

The ICCA Consortium



2016 Annual Report

Executive summary

Throughout 2016 the Consortium worked hard to advance the ICCA Global Support Initiative (GSI) and improve communication. Results kept flowing—including four major regional capacity building events and support provided to many national catalytic processes... but we did not manage to complete the new web site, as we had hoped, and we do not feel confident with *all* national catalytic organisations identified and contracted by our GEF SGP partners. In terms of international policy, we found it harder than expected to move beyond our conservation heartland, where we built upon extensive prior work, experience and trust. In conservation policy, however, our results surpassed our hopes at both the World Conservation Congress (September) and at CBD COP 13 (December). These results are summarised in Annex 1 to this report. We also made significant achievements in terms of research, publications and communication products, completing two Policy Briefs on conservation issues (one in English and one in Spanish) and three 20-minute videos on governance for the conservation of nature... As mentioned, however, we have struggled with the other Briefs we had started, in particular those dealing with ICCAs and climate change/ energy policy and with ICCAs and Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2016, we maintained and nourished our experienced partnerships with the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme – with whom we collaborated closely for the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii and for the organisation of two major events on governance of protected and conserved areas in Iran – and with UNEP WCMC, with whom we advanced towards effective and sensible ways of including ICCAs in the WDPA with the support of national peer-review processes. For that, we collaborated to develop a number of publications in various languages. We also extended ourselves into new partnerships, in particular with Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), with whom we developed a Memorandum of Understanding related to the ICCA Alerts and SAFE. The progress on SAFE was—admittedly—less rapid than expected. While it is true that we now have a much clearer understanding about what should happen, we have not yet taken any strides to actually make it happen on the ground... besides nourishing a relationship of trust with FoEI.

Importantly, 2016 is when the Consortium became fully aware that it needs to embark on major institutional change. The personal engagement and volunteer energy that gave it life and meaning have to remain... but the leadership should be prepared to pass on its role and the Consortium Secretariat cannot be counted on to continue forever without higher levels of compensation and job security. In turn, higher compensations and job security require more complex administrative services and greater institutional engagement from Members and partners alike. We first understood this when considering whether we were able to take a direct leadership in the operations of SAFE (the answer was that we were not, if we were to stay within the existing administrative structure) and the idea became clear when we approached the new Strategy. We thus prepared ourselves for institutional changes to come, starting with the organisation of one of the largest General Assemblies we have ever had. The General Assembly of 2016 elected a new and substantially enlarged Steering Committee. It also approved our slightly revised Statutes, a new membership policy as part of extensive Operational Guidelines and shaped the key elements of a new Strategy for the Consortium as a whole. Last but not least, we should note that in 2016 the Membership of the Consortium passed well above the bar of 100 Members (organisations) and 250 Honorary members (individuals).

Background

Legally established in July 2010 but informally active since 2008 and rooted in the movements that promoted equity in conservation in the decades around the turn of the millennium, the ICCA

Consortium is an international association dedicated to promoting the appropriate recognition of, and support to, the territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs for short) in the national, regional and global arenas. The Consortium is directly linked to the grassroots through its Members (which include both indigenous peoples (IP) and local community (LC) organisations and civil society groups working with IPs/LCs) and Honorary members (individuals with relevant concerns and expertise).

As a global institution, the Consortium has developed partnerships with the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme of the IUCN, the CBD Secretariat, UNDP GEF SGP, UNEP WCMC and various UN mechanisms promoting human and indigenous peoples' rights. With the IUCN, for instance, it is spearheading innovative work on governance of protected and conserved areas. With UNDP GEF SGP, it is currently implementing an ICCA global support initiative involving 26 pilot countries. In such countries and in others, the Consortium supports and highlights field-based ICCAs while nourishing a critical mass of understanding, concern and action for ICCAs at national level, mostly via dedicated working groups, coalitions and federations. So far, the Consortium and its Members have fostered opportunities for mutual exchanges and learning on ICCA-related issues through a variety of media and outreach mechanisms, such as publications in three languages, an extremely [rich web-site](#), social media, and the organisation and running of local, national and global events throughout the world.

The [Vision 2020 and Work Programme 2014-2017](#) (document also available in Spanish and French) and the Strategy document that evolved from it (available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#)) provide a concise account of what the Consortium is about, where it comes from and where it wishes to have an impact at the international, national and local level.

The Consortium has no full time or regular personnel. In place of that, it entertains consultancy contracts with about twenty-four people who provide time as regional coordinators, programme manager, IT manager, programme assistant, international policy coordination, strategic advisor, accountant, etc. -- all working as semi-volunteers for compensation well below the market-value of their time. In addition, there exist a few full volunteers and others who regularly collaborate as volunteers or semi-volunteers. Only on the occasion of international events do some members of the Steering Committee and Secretariat have a chance to meet and physically work together. These opportunities are rare, but most valuable.

We will list in this report only activities and accomplishments where the Secretariat and members of the Steering Committee of the Consortium have taken part. It should be noted, however, that a major 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 organisations and individual Honorary members, who are encouraged, inspired and provided with advice and support to the best of the Consortium's ability.

Consortium accomplishments January-December 2016

The work of the Consortium develops following a Work Plan and Budget modelled closely around the ICCA Global Support Initiative (GSI) with funding from UNOPS and The Christensen Fund. Below we summarise main activities carried out in 2016 and their key results.

