

# **The ICCA Consortium**



Consortium Members and partners gather in the Ecuadorian Andes to visit a local ICCA

**2015** Annual Report

## Executive summary

The year 2015 marks a major event for the Consortium: the **coming to fruition of the Global ICCA Support Initiative (GSI** for short)—an objective we consciously pursued since our establishment and that filled us with enthusiasm and pride. And yet, the slow and uneven pace of the initiative managed to tax the patience of everyone involved. The initiative was to begin originally in January 2014, then July 2014, then January 2015... The Consortium carried out expected activities throughout 2014 without any financial support from UNDP / UNOPS (we fundraised otherwise) but was more than ready to start normal activities in January 2015. We went to the point of organising an inception event to mark the beginning of GSI... but a variety of issues and the coincident beginning of the UNDP GEF SGP Operational Program 6 (OP6) resulted in us signing the work agreement with UNOPS only in late June 2015 (for a retroactive beginning in January). We wish to be upfront about this as an underling condition to the work for six out of the twelve months of 2015, which actually "linked" to another external challenge: the fact that we had to fit the OP6 agenda and priorities, which in several cases seemed to adjust with difficulty to the "territorial" perspective brought about by GSI.

Despite less than ideal conditions, we managed to make some impressive strides and geared up for all the GSI work to come. We developed the **methodology and work plan for the regional ICCA initiatives**, which we successfully employed in Indonesia, Madagascar and Ecuador, as well as the broad **Terms of Reference for the national strategic/ catalytic work** in support of ICCAs. We offered **ICCA experience**, analyses and dedicated training in regional and international events. We expanded national activities in several countries. We provided technical assistance to UNEP WCMC and IUCN. We produced **three films and various reports**. And we opened up **two entirely new lines of work**. The first one is on **ICCAs and land rights**—for which we affiliated with ILC, took part in international discussions and developed the Consortium Policy Brief no.2. The second one is on **solidarity with the defenders of the commons and ICCAs**—for which we commissioned several region-specific analyses, developed dedicated gatherings and press releases, and developed a partnership with several other organisations that is bearing fruits in 2016.

## 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, UNEP 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 implementing the 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

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and outreach mechanisms, such as publications in three languages, a <u>rich and regularly maintained</u> <u>web-site</u>, 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 available in **English**, **Spanish** and **French**) and the **Strategy document** that evolved from it (also 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 persons that provide time as regional coordinators, global 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, two persons are full volunteers and others fairly regularly collaborate as volunteers or semi-volunteers. Only on the occasion of international events do some members of the Steering Committee and staff have a chance to meet and physically work together. These opportunities are rare, but extremely valuable.

We will list in this report only activities and accomplishments where staff and members of the Steering Committee of the Consortium have taken part. It should be noted, however, that an important component 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, which we hope sometime to be able to inspire, and to which we regularly collaborate as supporters and advisors.

## Consortium main accomplishments January-December 2015

The work of the Consortium develops following an evolving Work Plan and Budget that adjusts to ongoing constraints and opportunities. Here are the main activities carried out in 2015.

#### A. Planning and active collaborations for the GSI programme

We insisted with the GSI Project Manager to hold a GSI inception meeting as early as possible in 2015, and it became possible on 27 - 30th January in Gland and Rolle (Switzerland). The meeting allowed a useful discussion of definitions and basic processes for the GSI. It was attended by twenty-one individuals affiliated with the implementing partners of the Initiative, namely, besides the Consortium and UNDP GEF SGP, the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (GPAP), the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Equator Initiative, which is currently coordinating the World Indigenous Network (WIN). The meeting was held at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Headquarters and at a nearby facility. Four days of explanations, discussions, presentations and group work resulted in a greater understanding of the definition and complexities of ICCAs, and an agreement on a timeline of activities for the four implementing partners to carry out throughout 2015. Attendees heard about ICCA examples from Central America, Ecuador, Iran, China, the Philippines, Kenya, Namibia and other countries. The Consortium provided the local planning and much of the local organisation of the meeting in conjunction with UNOPS and the IUCN. The Consortium also developed and distributed the Report of the meeting.

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Unfortunately, following the GSI inception meeting, it still took five months to complete our relevant contract, which was finalised only in late June 2015. This did not impede us from carrying out activities from January-June 2015, but the uncertainty about funding limited our capacity to develop and sign contracts and created a technical, administrative and financial backlog. This challenge notwithstanding, we engaged in GSI activities well before end of June 2015, including by running five ICCA-days in five diverse regional GEF SGP events, by organising a dedicated ICCA national event and



field-based initiative in Zambia and by organising a seminal planning initiative in Ecuador, where Consortium Regional Coordinators and GEF SGP National Coordinators gathered in South America in the spring of 2015. This meeting was particularly useful as it allowed the Consortium to

facilitate a joint analysis of needs that enabled the development of the *Terms of Reference (ToRs) of a strategic/ proactive/ catalytic initiative to provide strategic support to ICCAs* in the countries covered by GSI work package 1 (and beyond). From July to September 2015, the Consortium worked closely with the GSI Manager to refine the ToRs which were finally agreed in English, and provided also in Spanish and French.

In March 2015 the Consortium helped to organise another GSI planning event at UNEP WCMC (Cambridge, UK) to discuss key issues surrounding the ICCA Registry. The meeting was managed by UNEP WCMC and included discussion of topics such as: governance and management of the ICCA Registry; implications of registration in different contexts (e.g. Europe and the Philippines); registration of various forms of governance of protected areas and "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECMs); need to strengthen the visibility of ICCAs in the next UNEP's Global Biodiversity Outlook publication; value of the Registry for ICCAs (an "additional layer of protection"?); the ICCA Registry vis-à-vis the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA); the role of an ICCA Registry Steering Committee (separate but linked to the WDPA steering committee); etc.. The ICCA Consortium representatives presented their experiences with national networking processes. A decision was taken to revise, update and improve the ICCA Registry website.

