativa por el Reconocimiento de las Áreas de Conservación Comunal)***” (Initiative for the recognition of Community Conserved Areas). This decision benefitted from the assistance of Italian Honorary Members of the Consortium who developed a similar initiative in Italy, and who were in Spain to attend the Consortium General Assembly. Throughout the year, a number of other smaller meetings and lectures were offered on ICCAs in Spain and a local community organization was assisted in its fight against a mining mega-project on their land.

### ***South Africa***

The ICCA Consortium and its Member Natural Justice hosted a *Regional Symposium for Community Conservation* in Cape Town, including a full day exclusively on ICCAs, with participants from Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania, Kenya and Liberia. The focus was on an exchange of experience, lessons learned and brainstorming on community conservation, its legal recognition, key lessons learned and the possible role of the Consortium in the various countries.

### ***Tanzania***

As part of an alert declared in March 2013, the Consortium wrote a [Letter of Concern to the President of Tanzania](#) regarding the Loliondo Game Controlled Area Conflict and ways in which it could be solved following global best practices for conservation. The conflict has since been



resolved to the satisfaction of the concerned communities, and the Consortium is receiving new membership requests from the country.

### **Taiwan**

In February 2013, a mission of the Consortium global coordinator was organized to promote the Consortium's activities in Taiwan. With the help of local Members, a packed five day schedule was organized including several field-meetings with indigenous peoples' representatives and youth groups, visits to high level government officials, radio programmes, university lectures, etc. A Regional coordinator for East Asia was recruited on this occasion, and activities have evolved significantly since then. The Consortium Member Tao Foundation has continued fighting for its ICCA to be free of nuclear waste (dumped there since 1982), revive its native language and traditional natural resource management practices, restore and strengthen tribal governance institutions, etc. A three-year research initiative on ICCAs in Taiwan was developed and is being supported by the National Science Council. In May, a Consortium exchange visit took place when the Executive Director of a Member from the Philippines (KASAPI), visited Taiwan to discuss indigenous peoples' federations and the work towards tribal sovereignty over their own ancestral domains and ICCAs.

Towards the end of the year, a special column on ICCAs was initiated on the web site of the Taiwan Environmental Information Association (TEIA), publisher of the most popular environmental e-newsletter in Taiwan. The idea of organizing a '*Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty and the Management of Commons in Taiwan*' was developed. The aim would be to restore tribal sovereignty in as many territories as possible (e.g., in *Pongso no Tao*, which should be a commonwealth for all the six units of Tao people), and assisting peoples to register their territories as ICCAs in the UNEP WCMC Global Registry. A preliminary proposal for an *Asian Conference for ICCAs*, to be held in 2015 with a focus on indigenous and community governance institutions and the management of commons, was also discussed with the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and was received positively.

### **Work-package A and B (obj. A2, A3, B2)—Developing publications on the basis of country-specific studies and analyses**

The main publication developed by the Consortium in 2013 is: [Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action](#) by G. Borrini-Feyerabend, N. Dudley, T. Jaeger, B. Lassen, N. Pathak Broome, A. Phillips and T. Sandwith, IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 20, Gland (Switzerland), 2013. The volume provides concepts, methods and tools to understand governance and promote improvements in it. Part 1 provides a guide, with examples and explanation, to the four different protected area governance types, and to the set of principles of good governance recognised by the IUCN and CBD. Part 2 offers practical guidance on assessing, evaluating and improving governance for a given system or site.

This publication represents a milestone in the movement for the recognition of the conserved territories and areas of indigenous peoples and local communities. Here is an excerpt from the foreword, signed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention



on Biological Diversity: “...[governance] changes have been strongly supported by the international community: by IUCN, as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA), by bilateral development partners, including through the German Government, and by civil society networks such as the ICCA Consortium. It is becoming increasingly clear that protected areas only work well if they are embedded within a supportive environment; and here “supportive” refers both to the ecology of conservation zones and their connecting corridors but also to the knowledge, efforts and broad agreement of the people living in and around such protected areas, and of the institutions affecting and being affected by them...”