A. Providing ICCA support at local and national level

In 2016 the Consortium secretariat and Steering Committee carried out missions to provide information about and support to ICCAs in many countries inside, but also outside, the list of those communicated to us as GSI priority (e.g., **Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Georgia, Guatemala, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Senegal, Spain, Taiwan (province of China), Vietnam...**). Many meetings were held, talks and presentations were offered and documents were compiled and presented. The national work also prompted processes of facilitated self-strengthening of individual ICCA sites for enhanced awareness, documentation, delineation and mapping (for instance, for [53 conserved territories in Iran](#)), communication and development and implementation of specific initiatives.



The core of the support the Consortium provides at national level, however, remains oriented towards **promoting and strengthening national networks** dedicated to the appropriate recognition of and support for ICCAs. Besides providing mutual recognition and support, these networks are meant to advance analysis and advocacy. In this light, the Consortium has continued, as

appropriate, to promote, maintain or develop dedicated ICCA networks in **Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, the Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Taiwan (province of China) and Vietnam**, among other countries.

The ICCA networks of **Mexico, DRC, Guatemala and Taiwan** (province of China) experienced especially important developments in 2016 with direct encouragement and support from the ICCA Consortium, including for the development of their own action plans.

Table 1: National ICCA Networks associated with the Consortium (updated July 2017)

| Region & country | Name of the Network | Type of Network | Member of the ICCA Consortium? |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Africa – Democratic Republic of Congo | Alliance Nationale d'Appui et de promotion des Aires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire en République Démocratique du Congo – ANAPAC-RDC | Federation | Yes |
| Africa – Madagascar | Tafo Mihaavo and MIHARI | Federations | Yes, both |
| Asia – The Philippines | Bukluran ng mga Pamayanang Nangangalaga sa Kalikasan – Bukluran Inc. | Federation | Yes |
| Asia – Indonesia | Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia – WGI | Working Group – the Members include: the alliance of Indigenous Peoples of | Yes |

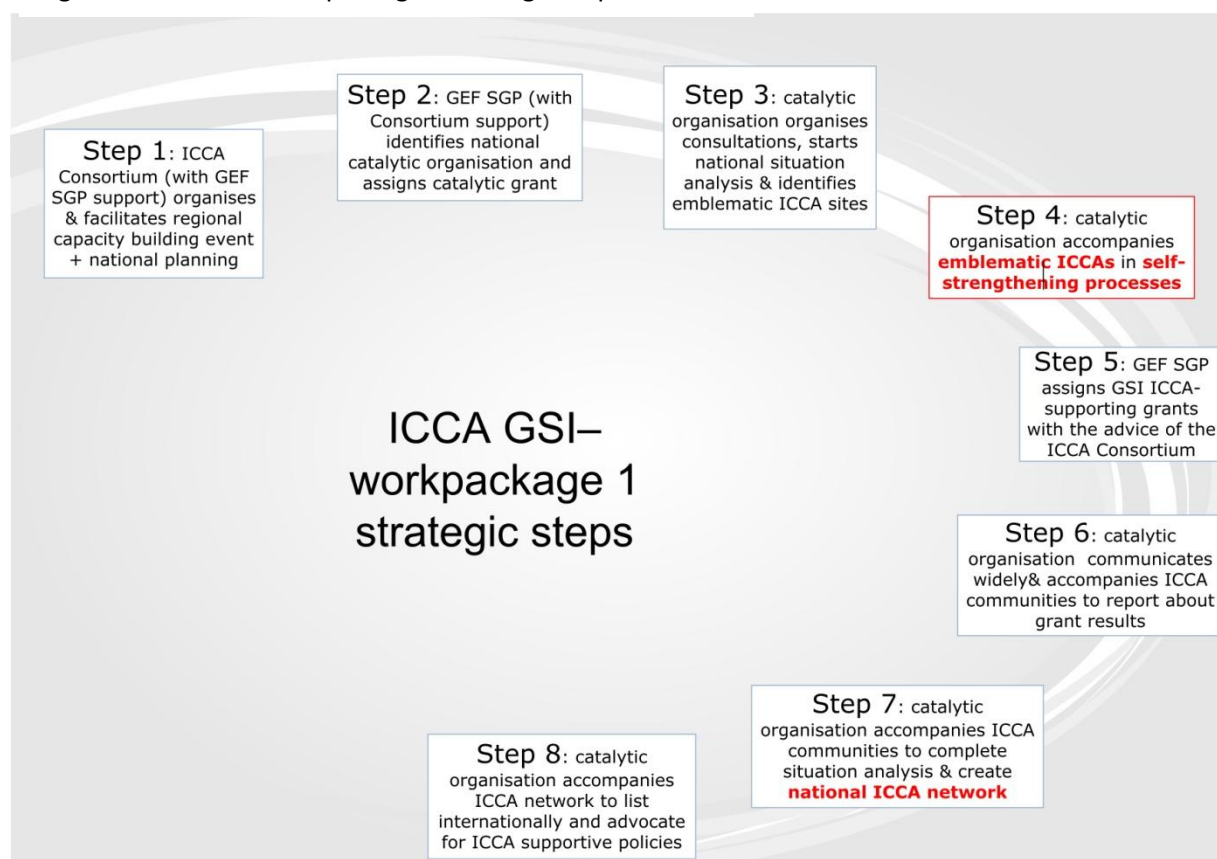
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|---------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | Indonesia (AMAN), BRWA, HuMa, JKPP, KIARA, NTFP-EP, PUSAKA, Sawit Watch, WHALI and WWF Indonesia | |
| Asia – Vietnam | National Learning Group of ICCAs in Vietnam | The members include: People and Nature Reconciliation (Pan Nature), Department of Nature Conservation (DONC) – Viet Nam Forest Administration (VNFOREST), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM), Research Centre for Forests and Wetlands (FORWET) | Yes, for PAN Nature |
| Asia – Taiwan | Taiwan Indigenous Conserved Territories Union – TICTU | A coalition for self-determined ICCAs negotiating to implement transitional justice for indigenous peoples through: 1. Recognized sovereignty and rights; 2. Return of the land and marine traditional territories; 3. Reparation of destruction and persecution; 4. Collaboration on recovery and restoration processes | Yes |
| Asia – China | China ICCA Working Group | Working group comprising seven ICCA Consortium Honorary members in China, along with representatives from two Members: Shan shui Conservation Center and Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association (BRC), and strongly supported by GEF SGP China. It promotes a learning network and peer review to register ICCAs, and get them recognised by local governments as small community-based protected areas. | Yes , for some of its own Members |
| Asia – Nepal | ICCA Network Nepal | Association (informal) | Yes |
| Asia – Iran | UNINOMAD and UNICAMEL | Federations -- together with Cenesta deeply engaged in demarcation and mapping, national policy development (e.g. NBSAP II), communication and capacity building, documentation of traditional knowledge... | Yes, for both |
| Europe – Spain | Iniciativa Comunales | Formal association | Yes |
| Latin America – Guatemala | Consorcio TICCA de Guatemala | Federation of Territorios Autónomos Comunitarios of Guatemala | Not yet |
| Latin America – Bolivia | Consorcio TICCA Bolivia | Working group | Not yet |
| Latin America— Chile | Informal ICCA network | Working group carried out analysis of legislation | Not yet |
| Africa— Burkina Faso | Informal ICCA network | Working group united as part of a project that also seeks to establish a national database | Not yet |