During the Cambridge meeting, the Consortium agreed to explore on a country-basis the possible options for a peer-to-peer validation process for ICCAs, in broad consultation with Consortium coordinators, Members and partners. In line with that, a draft document on the methodology of a peer-to-peer national process for the revision/ validation of an ICCA was prepared for the case of Spain and circulated for comment and review. This led to the understanding that the variety of existing cultural, social and political conditions of countries engaging with GSI is such that a "single process" for peer validation/ endorsement is both unrealistic and undesirable. It was then agreed that— among the tasks of the national ICCA networks to be facilitated by the national strategic/proactive/ catalytic organisation-- will be the one of devising an appropriate process to select/evaluate/endorse ICCAs for international registration.

Throughout the year, planning meetings were also held with staff of the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme in particular to draw up plans for work and provide advice on country-specific initiatives, especially in Ecuador and the Philippines. The Consortium assisted in developing a work plan for Iran (now approved as the basis of an assigned contract) and delivered a report summarising advice on programmatic priorities for Latin America. It also provided direct assistance to an IUCN consultant in

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Ecuador and to organising events and presentations during the Latin American IUCN members' meeting (Quito, Ecuador, August 2015). Even before the beginning of the GSI IUCN component, the Consortium was active to prepare for it. Since 2014 it has collaborated with GPAP to base the Consortium Assistant. Ms. Emma Courtine, in the IUCN Regional Office for South America in Quito (Ecuador), which took place early in 2015. Shortly after her arrival, in April 2015, the Consortium organised in the IUCN Quito office a workshop entitled *Governance of protected areas: from understanding to action*, which focused on concepts and methodologies to analyse, evaluate and take action to improve the governance of systems of protected areas. The meeting revolved around an interactive presentation by the ICCA Consortium Global Coordinator and was attended by about twenty-five people, including representatives of IUCN member organisations, a representative of the Ecuadorian Shuar Arutam people, experts from the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador, UNDP GEF SGP officials and representatives of the Social Equity Team of IUCN, among others. On the



occasion of the meeting, discussions were held that foresaw Ecuador as one of the countries on which IUCN could focus its GSI work.

After GSI funding became available to the Consortium in the second six-month period of 2015, remained in close we coordination with the ICCA GSI Project Management Unit (PMU) but also started a more frequent direct interaction with the GEF SGP Country Coordinators of diverse countries (e.g., Indonesia,

Vietnam, East Timor, Madagascar, Comoros, Namibia, Kenya, Colombia, Brazil, Morocco, Argentina, Senegal, Guinea, DRC, China... and more). Special visits and meetings were held on several occasions.

Towards the end of 2015, the Consortium facilitated the organisation of the GSI Technical Advisory Group meeting (23 November 2015), where it provided a broad outline of a "theory of change" for the GSI intervention and a work plan for GSI implementation in 2016. The meeting was attended by the GEF SGP Global Manager and GSI Biodiversity Programme Advisor.

#### B. International policy advocacy

An important follow-up to the recommendations of the Sydney World Parks Congress of 2014 is the engagement with international policies beyond the conservation policy (e.g., IUCN Resolutions, CBD decisions) on which the Consortium built its original work and reputation. In 2015, it was decided to structure our international policy work around **seven new Working Groups on Law and Policy** which were established and accompanied to become active. The groups are expected to develop their own focused approaches to foster the appropriate recognition of ICCAs in diverse international processes (e.g. climate change, food security, land rights, etc.). Obviously, however, while some Working Groups focus on policy areas where relationships, initiatives and achievement are well established and need only continuing and consolidating, for others work has started from an blank canvas. Still in others, work needed refocusing and re-adjusting. Below is an account of the diverse groups and the key activities they carried out in 2015.

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#### ICCAs and land and water law and policy

The Consortium worked on ICCAs and land, water and natural resource rights sustaining an active presence (e.g., attending meetings, organising side events, etc.) at the Global Land Forum (Dakar, Senegal, April 2015), the World Water Week (Stockholm, August 2015) and at the Land and Resource Rights event organised by RRI in September 2015 (Bern, Switzerland). At the International Land Coalition's 2015 Global Land Forum in Dakar we took the opportunity to organise and run a side event which included discussion in line with our follow-up to Sydney 2014. The event looked at the important possible links between conservation and land rights advocacy and was useful and well attended. It included three presentations about the experience of IPs and LCs from the Philippines, Kenya and Iran who used their conservation capacity, commitment and results to advocate for communal land, water and natural resource rights. A panel that included prominent land rights advocates provided comments and insights before the audience discussion. After attending the Global Land Forum in Dakar, the Consortium decided to internally discuss, confirm, finalise, obtain sponsors for, and submit the application to become a member of the International Land Coalition (ILC)—an application that was readily approved.

Significantly marking our commitment, we then produced and diffused the <u>Consortium Policy Brief on Collective Land Tenure and Community Conservation</u> (see later in the Publications section).

#### ICCAs and climate change and energy law and policy

Key activities included: participation in CBD Technical Workshop on Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, September/October 2015; participation in 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (December); and work on the Policy Brief and companion document on ICCAs, climate change and disaster risk reduction (still in progress in 2016). The Consortium was present at UNFCCC in Paris (December 2015) in much *less* strength than originally envisioned. We took this conscious decision in light of the amount of resources poured from all sides into the meeting and the resulting diminished hope of having significant visibility or impact

due to the relatively modest investment we could make for our participation. We rightly considered that the organisation Members of the Consortium that had participated in the negotiation processes were attending in their own capacity and would bring the ICCA message along (see a <u>summary report</u> of that). Given the circumstances, we felt that the resources earmarked for travel and



accommodation in Paris could be saved and better employed in 2016. We are still committed to bring to completion the Policy Brief and companion document on ICCAs, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

#### ICCAs and food and agriculture law and policy

Key activities included: preparation of a written submission to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on agriculture and sustainable development (August 2015); participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> FAO World Forestry Congress (Durban, South Africa, September 2015); participation in 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, Italy, October 2015); and participation in Indigenous Terra Madre international event (Shillong, Meghalaya, India, October 2015). The latter participation included a specific presentation and contributions to the event's conclusions with a stress on

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community governance of land, water and natural resources. We started collective study material for a Consortium Policy Brief on ICCAs and Food Sovereignty, with which we hope to engage with FAO food security policies. Throughout 2015, we supported work towards a Policy Brief on ICCAs in Europe and the impact of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy on that. This work managed to gather interest in the Consortium from activists and peoples we would not have met otherwise... although the Policy Brief is still under development.