The publication is available on line from a [dedicated IUCN page](#), it has been translated into Spanish, French and Italian and production in these languages is due by March 2014. A translation into Chinese is expected later in the year.

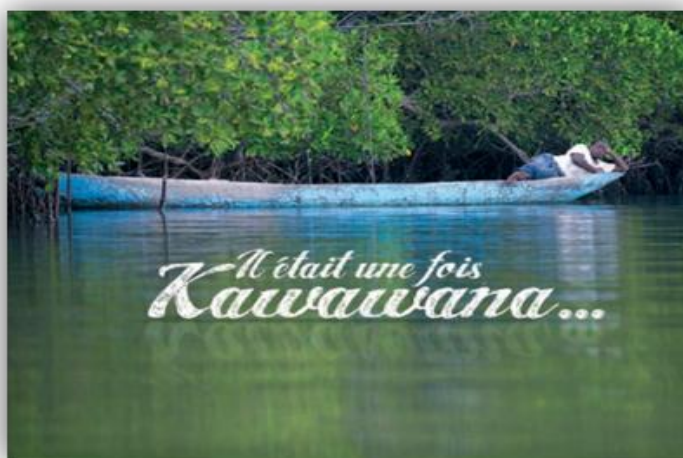


Another important publication produced with major help from the Consortium is the [Toolkit for Supporting Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#), by C. Corregan and T. Hay-Edie, UNDP GEF/SGP, New York, 2013. The toolkit has been designed to assist civil society led initiatives to voluntarily conserve ICCAs, and it contains descriptions of over 100 tools, covering five key topics (*documentation, management planning, monitoring and evaluation, communication, and finance and*

*values*). Translation of the toolkit in French and Spanish will be available in early 2014, with plans for additional languages later in the year.

The publication: « [Il était une fois Kawawana](#) » , was produced and distributed in Senegal. It is the story of the ICCA Kawawana, declared early in 2010 by the fishermen of the Rural Community of Mangangoulack (Casamance, Senegal) recounted through the words of the people who created it and, today, still nourish it with their passion and work.

The publication, which celebrates the work of the Consortium, was produced with the help of a Consortium Member and several members of its staff.

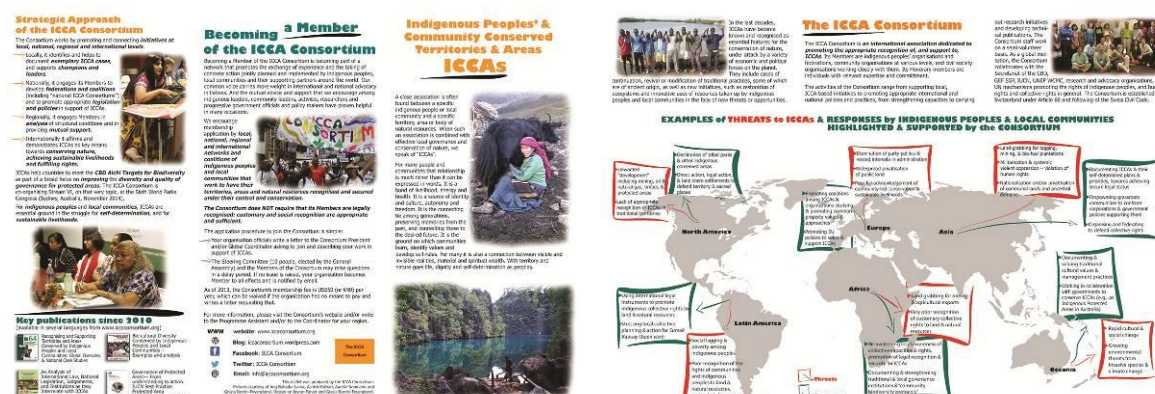


In 2013, the Consortium also developed, produced and distributed a succinct descriptive leaflet in three languages:

[The ICCA Consortium Leaflet in English](#)

[The ICCA Consortium Leaflet in Spanish](#)

[The ICCA Consortium Leaflet in French](#)



A number of publications in local languages and videos have also been produced with the support of the Consortium. The videos can be accessed from the photostory page of its web site.