National ICCA GSI catalytic organisations were provided with tailored technical support by the Consortium in **Colombia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Senegal, Argentina, Morocco, Madagascar, Benin and Zambia**. Support took various forms, from participating in joint planning to providing extensive comments on proposals, from training national strategic organisations to accompanying them in their tasks. Several countries that are not GSI priority countries were also assisted in understanding ICCAs and beginning to take action about them. These include **Bolivia, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Finland, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mexico, Myanmar, Spain and Taiwan** (province of China). During 2016, the Consortium secretariat organised support missions to **Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Vietnam and Taiwan** (province of China) and field visits to identify ICCAs in **Belize, Mexico and Georgia**.



Colombia followed the ideal sequence of GSI steps for work-package 1 (see Fig 1 below) and is poised to become a **model country for GSI**. The same cannot be said with respect to other countries, where the selection process of the ICCA national catalytic organisation was constrained by lack of good applications, not well informed, and/or delayed and/or hurried. In a few cases, the considered advice provided by the ICCA Consortium was out-rightly disregarded. In extreme situations we doubt that the selected national catalytic organisations will be able to play their role with acceptable quality standards... while remaining unwilling or unable to receive advice.

Figure 1: ICCA GSI work-package 1 strategic steps



The ICCA Consortium counts on the GSI and UNDP GEF SGP Country Offices to be able to provide small grants and other forms of support for the appropriate recognition and protection of ICCAs. If the relationship is reluctant, bureaucratically heavy and not positive, our work is naturally constrained and much less effective than it could otherwise be. For a status update of ICCA GSI initiatives at the end of 2016, see the following Table 2.

| Table 2: STATUS OF ICCA GSI INITIATIVES (updated as of June 2017) | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| GSI Partner Country | GEF SGP & national strategic organisation participated in regional exchange/ capacity building? | Catalytic grant allocated in country? | Name of national catalytic organisation (NCO) (underlined green if Consortium Member) | Support provided by the Consortium to allocation process and catalytic work? | Status update/ remarks (underlined yellow signifies some challenges/ issues to pay attention to) |
| Argentina | No... but event planned for August 2017 | YES | Patagonia Natural Foundation (FPN) | Supposedly yes, but our advice was disregarded | National strategic initiative started before training of NCO; NCO capacities questioned and proving limited; offer of further special support by the Consortium rejected in 2017; dubious value of the catalytic initiative under current conditions |
| Belize | Yes for GEF SGP Coordinator but no for the NCO | YES | Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology | No support requested | Poor communication since the 2016 regional event |
| Benin | YES | YES | Research and Action Group for Well-E be in Benin (GRABE-BENIN) | YES... We also support Natural Justice, which is in touch with the CSO in country | National catalytic initiative started but the quality of the process is reported as not impressive. GRABE Benin requested membership of the ICCA Consortium. |
| Brazil | YES only for GEF SGP Coordinator; not sure whether a team will join event in Cono Sur in August 2017 | not yet (to our knowledge) | NA | NA | Poor communication since the 2015 regional event |
| Colombia | YES | YES from OP6 | <u>Centro de Estudios Médicos Interculturales (CEMI)</u> | Extensive | Excellent cooperation and results |
| Ecuador | YES | YES at the very end of the year | Fundación Oficina de Investigaciones Sociales y del Desarrollo – | YES, but needs more attention | One-year initiative... which seems unnecessarily hurried. It is not clear why the most appropriate / capable organisation in the country |

