

# ICCA Consortium

## 2019 Membership Report

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### ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

CBOs	Community-based organisations and federations
CSOs	Civil society organisations
ICCAs	Territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities
IPOs	Indigenous peoples' organisations and federations

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## I. Introduction from the Membership Committee

This is the annual membership report, prepared for the ICCA Consortium by its Membership Committee. The information herein is current as of the end of 2019. The Membership Committee, which has been functioning since 2017, is currently chaired by Aili Pyhälä and composed of the following fellow Council Members: Vivienne Solis Rivera, Ghanimat Azhdari and Dominique Bikaba. Emma Courtine, the Consortium's Programme and Communications Officer, is supporting the Committee on behalf of the Secretariat. The Committee strives to strengthen the membership system as well as the membership itself. The function and responsibilities of the Membership Committee have been updated in the new Operational Guidelines, which were approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly in June 2019. Similarly, Terms of Reference were recently written for the position of Chair of the Membership Committee, so as to clarify and ease the functioning of the role and any future handovers. The Committee met twice over the course of the past year (2019), both times online. In addition, the Chair met twice (once in person, once online) with the Programme and Communications Officer.

## II. The Membership of the ICCA Consortium

This section serves as a reminder (or introduction, for those new to the Consortium) of what constitutes the membership and the Consortium's membership system.

The **Organisational Members** form the General Assembly, which is the main governance body of the Consortium.

The ICCA Consortium's Members are:

- Indigenous peoples' organisations and federations (IPOs);
- Community-based organisations and federations (CBOs); and
- Civil society organisations (non-profit organisations, associations, research institutes, etc.) working closely with Indigenous peoples and local communities.

The **process for membership application** was modified in 2017, along with the adoption of a new membership system, defined in the Operational Guidelines. The step-by-step process and guidelines are detailed in the Consortium's webpage "[Join the Consortium](#)". Essentially:

- 1) An IPO or CBO wishing to join the Consortium as a Member is required to first send a formal letter to the Consortium President and Chair of the Membership Committee explaining what they do for their ICCA(s) and why they would like to join the Consortium.
- 2) A CSO wishing to join the Consortium as a Member - and given it meets the criteria of an acceptable Member - is required to first send a formal letter to the Consortium President and Chair of the Membership Committee explaining what they do for ICCA(s) and why they would like to join the Consortium. They are also required to fill a form in which they detail their identity and their interest. Their application needs to be supported by at least one letter of recommendation from a current Member, Honorary member or Council Member of the ICCA Consortium.

- The details of the above Member application steps and requirements are available online at: <https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/join-the-consortium/>

The Member applications are first examined by the Chair of the Membership Committee, and if any doubts are raised, also by the Membership Committee itself. Following this, the Chair submits the applications of that round to the full Consortium membership, which can raise any hesitations, questions, concerns, objections, or even share words of support during a 30-day review period. If no contrary issues are raised within this period, the applicant organisation is considered accepted as a Member and the Membership Committee Chair sends them an invitation letter to join the Consortium.

**Honorary members** are nominated individuals with remarkable experience, concerns and capacities to support ICCAs and/or the work of the ICCA Consortium. To become an Honorary member, a person has to be nominated by an existing Member, Honorary member, Steering Committee member, or member of the Secretariat. The nominator is asked to provide information detailing the reason(s) for their nomination. The nominated individual is also asked to fill in a form summarising her/his experience, work and/or relation with ICCAs.

The nominations for Honorary members are first examined by the Chair of the Membership Committee, and if any doubts are raised, the relevant Regional Coordinator is contacted. If clarity is still not obtained then the nomination is further reviewed and discussed within the Membership Committee. Following this, the Chair submits the list of nominations to the full Consortium membership, which similarly has 30 days to raise any hesitations, questions, concerns, objections, or even share words of support. If no contrary issues are raised within the 30-day review period, the nominated individuals are considered accepted as Honorary members and the Membership Committee Chair sends them an invitation letter to join the Consortium.

If any issues of concern arise regarding an application or nomination, it is the work of the Membership Committee to investigate and advise on the best solution to be taken for the ICCA Consortium as a whole (including refusing an application or a nomination if so decided).