### ICCAs and sustainable development policy

The activities of this Working Group remained relatively low key, although some of our Members brought the Consortium to participate in the UN Summit for Adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda; the Open Working Group on post-2015 process and Sustainable Development Goals and the expert group meetings on development of indicators for the SDGs. A few articles in mainstream and social media about the SDGs and financing were offered by our Members.

#### ICCAs and indigenous peoples' rights and human rights

Key activities included: participation in the EMRIP meeting in Geneva in July; on-going work on a Policy Brief and companion document on ICCAs and overlapping protected areas (almost finalised) and preliminary discussion of a Policy Brief on ICCAs & the collective rights and responsibilities of indigenous peoples.

#### ICCAs and standards and safeguards for finance and business

Key activities included: press release on the defenders of the commons on World Ranger Day and preparatory concept note and meeting at 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples held in Geneva (July); commissioning, commenting upon and diffusion of three regional surveys on the victimisation of the defenders of the commons and ICCAs in <u>Asia</u>, <u>Africa</u> and <u>Latin America</u>; participation in 4th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights (Geneva, Switzerland, November); organisation of an international gathering/ workshop held at the IUCN HQ in November 2015 dedicated to exploring the need and possible specifics of a <u>Solidarity Action and Fund for</u>



Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs. The attended meeting was by twenty-one organisations from around the interested in a possible alliance of partner organisations that could take on the responsibility of establishing it, accompanying it and setting it to function; follow up to the meeting and development of an initiative circulated and revised following specific comments.

### **ICCAs and conservation of nature**

Key activities included: written submissions to the CBD on agriculture and sustainable development (August); submission of several event proposals for IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016 (September), of which a number were accepted; participation in CBD meetings on ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (September); participation in 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GEF Council and Consultation with Civil Society Organisations (Washington, DC, October); participation in SBSTTA and WG8(j), including preparation of detailed guidance notes on

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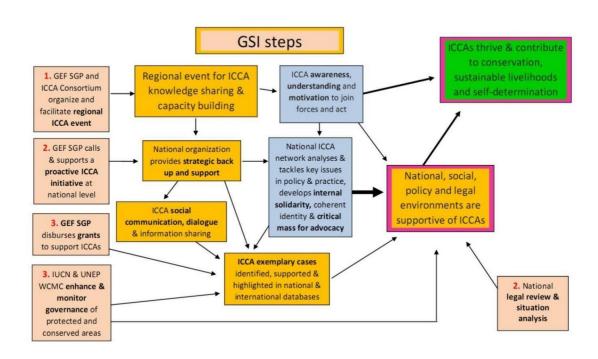
negotiations and side event on collective action, ICCAs and the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (November 2015). Results continue to be good in conservation policy. Relationships with the CBD Secretariat towards the full recognition of ICCAs as either protected or conserved areas expanded thanks to the ongoing active engagement of our President and others during SBSTTA meetings and CBD events. The Consortium Coordinator for the Andean-Amazon region volunteered to serve as focal point for the Consortium for capacity building for CBD in 2016. A written submission to the CBD on the topic of ICCAs and collective action was compiled with inputs from several Consortium affiliates and submitted to CBD, upon their call.

## C. Support to local, country and region-specific ICCA initiatives

As mentioned, the Consortium developed the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of a strategic/ proactive/ catalytic initiative to provide facilitation and support to ICCAs in the countries covered by GSI work package 1 (and beyond). In 2015, the ToRs were finalised, agreed upon and begun to be distributed to a number of GEF SGP countries throughout the world. In accordance with the theory of change espoused by the Consortium for its work with GSI and summarised in Figure 1 below, after the regional ICCA events considered to be "step 1.", the ToRs for the national strategic/ catalytic initiative are essential for step 2. In fact, the regional ICCA events spur ICCA awareness, understanding and motivation to join forces and act (interestingly, the approach of having country teams of key ICCA actors engaged in such events has been universally appreciated) and the national strategic/ catalytic initiatives are supposed to immediately build upon the energy generated and the relevant work plans. Two of the regional events held during 2015 (Madagascar and Colombia) were almost immediately followed by the call for a national strategic/ catalytic initiative and we expect good processes and results to unfold. Other concerned countries—including Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru— have been suffering delays and lack of clarity regarding what is possible and desirable, possibly dampening the momentum generated by the regional events. In mid 2016, only Indonesia and Vietnam seemed to be catching up.

Figure 1:

## Strategic outline of GSI interventions



The crucial element in the strategic support to foster a national socio-political and legal environment supportive of ICCAs is the provision of impulse for the creation or strengthening of ICCA networks—e.g., ICCA Working Groups, coalitions or federations or even focused discussion forums dedicated to understanding and advancing ICCA work in the country at stake. Such networks are expected to generate a critical mass of thinking, advocacy and action. In 2015, with or without GSI support, the



Consortium managed to advance this agenda in *Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Iran, Madagascar, the Philippines, Senegal, Spain and Taiwan (Province of China)*. In other countries, such as Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam and Zambia, only some first steps were taken. In particular, the Consortium has accompanied and assisted a new Association for the defence and promotion

of ICCAs (ANAPAC) among indigenous peoples in the *Democratic Republic of Congo*, the recently-created Indigenous Peoples Coalition (TICTU) in *Taiwan (Province of China)* (see pages 26 and 27 here) and a new Working Group on ICCAs in *Vietnam*, uniting relevantly concerned organisations and experts. A specific Law on ICCAs is at its third successful reading in the Senate of the *Philippines* (entered in limbo because of impending political elections). A group of lawyers is working in *Madagascar* with the ICCA national coalition Tafo Mihaavo to develop specific legislation on the fokonolona as rightful governing bodies of community territories. The network in *Spain* has developed a national protocol to validate ICCAs nationally before submitting their application for listing in the UNEP WCMC Registry and WDPA. Notably, there are healthy national variations in the way in which ICCAs and the networks are named and defined (e.g., in Colombia ICCAs are *Territorios para la vida*, in Ecuador they are *Territorios del buen vivir*, etc.)