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| | | | OFIS | | was NOT selected for the catalytic initiative. |
| Georgia | YES for the GEF SGP Coordinator in June 2017 | YES | Unclear | Several ICCAs identified by the Consortium | We recommended waiting for grant allocation and inviting several promising organisations to the June 2017 event. The grant was allocated but the NCO was not present at the capacity building event. |
| Guatemala | YES, but not the new GEF SGP Coordinator | YES | Oxlajuj Ajpop | YES | Good cooperation with the new GEF SGP Coordinator |
| Indonesia | YES | Catalytic Grant allocated | Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia (WGII) | Yes, also through various Members and Honorary members in the country | Delays in grant allocation after the selection of the strategic organisation. Currently the national catalytic initiative is proceeding but communication is rather poor. |
| Iran | YES in June 2017 | NOT YET | Under process | YES to various communities, even before allocation | Delays. GEF SGP sent out the NCO call in July 2017. |
| Jordan | YES in June 2017 but the chosen catalytic organisation was not present | YES | Name unclear | NO | How can the national catalytic organisation be properly informed? Possibly there should be an exchange visit to Iran? |
| Kenya | YES | YES | Yes | One-day workshop attended by the NCO | Scarce communication |
| Kyrgyzstan | YES in June 2017 | Yes but may be recalled | Yes???? | Yes... but it may change! | Waiting for confirmed grant allocation... Possible plan: a pastoral exchange programme in Central Asia |
| Madagascar | YES | NOT YET | RAVINTSARA (strongly associated with Tafo Mihaavo and others) | YES, also at a distance | Delays... MOA to be signed and work to start in 2017... but the initiative seems good! |
| Malaysia | YES | YES | Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah (PACOS Trust) | YES, also via support visit and meetings in place | Specific meeting held with PACOS and on-going strong advice provided by the Consortium in country |
| Maldives | NO | NOT YET | Under process | NOT YET | Still need to discuss specifically. GEF SGP Coordinator is sick. |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|---|---|--|
| Morocco | YES | YES | ADEPE (Association for Sustainable Development , Ecology and Conservation of the Environment) | YES, and more specific support possible in 2017 | Scarce communication since the beginning of the initiative. |
| Namibia | YES | yes | NACSO | Poor communication | MoA supposedly finalised and signed in 2017 |
| Paraguay | No... but planned for August 2017 | NOT YET | Under process | Yes to GEF SGP Coord. | Waiting for training and grant allocation Positive relationship between Consortium and GEF SGP Coordinators |
| Peru | visits & offers to past Coord. without much happening. Peruvian team planned work, but not the new GEF SGP Coordinator | NOT YET | Under process?? | Poor communication in the past... now we shall see with new GEF SGP Coordinator | Serious uncertainties & delays... but new positive options in 2017! |
| Philippines | YES | NA | NA | Planning to work on local ICCA governance assessment | Advanced towards national legislation on ICCAs – on-going activities |
| Senegal | YES | YES | Kamaloore BE Kafankante | Very extensive support and more to take place in 2017-2018 | Six projects on ICCAs approved by NSC when the catalytic initiative was barely starting–this is hurried! Also, the national event should not take place in 2017, as they appear to insist. |
| Suriname | YES to GEF SGP, but unclear to CSO | YES | Foundation of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS) | Limited support (only regional training) | Poor communication and lack of interest on ICCAs by key influential person in country. |
| Tanzania | YES | NOT YET?? | Under process – TNRM will possibly apply | National workshop on governance of protected and conserved areas and on ICCAs carried out in March 2017 | ToRs to be launched in 2017... unclear what will happen... |

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|---|--|---|
| Vietnam | YES | YES | YES - Centre for People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature) | Specific visit carried out in 2016 | Specific support visit in 2016 |
| Zambia | YES | YES | The Zambia Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Forum | YES, extensive and specific workshops and visits in 2017 | Need to revise the strategic project proposal. Specific assistance provided in 2017. Unclear what happened since. |

Still at national level, the Consortium has been **collaborating with the IUCN Global Programme on Protected Areas (GPAP) towards the completion of six national governance assessments** for protected areas and “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs or conserved areas). Besides broad collaboration with GPAP in general, technical support was provided to IUCN and its country-based counterparts for the pursuit of initiatives in **Iran**, the development and signing of an agreement in **Indonesia**, and the planning of initiatives in **Tanzania** and **Ecuador**.

In **Iran**, two major field-based workshops took place focusing on national governance diversity and on governance in transboundary situations with neighbouring countries, including **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Pakistan** and **Turkey**.



B. Promoting capacity building for ICCAs at regional and international level

In line with the GSI strategic approach, during 2016 **four regional knowledge sharing and capacity building events** were organised and run in **East and Southern Africa, Mesoamerica, West Africa** and **South America**. In the first three— held in three different languages— national teams (including representatives of government, NGOs and organised IPs and LCs as well as the national GEF SGP Coordinator) from more than 12 countries took an active part, deepening their understanding of ICCAs and planning for their own country-based initiatives. The countries that participated with a full national team include **Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Guatemala, Belize, Suriname, Senegal,**

Benin, Guinea, Mexico and Morocco. Smaller participating teams were also organised from **Zimbabwe, El Salvador and Guinea Bissau.**



The Regional Capacity Building Workshop on the Management of ICCAs and Development Models took place in Bolivia in October 2016 focusing on leadership development, learning exchanges, autonomous indigenous governance systems, traditional knowledge, and the use of innovative tools for communication and mapping, such as drones.