More detailed information on possible reasons for refusing membership applications or nominations as well as other explanatory points supporting the current Membership system are outline in the Operational Guidelines, available at:

<https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/statutes-and-operational-guidelines/>.

### **III. Strengthening the Membership System**

#### **Enhancing accuracy and transparency of the membership application and nomination process**

- Since early 2019, one new feature of the membership system is that nominated Honorary members are requested to fill in a form which allows the Membership Committee and the ICCA Consortium's current membership to know more about the nominee's background, profile, work, interests and relation to ICCAs. Each of these forms is digitally stored and shared with the existing membership during the 30-day review period.

- Another additional feature incorporated this year is that the compiled list of Honorary member nominations shared with the existing membership now also includes the name(s) of the nominator(s) for transparency and also to encourage others to nominate.
- As of the next round in February 2020, the recommendation letter provided by one or more current Members or Honorary members for an organisation applying to become a Member will also be shared for transparency with the existing membership as part of the 30-day review process.

### **Streamlining membership administration**

- An online folder has been set up on Google Drive to enable the compilation of the gathered information and forms related to membership. This online platform is already available for direct access by anyone in the Secretariat. The platform is expected to be of significant help for the Regional Coordinators in particular, but also to the Membership Committee and any other working group, Member or Honorary member to facilitate the work of the Consortium. The folder has been managed to date by the Programme and Communication Officer. From 2020 onwards, it is hoped that this will be managed, maintained and updated by other personnel in the Consortium Secretariat.
- The first iteration of the online membership platform manager had to be put on hold due to the departure of the IT manager. A guiding document detailing the content of the platform exist, and should be launched by early 2020.

### **Improving the Members' and Honorary members' sense of belonging**

- The forthcoming membership review (see section below) is expected to help the Consortium's Secretariat and governance bodies identify with even greater precision and timeliness the needs and opportunities of current Members.
- In 2020, an even more important role has been proposed for the Regional Coordinators in terms of membership, especially when it comes to collecting the membership fees. In the context of the regionalisation process, the Regional Coordinators will be expected to improve their capacities to review the new membership applications and nominations (even before review by the Membership Committee). The Regional Coordinators are also encouraged to welcome, liaise with and maintain contact and engagement with all Members and Honorary members in their region.
- A new membership "welcome package" is being envisioned for 2020. This is intended for new Members and Honorary members, but also for existing Members and Honorary members who might need guidance on specific issues. This welcome package could be elaborated in the form of a series of short videos in the different working languages of the Consortium. The purpose of this welcome package is to

establish a more personal and informal connection with Members and Honorary members, including those who may not be so familiar with the work of the Consortium or active with reading emails or formal letters. For instance, the following topics might be addressed:

- With whom can I communicate if I am interested in working or networking more broadly to support ICCAs in my region?
- With whom can I communicate if I am interested in working or networking more broadly to support ICCAs at the international level?
- What are the current thematic areas of work of the ICCA Consortium?
- What are some other (and possibly future emerging) common themes related to the work of the Consortium?
- How can I pay my membership fee?
- How are the Consortium Council and Secretariat selected and organised?

### **Preparing the second triennial membership review**

- In the XIIIth General Assembly in 2018, the Membership Committee introduced into the Operational Guidelines an objective of carrying out a thorough membership review every three years. This involves updating contact details, reviewing membership fee payments (including “in-kind” contributions), and updating in our database any member activity and thematic areas of work relevant to the work of the Consortium. This triennial membership review is still an active proposal of the Membership Committee. The delay in undertaking the review – partly because of time constraints to date of current personnel – has in turn delayed the further development of the membership platform, which requires IT and financial resources.
- Similarly, due to various other urgent commitments relating to the ongoing leadership and personnel transitions in the ICCA Consortium, the Secretariat was not able to start the membership review in 2019 as had been planned. However, the Secretariat did undertake some substantial technical/IT preparation for this review, which provides a good basis for continued work in 2020.
- The Membership Committee will get to know better the membership during the review. It is also an occasion to assess the quality and activity of the membership during the review.
- In case there is no answer or in case the answer is not satisfying, the Committee will notify those Members and Honorary members whose membership is being terminated or suspended. Rather than an individual email, the Committee (Chair or secretary) will send a general email to everyone whose membership is being terminated in blind copy. The email will thank them for their initial interest and refer them to the section in the Operational Guidelines regarding the 3-year review and maintaining a committed and strong membership.

