

Conserving nature via self-determination and resistance to destructive development in ICCAs



The ICCA Consortium (gbf@iccaconsortium.org) –
Conservation Campus at the World Parks Congress,
Hawaii (USA) September 4, 2016































KDA FUND
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What have all these images in common?

They are all about “ICCAs”!



“ICCA” is an abbreviation for:
indigenous peoples’ and community
conserved territories and areas



or the
“jewels”, the
“heart”, the
“seeds” ...

...of bio-cultural
diversity around
the world!

ICCAs are found **everywhere**, span all types of ecosystems and cultures, have thousands of local names and are **extremely diverse**...



de facto capacity/power to take and enforce decisions (functioning governance institution)

2

... but they all have 3 characteristics



1

decisions & practices lead to conservation of nature

(including sustainable use & restoration, positive trend)

3

ICCAs relate to some type of “*commons*”—
land, water and natural resources governed and
managed collectively by a community of people



ICCAs are governed and managed by effective *institutions* (decision-making structures, relations, rules, “local culture”...)



ICCAs are **successful** examples of collective decision-making about nature ... the oldest form of “**conservation**” on earth... closely related to peoples’ **livelihoods, culture and identity**...





conservation as
“strict preservation”

conservation as
sustainable use



conservation as restoration

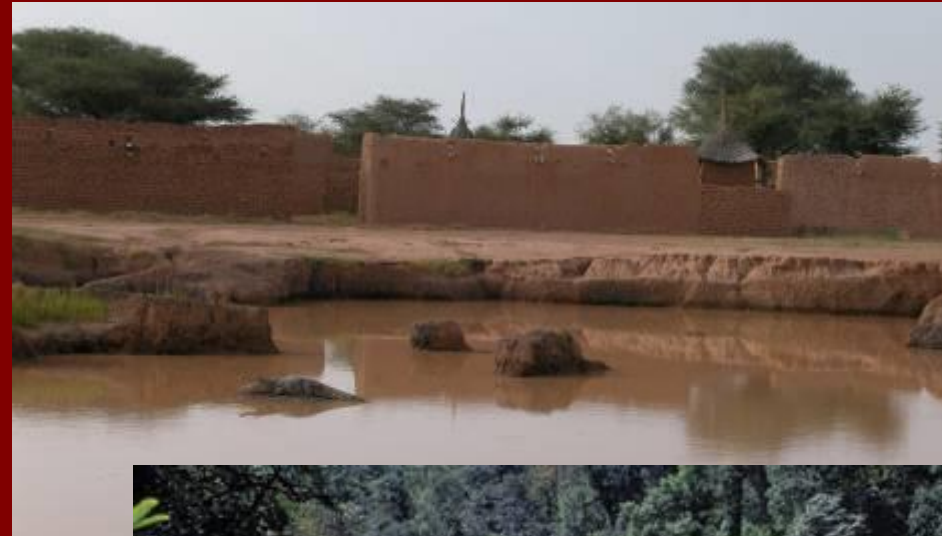


Examples of ICCAs

sacred spaces & natural features...



**Chizire sacred forest,
Zimbabwe**



Sacred crocodile pond, Mali



**Khumbu of the Sherpa
People (Mount Everest
National Park) Nepal**

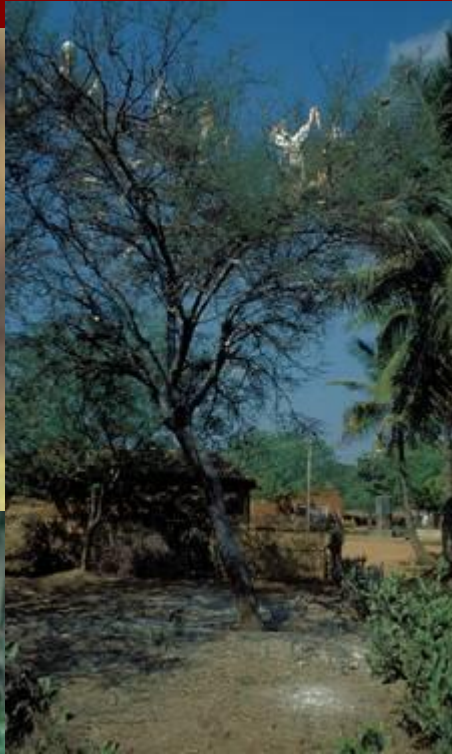
**Forole sacred mountain
Borana/ Gabbra - Ethiopia/ Kenya**



Sacred lake, Indian Himalaya

Examples of ICCAs

habitats of sacred animals...



examples
from
India



Examples of ICCAs

indigenous territories and cultural landscapes/ seascapes...

Paruku
Indigenous
PA, Western
Australia



Caribou
migration
corridors in
Inuit
territory,
Canada

Traditional
territory of
ASATRIZY,
(Yapù),
Vaupès,
Colombia



Examples of ICCAs

territories & migration routes of nomadic herders / mobile indigenous peoples...



Wetlands in Qashqai mobile peoples' territory, Iran



Examples of ICCAs

sustainably-managed wetlands, fishing grounds and water bodies...

Maritime
extractive reserve,
Arraial do Cabo,
Brazil



Temporarily
and/ or
permanently
forbidden
sites
(manjidura),
Bijagos
biosphere reserve,
Guinea Bissau



Lubuk Larangan river, Mandailing, Sumatra



Restoration of marine ecosystem in Okinawa sato-umi, Japan

Examples of ICCAs

sustainably-managed
resource reserves
(water, biomass,
medicinal plants,
timber and non-timber
forest products...)