Workshops on instruments in support of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples were also facilitated in **Central African Republic**; national multi-day events on ICCAs were carried out in **Myanmar, Malaysia and Chile**; workshops on customary law and local and community knowledge were held in **China and Taiwan** (province of China); and the first campus on ICCAs took place at the World Conservation Congress in **Hawaii**. Overall, well above **400 people went through dedicated learning processes about ICCAs** organised and/or facilitated and assisted by the Consortium Secretariat in 2016.

C. Promoting positive policy development at international level

The ICCA Consortium has nurtured a long-term effective collaboration with the IUCN and the CBD Secretariat— a collaboration that was sustained throughout 2016 with the active engagement of indigenous and community leaders. Indigenous youth and indigenous elders together have provided a meaningful combination of capacities to deliver lessons learned and obtain a forceful policy impact for the confirmation and strengthening of ICCAs in CBD policy decisions. In fact, the presence of a relatively large number of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in the two major policy events of 2016 with value for ICCAs: the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii (September) and CBD COP 13 in Mexico (December) appears to have brought about policy results for ICCAs beyond our initial hopes and expectations.



For the **World Conservation Congress (Hawaii, Sept 2016)**, the Consortium actively participated in the development, commenting and support of several IUCN Motions, later approved as formal Resolutions and Recommendations as follows:

- IUCN Resolution 025 - *Recognising, understanding and enhancing the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in tackling the illegal wildlife trade crisis*
- **IUCN Resolution 030 - *Recognising and respecting the territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs) overlapped by protected areas***
- IUCN Resolution 033 - *Recognising cultural and spiritual significance of nature in protected and served areas*

- IUCN Resolution 061 - *Mitigating the impacts of oil palm expansion and operations on biodiversity*
- IUCN Resolution 072 - *Enabling the Whakatane Mechanism to contribute to conservation through securing communities' rights*
- **IUCN Resolution 088 - *Safeguarding indigenous lands, territories and resources from unsustainable developments***
- **IUCN Recommendation 102 - *Protected areas and other areas important for biodiversity in relation to environmentally damaging industrial-scale activities and infrastructure development***

As part of the above, we organised technical events and advocacy initiatives at the Congress major international gatherings, including the **first Conservation Campus on ICCAs**, and several side events.

For **CBD COP 13 (Cancun, Mexico, Dec. 2016)**, we obtained special financing (a dedicated grant obtained from Swedbio) and organised the participation of a relatively large Consortium delegation, we prepared and organised the discussion of a number of comprehensive **position papers and statements on key agenda items** throughout the months prior to the COP and at preparatory meetings. For instance, we submitted to CBD Secretariat submissions on indicators for Aichi Targets and biodiversity mainstreaming, on biodiversity and climate change, on GEF funding priorities, on poverty eradication and sustainable development, on WG8(j) glossary of key terms, etc. We also successfully nominated some Honorary members of the Consortium as representatives in various CBD meetings and activities (e.g. Kanyinke Sena, Claudia de Pinho, Carmen Miranda, Atama Katama and Harry Jonas.)



At COP 13 we participated in daily meetings with CBD Alliance and IIFB, engaged with contributions to the ECO journal, actively participated in negotiation processes for **several CBD decisions relevant to ICCAs**; offered **presentations as part of CBD-organised events**, including at the Rio Convention Pavilion and the Muchantball IP event, and we organised ourselves **several side events** (on EBSA governance, ICCAs and the Aichi targets, governance overlaps, ICCAs and extractive industries, marine ICCAs), a **press briefing** on ICCAs and a **flash event** (please see our small video [here](#)).

For the above, as well as for other events throughout the year, we provided extensive support to IP and LC representatives to travel, prepare and participate in technical events and purposefully advocate for change, organised trainings and side events and nourished new policies via detailed submissions, comments and arguments.

In collaboration with WCPA we pursued work on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs or **“conserved areas”**), participated in WCPA meetings, insisted on an appropriate interpretation of the OECM concept and published documents on the subject, including an article in CBD’s Square Brackets ([available here](#)).

The technical results that emerged from the above engagements with conservation policy are summarised in Annex 1 to this report.

Following-on from the recommendations of WPC Sydney 2014, the Consortium has engaged with **international policies beyond conservation policy**. In 2016, the ICCA Consortium's Working Group on Law & Policy nourished a number of sub-groups and teams besides the one focusing on ICCAs and conservation policy:

ICCAs and land and water law and policy (*in the process of name-change to "Territorial integrity, community wellbeing and ICCAs"*)_Key activities included the active participation and organisation of sessions at the IASC [European Regional Meeting in Bern](#) (May 2016) where the ICCA Consortium organised and animated the bulk of the "practitioners' events". The European coordinator also participated in events co-organised with ILC.

ICCAs and climate change and energy law and policy

A Policy Brief was commissioned on ICCAs as non-market based mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

ICCAs and food and agriculture law and policy

Activities included continuing work on ICCAs and the Common Agricultural Policy in Europe, the commissioning of a Policy Brief on ICCAs and Food Sovereignty and an agreement for a student internship focusing on ICCAs and food sovereignty in Mexico (currently based in Yucatan).