### **Termination of Membership/Honorary membership**

The Membership Committee is proposing the termination of several Members (for reasons listed in the Operational Guidelines), to be presented and decided upon by consensus at the General Assembly of 2019. Furthermore, the Membership Committee has proposed a new phrase for the revised Operational Guidelines to better define the process of terminating Honorary membership.

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### **Improving rates of membership fee payment and in-kind contributions**

- As of the XVth General Assembly in December 2019, less than half of the Members had paid their fees for the previous three years. Many Members who did not pay their fees are keeping in contact with the ICCA Consortium but many remain unresponsive despite multiple requests. The Membership Committee has started looking into these cases.
- Acknowledging the fact that many Members find it difficult to pay the yearly membership fee (at least in cash), the Committee is encouraging such Members to pay their fee through an “in-kind” contribution. The Membership Committee has raised the importance of communicating even more clearly with the entire membership (both new and old) as to exactly what kinds of in-kind payments are acceptable, and to showcase in each General Assembly and Regional Assembly some examples of in-kind payments to inspire more such contributions.

Members are requested to report on their contributions to the work of the ICCA Consortium, as per one or more of the variety of optional ways to pay fees “in-kind”. The Membership Committee, with strong support of the Programme and Communications Officer and Regional Coordinators, has been trying hard to make both the communications as well as reporting of “in-kind” contributions as easy as possible for the Members. Considering that for many Members, reporting on their in-kind contributions may be challenging if in writing, the Membership Committee welcomes sharing of information in diverse formats such as photos, videos, illustrations, stories, hand-written text, e-mail, voice message (such as in WhatsApp), or any other means that sufficiently serves the purpose. For the moment, the cash amount of membership fees remains the same and can be made by bank transfer (preferred and encouraged) or in cash.

For those proposing and preferring to make an in-kind contribution, they must have a discussion with the relevant Regional Coordinator or Regional Hub, as the case may be, and with the Programme and Communications Officer and Global Coordinator to agree in advance the specific contribution, which might include:

- Volunteer engagement as an active member of the Council, Chair of a Council Committee or Working Group or member of the Executive Committee;
- Supporting a community to document information about its ICCA—territory of life (e.g., with the help of existing resources of the Consortium on documenting, self-assessment, etc.), subject to seeking their free, prior and informed consent;
- Producing a thorough article, report or multimedia product on a specific ICCA—territory of life;
- Producing a thorough article, report or multimedia product on the state/situation of ICCAs—territories of life at the relevant national or sub-national level;

- Producing a thorough article, report or multimedia product on relevant new/reformed laws and/or policies;
- Supporting specific work on policy, legal or institutional reform relevant for ICCAs at the (sub)national or international level;
- Self-funding participation in a meeting as a representative of the Consortium and providing reports, as appropriate; and/or
- Organising, logistically supporting and/or funding a major ICCA-related event (e.g., a Regional Assembly or regional learning exchange).

The Chair of the Membership Committee shall be informed of the final terms of the agreement and can approve or object and suggest an alternative contribution.

### Strengthening the representation of indigenous peoples, local communities and women in our membership

- Along the same lines of making a short video series (mentioned above), a special communication to encourage the recruitment and strong participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and women is envisioned for 2020, with the support of simple yet attractive visuals prepared by the Secretariat.

#### IV. Data on Members

As of the beginning of the XVth General Assembly in December 2019, the ICCA Consortium had 154 Members. Since the XIIIth General Assembly (which took place in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, in November 2018), the ICCA Consortium welcomed 15 new Members. This is ten Members less than during the previous year (2018). It is the first time in the history of the ICCA Consortium that we did not grow more than the year before in terms of number of new organisational Members. That said, the Membership Committee and the Members at the past two General Assemblies have placed more of an emphasis on the quality (profile, identity and strength) of the Members rather than the quantity. Some current Members represent many other organisations and communities – so the number of Members doesn’t necessarily provide an accurate picture of the coverage of our membership.

