El Consorcio TICCA

Promover un reconocimiento y un soporte adecuados a los territorios indígenas de conservación y a las áreas conservadas por pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales

IX General Assembly ICCA Consortium
Puerto López (Ecuador), December 6, 2015
Summary minutes
(decisions in yellow)(done at time of diffusion in blue)

DAY 1: December 6, 2015

08:35 | A Word from the President

At 8:53 December 6th the General Assembly of the ICCA Consortium is declared open.

The quorum is reviewed - 12 Consortium Members are present, in addition to 12 Honorary Members and observers.

The President says that this is the first time that the GA has met in Latin America and has been conducted in Spanish.

The Assembly approves the agenda.

09:30 | President's Report

The President remarks that the Consortium is a unique organisation that links the local level (IPs and LCs), the national level and the international level.

He notes that throughout the course of contemporary history, since the industrial revolution, governments and the private sector have diminished the role of, and space available for, IPs and LCs. In that context, the Consortium works to reduce

the detrimental impact of these two forces. For example, recently, steps have been taken to highlight the plea of the "defenders of the commons and ICCAs" and create an Alliance and Solidarity Fund to support them.

The Consortium has grown continuously since its foundation, but much still needs to be done, we need to join forces with others. While the perspectives for funding are good, we still need more human and financial resources to strengthen our work. The President concluded by saying that "we are walking and we have to start running".

Each participant briefly presents the situation of ICCAs in their country

- **Ecuador:** Raul Petsain states that many ICCA territories are clearly defined but their governance may be unclear and should be strengthened. Paulina Ormaza points out that there is a distortion in the levels of governance. In many cases there are NGOs working on projects and governance seems to be more defined by the NGO than by the real residents in in the territory. Jairo Diaz says it is important to move towards a mechanism for networking and knowledge exchange on TICCAs' (ICCAs) own forms of governance and that there is a need to engage in more dialogue. Abilio Shakai adds that the government considers them [Shuar Arutam People] to be opponents to the development of the country, but that's not true, they are pioneers in forest and territory conservation. Aragundi Bolivar says that exchanges are important for learning and sharing what is happening. Alex Chuji says that the Shuar Arutam People are facing a direct threat. In December, there will be an eviction situation. Finally, José Luis Freire notes that ILC is an ally which can help consolidate these processes.
- **Bolivia**: Ronald Zeballos says there are TICCAs that are not registered but are working and that they can have an impact if they are registered and recognized as such. There is governance, but a strategy is needed to address regional threats. Carmen Miranda adds that there are valuable TICCAs—that meet the three characteristics of an ICCA— which are located on the eastern flank of Bolivia and have an alarming process of loss and disintegration. It is urgently necessary to implement the plan that we discussed in our regional event, to continue supporting processes with local communities that suffer greatly from attacks that could end in the destruction of these territories. Alcides Vadillo mentions that the private sector is not claiming ownership of property, instead their strategy is to rent land for the exploitation of its natural resources from communities. It is an economic dispossession mechanism because control over land is lost.
- **Spain**: Sergio Couto stresses that the term ICCA (TICCA is not used in Spain) has been received very well. There is a lot of contact between individual ICCAs, including between those which have different goals but have similar forms of governance and they are uniting to fight back.
- **Chile**: Lorena Arce points out that some communities are talking about "indigenous conservation territories", using international frameworks as a strategy for further protection of their territories.
- **Peru**: Juan Chavez notes that TICCA is a concept that they are longing for. They have already achieved conservation, but they are looking at governance from the perspective of TICCAs. Karina Pinasco mentions possible existing areas that could be attributed as TICCAs. He believes that there are good prospects, both from a legal perspective and for the self-governance of IPs.
- **Guatemala**: Felipe Gomez says that people are not aware of a proposed bill on communal land, but it is already underway. There are also cases of TICCAs to which they want to give support and life in the coming years.
- **Brazil**: Rafaela says it is important to work with TICCAs that are not protected by legal frameworks and are very threatened by development projects.

- **Colombia**: Carolina Amaya highlights the good news announced by the representative of National Parks, of an intention to work towards a law on SINAP in Colombia that recognizes community conservation areas as a governance type. Also, there is already a network of "Territories for Life" which could be the seed for a TICCA network in the country.
- **Mexico**: Albert notes that there are many opportunities in terms of conservation areas and community reserves, but also many threats.

12:00 | Work Report 2015
Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend [See PPT here]

GBF clarifies that the Consortium is not an NGO, it is a movement which is recognised as an international association under the law of Switzerland and is governed by its members.

She highlights the innovative working style of the Consortium.

