

# 18th General Assembly of the ICCA Consortium

(Association Consortium pour les Aires et Territoires du  
Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire)

25 - 28 April 2022, 12:00-14:30 UTC

## Annex – English

Day One: Monday 25 April 2022

### Review of Consensus Procedures

#### Developing a shared understanding of consensus and how we will take decisions during the General Assembly

To start our General Assembly, we'd like to talk briefly about how we take decisions to ensure we are all on the same page and know what to expect over the next few days.

Since the beginning of the ICCA Consortium, our main decision-making processes have been based on building *consensus*. We use this approach in many everyday governance and organisational discussions, including within the Council and Secretariat. Major decisions, such as revisions to our Statutes and election of Council members, are taken by consensus of the General Assembly, our association's highest decision-making body.

According to Article 9 of our Statutes: *"The General Assembly decisions are taken by consensus, building upon the advice of all Members and Honorary members willing to contribute constructively. Failing that, decisions are valid only when approved by a supermajority of two-thirds of Members in good standing present, voting by proxy or participating via electronic means."*

Building on this, our Governance Procedures state: *"Consensus has been achieved when there is general agreement as well as an explicit lack of disagreement about a specific decision. Reasonable measures should have been taken to respond to any objections raised."*

Consensus-based decision-making is rooted in the principles of civil and respectful participation and collective ownership of decisions. It requires open dialogue, trust, and lots of communication, and everyone should have the opportunity to share their views. It helps people establish a common understanding while respecting different values, needs and interests. It enables everyone to work together cooperatively and in good faith to develop a solution that is sufficiently acceptable for all.

It is understandable and expected that we will have diverse views within the association. Consensus-based decisions can be time-consuming and difficult at times, and not everyone will get every aspect of what they want. However, the final consensus should be something that everyone can live with in the collective interest of the association. This approach to decision-making is embedded in our organisational culture, particularly for major decisions that are taken by the General Assembly. So far, the General Assembly has never had to resort to a vote to decide on any issue.

I will now share an overview of how we aim for consensus during online General Assemblies and how we will take decisions on key agenda items this week.

**First**, we have space for an open discussion among all Members and Honorary members about a given issue or proposed decision. This can happen either in advance of the GA or during the GA.

**Second**, we seek to understand and resolve any objections raised either before or during the GA. Whoever objects to something should propose a constructive and practical modification to the proposed decision or course of action. The Chair will facilitate a discussion of the objections and proposed alternatives until everyone present is sufficiently satisfied.

**Third**, we check that consensus has been reached. This can be done in slightly different ways if we are holding a GA in-person or online, or a combination of both. In both cases, we will ask if those present have any objections. If no objections are raised, consent is assumed. We can then move to confirming consensus with a show of hands or an online straw poll. Note that this is NOT a vote as such, but a verification that we have reached consensus.

To gather inputs and build consensus on key decisions at this year's GA, including for people who cannot join the GA live, we are trying a new tool called **Loomio**. It is designed specifically for organisations like ours that make consensus-based decisions. In the last few weeks, we've used it to introduce the nominees for several Council positions, where you can ask questions or write comments of support. I hope most of you have had a chance to log in to Loomio using the email we have on file for your or your organisation's membership, and to see all the profiles of the Council nominees.

When a decision needs to be made and recorded - as we will do on Wednesday and Thursday during the Council elections - we will use another feature on Loomio called the **consensus poll**. Each time we use this feature, we will share a link in the Zoom chat box. Once you log in to Loomio, you will see a page with the following three options:

- Consent
- Abstain, or
- Object

If you'd like, you can also add comments.

If you choose "consent", this means that you are sufficiently satisfied with the proposed decision and agree with the association adopting it and putting it into practice.

If you choose "abstain", this means that you do not want your views to be registered as consent, but you also do not want to block consensus. For example, you might abstain if you have a conflict of interest in the proposed decision.

If you choose "object", it means that you cannot live with that decision as it is currently proposed, and you are willing to block consensus. In this case, it is expected that you will provide a brief explanation as to why you object and offer some constructive alternatives that would enable you to consent. In some cases, people might simply require more information or discussion in order to feel sufficiently informed about the implications of the proposed decision.

If you haven't yet interacted on Loomio, I recommend you click the link in the Zoom chat box now or during the break or later today, log-in and introduce yourself in the *introductions thread*. There you can also see the translate feature, which makes everyone's comments accessible in your preferred language. Once you log in, as long as you don't explicitly log out, it will be much easier to click the links as they are shared and go directly to the consensus polls for Council elections. Alison Powell will be our "Loomio Master" and can help with any log-in issues. Her contact is in the Zoom chat box.

In the **fourth** step, after clear consensus has been reached, the Chair calls for a Member in good standing to propose a motion on that decision and another Member in good standing to second the motion, offer a final chance to voice any major concerns or opposition, and then confirm the approval of the decision by consensus. The consensus decision is then recorded in the official minutes of the General Assembly.

**Finally**: if it proves impossible to reach consensus and a decision has to be reached for the good of the association, then the decision goes to a vote. The Chair will call for a vote using an appropriate online tool - such as the voting tool in Loomio and/or in Zoom if you are unable to access Loomio. All Member

organisations who are in good standing and present - electronically in this case - or voting by proxy are expected to participate. A supermajority of two-thirds of such Members is required for the decision to pass.

## Report on implementation of Strategy and 2021 Secretariat Report

### A. Alison Powell (Administration Coordinator) –

In my role, I provide several forms of administrative and logistical support for the membership, the Council, the Secretariat, and Consortium events.

I have been working directly with the Membership Committee on membership administration and engagement, in line with the Membership Policy & Procedures adopted by the GA last year. I follow the intake process from applications and nominations to integration of new Members and Honorary members, maintaining a clean and current database, organising welcome events, helping Members and Honorary members get the most from their membership and contribute in meaningful ways, and now also tracking Member activities to understand who is in “good standing”. As many of you know, rather than monetary membership fees, last year we moved to expecting all Members and Honorary members to contribute *voluntary collective actions* to be in good standing for our GAs. Keeping track of these actions has also been a great way to see the myriad ways in which our Members engage within the Consortium, in their regions and internationally.

As part of the Secretariat’s support for the Council, I help with scheduling, hosting and taking notes for Council meetings and keeping track of things like Council nominations and elections in line with the Governance Procedures.

Another major aspect of my role is helping organize Consortium events like this one, the General Assembly. Last year, we had 81 Member organisations and 55 Honorary members join. We’re hoping for even more engagement this year, and for more Members to get involved in these and other important decision-making moments. We are striving to make the Assemblies as inclusive and accessible as possible and we are experimenting with new tools such as Loomio to help us.

### B. Regional Coordinators

#### Lorena Arce (Regional Coordinator for the South Cone) –

##### Argentina

- Meeting and Constitution of the ICCA Argentina Network, composed of 55 representatives of communities from all over the country. November 29-30, Buenos Aires. (supported by GSI-SGP-UNDP-FAUBA).
- Creation of the ICCA Network Web page in Argentina <https://www.redticaargentina.com.ar/>

##### Chile

- ICCA Network Meeting in Chile 26-28 November, Budi Lake.
- Coastal Communities Support Initiative (2021-2023, ICCA-OAK).
- Support to communities in their processing of "Coastal Marine Areas of Indigenous Peoples" 6 territories in southern Chile. E.g.: Meeting of indigenous communities and artisanal fishermen from Aysén.

##### Paraguay

- FAPI - Campaigns:
- Participation in the Trinational Network for the Restoration of the Atlantic Forest of Alto Paraná (Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina).
- Amotocodie Initiative:
- Support in the legal defense of Ayoreo communities of Puerto María Auxiliadora (PMA) and formation of a monitoring and surveillance team.

#### Mapuche People Transboundary Initiative - 2021 progress

- Resguardo del Territorio Biocultural Futa Mawiza: initiative that seeks to strengthen the safeguard and governance of this transboundary territory.
- It is led by Mapuche organizations (Mapuche Confederation of Neuquén, Parliament of Koz Koz, Koyagtun Parliament of Kurarewe) and has the support of civil society organizations (Observatorio Ciudadano, Human Rights Observatory for Indigenous Peoples (Span. ODHPI), FARN).
- November 24: meeting in the village of Kurarewe with indigenous organizations in Chile and then in December organizations will meet in Argentina to discuss the projections of this initiative.

#### Progress on Global ICCA Support Initiative (GSI) 2021:

##### **Argentina**

- The implementation of 2 fellowships for Indigenous Peoples is still ongoing: Francisco Javier "Karái" Villalba 2018- 2019 (Mbya Guaraní people) and Patricia Valdiviezo 2020-21 (Kolla people).
- 2nd call "Response to Covid" (February 2021). Sixteen projects were selected (May 2021) and are already under implementation.

##### **Paraguay**

- 1st call: 8 projects still under implementation.
- 2nd call "Responses to COVID19". 4 projects selected and under implementation.

[In addition: a possible point on the intentional shift to a collective / team approach in the regional coordination role within Observatorio Ciudadano].

#### **Carmen Miranda (Regional Coordinator for the Amazon) –**

##### **ICCA Bolivia Network - SAVIA**

- The SGP Program of Support to ICCAs started, where the NGO SAVIA monitors the 8 projects.
- The Assembly of ICCA members was held, with the presence of Wrayz Perez, President of ICCA Latin America.
- The Network's Action Strategy for 2022 and 2023 was approved under the leadership of a newly elected focal point.

##### **ICCA Brazil Network - MUPAN**

- Coordinated the "Agenda in the Virtual Maloca" at the National Congress on Protected Areas and Social Inclusion [SAPIS/ELAPIS].
- Supported traditional communities affected by COVID
- Consolidated the support of Synchronicity Earth (US\$25,000).

##### **ICCA Ecuador Network - ALDEA**

- Accompanied the Shuar Arutam People (PSHA) in the defence of their rights and supported their registration in the UNEP-WCMC database.
- Prepared the Sarayaku case study and national analysis within the global report on "Territories of Life".
- The Membership is more organized and strengthened with new prospective Members.

##### **ICCA Colombia Network**

- The TICCA Network has been consolidated with 28 members who are custodians of territories and 6 allied entities and has procedures and prioritized lines of action.
- Once the 26 initiatives to be financed this year have been selected, the ICCA Network's Peer Mentoring Program is accompanying 22 new indigenous, black and peasant communities in their self-recognition, declaration and registration.

##### **ICCA Peru Network - FENAMAD**

- Worked in the approval and planning process of the ICI GEF project.
- In recent months, FENAMAD participated in global events:

- IUCN World Congress
- COP26 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, organizing an event on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact in South America.
- Co-organized a virtual side event in the program of COP4 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and also participated in person in Bali, Indonesia.

**Albert Chan Dzul (Regional Coordinator for Mesoamerica) –**

Among the most important advances; a technical team was consolidated in U Yich Lu'um to address regional and global responsibilities. As a result of the strengthening of the technical team, we participated in the different commissions for the positioning of the Consortium, the regionalization process and internal governance.

Promotion and expansion of membership through community visits and meetings with potential members in Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, and Nicaragua. In the case of new members, we participated in welcoming events and integration into the Consortium's processes.

The project "Strengthening the Indigenous and Community Conservation Network (ICCA) in Mexico" was concluded, which is part of the ICCA Consortium's effort to consolidate national networks with the support, at this stage, of the UNDP-SGP. Among the most important results:

- Conclusion of the "Study on the legal status of life territories in Mexico". Currently being revised and expanded to include the situation of marine-coastal territories of life.
- Design of material for communication and outreach of territories of life (Triptych and videos).

As part of our participation in the second phase of the ICCA Global Support Initiative, we participated in the review of project proposals in Panama and in an implementation exercise of the ICCA security and resilience assessment tool in Mexico.

In Panama, the first pre-assembly was held for the Maje Embera territory where they committed to expand the membership base and the ICCA network in the country.

In the case of Guatemala, after the pandemic, the directory, coordination and technical support has been updated and new members have joined the national network.

Finally, in 2021 we held the First Meeting of Mesoamerica from its coastal marine territories of life, within the framework of the Second National Congress of Artisanal Fishermen and Small Scale Shell fishermen. The main result was the proposal to strengthen the coastal marine territories of life during 2022, an initiative led by our Member in Costa Rica, CoopeSoliDar.

**Neema Pathak Broome (Regional Coordinator for South Asia) –**

2021 was still under the COVID 19 Pandemic and many Members and Honorary members in our region were affected by it. Yet we also had inspiring examples of resilience and transformative future directions from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, a very small fraction of which have been documented, links of which are shared here.

2021 was also the year when the need for support for communities was most evident, particularly for community leaders to continue with local processes towards strengthening self governance, resistance against extractive industry, and support for local livelihoods and conservation activities. In conversation with some such communities, we initiated a local programme towards self-strengthening fellowships for leaders. We aim to continue focusing and expanding on this in the coming years.

Mapping and documentation have been another highlight of 2021 as we soft-launched an online web portal on community conserved areas in South Asia. A methodology is being developed towards self-documentation by communities, including through a mobile app and also linking the documentation to self-strengthening and self-reflection processes. To highlight the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in restoration and conservation, we also collaborated with FAO to use their platform to showcase ICCAs as the UN Decade of Restoration kicked off.