## Work-package B (obj. B1)— Consortium initiatives and partnerships at the global level



Undoubtedly the major partnership achieved by the ICCA Consortium in 2013 has been with the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN), which chose the proposal prepared by the Consortium to develop a Stream of events entitled “[Enhancing the diversity and quality of governance of protected areas](#)” at its 2014 [World Parks Congress](#) (WPC, Sydney, Australia, November 2014). The Consortium is also partnering for that with the [CBD Secretariat](#)

and the [German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development](#). A number of countries, including The Philippines, Senegal, Iran, France and Ecuador, are about to engage in the governance assessment processes in preparation for the Stream. In all of them the Consortium is due to provide technical support.

Collaboration and exchanges continued with the protected areas unit of the [UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#) (WCMC), in particular regarding new entries in the [ICCA Registry](#) and involvement in the governance Stream at WPC.

With respect to the previous year, in 2013 the Consortium dedicated less time and human resources to organizing attendance at *international* policy meetings, while national and regional meetings still featured as crucially important to advance the Consortium’s mission. The following events were organized, co-organized, or participated in by the Consortium (at a minimum, the Consortium participated by arranging a delegation, workshops, side events, dialogues, etc.). The links are to the



relevant Consortium web pages and reports. When a link is not available, a short report can still usually be found in the [Consortium Newsletter](#).

- General Assembly of REPALEAC (Union of the Indigenous Peoples of the Congo Basin) – Brazzaville (Congo), January 14-17
- [Philippine ICCA Consortium founding event](#) -- Manila (Philippines), February 19-22
- [First regional ICCA workshop in Central America](#) – Totonicapán (Guatemala), March 23-27
- Meeting on the ICCA Registry – Gland (Switzerland), April 8-9
- Carpathian Network of Protected Areas-- Tatranská Javorina (Slovakia), April 23-26
- [World Indigenous Network \(WIN\) Conference](#) – Darwin (Australia), May 26-31
- UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice -- Bonn (Germany), June 3-7
- ICCA national workshop organized by UNDP GEF SGP-- Nairobi (Kenya), June 14
- [EMRIP](#)—Geneva (Switzerland), July 9-13
- Strategic planning meeting Governance Stream WPC 2014 – Gland (Switzerland), August 2-4
- [X Congreso Latinoamericano sobre Reservas Privadas y Pueblos Originarios](#), Valdivia (Chile), August 19-23
- [RRI Conference: Scaling-Up Global Efforts to Secure Community Land and Resource Rights](#)—Interlaken (Switzerland), September 18-20
- Recognizing and Strengthening the Management of Customary Forests and Conservation Areas by Indigenous Peoples (ICCAs): experiences and legal options– Malinau (North Kalimantan), September 24-26
- [ICCA Consortium meeting and General Assembly](#), Valdeavellano de Tera (Spain), October 3-7
- [Indigenous and Community Land and Sea Forum at the WILD10 Conference](#) -- Salamanca (Spain), October 8-10
- Workshop on forestry governance in Central Africa -- Brazzaville (Congo), October 23-24
- CBD Working Group on 8J and SBSTTA -- Montreal (Canada), 7 - 18 October
- Meeting of the Stream Leaders of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014, Charles Town (Virginia, USA), October 13-16
- World Congress on Marine Protected Areas (IMPAC 3) -- Marseille (France), October 21-27
- [Conservation of First Nations' Territories by and for First Nations](#) -- Tofino (Canada), November 4-8
- Symposium of Contemporary Conservation Practice -- Cape Town (South Africa), November 4-8
- [Asian Parks Congress](#) -- Sendai (Japan), November 13 -17
- RAMPAO (Marine Protected Area Network in West Africa) – Dakar (Senegal), 21-23 November
- Forum of the PRCM -- Dakar (Senegal), 26-29 November
- UNFCCC CoP – Warsaw (Poland), 11-22 November
- [Workshop on Coastal ICCAs](#), Diani (Kenya), December 9-10.
- [ICCAs in China](#) – Beijing (China), December 14
- [Strategic Meeting for ICCAs in China](#)— Beijing (China), December 15