ICCAs and sustainable development policy

A Policy Brief was commissioned on ICCAs and sustainable development goals.

ICCAs and indigenous peoples' rights and human rights

A Policy Brief was started on ICCAs and the Collective Rights and Responsibilities of Indigenous Peoples and another one was completed on ICCAs and overlapping PAs. An important collaboration was nourished with the **UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Prof. John Knox**, which led to his **recommendations on ICCAs in recent reports**. The collaboration unfolded through various meetings with the Consortium's secretariat and members of the Steering Committee at UNPFII (May 2016), EMRIP (July 2016), UN events in Geneva (September 2016) and CBD COP 13 (December 2016). More meetings are also planned for 2017.

ICCAs and standards and safeguards for finance and business

Key activities included several meetings towards the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Friends of the Earth International (FoEI). The MoU, which was finalised and signed in 2016, focuses on a feasibility study about the setting up of a [Solidarity Fund for Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs](#) (SAFE) (see later). While we note that the collaboration with FoEI is carefully paced and trustworthy, we also note that it has been more time-consuming and less results-oriented than expected.

D. Recording ICCAs in WDPa and international ICCA Registry

In 2016 there was a relatively timid and 'careful' expansion of ICCA entries in WDPa and the ICCA Registry at UNEP WCMC, while the Consortium started reviewing the quality of existing ICCA entries and compiling the results of national processes to develop a peer support and review system.

Members of the Consortium secretariat worked with UNEP-WCMC to develop general guidelines for the ICCA Registry resulting in the production of an [ICCA Registry Manual](#). They also supported the

production in Spanish and English of a first **national protocol for peer-support and review towards listing of ICCAs in the international Registry** for the case of Spain. The Consortium's person in charge collaborated with UNEP-WCMC to deal with specific issues in various countries.

E. Carrying out research and compiling and diffusing ICCA information

A specific research initiative in collaboration with a university in Australia was developed and initiated in 2016 on understanding and assessing **governance vitality**. A number of dedicated interviews were held and transcribed and a summary report is expected to be developed in 2017.

In parallel, the Consortium developed the first draft of a comprehensive methodology to describe and orient a process for the **self-strengthening of ICCAs**. Input for it was gathered from many Consortium Members towards completion, translation and wider diffusion in 2017.

Three short films on governance were released early in 2016. The first explores the complex phenomenon of “governance of protected and conserved areas”. The second provides a summary report on the events of the Stream on Enhancing Diversity, Quality and Vitality of Governance at WPC Sydney 2014. And the third illustrates the three directions of work and twenty recommendations resulting from the Stream. The films are now available from both the ICCA Consortium web page and the IUCN web page. We should be making a much broader and better use of these films.

The Consortium continued its work producing and diffusing ICCA publications, in particular as part of the new ICCA Consortium Policy Brief series.

Policy Brief no. 3 (*Reconocer y apoyar a los TICCA en Mesoamérica— ¿por qué y cómo?*) was produced in Spanish and launched at WCC ([available here](#)). The Brief deals specifically with ICCAs in Mesoamerica. It reviews the historical and cultural roots of the phenomenon in the region, illustrates a number of ICCA examples, develops some elements of governance analysis and lists specific recommendations for national policies in the region and in its specific countries. A



Reconocer y apoyar a los TICCA en Mesoamérica— ¿por qué y cómo?

Resumen de Políticas del Consorcio TICCA
ejemplar no. 3

Producido en colaboración con el Programa de Estudios Rurales y Territoriales de la Facultad de Agronomía de la Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala, el Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación y Desarrollo Promotor, la Red Latinoamericana de ODS y ODS 2017, y el

Reconocimiento de la serie Foros ODS y el PNUD 2017 (PNUD)



longer version is available on line [here](#)



ICCAs and Overlapping Protected Areas: Fostering Conservation Synergies and Social Reconciliation

Policy Brief of the ICCA Consortium

Issue No. 4

Produced in collaboration with CENESTR and Happonikari
Series Sponsors: the Christensen Fund and UNDP GEF SGP



Policy Brief no. 4 (*ICCAs and Overlapping Protected Areas: Fostering Conservation Synergies and Social Reconciliation*) ([available here](#)) includes issue highlights regarding the overlap of protected areas and the territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities, focusing on the need to develop best practices for ICCA recognition and respect. It was launched at CBD COP 13. A longer version is available on line [here](#).

In parallel with the Policy Brief series, the Consortium supported studies oriented towards understanding the socio-cultural and political-historical context of ICCAs in particular countries or regions. A study for the Amazon region was finalised in 2016, but its quality was inadequate for a publication to be produced.

Work proceeded to refine a **Toolbox** (in Spanish) to help indigenous communities resist threats from extractive industries. The document includes inputs from ICCA communities in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. The toolbox was used/ distributed at the regional event in [Bolivia in 2016](#).

A working paper was also produced in collaboration with the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative dealing with [Climate Finance, Results based Payments and Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#).

A collaboration of Observatorio Ciudadano, IWGIA and the ICCA Consortium in Chile jointly produced a book entitled [Cuestionando los enfoques clásicos de conservación en Chile: El aporte de los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales a la protección de la biodiversidad](#) (Challenging Classical Conservation Approaches in Chile: The Contribution of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to the Protection of Biodiversity).