12:40 | Coordinators' Reports
[See PPT here: Brazil, Guatemala, Amazonian Region]

14:40 | A pre-planning exercise focusing on four levels: local, national, regional and international
For the results, see the minutes of Day 2 below.

15:53 | Membership Presentation
Emma Courtine [See PPT here]

Organisations that have written requesting inclusion as Members of the Consortium:
- Centre for Social Research and Development (CSRD)
- PANNature
- CEMI

Organisations that are presented for consideration by the Assembly:
- **CICADA**, an organisation from Canada, which recently sent a letter requesting membership and hopes to be accepted. The letter is read.
- **Pasos del Jaguar**, El Salvador
- **Pueblo Shuar Arutam**, their representatives, present at the Assembly, declare their intention to join the Consortium.
- **Amazónicos para la Amazonia**, their representative, present at the Assembly, declares the intention to join the Consortium.

The four applications are accepted by the Assembly. Also, in the spirit of friendship and recognition, the assembly accepts the request of CEMI in advance of the regular timeframe.

Organisations are requested to send formal letters to Emma for circulation around all Members.

17:23 | Membership Policy

The Assembly requests that time is found in the coming months to review the current membership policy and procedures.

Some ideas/proposals that are discussed:
- the application of an institutional member must have the support of at least one Member of the Consortium.
- Members who do not participate and do not pay their dues should be thanked for their contribution and asked to revoke their membership as Members should be active.
- a small working group should prepare points for discussion at the next General Assembly
- the proportions of IPs, LCs and NGO Members should be reviewed and discussed.
- the current membership policy is contained in the Operational Guidelines document (rules of procedure of the Consortium) and that must be the basis of any adjustments.

Finally, the President proposes asking the chairman of the Statutes Committee, Harry Jonas, to formally ask Consortium Members to submit their comments on the membership policy, considering the evolution of the Consortium over the years. The deadline for this will be late March. Between late March and late June, the Committee (with the addition of at least 3 new members that have emerged from this Assembly - Felipe Gomez, Raul Petsain and Alcides Vadillo) will make adjustments to the membership policy that will be presented for discussion and approval at the next General Assembly in December 2016 in Cancun.

The proposition is approved.

Grazia reads the list of members of the Steering Committee

Lili Fortune offers her resignation from the SC, which is accepted. It is suggested that a letter of appreciation for her contribution to the Consortium is sent. (gbf done it since)

Felipe Gomez proposes Raul Petsain to replace Lili, seconded by Carmen Miranda and Sergio Couto. Raul is asked if he is interested in and willing to take on this role, he answers positively.

As there are no oppositions, Raul Petsain joins as member of the Steering Committee, widely applauded for his previous work.

19:02 | Treasurer's Report
Presented by Lorena Arce on behalf of Stan Stevens. [See PPT here]

The President asks for the Treasurer's Report to be approved but requests the reading of the auditor of accounts' report first.

Carmen Miranda reads two letters from the auditor, Maurizio Ferrari. [See letters here and here]

It is stressed that the amounts in the accounts are new compared to previous years, but the figures are still small considering the staffing level and international travel involved in the Consortium. As a result, most of the team continues to work on a semi-voluntary basis. Perhaps we should think of a new strategy for the Consortium in response to its growth and institutionalisation, but without losing the frugality and semi-voluntary basis of the original vision.

It is proposed that everyone should help to raise funds. Members and Coordinators are encouraged to use the Consortium as an international platform to attract new funds.

<mark>The Treasurer's Report is adopted and the message from the auditor of accounts is noted with appreciation.</mark>

DAY 2: December 7, 2015

08:08 am
The President greets everyone and reads the agenda. The agenda is adopted.

Communication Strategy
Emma Courtine [See PPT here]

Some ideas/proposals that are discussed:
- Sergio believes that communication must be a priority for the Consortium and that a professional journalist who knows English, Spanish and French should be appointed to fulfil this role.
- Regarding age divisions (special spaces for young people), many warn that experiences like the Stream of the World Parks Congress in Sydney do not work! Young people should be involved in discussions. The same consideration applies to representatives of IPs and LCs.
- Design is a very important communication tool so it is suggested to consider hiring a web designer to contribute to the new website.
- Much emphasis has been placed on language issues but this is still not reflected in the Strategy. Language has been a barrier especially in Latin America. ILC seems to be a good example, in addition to its global page they maintain regional pages.
- The Alert system is not working as it should. It is suggested to integrate this mechanism with the Solidarity Fund as a single package.
- Members who do not have their own website can request space in the Consortium's domain.
- <mark>An information sheet for Members could be created. This would give details and locations of the Members of the Consortium and of their capacities and activities. This may even evolve into a "bank of time", where people offer some services and ask for other services in exchange. The idea would be to start with simple information sheet for the database….</mark>
- A volunteer page is suggested, where people can offer their services, for example for translation of documents.