Rekawa lagoon,
Sri Lanka



Qanats, Central Asia



Parc Jurassien Vaudois, Switzerland



Natural Community Reserves & Pastoral Units
of Ferlo, Senegal



Jardhargaon forest, Indian Himalaya

Examples of ICCAs particularly sensitive ecological settings...

“sacred” areas on the mountain and hill tops & close to the villages in all Tibetan villages, Song Pan County (China)... the local villagers managed to preserve their forest cover even from the timber cutting spree of the State Forest Enterprise...



“sacred” island next to a major town in North Madagascar— perfectly conserved as it is strictly forbidden even to set foot there...

Examples of ICCAs

ancient and modern types of “community commons”...

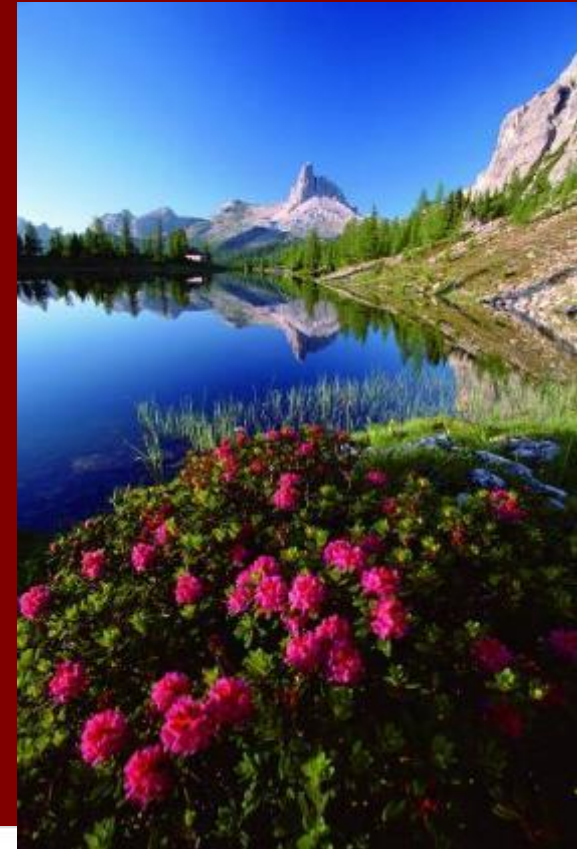


**Santiago de Covelo
neighborhood woodland, Spain**



**Frieze Hill
Community
Orchard,
UK**

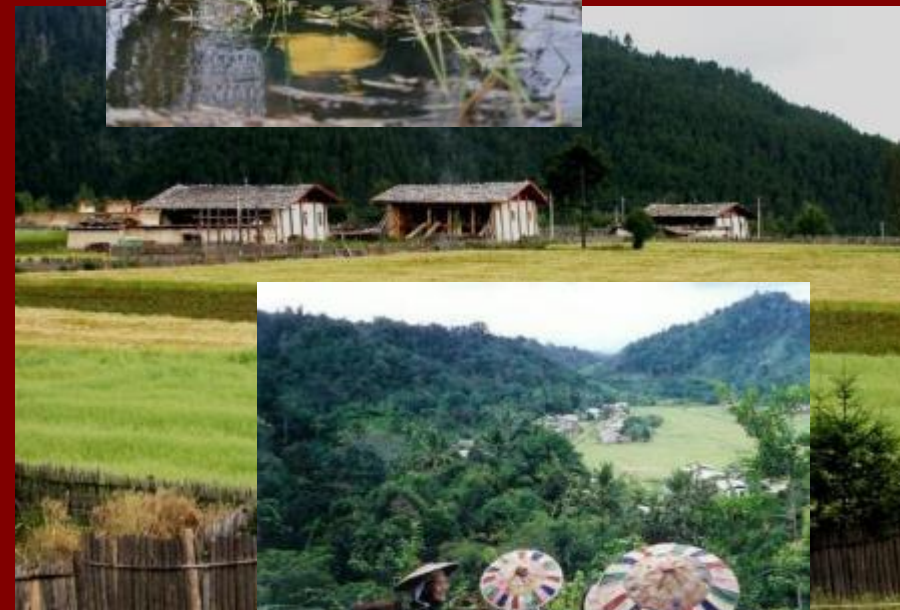
**Ancestral territory of
the Regole of
Cortina d'Ampezzo,
Italy – 1000 year of
recorded history,
World Heritage Site**



**Gajna
floodplain
commons,
Croatia**

ICCAs conserve nature but also secure livelihoods... in unique ways for unique contexts...

- they encompass a huge range of ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic resources, maintain ecosystem functions and provide biodiversity connectivity in the landscape/ seascape
- they secure energy, food, water, fodder and income for millions of people
- their coverage has been estimated at 23% of terrestrial areas– i.e., much larger than the coverage of formal protected areas (12.8%)



ICCAs embody the capacity of communities to adapt in the face of change (resilience)



- they are based on rules and institutions “tailored to the context” (bio-cultural diversity), and flexible, culture-related responses
- they are built on collective ecological knowledge and capacities, including sustainable use of wild resources and maintenance of agro biodiversity, which have stood the test of time
- they are typically designed to maintain livelihood resources for times of stress, such as during severe climate events, war & natural disasters...

ICCAs are an occasion of empowerment for indigenous peoples and local communities... and pride for the local youth!

➤ they play a crucial role in securing the rights of IPs & local communities to their land & natural resources through local governance – *de jure* and/or *de facto*

➤ they are the foundation of cultural identity for countless indigenous peoples and local communities throughout the world



but... are ICCAs under threat?



in recent history many ICCAs have been **destroyed or damaged**, and many others are being coveted or attacked today ...