- Although the growth rate in terms of the numbers of new Members is slower than the year before, the ICCA Consortium welcomed several more IPOs and CBOs as Members in terms of ratio (compared to the previous year), meaning the proportion in the overall membership is now almost 50-50. This was one of the objectives of 2019.

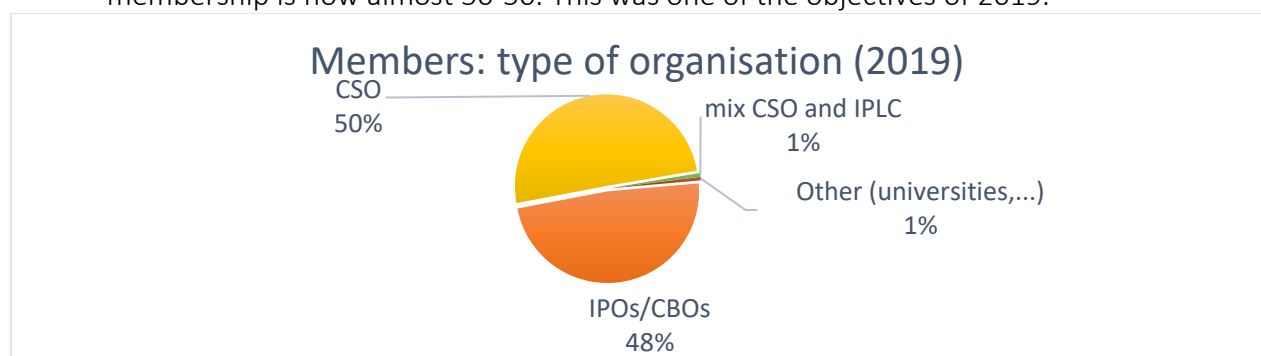


Figure 1. Types of Member organisations (2019)

Although the regional composition of membership is very similar to 2018, there is a noticeably higher rate of growth in Members from Africa and Central America (Figure 2).