### **Work-package B (obj. B3)— Managing the operations of the ICCA Consortium through a decentralized secretariat**

#### ***Institutional life of the Consortium -- internal***

- Organized, ran and reported on the [Vith General Assembly of the Consortium](#) (Valdeavellano de Tera, Soria province, Spain, 6 October 2013)
- The **Steering Committee** elections took place at the GA in Spain. A new member was elected in the person of Mr. Dominique Bikaba from Democratic Republic of Congo, and nine members were re-elected, several of whom were not present at the meeting. When contacted, three of



the renewed members had to decline due to other commitments. Since then, two more names for Steering Committee members have been proposed, and we are envisaging an election process via e-mail in 2014, in order to formally include them. The composition and short biographies of the current [members of the Steering Committee](#) are available on line.

- Organized, conducted and reported on three meetings of the ***Consortium Steering Committee***.

### ***Institutional life of the Consortium -- external***

- Strengthened and/or maintained ***institutional cooperation*** with GEF SGP (meetings in New York held in 2013), the CBD Secretariat (several meetings and joint organization of side events), the IUCN (as noted above), and UNEP WCMC.
- Strengthened and/or maintained collaboration and communication with other partners and donors, including via the successful approval, running and/or completion of grants received and processed by Consortium Members. Support directly received by the ICCA Consortium Association in Switzerland— in addition to the TCF and UNDP EEG support— included:
  - GIZ resources for the governance stream planning meeting in Gland (Switzerland) in August – (about €5,000 in kind)
  - A grant from the Wild Foundation to organise the Indigenous and Community Land and Sea Forum in Salamanca (US\$ 12,000)
  - A grant from the Swift Foundation to cover specific expenditure for the GA in Spain (US\$ 3,000)
- The Consortium continued to manage a Swift Foundation grant (US\$ 20,000) to cover expenditure for the Tofino Workshop.
- ***Travel grants*** from the CBD Voluntary Fund, the IBEX Fund, IUCN, IUCN-NL Committee were directly received and disbursed to the Members expected to travel.

### ***Membership and support to Members***

- Acquisition of nine ***new organizational Members of the Consortium*** (seven more in the application pipeline, expected to be approved in February 2014) and about 40 ***new Honorary Members*** (see the [Consortium page](#)). Expected totals in February 2014: 62 Member organisations and 140 individual Honorary Members
- Managing overall ***database*** and facilitating decisions on Members' invitations and admissions
- Managing four regularly updated ***goggle-groups*** for internal communication among Members, Honorary Members, Steering Committee and staff
- Helping with ***logistical arrangements*** such as fundraising, travel, accommodation and registration of Consortium participants and provision of technical support for their interventions for all the international events along the year
- Organizing the ***General Assembly*** and prior technical meeting in Valdeavellano de Tera (Spain) involving international travel of about 30 participants, local travel, accommodation, meeting rooms, field visits, cultural events, etc.

### ***Information and communication***

- Expansion of the [ICCA web site](#) and revamping into a new programme (webpress)
- Maintenance and updating of the blog: <http://iccaconsortium.wordpress.com/the-icca-consortium/>
- [issues no. 3, 4 and 5 of the Consortium Newsletter](#) ([issue no. 6](#) just released in January 2014)
- [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for the Consortium
- The Regional coordinators, members of the Steering Committee and Consortium Members and Honorary Members in general participate in a variety of national events, present papers and

compile and diffuse lessons learned about ICCAs. This is important on-going background work (effectiveness depends on the capacities of the involved individuals and specific contexts).

### ***ICCA Alert Mechanism***

- Our Internet-based alert mechanism is currently limited in scope. At this time we primarily respond to alerts received from our Members by developing **official letters** from Consortium officials to national high level officials in the concerned countries (e.g., the Governor of Palawan, the Philippines; the President of Tanzania...). Our letters are usually replied to, and the causes we have supported have had a good level of apparent “success”, although it is difficult to assess the impact of our contribution.