Relevant publications produced, released and diffused by the Consortium between 1st January and 31st December 2016 also include:

- **ICCA Consortium Newsletter no. 11** – February 2016 (56 pages [available here](#))
- **ICCA Consortium Newsletter no. 12** – September 2016 (55 pages [available here](#))
- **Full version of the Consortium-commissioned study on the historical and cultural roots of ICCAs** in Mesoamerica (used as basis of Policy Brief no.3)
- Version II of a **Toolbox** (in Spanish) **to help indigenous communities resist threats from extractive industries**.
- Specific publications for conservation journals by members of the Consortium Steering Committee and Secretariat (examples are: [Seeds of nature and culture at the grassroots](#) and [Mothers or lesser sisters? The strange case of “conserved areas”](#))
- Work was initiated towards a special issue on ICCAs for the International Journal of the Commons, but not much actually advanced in 2016.

Major efforts were spent for the development of the **new Consortium website**, including content, design, and IT realisation... although the product was not completed by the end of 2016. Encouragement was provided to the IUCN GPAP to include governance and ICCA issues in the IUCN WCPA website.



F. Running the ICCA international alert mechanisms & promoting SAFE

In 2016, work was steadily pursued to strengthen and support the existing [alert and action system of the ICCA Consortium](#), and [SAFE – a “Solidarity Action and Fund”](#) for the Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs. Two serious Alerts engaged two of our Members– the Ekuri Initiative of Nigeria and the Shuar Arutam people of Ecuador. The first were opposing a spurious major new motorway designed to cut across the best remaining forests in the country. The second were defending their ICCA-- the Cordillera del Condor -- from impending mining development. In both cases, we were able to harness visibility and obtain some success. For the case in Nigeria, the Consortium leadership wrote an official letter to the Ministry of the Environment and provided punctual advice. For the case in Ecuador, we organised specific training and assisted in obtaining financial support for communication work.

Regarding SAFE, the Consortium was working on the descriptive document with partners’ input throughout the first months of 2016. It was a useful period of reflection, which allowed the Consortium to develop a clear vision of the initiative, consistently refined and specified. FoEI requested that the partnership be kept small – basically them and the Consortium only– and with them we held a number of in-depth planning sessions. A high-level meeting in August 2016 resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding that set up ways to test the feasibility of SAFE’s actual work on the ground. The SAFE Feasibility Study is currently under clarification in South-East Asia. With FoEI we are also exploring collaboration on other issues and partners and the possibility of working together with law students/researchers in the field and organising training in diplomatic skills. In 2016, we appointed an Alert Coordinator and SAFE Liaison person, but the appointment was short-lived and currently the SAFE operations are under a Team responsibility.

Updates on both the Alerts and SAFE are available from the dedicated pages in the [Consortium web site](#).

Managing the operations of the ICCA Consortium

Managing the operations of the ICCA Consortium involves planning, fundraising, implementing activities, reporting and maintaining active collaborations with our supporters and partners (technical advisory group meetings, budgeting, solving problems, etc.). As we are a membership Association, we need to maintain Member databases and mailing lists, recruit new Members, communicate about appointments, report, reply to requests, seek payment of fees, and provide support to participate in various events (fundraising, visas, event registration, logistics for travel, accommodation, etc). A considerable amount of effort is necessary to organise and hold **meetings of the Steering Committee** via Skype, usually held in three languages, with rolling minutes. The organisation and running of our **Annual General Assembly** is a major enterprise each year. In parallel, our **Secretariat** (26 people) needs to be **contracted and supervised**, with particular emphasis on communication and maintenance of warm relations among people working as volunteers or on a semi-volunteer basis. Consultants also need to be identified and contracted and provided with technical and financial support.

Substantial work goes into our **financial management and reporting** in two currencies (US\$ and CHF), with attention to idiosyncratic donor requirements but also a variety of requirements in Switzerland, including detailed reporting to registration and fiscal authorities, which is necessary each year despite our recognised tax-free status. **Fundraising** has been on-going throughout the year. A new grant (US\$ 225,000 over three years) was requested, argued for and obtained from The Christensen Fund after our successful closure of the prior grant. New dedicated funding (SEK 290,000) was obtained to

support the 2016 General Assembly and participation in CBD COP 13. Several calls with donors were organised for the SAFE Initiative.

The institutional life of the Consortium vis-à-vis partners has involved attending and organising events, holding meetings, providing presentations and participating in the work of larger coalitions (e.g. ILC). In 2016, four main international initiatives took a significant amount of effort and time, as mentioned above:

- Active participation in the **IASC meeting in Bern** (May, Switzerland) where the Consortium organised several events and dedicated discussions on SAFE.
- Active participation in Hawaii in the **E ALu Poo gathering** (end of August)– where we recruited Kua, and in the **World Conservation Congress** (September), where we organised the first Campus on ICCAs and several events on governance and related issues.
- Active participation in **CBD COP 13** (Cancun Mexico, December 2-16 December 2016) with extensive advocacy work and provision of financial, technical and logistical support to dozens of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities comprising youth and elders from all world regions (we identified and rented 6 apartments and organised food provision and transport every day from the apartments to the location of the COP).
- Organisation of **one of the largest General Assemblies we have ever held** (Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Mexico, 17-20 December, 2016) which saw the participation of 63 representatives of Members, Honorary members and secretariat from nearly 30 countries. This diversity was reflected in the many languages present and the whole proceedings were conducted in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish. As part of the meeting, two visits were organised to local ICCAs, providing plenty of opportunities to exchange knowledge and experience. The GA was extremely rich in content and participants benefitted fully from one another and made contacts invaluable for future work. The Minutes of the GA are available from the [Consortium web site](#). The experience of Members and partners was, in particular, harnessed to develop the components of a new Strategy and enlarge the Steering Committee with representatives from 17 countries. Since then the Steering Committee has approved many institutional documents.