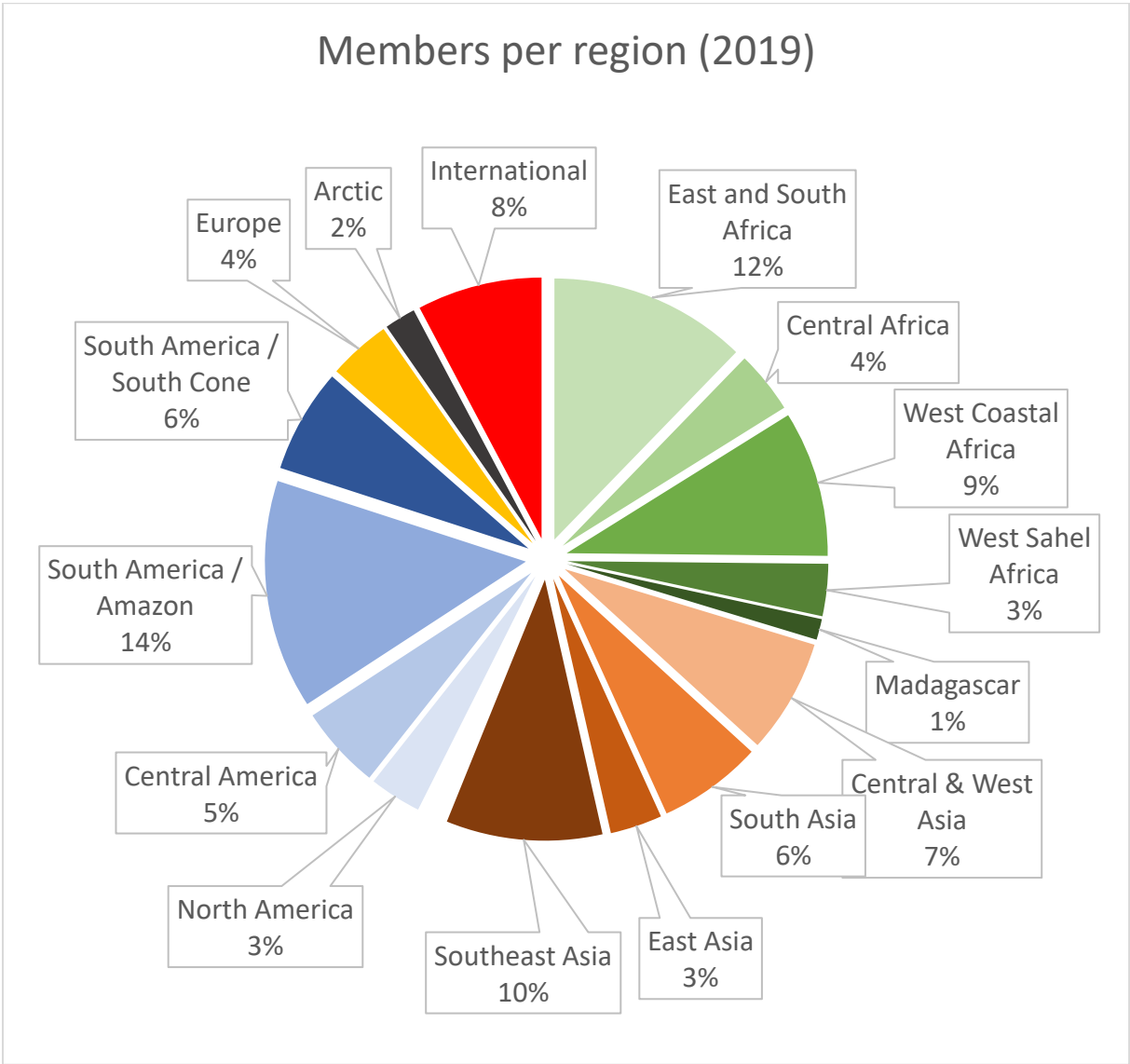


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of ICCA Consortium Members (2019)

The representation and ratio of the levels at which Members self-identify as working mostly at show a slight change compared to last year, with 41% working at the local level, compared to 39% in 2018.



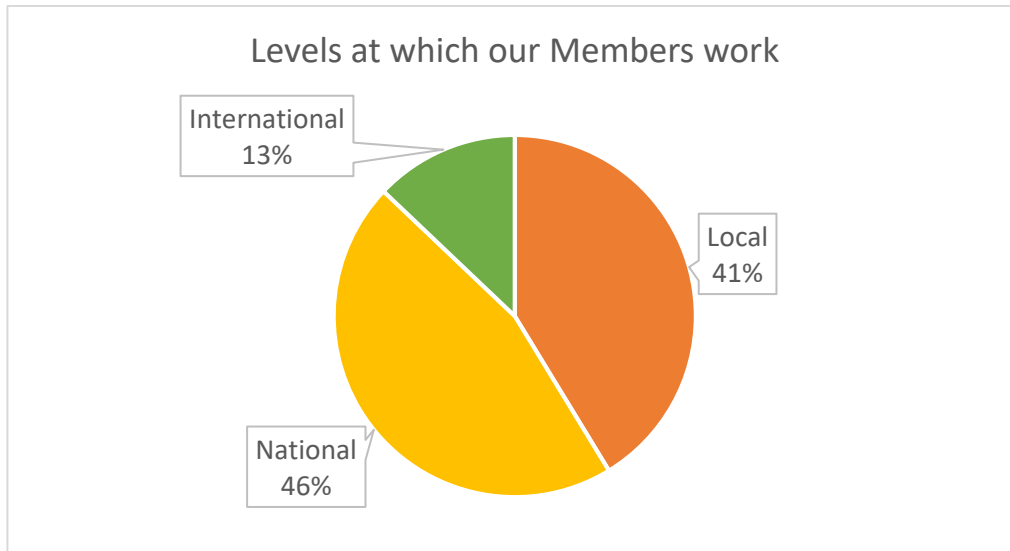


Figure 3. Levels at which ICCA Consortium Members work (2019)

## V. Data on Honorary members

Since the 2018 General Assembly, 65 new Honorary members have joined the Consortium, which now counts with a total of 373 Honorary members. In 2018, the ICCA Consortium gained only 31 new Honorary members. The rate of growth of Honorary members is thus more than double that of the previous year and demonstrates an exponential growth rate, contrary to the latest trends seen in the numbers of Members joining the Consortium. Figure 4 below shows the regional distribution of our Honorary members and the growth of this distribution over the past four years.