While we continued to support ICCAs facing threats, we also engaged in an advisory capacity with a few communities who are in the process of formally declaring their territories as ICCAs as one of the strategies to resist external threats. We expect some good announcements in 2022 towards that.

Most excitingly, the youth from the ICCAs in Nepal started a self-strengthening process and discussed possibilities of constituting a national-level ICCA youth network.

Some of the coordinators and Members of the Asia region came together to form a working group on pastoralism in Asia with the objective of facilitating exchanges, documentation and dialogues on pastoralists' territories of life and work towards the UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026.

#### **Sutej Hugu (Regional Coordinator for East Asia) –**

For East & North Asia, we have 5 Members, including 3 national umbrella organizations.

For East Austronesia & the Pacific Islands, which I have been supporting on an interim basis, we have 5 Members, including 1 regional network and 3 national umbrella organizations.

Here are some key highlights from our work in 2021:

- We launched the Regional Working Group for ICCAs-territories of life in East & North Asia in October. Joining us for the first time were our potential new Members from Japan and Russia.
- Supported discussions with LMMA Network International to take up the role of regional coordination team for East Austronesia & the Pacific Islands, starting part-way through 2022.
- Held the first regional event on rangelands, pastoralism and territories of life in Asia on the third anniversary of the passing of Taghi, our founding president. This was organized in collaboration with CENESTA, Kalpavriksh and the Central Asia & Mongolia Regional Support Group for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- As part of inter-regional collaboration, we held two "Solidarity Exchanges on Indigenous Decolonization and Sustainable Self-Determination". One focused on Eurasia was held on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in August, and one focused on Latin America was held on the International Day of Solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas ("Columbus Day") in October. The aim of the exchanges was to promote self-strengthening through actions of daily resurgence and joint self-declaration of territories of life and mutual recognition among custodian communities.

#### **Ali Razmkhah (Regional Coordinator for West and Central Asia and the Caucasus) –**

2021 was a fruitful and active year for supporting and defending territories of life in West and Central Asia and the Caucasus. At a very brief glance:

- For the ICCA Consortium's 2021 report on territories of life, we produced a case study on the Chahdegal Balouch peoples' territories of life. For the first time in Iran, it was translated into the Baluchi language through a participatory effort with Balouch elders. For the same report, we also prepared a national analysis on the status of territories of life in Iran that was very well-received.
- As part of the first phase of UNDP's Global Support Initiative on ICCAs, several local communities and mobile pastoralists continued their efforts to pursue their actions and objectives with funding from the UNDP Small Grants Programme, and NGO Members in the region provided their technical and facilitative support.
- Moreover, Members in Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, and Iran supported communities to prepare funding proposals under the second phase of the Global Support Initiative on ICCAs, with particular success in Kyrgyzstan.
- To acknowledge the vital roles of rangelands and pastoralism for human wellbeing and nature conservation and to support recognition of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026, we joined other Regional Coordinators in Asia to co-host a virtual workshop on "Pastoral Communities' Territories of Life: Tales of Coexistence of Nature and People" on July 16, 2021. In addition, through the support groups for the IYRP, Consortium Members actively participated in the endorsement process, emphasising territories of life.
- In 2021, national focal points and the Regional Coordinator set out to expand the membership in the region. As a result, we welcomed four new Members and one new Honorary member.
- The Persian version of the SSP has been modified, and we are uploading it on the website.

### **Amy Maling for NTFP-EP (Regional Coordinator for Southeast Asia) –**

The Southeast Asia region is composed of 18 active organisational Members and 48 Honorary members from five countries in the region. Last year, we welcomed two new Members from Myanmar (Point and Rawang Youth Group) and one new Honorary member from Malaysia.

We have a very active Regional Council with 8 members who meet every month to discuss updates and issues in the region. We have been working on strengthening the regional structure since 2018. In 2021, the focus was on developing our strategic plan and strengthening the membership to include more Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

In October, we successfully organized our 3rd regional assembly (our 2nd held virtually during the pandemic), with participation of almost 70 people from our membership and partners. This year we had more community members joining the assembly and interpretation in select languages from the region.

During the assembly, we also conducted three public webinars on the following topics:

- Sustaining territories of life and understanding Indigenous Peoples' perspectives on nature-based solutions
- Use of mapping and documenting ICCAs as a tool in policy advocacy
- Sharing experiences and good practices in defending territories of life, with the case of the Tumandok in the Philippines

Last year, we worked hard to prepare the first report on the *State of ICCAs in Southeast Asia*, which is in the final stages of production. We are aiming to launch it at the Asia Parks Congress in May. This narrative report will also be accompanied by a video compilation of compelling stories of Indigenous peoples and local communities in Southeast Asia and how they have successfully protected and defended their territories.

At last year's GA, I reported on our initial work to develop the regional strategy. After some delays, the final draft was presented to the members on April 8, where the Members suggested having a national level presentation to get feedback both from our Members and their partners. The national validations will take place between May and June, and hopefully, the final endorsement of Members in July.

Lastly, we managed to secure additional funding (Anonymous donor and WWF Sweden) to support our initiatives directly in the region. This includes advocacy for recognition of ICCAs, livelihood development in selected ICCAs, and strengthening entrepreneurial skills and other capacities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We also had a small grant mechanism for emergency support for communities defending their territories.

### **Sergio Couto (Regional Coordinator for Europe) –**

I am an Honorary Member of the ICCA Consortium and I was the regional coordinator for Europe until the end of 2021. We are currently working in the region on the transition to a coordination team, which is one of the main topics to be discussed at our next Regional Assembly (which date is yet to be decided).

During 2020 and 2021, we have established a region-wide network called "Common Lands Network" which currently includes about 40 members including Europe, Middle East and North Africa. We are also strengthening or establishing national networks in 19 of the countries in the region, where we have supported and co-financed national-level activities such as videos, legal or field studies, websites, or protest campaigns. We hope that this network will serve to strengthen the Consortium's membership in Europe, and reinforce the network of national contacts, where much work remains to be done. We also have new members such as Save Sinjajevina, the MEMOLab of the University of Granada, or the Asturias Communal Forests Coordinator.

Linked to this network of communities, organizations and individuals, we have been committed in the last two years to create the digital platform that is also called Common Lands Network. This collaborative digital platform with Creative Commons license aims to put communities in contact, and also other actors who wish to collaborate with them and support them.

Other of the activities that we have carried out is to influence policies at the regional level: especially the Common Agricultural Policy, the CAP. Regardless of the policies to be influenced, in all these processes we want to demonstrate the contribution of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in achieving global policy objectives.

### **Emmanuel Sulle (Regional Coordinator for East Africa) –**

In 2021, we took important steps forward to strengthen the membership and national networks in this region, as well as technical, financial and thematic support for community and grassroots organisations.

In 2021, we welcomed a new Member and Honorary member in Kenya, and in the membership round just completed in early 2022, we welcomed two new Members in Tanzania and Kenya plus a new Honorary member in Tanzania.

After more than two years of engaging with the Global Environment Facility's Inclusive Conservation Initiative, 2 of our members – The Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation in Kenya and Ujamaa Community Resource Team in Tanzania - have secured these prestigious grants.

As part of our ongoing engagement in the Global Support Initiative for ICCAs, we supported 2 Members in Kenya and 2 Members in Tanzania to secure funding from the UNDP Small Grants Programme. In northern Kenya, one of the grants aims to strengthen and improve Traditional Ethno-Medical Knowledge Transmission and Biodiversity Conservation. In northern Tanzania, one grant is supporting ongoing efforts of Maasai Pastoralists to secure their communal grazing land. Mwambao in Tanzania also started local and national-level work on community fisheries with support from the Oak Foundation.

In collaboration with Natural Justice and others, we supported the Ekuri community through our Member in Nigeria to defend their community forest against illegal logging. The community is now in the process of registering their territory with the global ICCA Registry.

I am pleased to report that despite Covid-19 challenges, we managed to hold in-person national assemblies in Kenya and Tanzania in early 2022. Members identified their priorities and needs, nominated their national catalytic and coordination organizations, and consolidated their niche as ICCA Consortium Members in their respective countries.

Finally, all our Members in the region are mobilizing to establish or strengthen their national level networks and craft consolidated messages that they will present at the ICCA Consortium's Africa Regional Assembly and the IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress in July, in Rwanda.

#### **Job Morris (Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa) –**

For an extended period, I was engaged in understanding the situation and potential impacts of gas and oil exploration within the Okavango and Tsodilo. These places are not just home to charismatic fauna and flora, but they also have irreplaceable historical and continuing value to the San peoples.

I have also been engaged with communities in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, which covers a large section of central Botswana. San Peoples have lived in the area since time immemorial yet face gross human rights abuses. For example, they are being relocated without their consent. Basic services that the Government should offer are limited and they live in dire livelihood circumstances. With others, we are supporting the San people to leverage existing Government policies on community-based natural resource management to sustain themselves and to become self-governing. To this point, I also plan to support San peoples in the area to develop and articulate biocultural community protocols to assert their relationships with and rightful ownership and stewardship of their land and territory. I hope that these efforts bear fruit so that San peoples can live with dignity and pride for generations to come.

Furthermore, I have assisted a number of Indigenous Organisations in Namibia and South Africa with fundraising and collaboration. These organisations have so far become a network with a keen interest in Indigenous Peoples, conservation, natural resources management and community mobilisation. Discussions are also underway for them to apply to become Members of the ICCA Consortium and act as ambassadors of the Association in other forums.

#### **Salatou Sambou (Regional Coordinator for Coastal West Africa) –**

I am going to present my achievements for 2021 and early 2022. These are:

- the analysis of the 10 years of existence of Kawawana,
- the organization of the sub-regional assembly of West Africa,



- the organization of 2 workshops of law proposals for the recognition of ICCAs in Senegal,
- and a technical support mission in Guinea-Bissau

First, you know Kawawana, since its existence, officially in 2010, has never stopped fighting for the defense of its territory of life through its governance and management model. The analysis of these 10 years of existence has allowed Kawawana to analyze the results, the challenges, but also to revise its internal regulations.

It was also an opportunity for Kawawana to work on the compilation of the 3 intervention streams: the rivers of Kawawana, the lands of Kawawana, and the community credit fund.

As far as the organization of the sub-regional assembly is concerned, it was the first one and it was a success for us because it allowed us to get to know each other with the member communities, but it also allowed us to establish important relationships with Natural Justice, and with all the SGP coordinators of the sub-region.

The purpose of this assembly was to develop an advocacy strategy for the recognition of the ICCAs at the level of the ECOWAS institutions and it also allowed us to come up with ideas to be developed during the African Regional Assembly.

As for the mission to Guinea-Bissau, it was a pleasure for me to go and meet with my focal points to discuss and put in place a strategy for an ad hoc committee that will take the lead in the process of recognition of the ICCAs in Guinea, also for the continuity of identification missions in its national territory.

#### **Alexis Kaboré (Regional Coordinator for the Sahel Region) –**

A region, Sahel, which is comprised of eight countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Chad. Regarding 2021, I have five reasons for satisfaction:

- The first reason for satisfaction is the inception of five community associations for the conservation of sacred natural sites, and the federation of these communities to form a communal association for the conservation of ICCAs that will become a member of the national network of ICCAs.
- The second reason for satisfaction is the development of a communal land chart for the conservation of sites in a village, which constitutes a pilot project that will be useful for other communities.
- The third reason for satisfaction is the official publication of a national biodiversity monograph, in which, for the first time ever, there is a chapter dedicated to ICCAs'
- The fourth reason for satisfaction is the national ICCA assembly that was held in September 2021 with the support from GSI which allowed an expansion of the ICCA network. More than 50 villages participated and have benefited from nine different projects.
- The fifth reason for satisfaction is the holding of ASAO, the sub-regional assembly of west African ICCAs, which gathered more than 70 people coming from eleven countries and allowed us to anchor and expand our network in the Sahel. Now we have leaders in all the countries of the region, which provides us potential focal points with whom we work and communicate. So, overall, 2021 has been a year of consolidation and expansion for the ICCA momentum in the Sahel region.

#### **Joseph Itongwa (Regional Coordinator for Central Africa) –**

Among the achievements of this year, between the two assemblies (2021 and 2022), we can mention the organisation of the first celebration of the Mbosa local days. Mbosa Local Days which brought together representatives of the Indigenous Peoples of Kisimbosa, which is an emblematic ICCA located in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as other stakeholders: governments, communities and some local actors came to discover the natural and cultural potentials, the promotion, valorisation and revitalisation of indigenous food knowledge and nature conservation.

We also welcomed two new Members to the Consortium: a Member from Cameroon, Action Communautaire pour le Développement Durable (ACDD), as well as a Member from the Kivu region in DRC, Talent des Femmes Autochtones Rurales, a women organization promoting women self-empowerment and traditional cultures and knowledges, as well as the fight against climate change and the protection of biodiversity.

We also organised the first ever sub-regional assembly of Central African ICCAs, which brought together several Members from eight Central African countries and their partners, but also state representatives.

### **C. Thematic areas of work**

#### **June Rubis (Council co-chair of thematic area of work on documenting territories of life) –**

In early 2021, the Consortium released a revised and mobile-friendly version of our guidance on self-strengthening processes. The linguistic support team has since worked on translating it into several other languages. We hope that you will engage with it and share feedback so we can continually improve it!