- expropriation of “the commons” (nationalisation, privatisation, land and water grabbing...)
- ‘development’ -- mining and fossil fuel extraction, industrial logging and plantations, industrial fishing, sea dredging, large-scale grazing, agriculture, water diversions and drainage, urbanisation, major infrastructure (roads, ports, airports, mass tourism...)
- **land encroachment** and **resource extractions** (poaching, stealing, illegal settlers...)

- War, violent conflicts, settlements of refugees, drug-related problems
- Active acculturation of ICCA communities into the consumerist culture (formal education, evangelisation, advertisements)...
- Inappropriate recognition by governments – including forced incorporation into protected areas... or the imposition of “modern” governance structures....
- Climate change (natural disasters, etc.)



threats can be *external* and *internal* to the communities governing the ICCAs



a serious *external* threat is forced eviction and imposition of destructive practices on the ICCAs— often resulting from combined private interests and government decisions...

serious *internal* threat are the erosion of local knowledge and attachment to the local environment, the loss of local language and cultural practices, the abandonment of traditional learning processes within communities (elders and youth)

... & the ultimate threat is the loss of the institutions capable of governing the commons (deciding and acting together)



Are there responses to the threats to ICCAs?



Yes!

Local responses by indigenous peoples & local communities:



- **internal organizing/ analyses:**
 - study groups & action committees
 - species inventories
 - **mapping/** demarcation of territories
 - dialogues between elders and youth
 - capacity building events
 - exchange visits
- **info dissemination/ transparency**
 - **alerts** through media (radio, TV, press, posters) and the Internet
 - alliances with journalists in country and abroad
- **diplomatic action**
 - national alliances, political lobbying, parliament **hearings**...
 - international alliances & lobbying
- **legal action**



- demonstrations and civil disobedience

- marches and protests
- strikes and picket lines
- human barricades, road blockades
- sabotage...



- coalitions & federations

- national and international alliances specific to ICCAs



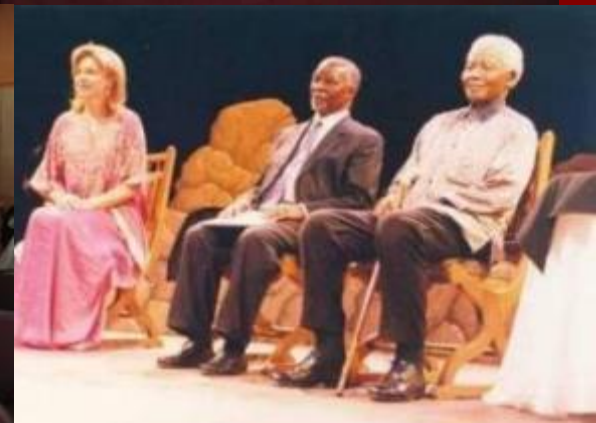
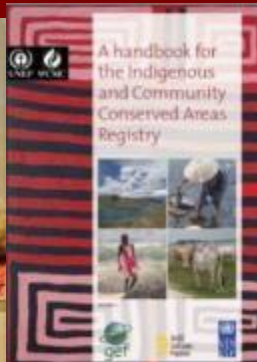
In general, IPs and LCs have been strengthening themselves, enhancing their capacities and demanding that their own institutions are recognized as **rightful governing bodies** for their ancestral domains and ICCAs...



Responses by international policy & organizations:

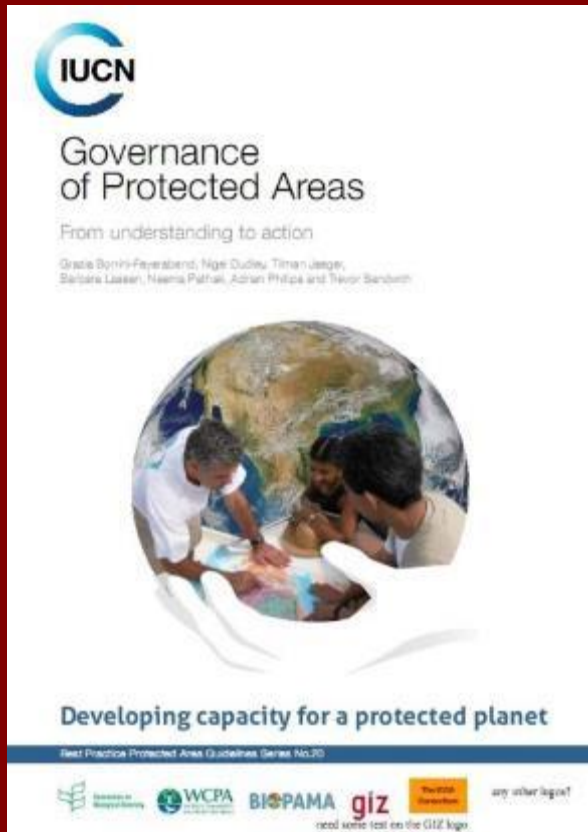
.... World Parks Congress of Durban 2003... CBD PoWPA (2004)... numerous IUCN Resolutions (2004, 2008, 2012)... UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)... CBD decisions in Japan (2010), India (2012) and Korea (2014)... the Aichi Targets (2010)... the ICCA Registry at UNEP WCMC ... the World Parks Congress of Sydney 2014...

...all recognise and support ICCAs!