### ***Administration***

- Identified, recruited, contracted, assisted and supervised staff, including new regional coordinators in Mesoamerica, Canada, West Europe, an accountant and a new communication officer, for a maximum total of 24 persons in a given month of the year; coordinators and assistants work on a semi-volunteer basis, with compensations ranging from US\$150 to US\$700 monthly, and some are full volunteers.
- Coordinated yearly action plans, budgets and reporting for Members and donors.
- Managed the financial resources for all Consortium’s grants.

For most of the initiatives and achievements listed above, TCF funding has synergized funding from other sources, including the Swift Foundation and the WILD Foundation, GIZ, IUCN, as well as Members of the Consortium and partners from various countries. Such collaborations are one of the elements of strength of the Consortium, rooted in the trust gained with our Members and partners through numerous prior engagements in the last decades.

### ***Relationship with the Host Country***

In 2013 the Consortium went through the rather lengthy process of officially registering with the Registry of Commerce of Switzerland as a Non-profit Association. To comply with Swiss law regarding associations we even had to change our official name. This was deliberated by the 2013 General Assembly, and the term “Association” was added to our previous name. In French, our name is now **Association Consortium APAC**, which translates into English as **Association ICCA Consortium**. We are now officially listed as a Swiss institution with identity number CHE-492.745.558



## Discussion

### ***The Consortium as a Member-based organisation***

The fundamental objective of the TCF grant is to accompany the emergence of the Consortium as a local-to-global institution to conserve bio-cultural diversity, promote sustainable livelihoods and secure human and indigenous peoples' rights. As we are institutionally and legally established as an association, our membership is crucial. In 2013, the steady growth of our membership has continued, to the present 55 organization Members from 30 countries and 128 Honorary Members from 45 countries (soon to become 62 and 140, respectively, as many are in the review process, which lasts about three months).

We make an effort to ensure that membership is meaningful for both the Consortium and the applicant before accepting any new Member and we relate individually with each of them. As a likely result of this, we are seeing examples of remarkable collaborations between the Consortium and its Members, in particular in field initiatives but also – and importantly— in policy development initiatives at national and international levels. The Consortium provides an international ear and voice for many of its Members, but it is also keen to engage them directly in international initiatives and facilitate their participation in international events as part of a group. In turn, the Members provide the institution with an on-going “relevance check”, and with roots in concrete ecological and cultural contexts.

### ***The Consortium as a lean organization***

The Consortium has consciously taken the decision not to develop a formal NGO structure but, rather, to remain a lean association supporting “a global movement”-- to use the words of our President. As demonstrated by the achievements thus far and the current positive outlook of the Consortium for 2014 and beyond, this approach 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 do 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 in the case of 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.

This said, the Consortium is conscious that some members of staff have complained that they cannot *afford* to keep working as semi-volunteers, although they would like to remain with the organization. This is a tough situation, which we have resolved by encouraging these individuals to move on to other positions while continuing to contribute to the Consortium in any way they choose.

### ***The Consortium as an international actor***

In 2013, the ICCA Consortium further consolidated its international reputation as an international association dedicated to the appropriate recognition of, and support to, territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities. We believe the “understanding” of ICCAs— a concept and practice that merges attention and care for bio-cultural diversity, sustainable livelihoods and human and indigenous peoples’ rights—is improving. In the past year, we have not encountered indigenous peoples who are ‘suspicious’ of our organisation (in the past we have, because we were associated with “conservation”, which was, for many, a bad word). Similarly, conservation organisations are now generally favourable towards ICCAs and the Consortium. Through events, publications, videos and on-going interaction with existing and potential Members, our “image” is becoming clearer, while losing nothing of its complexity. We have also found that our compact but rich leaflet, which we have produced in three languages, is helpful in explaining the mission, the work and the character of the Consortium.