In May 2021, after more than two years of preparation, the ICCA Consortium published our first major report on territories of life. It included several components, with strong emphasis on translation, design and communications. As co-chairs of the Documenting Working Group, Paola and I participated in press conferences and public events to launch the report. We would like to thank the more than 100 people who contributed to this collaborative effort!

Members also made important advances in national-level documentation, registries and databases, including in Indonesia, the Philippines, Ecuador, Colombia, Burkina Faso and Portugal. The Consortium continued to work closely with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and other global partners in support of the ICCA Registry.

In October, several Members and Honorary members participated in the online Anthropology and Conservation Conference, which fostered interdisciplinary dialogue, with a strong focus on the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights and contributions to conservation.

Throughout the year, a number of collaborative publications involving several people from the membership were published by other institutions, including peer-reviewed journal articles, IUCN Best Practice Guidelines, multimedia exhibitions, and policy briefs.

Finally, significant progress was made last year on several other publications that are expected to be finalised in 2022.

#### **Sarah Alakara (Council co-chair of thematic area of work on sustaining territories of life) –**

Throughout 2021, Indigenous Peoples and local communities around the world continued to face the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ICCA Consortium and some of our Members helped communities secure financial support and share their experiences and response strategies.

As part of our initiative on Indigenous and community fisheries, a range of activities were undertaken in support of territories of life in coastal and freshwater systems in Malaysia, Tanzania, Chile and Mexico. In Senegal, the national ICCA network held their first national assembly in Kawawana, with a strong focus on fishing community representatives. In Costa Rica, CoopeSoliDar organised a national congress on artisanal fishers and mollusc-gatherers, plus the first meeting on marine and coastal territories of life in Mesoamerica. Internationally, several Members and Honorary members contributed to online events commemorating World Oceans Day. We also held an exchange on restoring traditional fisheries and food systems, with experience-sharing from Hawai'i.

The ICCA Consortium helped successfully advocate for the UN adoption of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, both through regional networks and internationally. In Asia, several Regional Coordinators and Members worked together to organise a workshop on pastoralism and rangelands. It was held on the third anniversary of the passing of Taghi Farvar, our founding President.

Thanks to the initiative of Sutej Hugu and other Regional Coordinators, the association organised two regional solidarity exchanges on Indigenous decolonisation and sustainable self-determination - one on Asia and Europe and one on Latin America. These gatherings were shining examples of the power of peer learning, mutual recognition and solidarity.

Later in the year, the ICCA Consortium published solidarity statements on World Food Day and World Fisheries Day, highlighting the central importance of food sovereignty systems, self-determination and self-governance.

**Pooven Moodley (Council chair of thematic area of work on defending territories of life) –**

In 2021, the ICCA Consortium supported several Indigenous Peoples and local communities to defend themselves and their territories of life against threats and injustices.

In Latin America, we published a [press release](#) and signed a joint letter to the Canadian Ambassador to Ecuador as part of continued support for the Pueblo Shuar Arutam as they resist mining.

In Europe, we published updates on Save Sinjajevina's ongoing campaign to defend against military threats in Montenegro, including when they received the War Abolisher Award, and on the "Yes to Life, No to Mining" network's report on Fennoscandia.

In Asia, after the military coup in Burma/Myanmar, we supported the Karen with an [alert](#), open letter and outreach event. In the Philippines, we published an alert denouncing violence against the Tumandok as they resist a proposed mega-dam. In India, we sent a letter to the government calling for the cancellation of mining plans in the sacred forests of Korchi; along with local actions, this led to the stalling of the license process.

In Africa, we published alerts in support of the Ekuri community in Nigeria and [Massaha community in Gabon](#), both in defense of their ancestral and sacred forests against logging. Finally, we strengthened collaboration with Natural Justice in support of the African Environmental Defenders Fund.

In addition to country-specific support, we organised an exchange and released a [solidarity statement](#) for International Human Rights Defenders Day, and published summaries of key global reports and actions. Members and Honorary members also shone a spotlight on defenders in several events, including for International Women's Day, the IUCN Youth Forum, and the ILC Africa Land Forum.

Supported a range of communities to defend their tol against injustices. Based on reports from M there are increasing threats. In LA, press release in support of psha, save sinja. In Myanmar support karen and Philippines.

Need to stand together and allow for alternative ways to be on the planet start to emerge.

**Josefa Tauli (co-chair of the Youth Group) –**

In 2021, the Youth Group organized and participated in a number of events and grew in membership. During the IUCN Global Youth Summit in April, we organized sessions on defending and sustaining territories of life and participated in several others. In September, youth group members participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Marseille, France, and in the alternative congress event called "Our Land, Our Nature".

In August, the Youth Group organized and hosted "TAYAW," a virtual cultural gathering for territories of life in celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and International Youth Day. The event served as a colorful pause amid still tough times to celebrate international solidarity and cultural diversity, and featured contributions of cultural and artistic expressions from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Arctic.

From October to December, our Member PACOS Trust participated in an Indigenous youth digital storytelling project with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and others from Southeast and South Asia.

Throughout 2021, as Ameyali will share next, we continued to engage and build capacity to participate in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity negotiations, with close engagement with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

We were also happy to welcome into the association new Members and Honorary members that focus on youth issues, including the Rawang Youth Group in Myanmar and Comunidad de Puerto Cabuyal in Ecuador.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy, who recently received a Top 100 Young African Conservation Leaders Award for her work with the MIHARI Network and fishing communities across Madagascar from 2015-2020.

#### **D. Global team**

##### **Ameyali Ramos Castillo (International Policy Coordinator) –**

What I'm sharing today is a summary of the collective reflections from our international policy team, international policy regional working groups, and Members.

The primary focus of our international policy work in 2021 was to ensure that our international engagements and positions are aligned with and reflective of the realities and priorities of custodians of territories of life. We have three internal working groups – in Africa, Latin America, and Asia – that meet regularly to develop positions and discuss key elements in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity negotiations. The groups are also an opportunity to discuss regional priorities and strengthen national processes of networking and advocacy.

Based on discussions in the working groups, we identified key priority areas and focused on advancing knowledge and sharing experiences about these. To support our Members, we drafted a brief on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (abbreviated as OECMs in English) and contributed to a brief on implementing human rights in the post-2020 framework. Both were published on our website in March and are the result of a collective process of drafting and sharing.

We also actively participated in the negotiation process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and continue to do so in preparation for COP15. This involves working closely with allies in the four major caucuses as well as partners and friends to try to ensure that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are adequately considered, represented and supported in the post-2020 framework. We have had some small wins but there is still much work to be done.

In the coming months, we will turn our attention to creative implementation of the post-2020 framework and will be looking to the membership for direction. We invite you to let us know how we can support you at the national and subregional levels and look forward to continuing to work with you all!

##### **Mohammad Arju (Communications Coordinator) –**

As the global communications team, we are working with the Membership to prepare and disseminate various types of content to increase the organizational visibility of the whole Association and our Members and Honorary members. We had a strong focus on supporting the membership and Secretariat to communicate Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' priorities in negotiating the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This included a communications campaign around the 2021 report on territories of life, ongoing web updates and social media posts, and several solidarity statements in conjunction with special international days.

We supported many Members to coordinate external communications with media outlets, journalists, and various international and regional event opportunities. Internally we helped our Regional Coordinators communicate about national and regional events and other campaigns and provided technical communication support for various meetings and events.

Last year, our news and updates reached a broader audience. We prepared and published 179 updates and articles for the Consortium website, with high-quality graphics and multimedia materials. A significant number of these articles were related to emergencies and threats or the Consortium's global policy advocacy work. Because we have improved our website's content and technical aspects, more people are finding out about our collective work, and we have more new website users than in previous years.

Our messages have also done well on social media, though less on Facebook. We have mainly done well on Twitter and YouTube to spread our messages. We have run many campaigns on Twitter throughout the year with or for our Members and on YouTube to promote different causes and events. We produced many videos last year for internal and external use.

Finally, we released twelve regular monthly Newsflash issues and nine special newsletters/campaigns in 2021, sharing web updates and news from the membership with a broader audience.

#### **Daniela Campos & Gaëlle Le Gauyer (Spanish and French translation and interpretation) –**

First of all, we want to thank all the volunteers and collaborators who support the linguistic work of the Consortium, including translators, editors, proofreaders, and interpreters. In total, 69 people support us according to their possibilities, abilities and interests. We also want to celebrate the collaboration with Camila Miranda Reyes, who recently joined the team as a Linguistic Support Assistant for Spanish, and Rachel Babin, who has been a Linguistic Support Assistant for French for the past year.

In 2021, we have been providing interpretation support for the Council, the ExCo, the Secretariat, and the CBD regional working group meetings, as well as many other events organised with the membership. We have provided regular translation services for the Newsflash, the website, and internal documents. We also continued to consolidate our linguistic support systems. Since the last GA, we have organised three interpretation trainings and created various tools that are fundamental to our work. We still have a lot of room for improvement and your feedback is always welcome!

In 2021, we also finalised the translations of the Territories of Life report in Spanish and French, with a team of 22 people involved in linguistic work. We have also made great progress in translating the latest version of the SSP into additional languages. It has been translated into French and Chinese with volunteer support, and it is being finalised in Spanish and Portuguese. Thanks to all the people involved, to Yingyi and Hugu, to Rachel, Josefina, Camila, Jake and Ines for this amazing collective work! We also received some very good news for 2022: we are expecting to receive funding from UNDP to support the translation of the SSP guidance into 3 new languages - Swahili, Russian and Hindi. More generally, we are very keen to work with all of you to develop regional and decentralised systems for linguistic support.

#### **Sarah Ryder (Programme Manager) –**

With more funding in 2021 than in previous years, we provided more financial support to Member organisations and increased the Regional Coordinators' remuneration for the second year in a row. We now have a completely horizontal approach to remuneration across the Secretariat. We also supported the internet, phone and other practical costs of some team members. However, this increased funding also increased administrative obligations, including fundraising and donor relations, reporting, auditing and internal checks and balances.

Through a range of meetings and communication channels, we undertook collective processes of planning, mutual learning and feedback, review and revision throughout the year. In addition to regular monthly, mid-year and year-end team meetings, we focused on wellbeing in the team and supporting people with the challenges of working remotely and during the pandemic. This included informal spaces for relationship-building, frequent individual and group check-ins, very flexible working arrangements, emotional support through personal challenges, and encouraging a culture of empathy and mutual support.

In 2021, we had several changes in the composition of the Secretariat and grew our group of collaborators. Several roles were created or expanded. We welcomed seven new people in part-time roles related to thematic streams, international policy, linguistic support, communications and administration. Six members of the Secretariat concluded their roles at different points in the year. Amongst the Regional Coordinators, many have shifted to a collaborative team approach, with an intentional focus on building the next generation of leadership.

On a practical note, we successfully migrated the Consortium's website hosting, email accounts and online collaboration tools to more secure and reliable locations.

**Holly Jonas (Global Coordinator)** – Please find link to [slides here](#)

Sarah and I are pleased to report that we are making progress in each of the four main priorities of our fundraising strategy: strengthen core funding; improve the links between our communications and fundraising; increase funding support for the regionalisation process; and strengthen our internal capacity for fundraising.

[Slide 2] Here you can see an overview of our funders since 2011 and how they have increased and diversified over time. Last year, we had 11 funders covering both core and programmatic costs. This included three new funders, two of which are very closely aligned and will hopefully be long-term supporters. Grants from three funders concluded mid-year and three concluded at the end of the year. We do not expect to continue with two of these funders for now. With the other four funders, we have secured or expect to secure new grants in the coming months.

[Slide 3] Here you can see the total expenditure per year in thousands of USD since 2011. There was a sharp increase from 2020 to last year, partly due to pandemic-related reallocations, and partly as a result of efforts to secure more funds for our work and core capacities. Looking ahead, we have secured a significant amount for this year and we are well underway with fundraising for the next two years.

[Slide 4] Here you can see the 2021 expenditures under each of our main budget categories. We spent more on sub-grants for in-country and regional activities, including for the community fisheries initiative and for various assemblies as part of the regionalisation process. We minimised expenses for international travel and governance and management meetings in light of the continuing pandemic. Finally, we invested more in communications and personnel, due to the increase in work and expanded responsibilities and efforts to increase remuneration rates, particularly for the regional coordination teams.

## Day Two: Tuesday 26 April 2022

### Member spotlight 1 – Mongolia ICCA Network

My name is Chantsalkham Jamsra. Today I am representing our ICCA Mongolia Working Group. Let me briefly introduce our team and about our efforts:

So, first I will briefly tell you about how we established our ICCA Mongolia Working Group, and our most recent efforts and the plan for 2022. Our Working Group [was] established on April 5, 2021, and the founding members are individuals associated with national and international NGOs and research institutions supporting pastoral communities in Mongolia.

Working group activities are to build or rebuild their institutions to conserve biodiversity and natural resources for their livelihood, to secure land rights, to improve livestock health and to improve market access.

The Working Group is intended to guide the national and regional learning network activities along with the implementation of ICCA GSI phase 2 programs and the promotion of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in the United Nations System.