The **IUCN** (2004) defined ICCAs as:

"...natural and modified ecosystems including significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values **voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities through customary laws or other effective means...**"



And its recent guidance on governance of protected areas devotes extensive sections to ICCAs as one of the four main recognised "types"

IUCN Matrix of protected areas categories and governance types (IUCN Guidelines, 2008)

[illegible]

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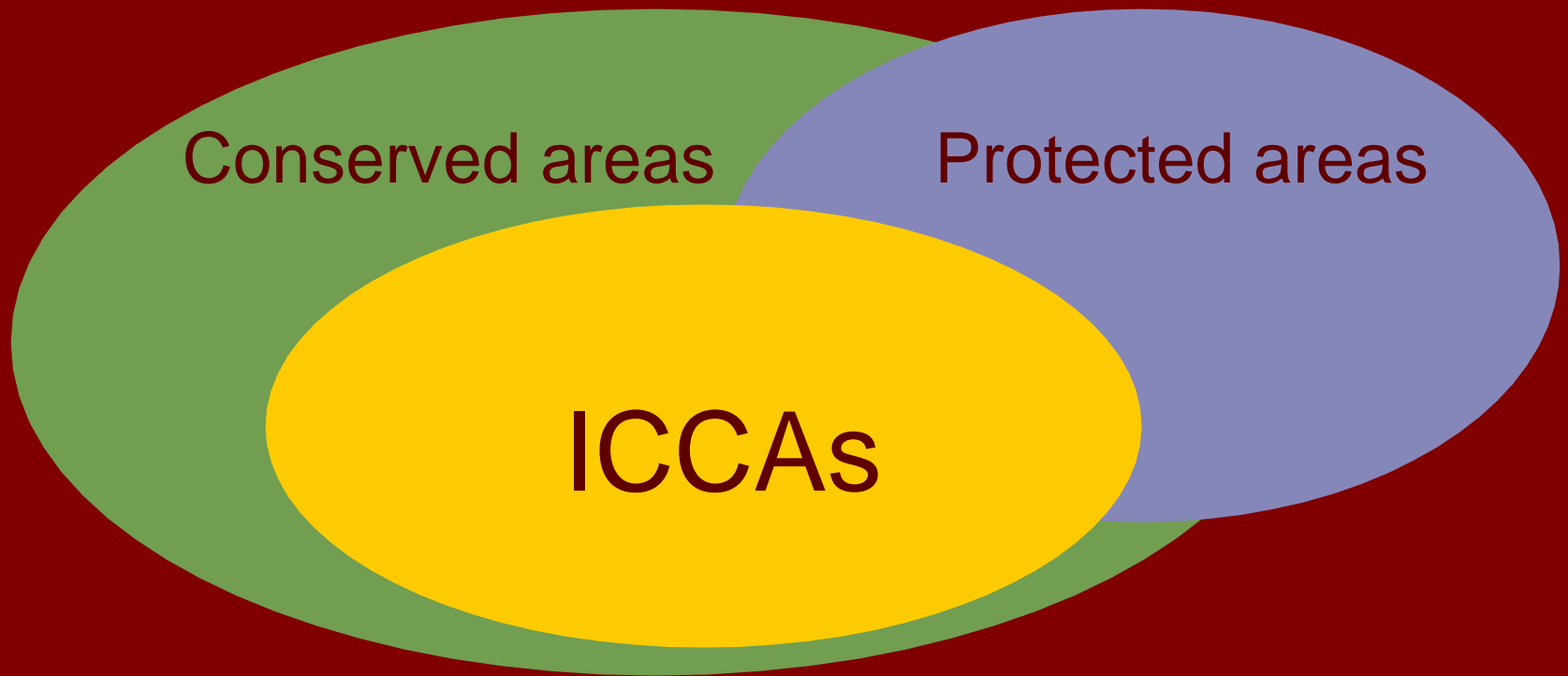
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IUCN Matrix of protected areas categories and governance types (IUCN Guidelines, 2008)

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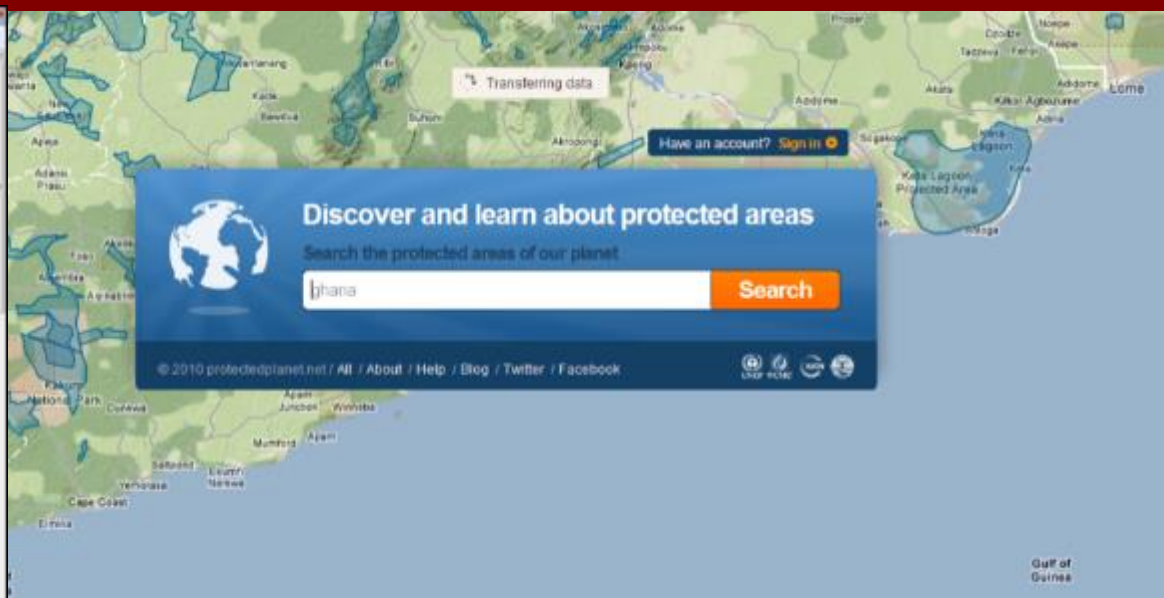
IUCN Matrix of protected areas categories and governance types (IUCN Guidelines, 2008)