Activities at regional level began with "ICCA awareness days" as part of five GEF SGP regional meetings to launch Operational Programme 6 (OP6) in January-June 2015. Special days to introduce and discuss ICCAs and ICCA GSI were dedicated by the GEF SGP CPMT as part of their regional OP6 events and the Consortium animated those days to convey experience and support in planning as follows:

- SGP Asia-Pacific regional workshop Thailand (February 2015). Attended by Neema Pathak-Broome (ICCA Consortium Regional Coordinator for South Asia) and Dave de Vera (honorary member and representative of a founding Member of the Consortium)
- SGP LAC regional workshop Dominican Republic (March 2015). Attended by Lorena Arce (ICCA
  Consortium Regional Coordinator for the Cono Sur & Focal Point for the Latin America region) and
  Felipe Gomez (member of Consortium Steering Committee)
- SGP Anglophone Africa regional workshop Zambia (April 2015). Attended by Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (ICCA Consortium Global Coordinator) and Mordecai Ogada (prospective ICCA Consortium Regional Coordinator for East and Southern Africa)
- SGP Arab States + CIS regional workshop Jordan (May 2015). Attended by Taghi Farvar (ICCA Consortium President).

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 SGP Francophone Africa regional workshop – Morocco (June 2015). Attended by Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (ICCA Consortium Global Coordinator) and Joseph Itongwa (ICCA Consortium Regional Coordinator for Forest Ecosystems Central Africa)

Three regional ICCA events as part of the overall GSI planning were held in English, French and Spanish, respectively, and include:

Regional ICCA Knowledge Sharing & Capacity-building Event in Southeast Asia, Lombok (Indonesia), August 17-22, 2015 -- The event engaged country teams from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines and the GEF SGP Coordinator from East Timor (51 participants). The event report



and work plans produced there are available here.

2. Atelier de **Partage** des connaissances et de renforcement des capacités sur les APAC, with workshop in Mantasoa, field visit in Andasibe and restitution in Antananarivo, Madagascar, 13-17 September 2015 --The event engaged one country team from Madagascar and the GEF SGP Coordinators from Comoros and Mauritius (73



participants). The event report, work plan produced and the declaration delivered in Antananarivo by Tafo Mihaavo—the national ICCA network of Madagascar – are <u>available here</u>.

3. Primer Taller de Intercambio sobre los TICCA de la Región Andina-Amazónica en América del Sur, Puerto Lopez (Ecuador), 30 November- 5 December 2015 -- The event engaged 13 representatives from *Ecuador*, 5 from *Colombia*, 5 from *Peru*, 2 from *Brazil* and 6 from *Bolivia*. The Consortium coordinators from the Southern Cone and Mesoamerica were also present to facilitate the future prospects of developing the same kind of meeting in their regions. The event report and work plans produced are available here.



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Significantly, as the funding provided by GSI for events was always limited, in all cases the Consortium had to do **extra (separate) fundraising** and/ or provide direct financial support to the initiative. This required developing separate project contracts and providing extra services to justify the funding received in support of the ICCA regional events.

#### **South and East Asia**

In India, the focus remained on supporting awareness and implementation of the Forest Rights Act, with a specific focus on community forest rights, as part of networks and via the dissemination of information, case studies and reports and advice to a number of grassroots organisations. In the first half of 2015, a significant activity that took place in **Taiwan** (Province of China) was the birth of TICTU (Taiwan Indigenous Conserved Territories Union)—an inter-tribal network that focuses on strategic actions for tribal sovereignty, eco-occupation, de facto governance, and management of the commons. TICTU participated in the National Environmental NGOs Consensus Meeting in April and proclaimed there its basic position on indigenous peoples' rights and roles in conserving their traditional territories. The Consortium provided impulse and support to the development of TICTU, which went along with analyses of a number of possible ICCA sites in Taiwan (Province of China) as well as exchanges with other indigenous peoples in the region (Jeju, Okinawa, etc.). Several meetings and events discussing ICCAs were held throughout 2015.



An ICCA capacity building event actually took place in mid-April 2015 in **China**, in the town of Guangxi, among 55 representatives from 18 community conserved areas from all over China and enjoying the support of the East Asia Consortium Regional Coordinator. The participants

attended a two-day capacity building workshop with lecturers from Taiwan (Province of China) and the Sichuan Province (China) who shared their experience in management and sustainable use of natural resources. As part of the event, the participants established themselves as a **Guangxi ICCA Consortium** and planned exchange visits in the near future as an important, though likely irregular, communication mechanism. After the workshop, the participants visited Qunan village, whose ICCA is supported by Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association, a Member of the global ICCA Consortium. About 50 White Head Langur live in the Qunan'a community forest. In order to protect this endangered species and its habitat, the community created a patrolling team composed of fifteen young people and elected a management committee to be responsible for daily monitoring and coordination. The Working Group on ICCAs in China began preparations to host a national conference on ICCAs in 2016. Communications with local communities, government agencies, academics, and civil NGOs improved following the translation of three key ICCA publications into Chinese.

The Consortium keeps exploring the possibility of engaging in ICCA initiatives in **Mongolia**. In **Vietnam**, a new **Working Group on ICCAs in Vietnam** was established and discussions on ICCA initiatives are being developed. More widely in the region, a project proposal for a Regional Learning Network on ICCAs was initiated. In **Indonesia**, the Consortium has provided support to the **Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia** (WGII) to continue its documentation of ICCAs and registration of indigenous territories with the Ancestral Domain Registration Agency (BRWA). WGII has become an active advocate in the process of influencing the revision of the basic laws regarding the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. It conducted multi-stakeholder dialogues in Papua and Kalimantan on

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the best way to mainstream IP rights and practices in governing protected areas. The results of these local dialogues will influence the direction of the national-level dialogue that is being organised for early 2016. It is expected that these discussions will help identify new solutions for the equitable governance of protected areas and ICCAs within and outside those. A second volume of ICCA case studies and examples is also in process.