The current Working Group members work with some of the largest networks, the federation of mobile pastoralist communities. We intend to further expand our membership of the Working Group so as to further extend outreach and support to pastoral communities in all regions of the country. We also want to facilitate bottom-up processes to link CCAs in Mongolia to the Territories of Life networks.

To be more formal and have a strong voice, ICCA Mongolia registered as an NGO, and our name of the NGO is “Community Collaboration for People and Nature” – [the] abbreviation is CCPN.

The immediate work of our Working Group, or NGO, as we are planning and working towards developing our vision and long-term strategy – and we are planning to organize our retreats in May and June.

Another task or effort we are thinking (of) is to study and collect information about community organizations throughout the country and document their success and lessons with the purpose of creating a database.

We are also planning to organize [a] national forum to invite pastoralists around the country to share their success and lessons. And we are tentatively planning to do this, organize this event in [the] first half of June.

And based on all this learning, or information we collected during the national forum, we are planning to prepare for the Asia Grasslands Workshop, and which will be held in the second half of June.

### Peer learning and exchange on the regionalisation process

#### Dominique Bikaba – Member of Council

I am pleased to facilitate this session on regionalisation. Some of you are very familiar with this process, but it might be new for others. Before we get into region-specific experiences, I would like to ask Holly to provide some context about the origins of this process.

#### Holly Jonas – Global Coordinator

The Consortium’s Strategic Plan, adopted in 2017, called for a key shift towards “regional decentralisation”. We then referred to this as the “regionalisation process”. This was identified as a key organisational priority

and a necessary evolution of the organisational structure in order to sustain and nurture a growing body of work, opportunities and resources.

As set out in the Strategic Plan, this process involves strengthening planning, fundraising, management, and implementation at the regional levels. It is led by Regional Coordinators working closely with national and regional Members, including through national networks. It is intended to give Members and Honorary members greater ownership over the Consortium's work, and to ensure this work is responsive to local and national needs and contexts. It also places the Regional Coordinators in a clearer position of accountability towards the membership, and clearer responsibility for mobilising resources for regional and national level priorities.

The Strategic Plan also states that the regionalisation process could lead to certain changes in the Consortium's Statutes and other governing documents. This has since happened, particularly through last year's adoption of the Governance Procedures, including new procedures for regional councils and assemblies and for nomination of regional representatives in the global Council.

The regionalisation process began in earnest in 2018 with an ambitious series of regional assemblies in Southeast Asia, Latin America, West and Central Asia and the Caucasus, and Africa. In 2019, the first regional assemblies were held in Europe, North America, and South Asia, as well as the second regional assemblies in West and Central Asia and in Latin America. In 2020, we could not gather in-person due to the pandemic, but Southeast Asia organised the first virtual regional assembly.

In 2021, as it became safer to gather again in some parts of the world, momentum started to pick up again with national assemblies in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Argentina and Chile, and a regional assembly for West Africa and the Sahel - all in-person - plus another virtual assembly in Southeast Asia. So far in 2022, we have had in-person assemblies for Central Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Colombia, Bolivia, and Guatemala, and a virtual assembly for West and Central Asia and the Caucasus. Many more in-person national, sub-regional and regional assemblies are planned for the coming weeks and months, including in Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Mesoamerica, the Amazon and South Cone, South Asia and Africa as a whole. As you can see, this is a VERY active process, with significant investments and momentum building in many regions - not only with assemblies but also with ongoing meetings of regional councils and working groups, peer learning events and exchanges, and development of regional and national strategies and plans. At the same time, this process has not yet taken root in some other regions, particularly where there are few Members.

Coming back to today's session, the main intention is to share and discuss experiences, insights, lessons learned, challenges, opportunities, and hopes from the regionalisation process. It is taking shape in diverse and unique ways in each region, all around the shared purpose of deepening and strengthening our roots in the movement for territories of life. Today we will hear from some of these regions. It is not a comparison or competition, but an opportunity for all of us to hear and learn from different experiences and to broaden our understanding of how this process is evolving around the world. This session follows directly from the 2021 reports shared yesterday by the Secretariat, and it is an opportunity to add further depth and to open up this topic for discussion and exchange with the full membership.

**Dominique Bikaba – Member of Council**

Now that we have a shared understanding of the context for the regionalisation process, we will hear some highlights from parts of Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America.

**Christian Chatelain – Co-coordinator for Africa**

I will try to give you, in a few minutes, an overview of the past, present and future of the ICCA - territories of life in Africa, which finally "built" the Regionalisation process of the Consortium in Africa. Before that, I would like to highlight one point from yesterday's presentations by the coordinators, a point that is not often heard but is so central: Their enormous quality and work in relation / communication / lobbying in favour of the ICCA- Territories of life in all their different meetings! Relations with communities, NGOs, Ministries, donors,



etc. Contacts, collaborations, appreciations, congratulations, etc. all these attitudes, these signs, this diplomacy is essential to make allies.

### HISTORY UNTIL NOW

In December 2008, Grazia Borrini and I met Salatou Sambou for the first time at his home in Casamance, which laid the foundation stone for ICCAs - territories of life in Africa. One ICCA, then 2, then 3 in Senegal, then in DRC, in Burkina, and the network was born... and so the network of the ICCA - territories of life in Africa was built.

This past year, we have seen a lot of progress as described by Salatou, Alexis, Joseph, Emmanuel and Job (whom I congratulate for their results), especially in terms of strengthening ICCAs, consolidating and extending networks, identifying new ICCAs, new collaborations, new partners...

The Sub-Regional Assemblies of Ouagadougou and Goma were great successes. The Africa Regional Assembly (ARA), which is being planned for July 2022 in Kigali-Rwanda, in preparation for the IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress, will be the climax of this phase of building the African network of ICCAs.

Today, 13 years after the first stone was laid by Senegal, we are at a turning point, at the end of a process of more than 10 years and at the beginning of a new phase of life, marked by Africa's autonomy in terms of ICCAs.

2 points about today's situation:

A growing interest for ICCAs - the Consortium is present in nearly half of the 53 African countries.

Increased knowledge and awareness of the ICCA concept (the sub-regional assemblies (ASRAO and ASRAC) have increased this knowledge and awareness!). Very strong enthusiasm everywhere for ICCA, including by Ministries / NGOs / donors.

Network - Regionalisation

The construction of the network is not finished: it is necessary to improve the coherence of the repartition between the Secretariat (5 zones: West Africa Coordination, North, Central, East + Horn, South) and the Council (3 zones: representation for Sahel+North+Horn; Central+West Africa+French speaking islands; East and South Africa). Proposals will be made to the ARA of Kigali in this sense. For example, Madagascar would like to have its own coordination for "Indian Ocean Islands". West Africa says it cannot "represent" regions that they do not know.

### EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNT

#### Experiences

**Senegal:** Started with 5 zonal networks -> 1 national network -> neighbouring national networks -> ASRAO Assembly as a booster of the West Africa Sub-Regional Network dynamics

**Burkina:** Started with 1 national network first (ASAPAC-BF) -> Zonal networks later in Burkina -> Sacred forests (>53 000) give a huge mass of ICCA but there is also Pastoralism, village areas of hunting interest (ZOVIC...)

**DRC:** National network of only 3 ICCAs for many years -> creation of ANAPAC -> identification of focal points in other countries during communication on ICCAs in sub-regional meetings -> ASRAC Assembly as a booster for the dynamics of the Central Africa Sub-Regional Network

**Tanzania/Kenya:** The East Africa coordination was delayed at the beginning because the ex-coordinator was not very active (Vincent Ziba-Zambia). Recent national assemblies (March/April 2022).

**Botswana:** Too little progress yet in Southern Africa by the Coordinator.

#### Lessons

Benefits of network meetings: (i) get to know each other + (ii) build together

Requirements for a successful network:

1. everywhere, the Bottom-up process is effective (grounding) 1 ICCA -> 2 ICCA -> Country networks -> other countries
2. everywhere, it is the commitment of the members and resource persons that makes progress possible
3. it is self-determination and sustainable funding that will ensure the sustainability of the networks

### Risk

The enthusiasm risks making us go too fast and lose our quality as ICCA (Quantity versus quality)

Everyone wants to establish their own ICCA, the funders are looking for numbers!

Ambition for a large network but limited means to manage this ambition

Strategy and politics = WARNING! need to ground at the grassroots, consolidate the base first, ensure quality ICCAs. Spend the money on SSP (*self-strengthening process*) training rather than on increasing the number of ICCAs!

### **Dominique Bikaba – Member of Council**

I would now like to introduce Felipe Gomez, the regional Council representative for Mesoamerica. Felipe is also from our Member organisation Oxlajuj Ajpop and centrally involved in the national TICCA network in Guatemala. Felipe will share key points about the regionalisation process in Latin America, including Mesoamerica, the Amazon and South Cone. This was prepared with the support of the Regional Coordinators - Albert Chan Dzul, Lorena Arce and Carmen Miranda.

### **Felipe Gomez – Member of Council**

- The pandemic has affected the regionalisation process in Latin America, mainly because of the difficulty of holding meetings and exchanges at the regional and sub-regional level. Although virtuality presents opportunities, access to it is still limited for many members in the region, while these forms of conversation are not very much appreciated by most members.
- The 1st Regional Assembly was held in Fusagasugá, Colombia in October 2018. On that occasion, a regionalisation proposal was agreed upon and then presented at the General Assembly in Ethiopia. However, we did not get any response on this proposal.
- The 2nd Regional Assembly was held in Lima, Peru from 14 to 17 October 2019, in the framework of the Third Latin American Conservation Congress (CAPLAC), without presenting significant advances with respect to the initial proposal and we focused on positioning our vision in the congress.
- After more than 2 years of pandemic, we are planning to hold the 3rd Regional Assembly at the end of 2022, where we hope to take up the initial proposal again and see how to move forward on it.
- Regarding the sub-regional level, during 2022, assemblies and meetings are being organised in different countries to be followed by sub-regional assemblies in Mesoamerica, Amazonia and the Southern Cone prior to the 3rd Regional Assembly, which is expected to take place in November 2022.
- Despite these limitations, there has been progress in the establishment and consolidation of ICCA networks in the countries. Noteworthy are the networks in: Colombia and Argentina supported by the Global ICCA Support Initiative (both already with defined governance systems and websites); then with more limited financial support Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil and Chile; and finally, Ecuador that this year will have its first national assembly. These are important achievements in the region, as it was agreed at the 1st Regional Assembly of Latin America that one of the priorities in the regionalisation process would be the creation and strengthening of national networks to give greater voice and participation to members at the grassroots and in their territorial contexts.
- Limitations of the regionalisation process: (1) aggravated by the pandemic, one limitation is the poor connectivity in many of the territories, which has limited the active participation of many members especially from peasant and indigenous peoples and communities; (2) lack of resources to carry out regional initiatives (campaigns, studies, support to defenders, etc.); (3) little progress is observed in the regionalisation of the different structures of the Consortium: Secretariat, Council, Thematic Groups, Policy Group, Communications, which continues to make regions dependent on global decisions for their regional, sub-regional and national actions.
- Challenges. We consider that the regionalisation process should be focused on moving towards a structure that will strengthen the action of the Network in its mission to promote "recognition and appropriate support to the Territories of Life". Especially since direct threats to the Territories of Life are urgent to address and the Consortium's response is sometimes slow or delayed, or it is not aligned with members' priorities.
- Next steps. (1) National and sub-regional meetings and assemblies as preliminary steps towards our regional assembly at the end of this year 2022; (2) in addition, prior to the regional assembly, virtual

thematic conversations are being planned on: national networks; the position and role of members in the region on the post-2020 goals; the situation of nature defenders; Territories of Life and climate change, among others; (3) a face-to-face meeting of the board and the regional secretariat is also being planned to advance in the planning of the regional assembly at the end of the year.

#### **Ali Razmkhah - Regional Coordination team for Central and West Asia**

The cornerstone of the regionalisation process in our region is expanding and empowering the regional network through inviting new Members and nominating Honorary Members and improving communication among Members. Since 2018, we have held two pre-assembly meetings and two regional assemblies. Our goals for regionalisation are establishing national networks and a functioning regional council to adapt our work to the diversity in the region. Therefore, to achieve these goals, during the second regional assembly held earlier this year, members decided to form an ad-hoc working group to pursue assembly decisions on the regional manifesto and road map.

#### **Femy Pinto - Regional Coordination team for Southeast Asia**

Following the first regional assembly in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia in August 2018 where Southeast Asia and friends from Taiwan/Austronesia region first articulated their collective vision of a regional ICCA Consortium, the regionalization process in Southeast Asia proceeded. Since then, there was a second regional assembly in 2020 where the Regional Council was formed, and a third assembly in 2021. These last two were held virtually, which had both challenges and learnings. Since 2019, we held regional exchanges on thematic priorities, about livelihood in territories of life, mapping and documentation, and during the Regional Assemblies, we were also able to hold discussions about governance, mobilizing and expanding and strengthening membership and we regularly update each other on situations of territories of life in the different member countries. Since June 2020, the Regional Council has been organizing calls at least bi-monthly. A series of virtual consultations among the members have been organized to formulate the regional Consortium's strategic plan and the process is expected to be culminated by June this year. A Southeast Asia ICCA report will be presented during the Asia Parks Congress in Sabah in late May of this year.