In 2013, we made important progress in our institutional collaborations with the ***Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*** and the ***IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme***. As a testimony, we have published a prestigious volume with the CBD Secretariat and IUCN in the IUCN Best Practice in Protected Areas Series. We have also strengthened our ties with the ***GEF Small Grants Programme*** (SGP) and UNEP WCMC. With them, and the IUCN, we have partnered for a major grant that has just been approved (the ***Global ICCA Initiative***). The grant will provide us with core support for our regional coordinators for the next three to five years, but will still leave open the need for support for communication initiatives, international policy events, global staff and critical field initiatives.

In 2013, we also started collaborating with UN agencies in the development of ***post-2015 Millennium Development Goals***, where ICCAs could be positioned as key elements in the architecture of equitable and sustainable societies. One of the members of our Steering Committee is in charge of this work for the Consortium.

There remain institutional collaborations that have not yet been consistently pursued and have not yet born important results. In particular we must intensify efforts to explain and position ICCAs as central to ***climate change policy*** (ICCAs as non-market based mechanisms for climate change mitigation and adaptation) and ***food security policy*** (ICCAs as ingenious solidarity-based solutions to the vagaries of markets and climate, and essential for ***food sovereignty***). The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure could also be a useful leverage for promoting ***reform of land, forest, and fisheries legislation*** in favor of ICCAs in amenable states. In addition, we need to renew efforts to develop substantial interactions with the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and we must keep nourishing work with the UN Special Rapporteurs. ***ICCAs*** can be effective ***grounds for self-determination of indigenous peoples*** and, in general, ***spaces of individual and collective exercise of rights, responsibilities, identity and pride***. This, however, is far from being a widespread realization... Working in that direction, in 2013 we submitted two fellowships for Consortium associates to study human and indigenous rights at the [UNHRC](#) in Geneva.

### ***Political impact and orientation***

TCF funding allowed the Consortium to consolidate its international policy impact through CBD and IUCN. CBD COP 11 was a milestone for our work, especially through the renewed legitimacy offered by our close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, the wording of new CBD decisions (as part of, but also beyond, protected areas provisions) and the opportunity offered by CBD Aichi Target 11 to highlight ICCAs as both officially recognized protected areas and “other effective area-based conservation measures”. After the approval of the [ICCA Resolution](#) (no. 5.094) at the Vth World



Conservation Congress, we are gearing up for another milestone at the World Parks Congress in Sydney (Australia) where we will co-lead an entire [Stream of events](#) in November 2014.

Already, international conservation policy cannot ignore or bypass ICCAs— something impossible to imagine ten years ago. But we must go beyond that for ICCAs to find a meaningful and solid place in national policies and practice. This is becoming urgent today as information on the significant coverage of the earth by ICCAs, though still very incomplete, is better available and increasingly accepted. Considerable progress on increased recognition of the “conservation value” of ICCAs heightens concern over inappropriate or inadequate recognition, in particular in view of CBD Aichi Target 11. In a similar vein, recognition of the “carbon stocking value” of ICCAs also amplifies the threats of misappropriation. ***Conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities should be fully respected, appropriately recognized and effectively supported***—and the Consortium has the will and capacity to support its Members and their countries to advance just that.

Meanwhile, TCF funding has allowed the Consortium to expand work in some countries and shift gear from the focus on exemplary ICCA single cases to developing ***ICCA coalitions and federations*** at the national level, which augment the voice of indigenous peoples and local communities in national situations. Current examples include the Philippines, Madagascar, Nepal and Iran. In Senegal, the Consortium has closely accompanied a local NGO created specifically to make sure that the current wave of interest in ICCAs is not exploited and wasted by copycat operations without integrity (a sort of “***ICCA quality control***” NGO). And, throughout 2013, national and regional working groups dedicated to ICCAs have emerged or undertaken specific initiatives. This was the case in Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Mesoamerica and Spain.



Three generations of indigenous ladies share their knowledge of plants in a community created and maintained botanical garden in Petén, Guatemala.

Please visit: [www.iccaconsortium.org](http://www.iccaconsortium.org)