08:54| Revision of the Consortium Strategy 2017-2020
Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend [See PPT here]

Comments to be sent to the consultants:
- Welcome the preliminary work, which appears well structured and well thought out.
- It is not clear what the mechanism of consultation with Members will be. Who are the key Members? Grazia explains that they are the most active Members.
- Questions raised about the methodology of interviews and the questionnaire. Grazia answers that the online questionnaire will obtain baseline information.
- The importance of a regional emphasis is stressed because each region has its own style and context. Information gathering at regional level is needed.
- Grazia insists that the key is the organisation of information by region.
- All Members and Honorary Members will be sent information about the development of the Strategy and will be expected to contribute.

09:41 | Priorities for the 2016 Plan and Strategic Plan 2017-2020

An exercise to create a work calendar for 2016 is done.

Presentation of the results of the pre-planning exercise focusing on four levels: local, national, regional and international (done on Day 1)

Local Level
- Importance of respecting and strengthening the organisation systems of IPs and LCs.
- Draw lessons learned and deepen learning.
- Knowledge management, including youth and children, materials suitable for local conditions.
- Training modules with adapted curricula.
- Communications strategy: audio-visual materials, participatory video awareness campaigns.
- Dissemination of ICCA policies.
- Case Studies: discussion and focus on strengthening governance while respecting an organisation's own organisation systems.
- The biggest threats come from outside, from the economic model. Communities need strategies for consensus to address threats, influence decision makers and companies, and have their voices represented.
- Coordinators are required to identify Members who have the ability to think about how to diffuse and implement these ideas.

National Level
- Construction of the ICCA concept.
- Inform different stakeholders about the ICCA concept.
- National Members should be encouraged to meet and implement joint actions.
- If there is enough information, make an inventory of ICCAs, possibly mapping them.
- If there is not enough information, characterise the various types of ICCAs.
- Prioritise threatened and emblematic ICCAs that could be used as examples for other ICCAs.
- Legal framework analysis
    - advocacy
    - modify institutional frameworks
    - make the legal framework understandable for all actors
    - analysis and monitoring of the level of enforcement.
- National country exchanges between ICCAs.
- Involve new actors in the fight: press, education, food sovereignty, culture, people not involved in environmental work.
- Develop / integrate concepts that are complementary to the environmental ones.
- Enhance multi-disciplinarity.
- Technical support team for IPs to develop projects and write proposals.
- Exchange and learning not only between ICCAs but also with the government, civil society and the private sector. Seek alliances, see how others think and make realistic proposals.
- Translate favourable international strategies and policies into practice and national policy.
- Create a national ICCA network.
- Systematise and disseminate specific ICCA experiences. Collect systematic information to disseminate the ICCA concept.

Regional Level

1. Major thematic areas at the regional level:
-   Extractivism
-   Climate Change
-   Equity
-   Better understanding of biodiversity, particularly cross-border, and also the restoration of biodiversity for community livelihoods.
-   Types of socio-environmental conflicts and good practices to respond to them.
-   Forms of IP and LC governance that result in conservation. It's important to consider this first, at the local level, and then move on to national and regional levels.

2. Types of initiatives important at a regional level:
-   Training and systematic exchange on thematic areas
-   Indigenous and local community forums
-   Publications, video-letters, social networks, information generation and alerts
-   Regional conferences on TICCAs, to involve academics

Regional committees are needed for this to work. One or more representatives on the Steering Committee of the Consortium should come from this committee. How to do this? Build a TICCA regional learning network project, something simple such as workshops like this one. Every six to eight months we should foster a process of mutual growth and common support.

International Level
-   Development of campaigns to quickly visualize problems and emergencies that arise.
-   Support capacity building at different levels and for different topics.
-   Need to visualize ICCAs (the ICCA Registry) and take them into account (or not) on the global map.
-   Strengthen the fight against extractivism in the framework of human rights.
-   Adopt positions on REDD and REDD +, and alternative proposals.
-   Importance of activities to prepare for COPs, conferences, etc.
-   Effective use of the web for Members.
-   Closely monitor multilateral organisations and observatories.
-   Start the Solidarity Fund.
-   Policy proposals and policy briefs.

The President calls for the adoption of the draft work plan for 2016 and inputs to the 2017 - 2020 strategy. The draft is approved.

The President declares the General Assembly 2015 closed.