Throughout 2016 several meetings, activities and reports were dedicated to developing a **new Strategy for the institutional growth of the Consortium in 2017-2020**. The Strategy was

coordinated by Maliasili Initiatives – a Member of the Consortium contracted to facilitate a participatory process (on line questionnaires in three languages, phone and Skype interviews, meetings, etc.) that would identify and refine the content of the new Strategy. The Secretariat was centrally involved with Maliasili in all process steps throughout 2016 and, in particular, in the milestone that took place during the Consortium GA.

Annex 1: ICCA-relevant technical results achieved in 2016

CBD COP 13 adopted a wide range of **Decisions** broadly relevant to ICCAs, and four that specifically refer to ICCAs (including “territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities”, “indigenous peoples’ and community conserved areas”, etc.):

Decision XIII/2 (“Progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12”) contains one of the most important references to ICCAs to date in the CBD, providing a clear mandate for the development of guidance and best practices on identifying and recognising ICCAs. Para. 7: *“Invites Parties and, where appropriate, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the ICCA Consortium and other partners in consultation with the Secretariat, to develop voluntary guidance and best practices on identifying and recognizing territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities, including in situations of overlap with protected areas, and their potential contribution to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets...”*

Decision XIII/2 also refers to situations of overlap with protected areas. It invites Parties – when exploring options to protect areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and in establishing new and/or expanding existing protected areas, or taking other effective area-based conservation measures – to consider areas that (*inter alia*) *“have involved the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities whose territories, areas and resources overlap wholly or partially with the proposed areas, in accordance with national legislation, in order to obtain their prior informed consent”* (XIII/2, para 5(b)(viii)).

The Annex to **Decision XIII/5** (“Ecosystem restoration: short-term action plan”) states that restoration activities may include supporting *“indigenous peoples’ and community conserved territories and areas, and respect for their traditional customary knowledge and practices”* (XIII/5, Annex, Section IV/C, para. 15(1)).

Decision XIII/20 (“Resource mobilisation”) adopts guiding principles on assessing the contribution of collective action of indigenous peoples and local communities, and identifies the ICCA Consortium as having *“many tools and methods for capturing the contribution of collective action”* (XIII/20, Appendix, para. (d)). It also requests the Executive Secretary to develop elements of methodological guidance for identifying, monitoring, and assessing the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the achievement of the Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets, for consideration by the 10th meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and adoption by COP 14 (XIII/20, para. 21).

Decision XIII/20 also invites Parties – when reporting on progress towards milestones for implementing Aichi Target 3 – to include information on national studies that *“identify opportunities to promote the design and implementation of positive incentive measures, such as appropriate recognition and support for indigenous peoples and local communities that conserve territories and areas, and other effective community conservation initiatives”* (XIII/20, para. 23).

The Annex to **Decision XIII/28** (“Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”) sets out generic and specific indicators for assessing progress in the attainment of the Aichi Targets. COP 13 adopted three new specific indicators for Target 11, each of which named the ICCA Consortium as the source for the data. These specific indicators (under the generic indicator “Trends in area of terrestrial and inland water areas conserved”) are:

- *Percentage of terrestrial and inland water areas and or marine and coastal areas covered by other effective area-based conservation measures;*

- *Number and extent of important sites for biodiversity that are covered by other effective area-based conservation measures; and*
- *Trends in the appropriate recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures areas and appropriate support provided to them.*

In this context, ICCAs may be considered a type of other effective area-based conservation measure. Mentioning of ICCAs in the **2016 Report of Ms. Vicky Tauli-Corpuz— UN Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights** - The Report notes that “*IUCN has committed to advocating for recognition of ‘indigenous peoples and local community conserved territories and areas’ in conservation policy as a new governance category*” and it acknowledges that “*over the past decade only limited progress has been made towards their recognition... Significant expansion of areas under indigenous management, coupled with solid partnerships with indigenous peoples for knowledge exchange, remain key opportunities for States and conservationists to operationalize the participation of indigenous peoples in conservation.*”

Mentioning of ICCAs in the **2016 Report of the Prof. John Knox—UN Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment** - “*States must do more to respect and protect the rights of those who are most vulnerable to the degradation and loss of biodiversity ... States should support indigenous and local efforts to protect biodiversity, including through ICCAs, recognizing that the traditional knowledge and commitment of indigenous peoples and local communities often make them uniquely qualified to do so*”. Prof. Knox also recommends that: “*Businesses should respect human rights in their biodiversity-related actions, including by: (d) Not seeking or exploiting concessions in protected areas or ICCAs*”.

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council Consultation Meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and 50th GEF Council Meeting** took place in June 2016 in Washington, DC. Representatives of the ICCA Consortium and several of its Members, including the Global Forest Coalition (GFC), participated as part of the GEF CSO-Network. Statements from the CSO-Network included, among many others, a recommendation that the GEF Work Program incorporate appropriate recognition of, and support for, land and territories governed by indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with their self-determined priorities and plans.



Please visit: www.iccaconsortium.org