

Ms. Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez

Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau,
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
The Philippines

Le Mont Pèlerin (Switzerland), 28 March 2019

Ref: Upholding ENIPAS

Dear Director Rodriguez,

Greetings! We write to offer our full support to the **Philippines Indigenous Peoples' Declaration on the Recognition and Respect of Indigenous Governance on Ancestral Domains Affected by Protected Areas**, an outcome of their recently concluded Forum on the ENIPAS.

The ICCA Consortium is an international association registered under Swiss law uniting organisations and federations of indigenous peoples and local communities and their supporting NGOs concerned with the appropriate recognition of the territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities ("**ICCAs-- territories of life**") throughout the world. Our Members and Honorary Members span over **eighty countries**. We are a partner organisation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP GEF SGP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

At CBD COP 13 (Cancun, Mexico), the ICCA Consortium was formally requested (CBD decision XIII.2.sec 7): "...to develop voluntary guidance and best practices on identifying and recognizing the territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs), including in situations of overlap with protected areas, and their potential contribution to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets." We are currently developing such guidance in partnership with the IUCN Specialist Group on Governance of the World Commission on Protected Areas. In the meantime, we have produced towards that the ICCA Consortium Policy Brief no 4 entitled ***ICCAs and Overlapping Protected Areas: Fostering Conservation Synergies and Social Reconciliation***, here in annex.

We do not need to further stress the current global recognition of the importance of community conservation practices to achieve global conservation goals and targets. As a signatory to the CBD, we are confident that the Philippine government through your office will uphold the provisions of the ENIPAS respecting indigenous peoples' rights in the finalization of its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

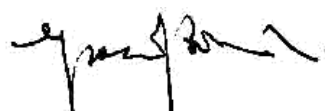
We hope that we can further collaborate on establishing the Philippines as a model to the world when it comes to achieving CBD and Aichi Biodiversity Targets in partnership with indigenous communities.

We thank you most warmly for your kind attention.

Respectfully,



Hon. Teodoro Baguilat, Jr.
President, The ICCA Consortium



Dr. Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend
Global Coordinator, The ICCA Consortium