#### **Neema Pathak Broome – Regional Coordination team for South Asia**

South Asia region focused on expanding the membership especially of the territories of life themselves, their networks and their community-based organizations. More members were added from among the youth and women. In the first regional meeting in 2019, regional thematic groups on wetlands, forests, grasslands, high altitude ecosystems and cross cutting themes of gender and youth were formed. The leads of these along with the National Working groups in Nepal and more recently in India are part of a Regional Coordination Committee (RCC). Since 2019 the RCC has met online every 6-months but the progress on regionalization has remained slow because of COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is a regular exchange of information through a regional mailing list on CCAs and members mailing list. The next regional meeting is planned in the latter half of 2022 where an exercise on the regional vision, strategy and action plan is envisioned.

#### **Sutej Hugu - Regional Coordination team for East & North Asia**

We start our works in a country by nominating new honorary members through our partners like GEF SGP national offices, and recruiting our new members through honorary members, and organize them to build the national working group to cover the potential members and honorary members with language, resource or political barriers to apply for membership as well as the custodians for ICCAs-territories of life that we are striving to support. In response to the call for regionalization and decentralization, we start by seeking to connect the organizational restructuring with the regionalization process and promote inter-regional collaboration and cross-regional networking.

#### **Regional Coordination team for East Austronesia & Pacific Islands**

It comes 2018 as a pivotal year for our regionalization marked by the joining of LMMA Network International as a member, launched the East Austronesian ICCA Network and Working Group, while representatives from

Indigenous Taiwan and Madagascar participated in the 1st Regional Assembly Southeast Asia + West Austronesia. LMMA Network International becomes the regional coordination team in April 2022. Based on their wonderful work, we expect the emerging and evolving of the cross-regional network for Austronesia–Pacific & Indian Oceans to focus on the Indigenous and community fisheries and local managed marine areas in the coastal and marine territories of life.

#### **Dominique Bikaba – Member of Council**

Thank you to the presenters for sharing these experiences from your regions. The second half of this session will now focus on discussion and exchange. Members and Honorary members, please think about what you would like to ask or discuss! Before opening it up to the full Assembly, I have a couple of questions for the presenters and encourage other Regional Coordinators and Council members to share your views as well.

First: what are the most important topics or issues that your regions have prioritised as part of the regionalisation process? What suggestions would you offer Members in other regions who are interested to start or strengthen this process?

I am also interested to hear more about the impacts and benefits of the regionalisation process, particularly for territories of life and their custodians at the grassroots level - or, alternatively, some of the key challenges you have faced so far that we can learn from.

We will now open it up to the Assembly for any questions, comments, suggestions, or otherwise. To kick off the exchange, I would like to ask a question of the Members who have been part of this process in your regions: from your perspective, what are the main motivations or reasons for being part of this process of regionalisation? What has been the most interesting or exciting part of it for you?

#### **Member spotlight 2 – Pastoral Women Council, Tanzania**

These are the women of Ngorongoro and Longido district in Northern Tanzania. They have become change agents in their community.

##### **WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE**

Nairosi Paulo (Maasai leader): “This project is really important to us as women. It has opened our eyes and now we see light at the end of the tunnel. I’m a leader in a community that does not value the rights of women. I use my voice to speak up for other women and to teach them about their rights”.

##### **Impact 1: Improved livelihoods**

Noorparakoo Mako (Vicoba member): “I’m a member of the Vicoba and I participate in adult literacy classes. I didn’t know how to read and write. Before I didn’t have a source of income but now, I own a small shop. I can afford books for my children, food and clothes”.

4157 women have joined a micro credit group. 3727 women have started businesses. 1197 women have been educated on literacy and numeracy.

This is a woman’s Solidarity Boma. It’s a groundbreaking project where women own and manage their cows, sheep and goats.

Noorparakoo Mako (Vicoba member): “According to the Maasai culture women are not allowed to own livestock. Due to this Pastoral Women Council (PWC) program 1500 women now own livestock. Here in the boma women are the ones who manage and sell livestock. The men in our community are seeing women can manage livestock too. This program has given us strength and brought women to the forefront. Now men respect us because they have seen we can manage and sell our livestock”.

Saning’o Lonyori (programme beneficiary): “I have 4 girls and according to Maasai culture a woman without any sons has no inheritance. My husband left me. Since I joined this boma I’ve been given several responsibilities. I milk the cows and look after the livestock. I’m now seen as valued member of the community”.

To liberate women to be able to be true change agents, three boreholes were drilled to provide safe water close to their homes. These boreholes are helping more than 30,000 people and 26,000 livestock to access clean water.

Meshuko Lempikas (beneficiary of the borehole): “I used to walk 6 hours to fetch water. When I would reach the water source, I first had to wait for the cows to finish drinking. After that I would get the water and walk back home. Ever since we got the borehole my life has really changed. Now I have the time to fetch water, participate in adult literacy classes and Vicoba, and run my business of making beaded jewellery. I’m able to do all these because of the borehole”.

**Impact 2: Increased participation of Maasai women in Leadership and decision making**

A Vicoba member: “I have received leadership training through a program offered by PWC. I then set out to be a leader to help other women with their challenges. I found many women were already members of the Vicoba group, but they weren’t allowed to access local government loans. I was able to register the women as business owners, so they were able to access and benefit from the loans”.

There are 177 members of the women’s rights leader forums. They mobilize women to hold their leaders accountable and ensure that community priorities such as education and health care are being well-funded.

Luka Ndoros Lizer (member of WRLF): “I’m a member of the Women’s Rights Leadership Forum (WRLF). I received training from PWC. We educate women about their rights. The older generation of Maasai men have perceived women like children. Our perception has now changed. Women are adults and they have rights just like us men”.

Nooisiamon Nagira (legal aid beneficiary): “My husband and my in-laws beat me up very badly. After I won the court case, PWC helped fight for my children’s rights and my livestock. PWC helped me build a house so now I live safely with my children”.

**Impact 3: Increased access to land and natural resources through land ownership**

659 women were supported to acquire land title deeds.

Pendo Andrea Laizer (land title deed beneficiary): “PWC has shown me the way. I am very happy because I got my land title deed. And I’m enjoying my rights as a woman. I’m using that land for farming. I get food to eat. I also sell the crops which helps pay for school fees for my children. I am thankful because now I’m in possession of my land title deed without any disputes”.

Pastoral Women Council, with the support of NORAD

**Council report for 2021**

My name is Sara Oliveros Lopez. I am an Indigenous Nahua and the Secretary of the Council. I will be presenting the Council Report, covering the period of January to December 2021.

First, I would like to provide some background information about the Council.

As a reminder, the Council is one of three main governance organs of the ICCA Consortium, along with the General Assembly and the Auditor of Accounts. The Council primarily provides high-level guidance and strategic leadership and direction and supports processes of major organisational change such as leadership transitions and strategic planning.

According to our Statutes, the Council is composed of a minimum of seven and a maximum of thirty individuals who are from the membership and elected by the General Assembly. Council members can serve for up to three 3-year terms.

The Council has two standing committees. First, the Executive Committee is responsible for regular oversight and guidance of all aspects of the Association's operations in close collaboration with the Secretariat. It consists of five Council members: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair of the Membership Committee. Second, the Membership Committee is responsible for overseeing and guiding the Association's membership.

Over the past year, 22 people have served as Council Members. I would like to acknowledge and thank this powerful group of representatives who have contributed to the Council!

Two Council members have completed their terms and are not standing for re-election or other positions. Please join me in thanking:

- Paul Sein Twa (Phapi Rakdamrongphorn), who served a full term as co-chair of the thematic stream on sustaining territories of life since his election in 2019; and
- Zelealem Tefera Ashenafi, who served two full terms as the regional representative for the Horn of Africa since his election in 2016.

In 2021, we improved the planning and regularity of Council and Committee meetings. The Council held five meetings throughout the year, a bit more than once per quarter. The Executive Committee met eight times, generally in the months where we did not have a full Council meeting.

Council and Executive Committee meetings addressed regular matters such as programme and funding updates and preparations for the General Assembly, as well as deeper conversations about future directions of the association, and roles, responsibilities and expectations of different governance and management bodies.

The Membership Committee also had a very productive year. In the next presentation, we will hear more from Aman Singh, Chair of the Membership Committee.

The Council and the two standing committees had Secretariat support from Sarah, Alison and Holly, as well as linguistic support from Manuel May Castillo and Camila Miranda Reyes.

A key outcome of last year's General Assembly was the adoption of three key governing documents: revised Statutes, new Governance Procedures, and new Membership Policy & Procedures. I encourage you to familiarise yourself with these organisational documents.

In preparation for this year's General Assembly, we placed a lot of emphasis on working with the Council and Secretariat to ensure that regional representatives are nominated by consensus of the membership in their regions, and to harmonise the composition of the Council in line with the new Governance Procedures.

Before this Assembly, the Council called for nominations for several positions that are vacant or for which current Council members are eligible to stand for a second or third term.

I am pleased to confirm that we have received nominations for seven Council positions. This includes the following three nominations for global-level positions:

- Colin Scott, who is standing for a second term as the Treasurer;
- Aman Singh, who is standing for a second term as the Chair of the Membership Committee; and
- Pooven Moodley, who is standing for a second term as the thematic representative for defending territories of life.

We also received the following four nominations for region-specific Council positions by consensus of the membership in their respective regions:

- Alifereti Tawake, who is standing for a second term as the regional representative for East Austronesia and the Pacific islands;
- Yingyi Zhang, who is standing for a second term as the regional representative for East and North Asia;
- Malika Virdi, who is standing for a first term as the regional representative for South Asia; and
- Victor Boton, who is standing for a first term as the regional representative for the Sahel, North Africa and Horn of Africa.

A number of other Council members will continue in their current roles on an interim basis for the next year, or until the relevant regional assemblies take place later this year, when nominations can be taken by consensus of the membership in those regions.

The Council elections will take place in two groups on the third and fourth days of the General Assembly. Make sure you are here to contribute to these decisions! This year, for the first time, we are using a consensus-building tool called Loomio to enable Members and Honorary members to share your views before and during the Assembly. We encourage you to visit the “Meet the nominee” pages for all seven nominees and contribute to building consensus ahead of the elections on Wednesday and Thursday.

Thank you again to all of our Council members who have concluded their roles, to those who are continuing to serve in the Council, and to those who are standing for election at this year’s General Assembly. Your contributions are crucial to the vitality of our association!

## Membership Committee report for 2021

My name is Aman Singh and I am the Chair of the Membership Committee. I will be presenting the Membership Report to you today.

As Chair of the Membership Committee, I work with other Council members to oversee the Membership Policy and Procedures. We strive to nurture and maintain a membership that is as strong, active, and collaborative as possible. We also advise on membership-related aspects of the ICCA Consortium's strategy and operations.

Those listed here have been serving on the Committee for the past few years and I would like to take a moment to thank them for all their help and guidance. Pending re-election for our second terms in the Council, Yingyi, Alifereti, and I will remain on the Membership Committee along with the other Council members who are continuing in their roles and will remain attentive and responsive to your suggestions and concerns related to our membership.

Alison Powell serves as our administrative and operational support from the Secretariat. She handles the practical logistics of things like membership intake rounds and supporting Committee meetings and is also available should you have any questions or ideas.

At last year’s General Assembly in June, we presented the key findings of the 2020 Membership Review so we won’t repeat that this year. I would like to share a few new developments since then.

First, we are pleased to welcome many new Members and Honorary members to the association! Among other countries, Members have joined us from the Solomon Islands, Jordan, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Ecuador and others.

We also had our first Member organisations join from Costa Rica, Cameroon, Mongolia, Rwanda, and Montenegro.

We now hold a Welcome Event for new Members and Honorary members when they are accepted into the association. It is a pleasure getting to know them and their work and better enables us to collaborate and connect in a positive and effective way.

The other major development has been the implementation of the new Membership Policies and Procedures, which were adopted by the last General Assembly. This document went through a lengthy review process with lots of input from the membership, Council, and Secretariat. It consists of two main parts.

Part 1 - the Membership Policy - includes sections on the definition of the membership; strengthening our membership; and a Code of Ethical Conduct.

Part 2 - the Procedures - helps define things like the Membership Committee and the rights and responsibilities of Members and Honorary members. I highly encourage everyone to read this organisational document if you haven't already.

One aspect worth mentioning here is the fact that all Members and Honorary members now are expected to contribute at least one *voluntary collective action* each year or between General Assemblies. This is very open-ended, but some examples of voluntary collective actions can include things like:

- direct care-taking of a territory of life,
- publishing an article on related issues,
- helping others in the Consortium secure funding, or
- playing a key role in organising events such as national or regional assemblies.

The tri-annual membership review is another action in which Members and Honorary members are expected to participate in order to remain in "good standing". If you were part of the association in 2020, you'll remember that we conducted a review that year with our Member organisations. The full results of this review were published in a summary report in December 2021. Thank you again to everyone who contributed!

I encourage everyone to read the report to learn more about the composition and key characteristics of our Members, their priority areas of work, and how they plan to contribute to the association in the years ahead.

This year, we will conduct a review with our Honorary members. This will be the first time in the association's history that we will ask the Honorary members more about their work and how they would like to be engaged in their roles.