In the **Philippines**, the Consortium has supported crucial legislative hearings (see the picture on the right) that took place in the country Senate about new specific legislation on ICCAs. A number of initiatives were also supported in the field waiting for the start of Phase 2 of a UNDP-funded project focusing on ICCAs.



#### Mesoamerica North America and the Caribbean

In **Mesoamerica**, a national network of ICCAs has been active and seeking resources to expand and consolidate its role in Guatemala, with the leadership and support provided by the Consortium's Member Oxlajuj Ajpop. Several organising meetings took place. A fishermen's network has been nourished in Costa Rica and neighbouring countries. A new Coordinator for indigenous peoples in the region was identified and recruited by the Consortium, while a renowned expert on the commons in Mesoamerica (honorary member of the Consortium) was contracted to prepare a historical analysis of ICCAs in the region as a background for the forthcoming regional event foreseen as part of GSI in 2016. The new Consortium coordinator engaged several communities to discuss ICCAs and link among themselves in *Mexico*. This is not yet a network, but has good hopes of becoming one.

2015 was a year of elections in Canada, but First Nations on northern Vancouver Island prepared themselves to register 20 high biodiversity marine areas identified through marine planning as ICCAs.

#### **South America**

A milestone of the work of the Consortium in South America was the GSI inception workshop held in Tabacundo (Ecuador) in April 2015. This meeting gathered Latin America GEF SGP and Consortium Coordinators to discuss expected roles, activities and results and the overall strategic approach to national initiatives as part of ICCA GSI. The results of the workshop are useful well beyond the region, as they allowed the surfacing of important unresolved issues and the development of the first draft of

the "proactive ICCA initiatives" to play a strategic role in support of ICCAs, which later evolved as ToRs for National Strategic Support to ICCAs. On the occasion of the Tabacundo event, the Consortium also organised a workshop at the IUCN Regional Office for South America in Quito, also in preparation for the GSI work of IUCN, and an internal meeting for the Members and staff of the Consortium in Latin America.

In the Amazon region the Consortium engaged in first steps towards developing regional and national ICCA networks, which unfortunately tend to all focus on a strategy of resistance to extractive activities, which are both frequent and disruptive of the environment and livelihoods of indigenous territories. Specific impact-related tools were prepared and tested early in 2015. A regional workshop on "Extractivism and mega infrastructure



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projects: impacts and alternatives on/for ICCAs" was planned and is expected to be held in Rurrenabaque (Bolivia) in 2016 in collaboration with UNDP SGP and the WIN Program. Extensive contacts were initiated and maintained with potential Consortium Members and partners in view of GSI initiatives to come, and a number of field visits were carried out to ICCAs in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador (e.g., to the Achuar Sharamentza community in Ecuador). A database of potential ICCAs in Ecuador was initiated.

Two new Coordinators for Brazil and Colombia were identified and recruited in 2015 and they engaged with existing networks to inform them and encourage them to develop their own understandings of ICCAs (e.g. as "territorios de vida" or "territorios del buen vivir"). Late November/early December saw the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Consortium. Held in **Ecuador**, alongside the Regional Planning Meeting, this was the first GA to be held in the Americas, and mainly in Spanish. The minutes are <u>available here</u>. The GA also provided a chance for an internal meeting among Coordinators and members of the Steering Committee to plan together for the specific activities to be held in 2016 in Latin America.



In **Chile**, the Consortium assisted in calling for and holding various meetings among IP representatives in preparation for a final workshop where a document of recommendations was prepared about the law that creates a new Service of Biodiversity and PAs and the National System of PAs in Chile. In April 2015, the document was formally submitted to Senators and the Minister of the Environment. Funds and an alert were raised to support the Quinquén Community (a Consortium Member) to confront a huge fire in the

nearby National Reserve that affected also the ICCA and its ancient araucaria trees. Meetings were held with: Consejo Intercultural de Co Manejo del Parque Nahuel Huapi (including several Mapuche people); the Consejo Plurinacional (that represents different indigenous people: Kolla, Warpe, Mbya Guarani, Qom and Mapuche); and the Fundación Cambio Democrático. The aim was to strengthen the indigenous networks in Argentina.

## **Anglophone Africa**

An ICCA field visit and an ICCA-dedicated workshop for national partners were organised in Zambia back-to-back with the above-mentioned OP6 event and in collaboration with UNDP GEF SGP Zambia. This provided the Consortium with insights into the Zambian context and key actors and allowed a joint exploration of the potential and limitations of Zambian traditional knowledge and diversity of customary institutions for "governance for the conservation of nature"— some of which could be strengthened and supported to govern ICCAs. This was particularly important in view of ICCA GSI, as Zambia is one of the countries that will be fully involved and assisted by GSI. Throughout 2015, regular contact was maintained with the GEF SGP offices of *Namibia*, *Zambia*, *Tanzania* and *Kenya* in the preparatory steps toward the regional ICCA event in Southern Africa planned for February 2016.