[illegible]



- ICCAs can be recognized as “protected areas” (according to each country definition and legislation)...
- ...but many may not receive, or may not wish to accept, that recognition...
- ... they thus simply are “conserved areas” *de facto*... (“other effective area-based conservation measures” according to CBD Aichi Target 11)

- **UNEP WCMC** has developed a special **ICCA Registry** in conjunction with the WDPA and protected planet database where ICCAs can directly submit information for listing
- ICCAs can be registered as “protected areas”, but also only as “conserved areas”
- Communities provide FPIC to the process and are in control about who can see the information
- **Peer-review mechanisms** are being developed in as many countries **to validate** the ICCA entries...



ICCAs in CBD Decisions

Since 2004, CBD Parties have recognized ICCAs in decisions on the following topics:

- **Protected and conserved areas:** *ICCAs are a form of conservation and PA governance and fulfill the objectives of Target 11 (Decisions VII/28, IX/18, X/31, XI/24)*
- **Financial mechanisms and resource mobilization:** *ICCAs are a form of collective action, a non-market-based approach to achieving the CBD, and a priority for funding on conservation and protected areas*
 - *GEF and other donors should support ICCAs as distinct from national PA systems, incl. through: national recognition; the development of community protocols and community conservation plans; and documentation, mapping and registration in UNEP-WCMC Registry (Decisions VIII/18, VIII/24, IX/18, X/24, XI/14, XII/3)*
- **Traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use:** *contribute to effective conservation of important biodiversity sites, incl. through ICCAs (Decision XII/12)*



ICCAs in CBD Decisions

- **Sustainable development** *Parties need to appropriately recognize ICCAs (et al) as the basis for local biodiversity conservation plans and for achieving the SDGs (Decision XII/5)*

Ecosystem conservation and restoration *should be promoted in ICCAs, with support and incentives provided to indigenous peoples and local communities (Decision XII/19)*

Biodiversity and climate change *Parties should recognise the role of ICCAs in strengthening ecosystem connectivity and resilience, maintaining ecosystem services and supporting biodiversity-based livelihoods (Decision X/33)*

• **Agricultural biodiversity** *Parties should support conservation of wild relatives of cultivated crops and wild edible plants in ICCAs (Decision XI/24)*

• **Taxonomy** *inventories of all taxa should be undertaken in priority areas such as ICCAs (Decision XI/29)*



Responses at national level

- Very variable!
- In a spectrum in from *no response at all* to *establishing protected areas on top of the ICCAs to 'protect' them*
- ...there are also countries that recognize ICCAs and provide them with :
 - Legal support
 - Social support
 - Various other forms of support (documentation, capacity building, technical and/or financial support, etc....)... some are appropriate, but some can also be damaging...



Example: Australia

- ICCAs can be recognized as “Indigenous Protected Areas”. IPAs encompass land or sea collective owned by the Aboriginal traditional owners who have entered into an agreement with the Australian Government. The agreement implies a flow of benefits to the Aboriginal peoples.
- IPAs cover **well above 30 % of Australia’s protected estate**. The related communities report better health, social cohesion and higher school attendance. Huge demand to join the programme.



Example: Colombia



- IPs gained common rights to land and natural resources, autonomous governance, full respect for their cultures but **no subsoil rights** : their *resguardos* cover 34 million ha (30% of nat. territory and 80% of country's forests)
- 5 million ha collective property of Afro-colombian communities.
- **ICCAs are not recognized** on a par with protected areas. They can be recognized only if they agree to "shared governance" ...
- Difficult choices and source of conflicts for IPs and LCs... accept shared governance or be at the mercy of mining concessions?

Example: Senegal

- Decentralization law: rural municipalities can develop their own “conserved areas” in terrestrial environments
- Now also a few community-declared ICCA in the coastal & marine environment
- “ICCA” provide the only avenue to recognize collective rights and responsibility to a *community of users/ caretakers*...
- ...but awareness of decentralization law is limited, and lots is still to be clarified...



Example : **Canada**



- ICCAs are NOT legally recognized
- First Nations have declared Tribal Parks, Heritage Parks and Protected Areas: Nlaka'pamux; St'at'imc; Doig River; Haida; Tla-o-qui-aht....
- Security from industry only comes through the designation of co-managed Parks through Provincial or Federal Legislation; those without overlapping protection are still under threat (e.g., permits for mining explorations are currently being released)

Great potential for self governance, both terrestrially and in marine areas! Guardian programs already exist within Nations to monitor compliance; management plans & governance institutions exist for many Nations. What is needed is the political will to properly recognise them



Example: Philippines

- IPs can claim common rights to land and natural resources in Ancestral Domains (IPRA law)... rights need to be “proved” & approved ...and are often violated by mining, agricultural and forestry enterprises...
- March 2012 -- Manila Declaration --**ICCAs** affirmed as **strategic posture by KASAPI - largest IP coalition in the country**
- Government (DENR) and UNDP fully supports ICCAs as part of their CBD obligations, major national initiatives approved and on-going
- ICCA recognition strengthens IPs and adds an **extra layer of protection to their collective land rights**

- **New law on ICCAs** was read in Senate... & will now be re-introduced



- “What works” to protect and secure ICCAs (what have we learned in practice)?