I am personally very excited to see the eventual results of the review and to learn more about the more than 420 Honorary members in our association. Please watch out for more information about this in the coming months.

Thank you to everyone here who attends our General Assemblies and helps us to strengthen our association and the work we do together.



## Day Three: Wednesday 27 April 2022

### Election of new members of Council

#### **Colin Hartley Scott - Treasurer**

Colin is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. His research focuses on Indigenous ecological knowledge, land and sea tenure, conservation governance, and the political and legal processes of Indigenous rights among hunting and fishing peoples in subarctic Canada as well as Torres Strait in northern Australia. He has served as an anthropological witness for Indigenous land and sea claims in both countries. He has worked closely with the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation of Wemindji in northern Quebec to advance community-defined and -controlled terrestrial and marine conserved areas. He directs the Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives (CICADA, ICCA Consortium Member), a partnership for knowledge co-production involving collaboration between more than thirty Indigenous peoples globally and nearly a hundred university researchers who share a commitment to support the ecological integrity of Indigenous territories, land- and sea-based livelihoods, and self-determined futures. He also co-directs Leadership for the Ecozoic project, a joint initiative between McGill University and the University of Vermont in graduate-level pedagogy and research.

#### **Aman Singh – Chair of Membership Committee**

Based in India and founder of 'Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan' (KRAPAVIS, ICCA Consortium Member), Aman has overseen the regeneration of over 200 Orans (community conserved areas) in Rajasthan and has taken steps to influence policy changes and legislation in the state. In his research and documentation about the Orans, Aman has written extensively on community conserved areas, ecology, and pastoralism. His work serves as a model for community engagement at multiple levels to realise tangible improvements in local livelihoods and enable future generations to continue their productive stewardship of the land. He has received recognition and numerous awards in India and abroad. Aman holds an M.Sc. in Mathematics from Meerut University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Environment and is a graduate of the University of California's Environmental Leadership Programme and has studied Deep Ecology and Bioregionalism at the UK's Schumacher College.

#### **Poovalingum Moodley – Thematic representative for “Defending Territories of Life”**

Based in South Africa. A human rights lawyer and social justice activist from South Africa, is currently Executive Director of Natural Justice, a Member of the ICCA Consortium. His experience spans from the anti-apartheid struggle to working with women's right to land in Africa, from challenging mining companies to promoting rights to health and education and supporting movement building. Before joining Natural Justice, he has worked with Oxfam and ActionAid, including in a successful campaign to prevent nuclear energy related deals between South Africa and Russia. He works closely with Indigenous communities in several continents. Pooven keeps active in providing solidarity and support to activists across the globe.

### Member spotlight 3 – SAVE Rivers, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo

Voices of the people in Upper Baram, Sarawak

This land has many uses for us. I want it to be well looked after so it can look after us.

I first started hunting when I was about 10 years old. I often used to go with my father into the forest. He would show me how to hunt... how to track animals...

We collect the rattan vine. We scrape it. Then you start weaving. The elders, our ancestors, taught us how to make it like this. We use these baskets to collect ferns, collect tapioca, go fishing.

What worries me now is that I don't know how I'm going to make a living because there is no timber to get nearby. And if I want to go hunting for meat to eat, I can't get it like I could before with no problems, because the forest is being destroyed.

80% of the rainforests in Sarawak have been heavily impacted by logging in the last 50 years.

### Introducing Upper Baram Forest Area (UBFA)

A project initiated by Indigenous Communities (map of UBFA) An area the size of 283,500 hectares (three times the size of Singapore). Made up of 2 villages, a population of more than 4000 people, from 4 indigenous ethnic groups: Kelabit, Kenyah, Penan and Saban.

UBFA is home to... bornean gibbon, bornean clouded leopard, rhinoceros, hornbill, and many more amazing flora and fauna.

Together with the Indigenous communities in UBFA, we are working to conserve the beauty and wonder of this place:

- reforestation efforts
- community mapping of indigenous villages
- locals unite to protect their homeland
- locals trained to research their homeland

To support the UBFA project please visit [SaveRivers.org](http://SaveRivers.org)

This video has been produced with footage from the documentary *Sunset Over Selungo* by Ross Harrison [www.selungo.com](http://www.selungo.com)

## Treasurer's report for 2021

### Treasurer's Annual Report January 1 – December 31, 2021 April 14, 2022

Table 1: Status of ICCA Consortium's organizational accounts

Name of the Account	USD equivalent 31 December 2020	USD equivalent 31 December 2021
Consortium USD	347,420.15	720,499.10
Consortium CHF	69,976.04	67,890.97
Consortium EUR	9,118.75	9,985.07
Cash USD	177.00	177.00
Cash EUR	489.12	455.06
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>427,181.06</b>	<b>799,007.20</b>
In which:		
<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>282,471.81</b>	<b>715,343.02</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>144,709.25</b>	<b>83,664.18 *</b>

All figures in USD or USD equivalent.

**Table 1.1: Restricted Funds in the Consortium USD Account (as of 31 December 2021)**

<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>715,343.02</b>
SwedBio 2021-2024	(33,019.86)
SwedBio 2019-2020	(808.59)
The Packard Foundation	(350,000.00)
The Oak Foundation	(135,715.41)
The Oak Foundation CoVid	(73,987.70)
Anonymous Grant 2019-2021	(34,436.48)
TIKVA 2020-2021	(6,626.52)
National Geographic Society	(67,579.97)
Synchronicity Earth	(20,052.52)
ILC	(2,365.97)

All figures in USD or USD equivalent.

**Table 3 : Status of the TCF/SVCF project account**

<b>TCF 2016-2018</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditures per 31 December 2020</b>	<b>Expenditures 1 January to 31 December 2021</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>
225,509.02	217,429.18	8,079.84	0
<b>SVCF</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditures per 31 December 2020</b>	<b>Expenditures 1 January to 31 December 2021</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>
60,042.17	10,707.12	49,269.77	65.28

All figures in USD or USD equivalent.

**Table 4: Status of the GSI project Phase I account**

<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditures per 31 December 2020</b>	<b>Expenditures 1 January to 31 December 2021</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>
643,000.00	564,975.14	75,932.66	2,096.19

All figures in USD or USD equivalent. Small carry-forward discrepancy compared to the balance sheet. This will be written off at the end of the grant.

**Table 5: Status of the GSI project Phase II account:**

<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditures per 31 December 2020</b>	<b>Expenditures 1 January to 31 December 2021</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>
0	0	37,960.15	<b>(37,960.15)*</b>

All figures in USD or USD equivalent.

\*The GSI Phase II funds haven't yet been received. The total expenditures for 2021 include an accrual of \$4,028.81.

**Table 6: Status of the Grand Houroum grant account:**

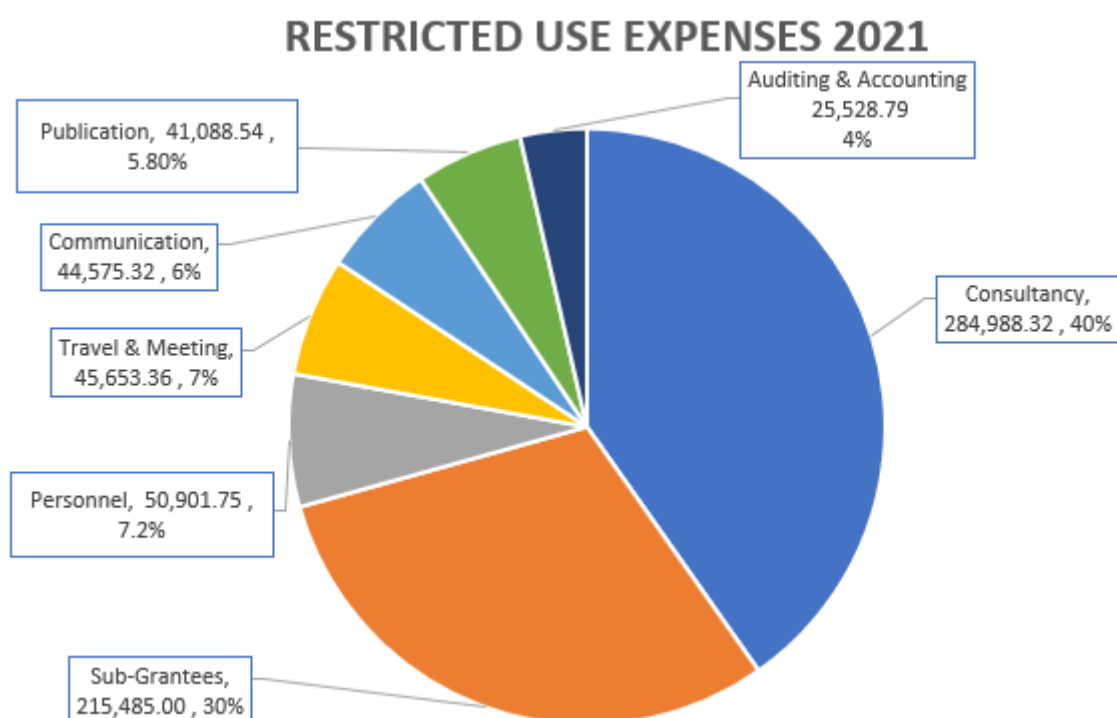
<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditures per 31 December 2020</b>	<b>Expenditures 1 January to 31 December 2021</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>
9,975.00	5,105.75	15.07	4,854.18

All figures in USD or USD equivalent.

Table 7: Status of other restricted-use grant accounts:

Grant/Project	Total Grant	Cumulative Expenditures per 31 December 2020	Expenditures 1 January to 31 December 2021	Remaining Balance
NatGeo Society	165,000.00	9,489.87	21,930.16	133,579.97
SwedBio 2019-21	156,750.59	153,636.18	2,305.82	808.59
SwedBio 2021-24	422,836.00	0	53,767.77	369,068.23
Natural Justice	7,382.22	0	4,213.00	3,169.22
Packard Foundation	350,000.00	0	1,744.00	348,256.00
Synchronicity Earth	33,639.73	0	13,637.21	20,002.52
TIKVA 2020-2021	50,000.00	24,979.32	18,394.16	6,626.52
ILC	50,000.00	22,765.41	25,391.03	1,843.56
Oak Foundation	1,035,455.00	48,038.44	287,964.48	699,452.08
Oak Foundation-CoVid	86,673.89	0.00	12,686.22	73,987.67
Anonymous Grant 2019-21	217,000.00	94,383.78	94,929.74	27,686.48

All figures in USD or USD equivalent.



### Annex 1: Balance Sheet, 2021-12-31

	Original currency	Original currency	Original currency	
	CHF	EUR	USD	CHF
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash USD			177.00	161.27
Cash EUR		400.00	455.06	414.46
The Christensen Fund			278.90	254.12
Consortium CHF	61,854.90		67,890.97	61,854.90
Consortium EUR		7,457.20	9,985.07	7,726.78
Consortium USD			720,499.10	656,476.27
Grand Houroum			4,854.18	4,422.84
UNDP GSI			840.04	765.39
<b>Cash and Cash equivalents</b>			<b>804,980.32</b>	<b>732,076.03</b>
UNDP GSI			20,000.00	18,222.82
Swedbio Grant 2021- 2024			341,909.85	311,528.08
National Geographic Society			66,000.00	60,135.31
Natural Justice			7,382.22	6,726.24
The Oak Foundation			571,300.00	520,534.85
<b>Receivables from Grants</b>			<b>1,006,592.07</b>	<b>917,147.31</b>
Other Receivables			1,992.00	1,814.99
<b>Other Receivables</b>			<b>1,992.00</b>	<b>1,814.99</b>
Transfer			-	-
Cash advances/loans			10,000.00	9,111.41
Prepaid expenses			358.01	326.20
Accrued income			-	-
Withholding tax			-	-
Foreign currency exchange adjustment			-	12,173.85
<b>Other Current assets</b>			<b>10,358.01</b>	<b>21,611.47</b>
<b>Total Current assets</b>			<b>1,823,922.40</b>	<b>1,672,649.80</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>1,823,922.40</b>	<b>1,672,649.80</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Accrued expenses			11,000.00	10,022.55
Suppliers or Creditors			15,470.03	14,055.38
<b>Total Current liabilities</b>			<b>26,470.03</b>	<b>24,117.93</b>
<b>Restricted Use Grants</b>				
Christensen Grant 2016- 2018			-	-
National Geographic Society			133,579.97	121,710.19
First peoples Worldwide Grant			4,854.18	4,422.84
SwedBio 2019- 2020			808.59	736.74
SwedBio 2021- 2024			369,068.23	336,273.20
UNDP- GSI Phase I			2,096.19	1,909.92
UNDP GSI Phase II			(37,960.15)	(34,587.05)
The Packard Foundation			348,256.00	317,310.32
TIKVA (The Tides Foundation) - 2020- 2021			6,626.52	6,037.69
Silicon Valley Community Foundation (TCF)			65.28	59.48
Synchronicity Earth			20,002.52	18,225.12
Natural Justice			3,169.22	2,887.61
ILC International Land Coalition			1,843.56	1,679.74
Anonymous Grant ( 2019- 21)			27,686.48	25,226.29
The Oak Foundation			699,452.08	637,299.47
The Oak Foundation - CoVid related support			73,987.67	67,413.20
<b>Total Restricted Use Grants</b>			<b>1,653,536.34</b>	<b>1,506,604.75</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<b>1,680,006.37</b>	<b>1,530,722.68</b>
<b>Internal Capital</b>				
Reported surplus			145,333.03	143,222.69
Surplus/deficit for the period			(1,417.00)	(1,295.57)
<b>Total Internal Capital</b>			<b>143,916.03</b>	<b>141,927.12</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Internal Capital</b>			<b>1,823,922.40</b>	<b>1,672,649.80</b>