#### **Francophone and Arab-speaking Africa**

The Consortium kept in close touch with the Tafo Mihaavo network in **Madagascar** (482 communities working closely with a coalition of national NGOs and a number of jurists to change legislation and policies pertaining to natural resource governance in the country) and facilitated their connection

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with the government land reform office (Cellule de coordination de la reforme foncière). In September a regional/national meeting was held and the declaration of Manatasoa was produced.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the Consortium advised and supported the establishment of a new dedicated ICCA network (*Alliance Nationale d'Appui et de Promotion des Aires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire*—ANAPAC) early in 2015—an organisation that is still fragile and needs focus and consolidation via a larger membership directly connected with field-based ICCAs. Initiatives were also held to consolidate a number of legal options preliminarily identified as feasible to legally recognise and secure ICCAs in the country. This was done in close contact with a number of local institutions, including the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN), the national Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry, the World Bank and others. The DRC strategic

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focus of ANAPAC is now to gather resources to deepen and continue field operations and consolidate policy intelligence and advocacy. Ideally UNDP GEF-SGP in DRC would be able to advertise for the proactive ICCA initiative in support of ICCA even if DRC is not a GSI priority country, allowing ANAPAC to respond and consolidate its presence and work in the country.

In Senegal, the Consortium Regional Coordinator continued his work airing informative and participative radio programmes in local languages to discuss the complexities involved in the setting up of marine and coastal ICCAs and enforcing their rules. A first meeting of the ICCA network in Casamance (the 4 community conserved areas of Kawawana, M'lomp Oussuye, Petit Kassa and Tobor) was held on the occasion of a visit of Consortium global representatives and – also on the same occasion – a meeting was held of the Kabeka organisation that acts in support of that network. The focus of the network and support institution is for each and every member of the network to obtain formal recognition within the current recently-changed framework of the decentralisation law. This is now achieved for M'lomp Oussuye-- second officially recognised ICCA in Casamance. For the elder ICCA Kawawana the focus is now on combating volunteer fatigue and developing income generating schemes attached to the existence of the ICCA.

In the first months of 2015, the Regional Coordinator Salatou Sambou together with Consortium honorary member Mamadou (Alamine) Goudiaby and Ms. Yandé Sarr also conducted a mission to the area of the Delta of Saloum and Saint Louis, in the centre and north of Senegal. Within these regions the GEF SGP National Coordinator had pointed out that there are a number of communities ready to replicate the success of the Kawawana ICCA in Casamance. These communities face problems such as depleted



fisheries, loss of pastureland and health issues related to environmental changes. Through open and helpful interaction with the Consortium mission, three communities in Sokone, Ndiael and Djoudj declared that they are ready to use their traditional forms of governance and management to improve their environments and livelihoods following the example of Kawawana. They are willing to work on a collective and voluntary basis to set up and implement effective management, establish their own governance structures' rules and apply for legal recognition of their capacity to govern and conserve their territories. Together, the seven ICCAs or budding ICCAs just mentioned have now begun a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and experience to build capacity for the future. Correspondence remained ongoing also with the GEF SGP coordinator of **Guinea** in preparation for

future participation in a regional event in 2016 and development of a national process of awareness and action about ICCAs.

In **Morocco**, a first meeting was held with a few local Members and partners in June 2015, on the occasion of a GEF SGP OP 6 regional planning event. This enabled the identification of a new honorary member of the ICCA Consortium, and a more secure footing with the understanding of the *agdal* phenomenon as ICCAs (a number of professionals with knowledge and concern about *agdals* have also become honorary members). The Consortium was also able to plan ahead towards effective ICCA support activities to be implemented as soon as the proactive ICCA initiative is announced in the country. Better awareness of the complexities of carrying out a national strategic/ catalytic initiative was gained throughout 2015.

#### **Europe**

In **Europe**, the strongest impulse in early 2015 came from Spain, where the movement to support common natural resources (*comunales*) literally flourished around the organisation of *Iniciativa Comunales*—a new Member organisation of the ICCA Consortium that was "coached" to emerge from the 2013 Consortium General Assembly in Valdeavellano (Spain). A Spanish national electronic forum on support and recognition of ICCAs is fully operational with 135 active members and work has begun to establish a Europe-wide network of associations concerned about the commons and ICCAs. Two meetings (in Cordoba and Madrid) were held in the first half of 2015 and focused specifically also on the process to validate and enlist new ICCAs in the UNEP WCMC ICCA Registry. Because of this strong orientation of the ICCA work in Europe, the regional Coordinator in charge of the Mediterranean region is also in charge of the relationship with the ICCA Registry at UNEP WCMC. Another event on the grazing commons in Europe was organised by the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism in collaboration with the ICCA Consortium and held in November in Brussels. This was the first step towards the establishment of a "European action network on the commons and ICCAs" that is hoped will see the light of day in 2016.

#### **West Asia**

In West and Central Asia, some of the Consortium members in Iran -- Cenesta, UNINOMAD and UNICAMEL—were actively engaged in a major initiative supported by the European Union that helps them to work with indigenous nomadic peoples to restore and strengthen their ICCAs. The reempowerment of indigenous nomadic tribes and local communities is a crucial step to counteract poverty, conserve nature and strengthen the recognition of indigenous territories as ICCAs. Participatory zoning initiatives also took place in Nayband Marine and Coastal Park, in the south of



Iran, as well as in the Sistan and Baluchistan provinces at the border with the Baluchistan region in Pakistan. Exchanges of information took place in the region also on the occasion of the participation of Iranian and Nepalese members of the Consortium in a meeting on indigenous management and governance systems in Pakistan.

In July 2015 the Consortium's Member UNICAMEL was supported to hold a National Conference on Camel Herding

and ICCAs in the summer territory of the Takleh tribe of Shahsevan tribal confederacy (the original

home of two-hump camels) of Iran. A first seminar on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities was also organised by the Consortium's Member Cenesta and included other Members from Iran and abroad. In total, more than 150 people went through an in-depth, experiential learning process about ICCAs.

## D. Publications and emerging ideas

Early in 2015, the Consortium compiled the **Proceedings of the Governance Stream**—an extensive report entitled **Enhancing the diversity, quality and vitality of governance of protected (and conserved) areas**. As a summary and follow up to the 6<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Parks Congress held in Australia in November 2014, the report examines the background to the Governance Stream, provides full reports on each of its constituting workshops and events, and lists its distilled recommendations. The

report offers numerous insights into the definition and implications of governance issues and properties. Following production of the report, its release was delayed due to questions of consent for access to the material developed for the Stream. The issue regarded also lack of available space and technical assistance at the IUCN. The Consortium has now provided all that was needed, including the online storage space for the material.