Questions
for all of us:

- What should be done to strengthen and secure ICCAs (e.g., policies, initiatives....) ?

- What can we do?



Five working groups

- **Group 1:** mapping, documentation, demonstration of **conservation value & international listing** of ICCAs (with M. Taghi Farvar, Colleen Corrigan, Kim Sander Wright, Terence Hay-Edie)
- **Group 2:** consolidating & **securing livelihoods through sustainable use** of natural resources in ICCAs (with Vivienne Solis, Tanya Conlu, Eli Enns)
- **Group 3:** **diplomatic and legal action and policy advocacy** for ICCAs outside & inside protected areas (with Holly Jonas, Stan Stevens)
- **Group 4:** **strengthening and self-empowering of ICCA governance institutions** (with Grazia BF, Giovanni Reyes, Jessica Campese)
- **Group 5:** **resisting imposed destructive “development”** and enforcing **“No Go”** areas (with Carmen Miranda, Sutej Hugu, Isis Alvarez)



the ICCA Consortium (www.iccaconsortium.org)

- rooted in the movements that promoted equity in conservation, and the international policy recognition of ICCAs
- legally established in Switzerland in 2010 as a global, member-based association



- **mission** – to promote the *appropriate* recognition of ICCAs, and *appropriate* support to them...
- **members** – IP and LC federations, organizations and supporting NGOs (about 100 worldwide, from more than 50 countries)
- **honorary members** – individuals with capacities & concerns (about 300 worldwide)
- **partners** – IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, CBD Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC...



work

at local level
at national level
at international level



Work at local level

Aims: ICCA self-awareness and strength, increased capacity, security, resilience, self-determination...

Supported grassroots processes:

discussions, **analysis** of problems & opportunities, mapping, inventories, **documentation & demonstration** of the conservation values of ICCAs,

communication (videos & photo-stories, local radio, etc.), conception and implementation of **initiatives to strengthen and restore ICCAs** (GEF SGP funding and others), ICCA youth groups, self-monitoring of conservation & livelihoods results & governance vitality, **international listing** in UNEP WCMC Registry and WDPA



tools:

methodologies for grassroots discussions & photostories, “Resilience and Security Tool”, territorial, conservation & governance analyses, impact analyses...





ZIG'fm

100.8

www.zig-info.com



Work at national level

Aims: mutual solidarity & “critical mass” for effective advocacy for appropriate legislation, policy and practice in support of ICCAs, engaged civil society & leaders/ champions

Supported initiatives:

- Promotion and support to national ICCA working groups/ networks/ federations/ unions
- Information & capacity building events
- Exchange visits and collaboration
- Reports on “legal options” to recognize ICCAs
- Advocacy with technical agencies and policy makers for appropriate ICCA recognition and support
- National/regional governance evaluation processes (with IUCN)



Work at international level

Aim: enhanced recognition of the ICCA contributions to conservation of nature and culture, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, food sovereignty and security, collective rights and responsibilities and human wellbeing

Initiatives:

- **Technical publications** with CBD, IUCN and other UN bodies, and specific Policy Briefs
- Active presence at CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD COPs and other regional and international **events** (e.g. UNFPII, EMRIP, FAO meetings, IUCN WCC, Green List events, etc.)
- Regional and international **exchanges** among IPs and LCs and their key partners





The Traditional Owners of The Gully Aboriginal Place in Katoomba (the Blue Mountains Gundungurra Nations, the [Gungahlin Aboriginal Corporation](#), the [Kimberley Land Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service](#), the Blue Mountains City Council, the [World Network of Indigenous and Local Community Land and Sea Managers](#), the programme of [Vancouver Island University](#), [Macquarie University](#) and [CSIRO](#) are

Communities conserving nature and culture A gathering among Aboriginal Peoples, Indigenous Peoples and local communities from five continents

9-11 November 2014

Welcome to Katoomba— the heart of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Country of the Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wiradjuri, Wamandj, Darkinjung (New South Wales, Australia)



The Blue Mountains



8-9 November

"Continent Meetings"

Objectives

Identify examples of equitable and effective forms of recognition and support to community conserving nature and culture
Identify lessons learned from each continent

Results

A 20 minute presentation prepared by each continent "ready to go" for the Dialogue Day (11 Nov.)
One Elder from each continent appointed as co-chair for the Dialogue

Objectives

Meet with Traditional Owners
Experience the traditional knowledge of the WCC
Participate in the Dialogue

Results

Connection and understanding between Indigenous Peoples and the WCC



Enhancing Diversity, Quality and Vitality of Governance

Mejorar la Diversidad, Calidad y Vitalidad de la Gobernanza

Renforcer la diversité, qualité et vitalité de la gouvernance



... organising events at major policy meetings...



The [BSN Global Protected Areas Programme](#), the [Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), [UNEP-WCMC](#), [UNDP-GEF-SGP](#) and the [ICCA Consortium](#)— with the kind support of [Parks Australia](#), [Booderee National Park](#), New South Wales [Marine Parks and Jervis Bay Marine Park](#) and [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#), Jerringa Local Aboriginal Land Council and Shoalhaven Elders and Friends are pleased to announce:

Assessing, evaluating and planning to enhance the governance of protected area systems and individual sites

20 - 24 November 2014

Country of the Dharawal, Durga and Wollongong Nations (New South Wales, Australia)



As biodiversity becomes rarer and increasingly precious, protected areas— the jewel ecosystems, species, genetic diversity and associated values that societies agree to conserve— are becoming an ever more important focus of interest and concern, delight and conflict. In parallel, the conservation community has discovered "governance of protected areas", a concept that emerged at the World

... examples at WCC Sydney, 2014...