<b>31.12.2021</b>	
usd- chf	0.91
eur- chf	1.04
chf- usd	1.10
eur- usd	1.14

## Annex 2: Income & Expenditure, 2021-01-01 to 2021-12-31

	Original currency	Original currency	Original currency	
	CHF	EUR	USD	CHF
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Income from Restricted Use Grants</b>				
Income The Christensen Fund 2016-2018			8,079.84	7,387.46
Income Silicon Valley Community Foundation			49,269.77	45,047.75
Income First Peoples Worldwide			15.07	13.78
Income SwedBio 2019-20			2,305.82	2,108.23
Income SwedBio 2021-24			53,767.77	49,160.31
Income UNDP-GSI Phase I			75,932.66	69,425.85
Income UNDP-GSI Phase II			37,960.15	34,707.28
Income TIKVA 2020-2021			18,394.16	16,817.93
Income ILC International Land Coalition			25,391.03	23,215.23
Income Anonymous Grant 2019-21			94,929.74	86,795.04
Income The Oak Foundation			287,964.48	263,288.29
Income The Oak Foundation - CoVid related support			12,686.22	11,599.11
Income Natural Justice			4,213.00	3,851.98
Income National Geographic Society			21,930.16	20,050.93
Income Packard Foundation			1,744.00	1,594.55
Income Synchronicity Earth			13,637.21	12,468.61
<b>Total Income Restricted Use Grants</b>			<b>708,221.08</b>	<b>647,532.34</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
Members contributions				-
Interest Income Consortium Funds				-
<b>Total Other Income</b>			-	-
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>708,221.08</b>	<b>647,532.34</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Consultancy Fees			284,988.32	260,567.16
Sub-Grantees			215,485.00	197,019.70
Wages			46,132.70	
AVS Contribution			4,406.25	
Insurance (Accident)			362.80	
Travel & Meeting Costs			45,653.36	41,741.24
Communication			44,575.32	40,755.58
Publication & Publicity			41,088.54	37,567.59
<b>Direct Expenditures of restricted grants</b>			<b>682,692.29</b>	<b>624,191.16</b>
Indirect Expenditures of restricted grants			25,528.79	23,341.18
<b>Total Expenditures of Grants (restricted)</b>			<b>708,221.08</b>	<b>647,532.34</b>
Operating Expenditures Secretariat			(1,309.85)	(1,197.61)
Exchange rate loss			2,742.58	2,507.56
Exchange rate profit			(15.73)	(14.38)
<b>Operating Expenditures (unrestricted)</b>			<b>1,417.00</b>	<b>1,295.57</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>			<b>709,638.08</b>	<b>648,827.92</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit for the period</b>			<b>(1,417.00)</b>	<b>(1,295.57)</b>
<b>Average annual exchange rate 2021</b>				
usd-chf		0.914		

## Report of Auditor of the Accounts

### Report of the Auditor of Accounts on the Treasurer's Report for 2021

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends:

As ICCA Consortium's Auditor of Accounts, I have reviewed the accounts and have read the Treasurer's Report. From the accounts seen, I concur with the Treasurer's report, which provides a clear and accurate presentation of the *financial operations* and *current status* of the Consortium for the year 2021. From my review of the key documents and figures available, the Consortium's accounts all appear in good order.

I especially appreciate the work of Colin Scott and Anne Meier, the ICCA Consortium's treasurer and accountant respectively, for their diligence in keeping clear and accurate accounts and their reporting on the ICCA Consortium's financial operations.

As a reminder, the main role that I have as 'auditor of accounts' is to review and assess – on behalf of the broader Consortium membership – whether the accounts are clear, comprehensive, and accurate.

In reviewing the 2021 finances, it is especially noteworthy that the ICCA Consortium has benefited from the support of several donors with new grants, particularly from Sida through SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Synchronicity Earth, and the Packard Foundation. We also received an agreement for new funding from UNDP GEF SGP GSI, and from an Anonymous Donor. Publication of the report on Territories of Life – 2021 was funded from several grants, including also National Geographic Society.

As detailed in the Treasurer's report, the Consortium's total income grew by 107.9%, while expenditures grew by 111.5% in 2021 (compared to 2020). The specifics of incomes and expenses that are presented in the Treasurer's report are clearly presented and balance as expected. Additionally, Member contributions are no longer levied, and there was no interest income on ICCA Consortium funds.

While Covid restrictions continued for some time, some in-person meetings were supported later in the year and the Consortium was also able to issue several significant sub-grants to Member organisations. One of the major achievements last year, bringing significant impact globally in various dialogues and contexts, was development and publication of the aforementioned major report on Territories of Life.

Finally, as in previous years, in addition to noting the above financial aspects I also wish to highlight how the work undertaken by the ICCA Consortium and its Members is global in nature and extremely diverse, and especially that its impact *extends well beyond* what can be suitably captured in financial records or project documents. As such, the *foundation* of the ICCA Consortium's regional and global activities and achievements continues to be *the extraordinary volunteer and semi-volunteer commitment* of its Members, Honorary members, and Secretariat for promoting a more appropriate recognition and support of ICCAs – territories of life.

Sincerely,

Marc Foggin  
Auditor of Accounts

#### Member spotlight 4 – Korchi community.

This is our forest. We get minor forest produce from it. We also get to regularly see many animals, such as: Sambar deer, deer, wild boar, jungle fowl, peacock. A tiger also lives in this part of the forest. his cave is located nearby. This forest also contains bears. But there are only a few in this part of the forest.

In 2011, 87 gram sabhas (village assemblies) in Korchi taluka received Community Forest Resources (CFR) Rights over their traditional forest. Today they have a taluka level federation called Mahagramsabha. These gram sabhas are supporting livelihoods, managing, and conserving the forest.

In 2011 Zendevar village was granted Community Forest Resources rights under the Forest Rights Act. Over the past eight year they have been protecting, managing, and conserving their forest. They formed ‘forest protection committees’, patrolling the forest to check for fires and illegal logging activities.

For forest protection, each day people from six households, go for patrolling. We made a register to maintain this system. it is updated each day. we have nine groups for forest protection, with both men and women included. If my husband is not there, then I can go, and if he is there then he can go. This is the way we carry out forest protection.

In the past four to five years, the number of forest fires has fallen. So, the biodiversity and medicinal herbs and plants have increased. If a seed falls on the ground, it can survive. When the forest doesn’t burn, we can see the benefits.

This is the tiger’s cave, the tiger lives here with his cubs. Sometimes when we are on our forest patrol, we spot the tiger here.

The Forest Rights Act revived a sense of belonging and connection to the forest. Women, in particular, have benefitted from the restored rights. Their day-to-day activities in relation to the forest are no longer deemed illegal.

That our water, forest, and land: we have had closing relationship to them. For centuries, our traditions, our culture, our rituals, our food, and our livelihoods. We get so much more from our forests in a year than we can from our agricultural field, for food, for wedding. And for offering to the dev, flowers, paan leaves, and whatever dev and devta want. We offer it to them.

There is a close relationship between the women and the forest. And that still exists. If this forest is alive, we are alive. If we are here, the forest will be here. This is both our shelter and our bank. We get access to valuable forest resources. We get vegetables from the forest after it rains.

The Forest Rights Act is an essential piece of legislation to correct historical injustices. Its positive impact has been felt by many across India.

With thanks to Mahagramsabha Korchi, Mahila parisar Samb Korchi, Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi. Made by Kalpavriksh, as part of ACKnowI-EJ.

#### Organisational change - reflection, revisioning and manifesto process

**Sara Oliveros López** briefly mentioned the new committee on organisational change (comprised of members of the Council, Council of Elders, and Secretariat). She introduced the speakers in this session: Ashish Kothari (co-founder and current Council of Elders), Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (co-founder and current Council of Elders), Neema Pathak Broome (Regional Coordinator for South Asia, on behalf of Kalpavriksh), Albert Chan Dzul (Regional Coordinator for Mesoamerica, on behalf of U Yich Lu’um), and Holly Jonas (Global Coordinator of the Secretariat)



**Ashish Kothari (member of Council of Elders)**

We need to navigate the pitfalls of getting bigger as an organisation. How do we balance having more money but being frugal? How do we navigate inequalities between those with access to global fora?

A manifesto is a set of inspiring words, it is a crucial initiative. Beyond that it should be ambitious. The whole world should be a territory of life. We should go beyond a binary understanding of men and women, human and nature. How do we deal with time in a non-linear way? We are limited only by our imagination, if we have our feet on the ground, we can fly.

**Neema Pathak Broome (Regional Coordinator for South Asia)**

As many of us who have been associated with the Consortium for a while understand and as we also just heard from our elders, Consortium was initiated when a group of people who were working on ICCAs or were themselves part of territories of life came together voluntarily to work towards recognition and strengthening of ICCAs. As we have been hearing, in the last few decades things have gradually changed to finally culminate into a major change in 2019.

Since then there have been certain constraints due to Covid 19 but this has also been a time of much internal restructuring, re organising, streamlining, strengthening regional decentralisation, and thanks to online possibilities, of more opportunities for regional coordinating teams, global secretariat, council members and council of elders to connect with each other more frequently. Some of this has also been financially supported due to more funding opportunities as we have heard. We are very grateful for the time and effort that has been invested in these processes by all teams, particularly by Holly and the global secretariat as a whole.

While our management was strengthening, a couple of incidents brought to light some oversights in our internal governance procedures, leading to a few debates and discussions, which in turn led to formation of a small committee to look into the organisational issues, which included members from the regional coordinators, council of elders, the council and the global secretariat- all organs of governance and management of the Consortium. Coming together of all these in fact created a beautiful space of confluence and the internal discussions have been most inspiring. While we met about the organisational issues, we ended up also reflecting in depth about the Consortium and what it stands for. These reflections threw up some critical questions and some in our opinion very important recommendations.

The questions were related both, internally for the Consortium, and for the Consortium in the global context. The context of ever changing reality around us, which has been much more evident and visible in the past few years e.g the IPBES report revealing the crisis in the state of biodiversity, the IPCC report trying to hammer in the climate crisis, major outbreaks of fires and floods in regions where there have been none before, unbearable heat waves or cold waves, the outbreaks of the pandemics, national employment and livelihoods crisis, along with the sharp rise in authoritarian, divisive, aggressive, oppressive states including in the name of democracies and their stronger than ever alliance with land and resource grabbing corporations.

A very strong need was felt in our group to re-define and re-articulate our meaning and 'reason for being' in this current context. How do we want to address this change and changing context, what is our response to these which also threaten the territories of life? How have we been able to bring in the articulations coming from the territories of life into the global alternative responses, or global discourses? Among others?

This led to some discussions around the idea of developing a manifesto on territories of life and the ICCA Consortium as a key next step towards a deeper and longer process of organisational reflection, revisioning and future planning (Of which Holly will be talking about later in the session).

All of us part of these reflections unanimously also felt that these questions and the idea of the manifesto was not something that this group could or should be addressing. We therefore aim to develop this manifesto together with the full membership over the coming months. We felt it will be a meaningful conversation, particularly in light of the recent organisational changes and difficult past two years, also it would be an opportunity to reconnect with each other and our collective spirituality as well as to connect the meaning of our existence with many new Members who have joined in the recent times.

## Holly Jonas (Global Coordinator)

As the ICCA Consortium is growing and evolving, our Council, Council of Elders and Secretariat have discussed the idea of developing a 'Manifesto for Territories of Life'—i.e., an inspiring statement (in words or more) that concisely articulates the core meaning and reason for being of our association. This is important not only for ourselves but also for others approaching us or whom we are approaching from 'the rest of the world'.

A manifesto is a political statement, but also reveals our shared cultural and spiritual values, "what we stand for", and what we're asking ourselves and others to do. It ought to be succinct but consider both territories of life and the ICCA Consortium. As a dynamic and 'living' document, it might be revisited every few years to ensure it remains relevant and timely within changing global contexts while retaining the core of our institutional memory, roots and values.

The process to develop the manifesto will be broad and inclusive, especially of Indigenous Peoples and local communities who are custodians of territories of life. We welcome and encourage diverse paths, sources and forms of inputs, including country- or region-specific declarations, Indigenous Peoples' statements, cultural expressions, personal reflections and more. These will be discussed and shared in several places and moments over the coming months, including national and regional assemblies, the global General Assembly, online group discussions, and the Consortium website and membership list. This process will dovetail with other closely related organisational processes, including the very active regionalisation process, a deep reflection on our first 10-12 years, the development of a new long-term vision, strategic directions and action plans, and possible new or revised organisational structures and approaches.