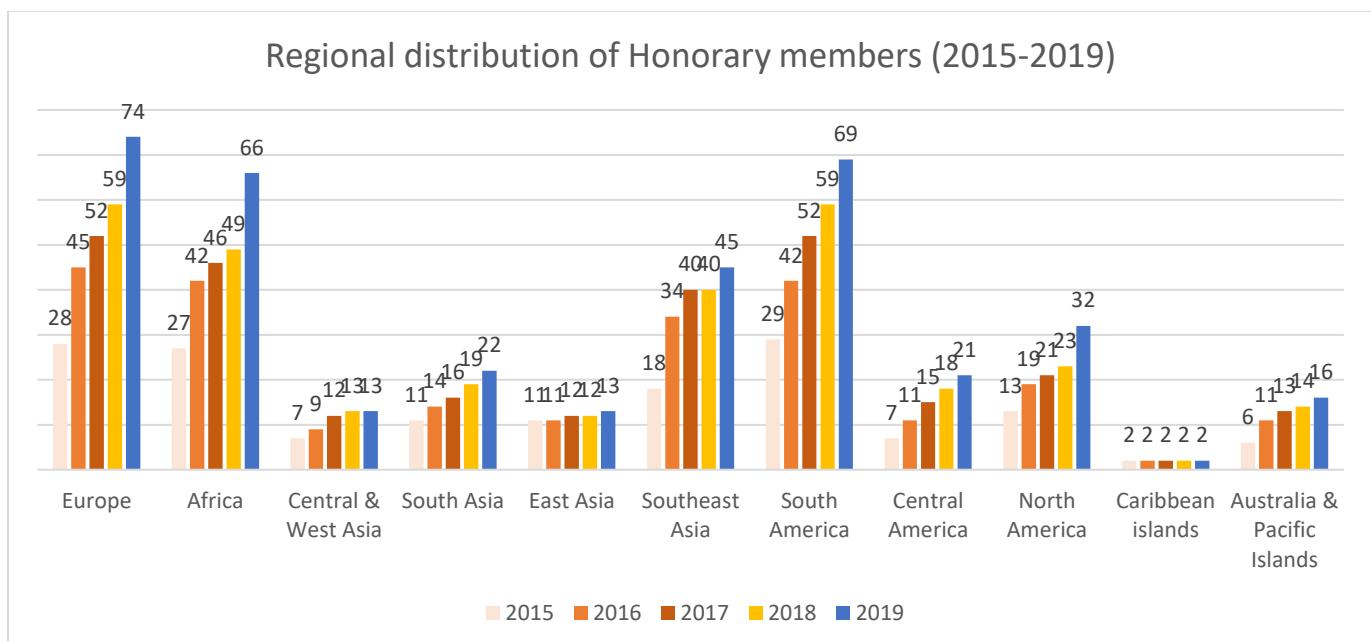


Figure 4. Growth in number of ICCA Consortium Honorary members by region (2015-2019)

Amongst our Honorary members, only 27% self-identify as indigenous or as members of a local community. The statistics on local community representation amongst our Honorary members was only incorporated this year, which explains why to date only four individuals have identified themselves as local community members. This data will be collected as part of the Honorary membership review, which will give us a much better understanding of whom (in terms of individuals) our membership consists of and represents.

Last but not least, our Honorary members are still majority male (65%), with only 35% female (see Figure 5). This year, following the 2018 approval of the Consortium’s new [Gender Policy](#), the Honorary members also have the option of self-identifying as non-binary.