Many Consortium Members worked hard for the planning, script, design, shooting, editing and compilation of the three films on Governance for the conservation of nature—the making of a stream. The first film explores the complex phenomenon of "governance of protected and conserved areas". The second provides a visual report on the events of the World Parks Congress Stream on Enhancing Diversity, Quality and Vitality of Governance and its pre-and post-Stream events that dealt with governance issues. The third film illustrates the three directions of work and twenty recommendations resulting from the Stream. These films will hopefully become a tool for capacity building on the topic. The film has now been finalised and will be released early in 2016. Consortium also took action to develop and upload a Wikipedia entry on "governance of protected and areas". the here: conserved See entry https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governance of protected areas

The Consortium continued its work producing and diffusing ICCA publications, in particular for the new ICCA Consortium Policy Brief series. The first issue in the series – Brief no. 1 on ICCAs and Aichi Targets— was widely diffused in 2014 and 2015 at national and international events.

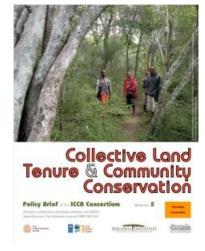
Brief no. 2 on Collective Land Tenure and Community Conservation was commissioned to be researched and produced by Fernanda Almeida on the basis of contractual guidelines developed by the Consortium early in 2015. The original draft report was commented upon by the full membership, edited by Grazia BF and Holly Jonas and published for launch at the Conference "From Rhetoric to Action" in Bern, at the end of September 2015. The Brief examines the status and relations of collective tenure rights and effective conservation of nature with a detailed analysis of five country cases. It looks at lessons learned and draws conclusions and recommendations. The Brief addresses policy makers but also researchers, conservationists, community leaders and anyone interested in the linkages between collective land tenure and the existence and effectiveness of ICCAs. From an in

depth analysis of five case examples – Australia, Cameroon, Mexico, Philippines and Tanzania – the Brief derives that:

- the legal recognition of customary rights promotes and enables conservation;
- the quality of legal recognition counts;
- respecting and supporting traditional institutions for the governance and management of community land is important; and
- the recognition of the collective tenure conservation value (i.e. their recognition and support "as ICCAs") can decrease the risks faced by communities on their territories and land (e.g. because of mining concessions) and promotes conservation.



- support the visibility of indigenous peoples' and communities' territories and areas per se and for their contributions to conservation
- strengthen communities by recognising both their collective tenure rights and their ICCAs across various legal processes
- alongside legal recognition, enhance community capacity to conserve nature through community-defined and –determined forms of support



Meanwhile, **Brief no. 3** on **ICCAs in Mesoamerica**, **Brief no. 4** on the **overlap of ICCAs and protected areas** and Brief no. 5 on **ICCAs as non-market based mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation to climate change** have also been advancing. The idea of Brief no. 3 emerged from the historical analysis of Prof. Silvel Elias on ICCAs in the region. Brief no. 4 was researched and written by Stan Stevens and Neema Pathak-Broome with Grazia BF and Tilman Jaeger. Brief no. 5 was originally drafted by Simone Lovera with Grazia BF, and is under revision by Holly Shrumm and others. The intention is to present at least two Briefs to the World Conservation Congress of September 2016 (Brief no. 4 also as support to a relevant IUCN Resolution).

In parallel with the Policy Brief series, the Consortium has also been supporting in 2015 some studies oriented towards understanding the socio-cultural and political-historical context of ICCAs in particular countries or regions. A review on the Xinjiang Region of China (Analysis on ICCAs in the Region of Xianjiang by Yuxin Hou) was distributed, commented upon, completed, diffused and is being used by the ICCA Working Group in China and Taiwan (province of China). Another review has been published in draft form for Mesoamerica, with an emphasis on the Maya region of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize (it is this review that gave origin to the Policy Brief no. 3 discussed above). And an initial outline was made available for a report entitled 'Territorios y areas conservadas por pueblos indigenas en la region Andina Amazonica' to be finalised in 2016. These reports are currently under discussion in their regions. Similar studies are envisaged in other regions, including Africa and West Asia. Layout and production of the ICCA Consortium leaflet in Portuguese (to assist our work in Brazil) was also undertaken, and the leaflet has now been widely distributed. We also had to re-print the ICCA Consortium leaflet in English.

In 2015, meetings were undertaken with local stakeholders from field sites in Bolivia to discuss and refine a **Toolbox** (in Spanish) **to help indigenous communities resist threats from extractive industries**. The document proceeded also on the basis of inputs by ICCA communities in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. The toolbox shall be used/ distributed at the workshop on extractive industries, mega-infrastructure and ICCAs to be held in Bolivia in 2016.

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A very relevant publication released in 2015, in which the Consortium played an important role is also: <u>Protected Area Governance and Management</u> — a volume edited by Graeme L. Worboys, Michael Lockwood, Ashish Kothari, Sue Feary and Ian Pulsford (published in April 2015) which includes numerous references to ICCAs and a Chapter on <u>Governance for the Conservation of Nature</u> that offers an early coherent definition of OECMs (other effective area-based conservation measures).

A number of photostories and videostories on ICCAs were also started or completed in 2015:

- Les ravins mystiques de MWEKA, Democratic Republic of Congo project completed by Christian Chatelaine and video made available in April 2015
- <u>El territorio Kawesqar Waes</u>, Chile project completed by Lorena Arce and made available in April 2015
- Tsum Valley, Nepal project started by Christian Chatelain and Jailab Rai but delayed due to the earthquake in Nepal in April 2015
- Batak territory in Palawan, the Philippines project started by Dario Novellino

### Two rich issues of the ICCA Consortium Newsletters (Newsletter no. 9 February 2015 and Newsletter

<u>number 10</u>, August 2015) were published with the patient care of the Consortium Programme Assistant and are available from the Consortium web page.