... providing policy advice on ICCAs and non-destructive ways to recognize and support them...



Bio-c



Aichi

The Contribution of Indigenous Peoples to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20, framed by Parties to the CBD at the 10th Conference of Parties in 2010, outlines an ambitious roadmap towards halting and reversing biodiversity loss across the planet. While clearly not a replacement for the Convention, which is a mix of policy, goals, strategies, actions, and guidance, the Strategic Plan is crucial for its implementation. The 20 'Aichi Targets' it encompasses understandably go beyond ecological and biological aspects, essential as they are, to also focus on the social-cultural, economic, and political elements of achieving this roadmap.

While all sectors of society have a role to play in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, indigenous peoples and local communities are central to it. This is not only because the lands and waters over which such peoples and communities have custodianship and/or customary



Effective Land Community Conservation

Consortium

Issue no. 2

The ICCA Consortium

MALIASILI INITIATIVES
EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE FOR NATURE

Cenesta

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

Resumen de Políticas de Consorcio TICCA

ejemplar no. 3

Producido en colaboración con el Programa de Estudios Rurales y Territoriales de la Facultad de Ingeniería de la Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala, el Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación y Desarrollo Alternativo (UVM) en Luján de México y CEMESTI, IICA.

Patrocinadores de la serie: Fondo Christensen y PNUD (M/PA 990)

Consorcio TICCA

THE CHRISTENSEN FUND

FAUSAC

Cenesta

...the Consortium is also very concerned with the defenders of the commons and ICCAs...

“More than three people were killed a week in 2015 defending their land, forests and rivers against destructive industries. ...the report On Dangerous Ground documented 185 killings across 16 countries – by far the highest annual death toll on record and more than double the number of journalists killed in the same period... Some are shot by police during protests, others gunned down by hired assassins.... in 2014 a shocking 40 % of victims were indigenous, with most people dying amid disputes over hydropower, mining and agri-business.” (Global Witness 2014 and 2015)





The Consortium believes it is a moral imperative to support those who— as a consequence of defending their commons and ICCAs—suffer discrimination, stigmatization and threats, intimidation, maiming and killing, forced displacement, confining and militarization of their territories...

That is why we are engaged in developing a Solidarity Alliance and Fund for the Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs

Strategic Approach of the ICCA Consortium

The Consortium works by promoting and connecting *initiatives at local, national, regional and international levels.*

- Locally, it identifies and helps to document **exemplary ICCA cases**, and supports **champions and leaders**.
- Nationally, it engages its Members to develop **federations and coalitions** (including "national ICCA Consortiums") and to promote appropriate **legislation and policies** in support of ICCAs.
- Regionally, it engages Members in **analysis of structural conditions** and in providing **mutual support**.
- Internationally it affirms and demonstrates ICCAs as key means towards **conserving nature, achieving sustainable livelihoods and fulfilling rights**.



ICCAs help countries to meet the **CBD Aichi Targets for Biodiversity** as part of a broad focus on **improving the diversity and quality of governance for protected areas**. The ICCA Consortium is co-organising Stream VI, on that very topic, at the Sixth World Parks Congress (Sydney, Australia, November 2014).

For **indigenous peoples and local communities**, ICCAs are essential ground in the struggle for **self-determination**, and for **sustainable livelihoods**.



Key publications since 2010

(available in several languages from www.iccaconsortium.org)



Recognising and Supporting Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Global Overview & National Case Studies



Bio-cultural Diversity Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities - Examples and analysis



An Analysis of International Law, National Legislation, Judgements, and Institutions as they Interrelate with ICCAs



Governance of Protected Areas - From understanding to action. IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 20

Becoming a Member of the ICCA Consortium

Becoming a Member of the ICCA Consortium is becoming part of a network that promotes the exchange of experience and the taking of concrete action jointly planned and implemented by indigenous peoples, local communities and their supporting partners around the world. Our common voice carries more weight in international and national advocacy initiatives. And the mutual advice and support that we encourage among indigenous leaders, community leaders, activists, researchers and progressive government officials and policy makers have proven helpful in many occasions.

We encourage membership application by **local, national, regional and international networks and coalitions of indigenous peoples and local communities that work to have their territories, areas and natural resources recognised and secured under their control and conservation.**



The Consortium does NOT require that its Members are legally recognised: customary and social recognition are appropriate and sufficient.

The application procedure to join the Consortium is simple:

- Your organisation officials write a letter to the Consortium President and/or Global Coordinator asking to join and describing your work in support of ICCAs.
- The Steering Committee (10 people, elected by the General Assembly) and the Members of the Consortium may raise questions in a delay period. If no issue is raised, your organization becomes Member to all effects and is notified by email.

As of 2013, the Consortium's membership fee is US\$50 (or €40) per year, which can be waived if the organization has no means to pay and writes a letter requesting that.

For more information, please visit the Consortium's website and/or write to the Programme Assistant and/or to the Coordinator for your region.

WWW

website: www.iccaconsortium.org



Blog: iccaconsortium.wordpress.com



Facebook: ICCA Consortium



Twitter: ICCA Consortium



Email: info@iccaconsortium.org

The ICCA Consortium

This leaflet was produced by the ICCA Consortium. Pictures courtesy of Ang Bahodur Lama, Ashish Kothari, Aurelie Neumann and Grazia Bonini-Feyerabend. Design by Jeyran Farvar and Grazia Bonini-Feyerabend. Production: CENESTA, Tehran, May 2013.

Indigenous Peoples' & Community Conserved Territories & Areas ICCAs

A close association is often found between a specific indigenous people or local community and a specific territory, area or body of natural resources. When such an association is combined with effective local governance and conservation of nature, we speak of "ICCAs".

