

SBSTTA-22 Agenda Item 7: Protected areas and other measures for enhanced conservation and management

Scheduled for Tuesday 3 July 2018

Statement by the ICCA Consortium and Global Forest Coalition

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the ICCA Consortium, a global association of Indigenous peoples' and community organisations and their supporters, as well as the Global Forest Coalition. First, we wish to express support for IIFB's statement.

[Several of our Members have participated actively in the IUCN and CBD processes to develop guidance on the definition, management approaches and identification of OECMs. In general, we support the draft voluntary guidance contained in Annex III, which reflects an evolving understanding of critical issues and concerns. Territories and areas governed, managed and conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities – also referred to as “ICCA—territories of life” – could in some cases be recognized as OECMs, subject to the free, prior and informed consent and other rights of their custodians.]

OECMs *de facto* contribute to achieving Aichi Target 11's elements of coverage, connectivity, representativeness, and equity. Parties may draw a range of benefits from OECMs, including ecological functions, image, funding, and sustainable development at large. It would be appropriate and fair to respond with reciprocal action. A Party that “counts” OECMs today as part of its advances towards Target 11 should help secure and support the stated will of the custodians of those conserved areas, for example by securing collective tenure and sparing them from undesired extractive concessions.

Accordingly, we kindly request Parties to consider adding the following new text under Annex III, Section B (“Guiding principles”):

***(f) bis* Recognition of OECMs should be supported by measures to enhance the governance capacity of their legitimate authorities and secure their positive and sustained long-term outcomes for biodiversity, including policy frameworks and regulations to prevent and respond to threats.**

We also wish to make two small recommendations regarding Annex IV on achieving Target 11 in marine and coastal areas. Annex IV, Section B identifies main types of area-based conservation measures in marine and coastal areas. We welcome the inclusion of para. 2(b) on areas managed by indigenous peoples and local communities, but this misses the crucial elements of “territories” and “governance”. We request Parties to make these small additions so that the heading of para. 2(b) reads: **“Territories and areas governed and managed by indigenous peoples and local communities: in these types of approaches, some or all of the governance and/or management authority...”** and continue the para as is.

Secondly, under Annex IV, Section C (“Approaches for accelerating progress...”), sub-section 2 concerns stakeholder engagement. We request Parties to revise this to “**Rights-holder and stakeholder engagement**” and to include mention of **rights-holders** before each mention of stakeholders in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c). Indigenous peoples, local communities and women are rights-holders, not mere stakeholders.

We would appreciate the support of Parties in this regard. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.