#### **Resilience and security tool**

In April 2015, the Consortium organised a twoperson mission to Casamance (Senegal) to have an opportunity to use again/ retest the "Resilience and Security Tool" for ICCAs with the



iconic ICCA of Kawawana, in conjunction with a collective review of the results of their on-going socioeconomic monitoring and a planning session with Kawawana's governing committee. The mission verified that the sensitivity of the tool, or its capacity to signal change, is rather low and recommended that the tool be simplified/ contextualised. The idea is to transform it into a community self-strengthening methodology including self-monitoring tools.

#### E. The ICCA communication system

Throughout 2015 we worked to support the Consortium's capacities via a consultancy to develop the Communication Strategy, and a consultancy to develop in a participatory way the new overall Strategy of the Consortium (a process expected to unfold in 2016 and be completed by the General Assembly of December 2016, when the new Strategy is expected to be adopted). The new Communication Strategy has been developed and the tools have been properly planned and prepared but it is taking more time than initially envisaged to finalise them.

A good part of the efforts of the communication team of the Consortium focused on reinforcing our Internet system via a **full revision of the internal architecture of the <u>ICCA Consortium website</u></u>. This proved a fortunate decision, as our website was maliciously attacked in December 2015 and only with the help of our newly acquired IT capacities could we regain control over our domain, site and mail** 

system. While the architecture of the new website of the Consortium is ready, the full revision still needs to go "live" as we are missing some elements of design, appropriate images, movies and key pages offered in Spanish as well as English to get it completed. We hope all to be ready by end of June 2016.

We have also agreed that we need a 3-minute and a 20-minute film to describe ICCAs and the Consortium's work. The website and films need to be coherent in style and visual imagery for the Consortium. Our young personnel have learned a great deal by studying, trying out and testing a variety of elements of style, film scripts and the like... but until recently we had not been convinced that we had found exactly what was needed. We have an extremely challenging task: explaining and illustrating ICCAs and the ICCA Consortium in ways that are simple but not simplistic, aesthetically pleasing but also informative and engaging, immediately "recognisable" but also subtle and capable of offering the perspective from the grassroots, as is proper for our mission. At heart, our efforts are in the service of a full recognition of the diversity of knowledge systems, worldviews and epistemologies embedded in ICCAs, or providing the context to ICCAs. This is an ambitious goal, and we are looking for the genuine *artists* we need to produce the films and finalise the web site design we need. The filming, however, needs to touch the reality of ICCAs and our Members in the field... which is a time-demanding endeavor, constrained by a variety of factors. Last but not least, the Consortium has maintained several active mailing lists and social media communication avenues (Facebook, Twitter, Blog...).

## F. The ICCA international alert mechanisms & solidarity fund

As mentioned, throughout 2015, a substantial amount of the efforts of the Consortium went towards calling for better attention to the plight of the defenders of the natural commons and ICCAs. An initial exploratory meeting was held at EMRIP (Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People) in July 2015 at the UN offices in Geneva. The meeting resulted in a commitment towards the topic and the decision to commission three regional studies to investigate it. In conjunction we delivered a significant <a href="Press Release">Press Release</a>—claiming space for the defenders of the Commons and ICCAs among the "rangers" that defend nature throughout the world. Three <a href="regional studies">regional studies</a> were undertaken and their important results are now available. The studies were used as the basis to call for a <a href="main exploratory meeting at the IUCN Headquarters">main exploratory meeting at the IUCN Headquarters</a> in Switzerland, which was well attended and productive. The meeting resulted in an initiative preliminarily called <a href="Solidarity Action and Fund">Solidarity Action and Fund (SAFE)</a> for the <a href="Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs">Defenders of the Commons and ICCAs</a>.



The <u>international ICCA Alert mechanism</u> provides support to IPs and LCs ready to defend their ICCAs against impending threats. All Alerts involve coordinating with Member organisations on the ground, responding to their requests for help and researching the relevant situation. Five ICCA alerts were

identified and supported in 2015 (two Alerts in Tanzania and one each in Honduras, Chile and the Philippines) in the form of carefully crafted letters of concern to key decision-makers and the diffusion of information about the Alert through the Consortium website, the media and other channels of communication. Some Alerts also require press releases to be issued to diffuse urgent information to a wider audience. All this is done with the agreement and support of the Consortium Steering Committee and closely concerned Members. Only in some cases were our letters replied to, but they were usually always reported in the media. No dramatic total success was achieved as a result of our work but we have strengthened the local actors and we have been commended by communities for our persistence (e.g. we have been supporting the Uvinje community in Tanzania for more than two years, and written five letters to their President(s); the community – like many others-- is still fighting). The team reviewing the Alert mechanism made little progress this year and their work will continue in 2016.

## G. Managing the operations of the ICCA Consortium

Throughout 2015, the **internal institutional life** of the Consortium has involved maintaining its Member database and mailing lists, and providing support to Members and staff for logistical arrangements – fundraising, visas, event registration, travel, accommodation, etc. A considerable amount of work is necessary to contract and supervise consultants and provide them with technical and financial support. For the Consortium overall, the need to develop, review and report on action plans and budgets is an ongoing demanding duty, as is managing financial resources, reporting to fiscal authorities in Switzerland, and reporting to Members and donors. An example of a technical-administrative task that demanded an inordinate amount of work but achieved a remarkable success in 2015 is the fact that the **Consortium achieved the recognition of being of "public utility" (non-profit status) in Switzerland,** and as such is now exempted from all federal, canton and local taxes.

The **external institutional life** of the Consortium has involved attending events, interacting with partners and participating in the work of larger coalitions (e.g., ILC). **Fundraising** is on-going. For instance, besides contacts and reporting for UNOPS on GSI funds, and for our on-going grant with The Christensen Fund, we organised several calls with donors for the SAFE Initiative and a main meeting with the Oak Foundation in Geneva, where we discussed both the SAFE Initiative and their interest to engage with the Consortium in the 2017-2020 timeframe. For specific initiatives, such as the regional ICCA events in Indonesia and Ecuador, we obtained separate resources from WWF Indonesia, IUCN and others.



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