For many people and communities that relationship is much richer than it can be expressed in words. It is a bond of livelihood, energy and health. It is a source of identity and culture, autonomy and freedom. It is the connecting tie among generations, preserving memories from the past, and connecting those to the desired future. It is the ground on which communities learn, identify values and develop self-rules. For many it is also a connection between visible and invisible realities, material and spiritual wealth. With territory and nature goes life, dignity and self-determination as peoples.





In the last decades, ICCAs have become known and recognised as essential features for the conservation of nature, under attack by a variety of economic and political forces on the planet. They include cases of

continuation, revival or modification of traditional practices, some of which are of ancient origin, as well as new initiatives, such as restoration of ecosystems and innovative uses of resources taken up by indigenous peoples and local communities in the face of new threats or opportunities.

The ICCA Consortium

The ICCA Consortium is *an international association dedicated to promoting the appropriate recognition of, and support to, ICCAs*. Its Members are indigenous peoples' organisations and federations, community organisations at various levels, and civil society organisations working closely with them. Its Honorary members are individuals with relevant expertise and commitment.

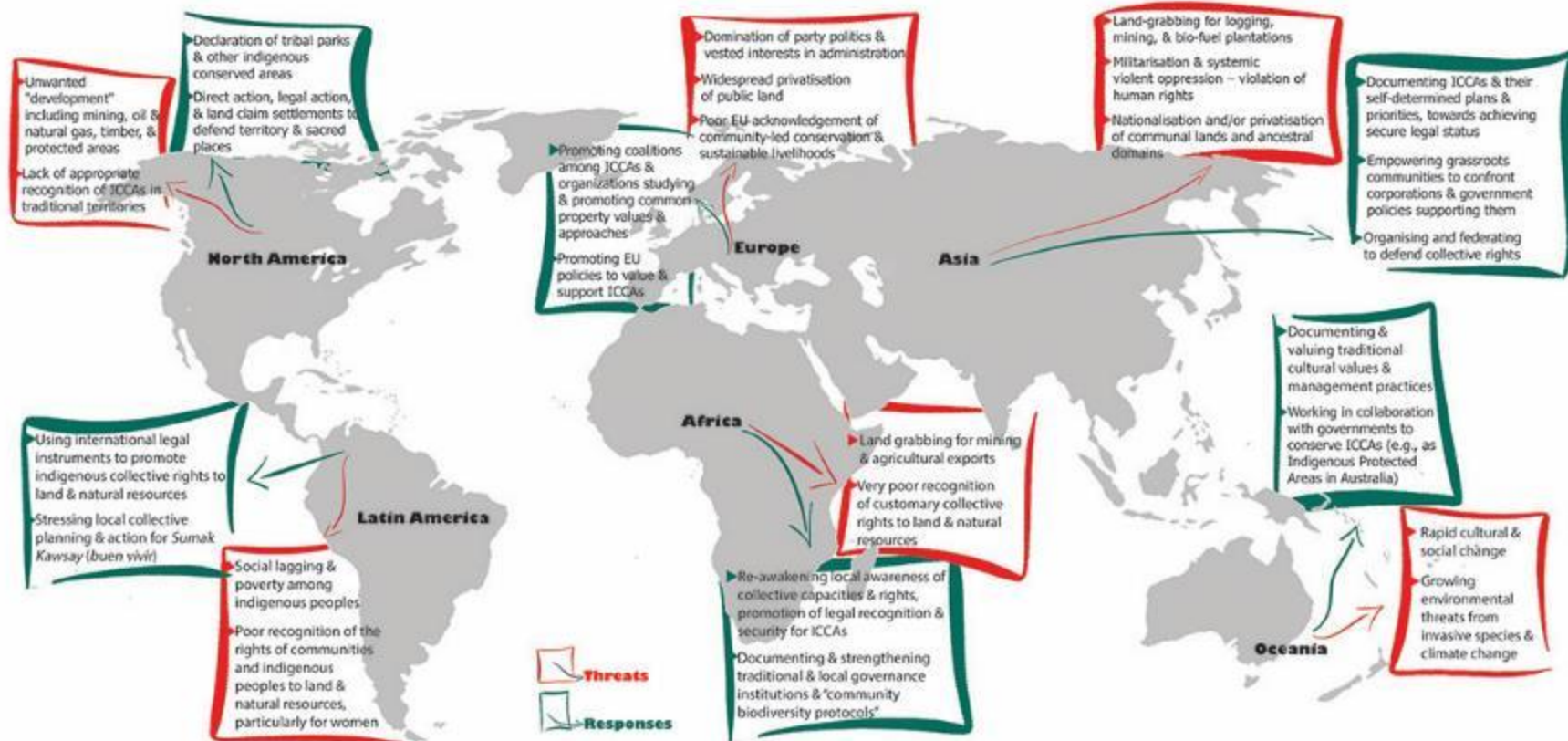
The activities of the Consortium range from supporting local, ICCA-based initiatives to promoting appropriate international and national policies and practices, from strengthening capacities to carrying

out research initiatives and developing technical publications. The Consortium staff work on a semi-volunteer basis. As a global institution, the Consortium collaborates with the Secretariat of the CBD,

GEF SGP, IUCN, UNEP WCMC, research and advocacy organisations, and UN mechanisms promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, and human rights and collective rights in general. The Consortium is established in Switzerland under Article 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code.



EXAMPLES of THREATS to ICCAs & RESPONSES by INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & LOCAL COMMUNITIES HIGHLIGHTED & SUPPORTED by the CONSORTIUM



 www.ICCAconsortium.org