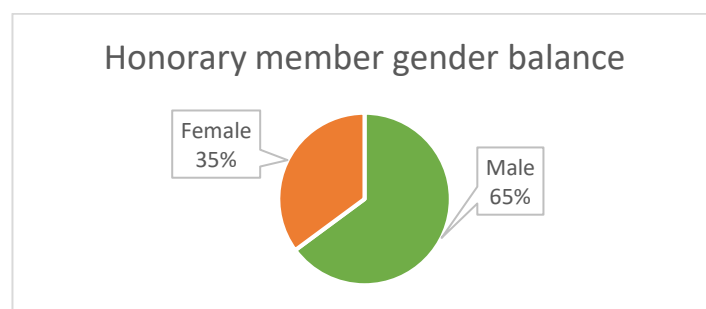


Figure 5. Self-identified gender of Consortium Honorary members (2019)

## VI. What have we learned this year? What do we propose for next year?

The following are a list of issues that have been discussed recently in the Membership Committee and that are hereby handed over to the Committee to consider in 2020:

1. How can we better support our **Regional Coordinators in under-represented areas** (Oceania/Arctic, etc.) to more actively: a) recruit more Members/Honorary members; b) collect membership fees (including options for “in-kind” contributions); and c) maintain contact with the membership in the region, including updates on their contact details, activities, etc. Do we need to draw up guidelines for Regional Coordinators regarding membership recruitment/review and staying in touch with Members/Honorary members in their region? If yes, what would be the key points for such guidelines? This needs ongoing discussion with and feedback/inputs from existing Regional Coordinators in all regions. In general, **Regional Coordinators will need to play a much more active role in involving our Members and Honorary members in all regions.**
2. **Envisioning an up-and-running online database of Honorary members for the Secretariat and Membership Committee**, with the names, expertise, and contact details of all our Honorary members who give consent to do so. For the membership platform, both Members and Honorary members could be identified (using, for example, colour coordinates) by different areas of work and/or expertise, including in terms of:
  - a. Ecosystems (marine, mountains, drylands, etc.);

- b. Livelihood strategies (pastoralism, hunting and gathering, shifting cultivation, etc.); and
  - c. Thematic areas of work (documenting, sustaining and defending territories of life) and possible new cross-cutting themes such as youth, gender, etc.).
- 3. Regarding **possible updates to the membership procedure**, the Committee has decided that it prefers to stick to our simple format in keeping with the spirit of the ICCA Consortium and to avoid getting too bureaucratic (with lots of forms, procedures, etc.). It is important to always check whether making a change/addition to our procedure will a) help us in the long run, or b) just add more work or unnecessarily complicate things. Regarding membership engagement levels, if we ever want to incorporate this into our internal databases or review processes, then we would likely simply start by adding these two categories: active/inactive Members/Honorary members. It is crucial to keep asking ourselves and our membership how we think of ourselves as a member-based association? Many Members perhaps do not engage actively because they feel they do not benefit directly from the Consortium, but they still identify strongly with the movement and mission and want to be involved.
- 4. The Membership Committee has been discussing **how to go about terminating Members if they do not show any signs of engagement** over an extended period of time and/or if they act in a manner that is harmful to or in conflict with the mission and values of the ICCA Consortium. Questions to consider along the way are:
  - a. Make the in-kind contribution simpler and easier to understand and carry out.
  - b. Some of the organisations are very active even if they do not regularly pay fees or report in-kind contributions and we do not want to lose them only for this reason. Some (especially very grassroots organisations) may not even have the means to reply to us.
  - c. Elaborate in the membership guidelines the variety of in-kind contributions outlined above and already suggested for this 2019 General Assembly.
- 5. There is ongoing collaboration between the work of Membership Committee and the **regionalisation process**. The Regionalisation Committee has proposed that, starting in 2021, the regions will conduct the initial assessment of Member applications and Honorary member nominations. Once received and reviewed by the Regional Coordinator/Hub, the applications and nominations will be sent to the Membership Committee for consideration and review, which will then pass it on to the current entire membership for their review. Regional Hubs would then be in charge of communicating the success of the applications and nominations with the organisations and individuals, respectively. This implies a change in the Operational Guidelines and eventually the Statutes of the ICCA Consortium, depending on how the regionalisation process proceeds. If at the end of 2020 we still do not have a better result of engaging Members more actively at the regional level, with the help of our Regional Coordinators, then we should reconsider this proposal and the overall approach.