In this session today, we have introduced the process to develop the manifesto. We now invite you to visit our webpage or the Loomio thread on the manifesto and download a document with guidance for a short **personal reflection exercise**. This reflection exercise - available in English, French and Spanish - should only take you about 10-15 minutes. All responses received will feed into the development of the draft Manifesto. After downloading the exercise in Word, you can share your contributions anonymously through an online form, or on the Loomio thread or by email to Alison Powell as soon as you'd like after today's session or after the GA.

**Next steps:** Responses will be compiled and shared after the General Assembly. In two sessions in mid-May - the 17th and 18th - we will gather online for broad discussions of the results by then. We encourage you to register in advance for one or both of these sessions, depending on your time zone and preferred languages. We will share the links by email next week. This could also be discussed in the upcoming national, sub-regional and regional assemblies that are planned over the next few months.

After the discussions in mid-May, a draft of the Manifesto will then be compiled by the Committee, or a small group within it, and shared with the full Consortium membership for further inputs and discussion sessions. We aim to finalise it or at least have a working draft by August or September 2022, after most of the currently planned regional assemblies and major events will have taken place. A final-final version can be tabled for approval at the next General Assembly in early 2023.

Finally, we encourage all Members and Honorary members to get involved in preparing our manifesto, and in the broader process of organisational reflection, revisioning, and planning for the future. As Neema mentioned earlier, we have a new committee of representatives from the Council, Council of Elders, and Secretariat to work on these organisational change processes together. This committee includes six representatives from the Council: Sara Oliveros Lopez, Felipe Gomez, Vololona Rasoarimanana, Tero Mustonen, June Rubis and Marco Bassi; three representatives from the Council of Elders: Ashish Kothari, Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend and Thomas Moore; and seven representatives from the Secretariat: Albert Chan Dzul, Neema Pathak, Shruti Ajit, Ali Razmkhah, Nahid Naghizadeh, Alison Powell and myself.

The video Grazia referenced is available in English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Armenian - more translations/subtitling efforts are welcome! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70mt7bozJb8>

We would welcome with open arms anyone else who is keen to be actively involved to join meetings and discussions.

## Day Four: Thursday 28 April 2022

### President's report for 2021

I warmly welcome you to the final day of our 2022 General Assembly and am honoured to present to you the President's report.

In keeping with our host country's requirements, we have shifted the timing of our General Assembly to earlier in the year compared to previous GAs. From here on, our GA reports will cover the previous calendar year. A key organisational achievement last year was the adoption of our new Governance Procedures, new Membership Policy & Procedures, and revised Statutes at the GA last June. These documents reflect the association's current practices and provide more clarity about how our membership and governing bodies work. I encourage everyone to review them, especially as our membership grows and our regionalisation process continues to evolve.

Because of the global pandemic situation, we are doing our annual assembly online. But that doesn't diminish the depth of the agenda and the participation of our Members. Our Secretariat has done a brilliant job in keeping our discussions as engaging and as inclusive as possible.

Over the past two years as the world grappled with the pandemic, many of the usual activities that we normally participate in had not materialized. Unfortunately, though, COVID didn't hamper the many threats to territories of life, biodiversity and the environment. In many cases, the threats have escalated.

In the Philippines, my country, mining companies have intensified operations since President Rodrigo Duterte lifted the moratorium on new mining permits and the ban on open pit mining. Free, Prior and Informed Consent consultations were rarely conducted because of health and safety protocols. We pushed back against this but many of our tribal leaders and environmental activists were harassed, jailed and even killed. My country has this infamous reputation as being the deadliest country in Asia for environmental defenders with more than 20 killed in 2020 alone.

Red tagging or branding activists and entire tribes as communists or terrorists is common in the Philippines. I am one of those red tagged because of my criticism of the government policies against Indigenous Peoples' rights over their ancestral domains. This is also the situation in other countries. This is why I once again dedicate my report to the heroism of our tribal and community leaders and pay respect to colleagues who have been killed. Collectively, we are stronger in pushing back against these threats. Strengthening networks such as ours is the key in this collective effort.

In 2021, as you heard from the Secretariat, the ICCA Consortium has continued to make important strides in the movement for territories of life - from the local-to-global levels and across our thematic streams of work. As with every organisation, we have had our fair share of ups and downs, both internally and due to the continuing pandemic and other external global threats, but we concluded the year with a renewed sense of unity and shared purpose. A key part of the Consortium's work last year was supporting our ongoing regionalisation process, which has been a strategic organisational priority since 2017. On Tuesday, we had a special GA session on regionalisation, where we learned more about the unique ways in which this process is taking shape in several regions around the world.

More broadly, beyond our programmatic work, we have started to undertake a very important process of organizational reflection, revisioning and planning for the future. We have undergone many changes since the Consortium was founded in 2010. Coming out of the worst of the pandemic, it is time to reconvene and reflect on the core meaning and 'reason for being' of our association and collectively decide how we want to move forward. This multi-faceted process will hopefully lead us to exciting new developments, including our first manifesto, a new long-term vision, clearer strategic directions, and possible changes to our organisational structures and governance systems. We introduced this process in a special session on organisational change on Wednesday, and it will continue in the coming months to ensure it is as inclusive and representative as possible.

In our final day, I would like to encourage you to participate actively in our discussions. I have asked our esteemed members of the Executive Committee to help with co-chairing duties this week as I am currently in the biggest political battle of my life, running for the Philippine Senate, to represent the voice of nature and us Indigenous Peoples in our Upper House. We are in the midst of the campaign, the election is coming on 9 May, and I just took a break to be with you today. I thank everyone for supporting me in my campaign.

## Election of new members of Council

### **Alifereti Tawake – Regional representative for East Austronesia and the Pacific islands**

Based in Fiji, Alifereti is a Fijian Indigenous leader and member of the founding Coordination Council of the Locally-managed Marine Area Network (LMMMA network)—a Member of the Consortium that unites Indigenous peoples and local communities engaged in governing and managing their community conserved areas in the Indo-Pacific and Western Indian Ocean regions. As Chair of the Coordinating Council of LMMAs, Alifereti has been facilitating multi-party dialogues about protection, sustainable use and restoration of coastal and marine resources as well as mitigation and adaptation to climate change and promoting sustainable development in general. His work has been recognized by the Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal and Whitley Foundation Award for People and the Environment.

### **Zhang, Yingyi– Regional representative for East Asia**

Based in China, Yingyi has been Programme Director for Flora and Fauna International in China and has been an Honorary member of the Consortium for several years. Her background and interests bridge ecology, biology (she has a Doctorate in conservation biology) and social sciences, and she is a keen advocate of community engagement in conservation. As a founding member and active participant of the Working Group on ICCAs in China, Yingyi has been promoting, supporting and writing about community conserved areas in China. She is a co-founder of Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association (BRC, ICCA Consortium Member) and a provincial learning network called Guangxi CCA Consortium. She recently established the Zhilan Foundation, which will offer small grants to support ICCAs in China.

### **Malika Viridi – Regional representative of South Asia**

Malika Viridi moved from New Delhi to settle in a remote rural community in the Indian Himalaya in 1992. She became a farmer, integrated with the local community and became active in issues related to forest commons or Van Panchayats. She was elected as the Sarpanch (the head of the village forest council) in 2003 and 2018. In 2021, she became the Regional Coordinator of the 209 Van Panchayats of the Munsiri Range, in Uttarakhand. She has represented Himalayan communities on forest and environment related issues, drawing strength primarily through the active participation of local women in all issues. Her core driver and philosophy is putting people in the centre of the conservation narrative. Malika has worked tirelessly towards establishing community ownership rights over forest and by promoting democratic functioning that creates space for all rights holders to participate in both decision making and implementation of projects for the use and conservation of these forests. Women are now moving beyond just being nominally represented on decision making bodies and are being recorded as rights holders in the forest commons under the dual headed household model. As part of this work, Malika and others have created a successful model, linking nature-based tourism with the conservation of the forest commons.

### **Yelognisse Victor Boton – Regional representative for Sahel Region, North Africa and Horn of Africa**

Victor has been the National Focal Point of the ICCA Consortium in Benin since 2017, in direct and regular collaboration with Alexis Kaboré, the Consortium's Regional Coordinator for the Sahel. He has actively participated in all activities supporting ICCAs-territories of life and promoting the Consortium in Benin and the Sahel region (general meetings, workshops, training, setting up the national ICCA network in Benin, implementing the GSI, identification and documentation of ICCAs, support for the registration of ICCAs in the global register, meeting with the overall coordination of the Consortium, etc.). Victor holds a Masters in Sociology-Anthropology from the University of Abomey-Calavi. He is currently pursuing studies in Jurisprudence of the Earth and the laws of Nature initiated by Gaia Foundation and a Master II in Anthropology and Ecology at the Higher Institute of Anthropology and Ecology of the Catholic University of Madagascar. With his rich experience in cultural biodiversity, he is now involved in activism in favour of the laws of Nature.

## Member spotlight 5 – PHSA

My name is Josefina Tunki, current President and first woman elected to the presidency of the Shuar Arutam People. I was elected during a general assembly of the Shuar Arutam People, located in the province of Morona Santiago.

I represent 47 communities and 6 associations that comprise a territory of 230,000 hectares and approximately 12,000 inhabitants. PSHA, its inhabitants, and the territory are located in the Condor Range and in the Kutukú and Shaimi Range. These are two famous mountain ranges which we have tended and protected because from them proceed the rivers and watersheds and all the biodiversity upon which our culture and livelihood have been sustained for thousands of years in this land.

I should also thank our allied cooperatives that have contributed to our fight. In accordance with our people's Life Plan, prior administrations of Shuar Arutam have worked to defend our territory from extractive pit mining firms and other corporations including hydroelectric companies that are criminally and without consultation conducting prospecting studies and, lately, drilling studies.

Since all 230,000 hectares of our territory have been given in concessions, the Shuar Arutam People have agreed in assembly to continue down the path of defending our territory. With the Assembly's authorization, we have registered these 230,000 hectares in the ICCA Registry for Latin America.

Since we must make a case based on human rights, we have also undertaken the process of registering our territory as an ICCA protected area at the global level. We are currently arguing cases on the basis of human rights before the state and the national government, against Solaris Resources, the company that is setting up in one of the 47 communities within PSHA territory.

Our communities are globally recognized by collective titles belonging to all of the families of the Shuar Arutam People. The Solaris firm has tried to usurp our rights without prior consultation. What's more, because we decided in an assembly to not be consulted—a decision on which we remain firm as a governing council, as in its assemblies the people continue to declare that the firm must leave our lands, which are the only lands our ancestors left us as an inheritance.

Today, the 15<sup>th</sup>, we have achieved one very important aim of the claims and lawsuits we have filed against Solaris Resources: today we had a hearing with the Canadian ambassador, where I made clear statements on our behalf, as president, asking, in accordance with our documents and at the request of our communities, that Solaris Resources withdraw immediately, and stating that as ambassador of Canada she is a faithful witness who cannot ignore what she has seen. And the Canadian ambassador gave us a response, without contradicting us, recognizing our struggle as an Indigenous People. She said that in Canada there are also Indigenous Peoples and Nations, where she has also fought to protect those people's lives. While this is true, she also explained that it's no simple process to get the Canadian Solaris Resources to withdraw from PSHA territory. "I will pursue the best strategies and hold other meetings to raise their awareness so that in the future we can provide a positive response." She made this statement which I, in this documentary, through this message, must relay publicly in a general assembly regarding our current struggle.

Another major issue we are also now facing is the Hidro Ríos Santiago firm—which we only recently began because the state told us nothing about their concessions. We will continue the fight and continue standing up. We have our claims and, above all, our determination to continue fighting to protect our territory, because our struggle as a people—as I told the Canadian ambassador, "Listen," I told her— "our struggle in defence of the environment and protection of the forest, isn't just on our behalf. It's not just the PSHA. It's not just a struggle of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon in different countries. It's for the forest and the oxygen that gives humanity life."

I had the opportunity, in this way, to express myself in the Canadian embassy. We are a people who struggle together to defend the life of the world—the only planet we have—from so much pollution in hopes that we, the Shuar Arutam People will achieve our goals.

I will conclude my administration as a woman with ancestral knowledge and I will always continue promoting this fight in various arenas. I know this territory and I still have the ability to support the youth and instate the new governing council that will be elected in March 2023 to lead the PSHA and guide our organization through our Life Plan.

## Proposed 2022 Action Plan and Budget

Please [see here for the presentation](#) which starts on slide 15

### 1. Action Plan:

- Process: the 2022 Action Plan was developed based on priorities identified by each member of the Secretariat in their 2021 year-end reports, plus a series of team meetings in mid-January where we fleshed it out together.

- It consists of two main sections, which are closely interlinked: (a) organisational processes; and (b) levels and thematic streams of work.
- Organisational processes: includes six main topics:
  - Organisational process of reflection, revisioning and planning for the future, including a review of the first 10-12 years of the Consortium and development of a new long-term vision and manifesto;
  - Ongoing regionalisation process, including national, sub-regional and regional assemblies and (where relevant) meetings of regional governance bodies;
  - Membership, including two calls for new applications and nominations, and our first review of Honorary members;
  - Governance, including organising the General Assembly and holding regular meetings of the Council, Executive Committee and Membership Committee;
  - Organisational communications, including a clearer visual identity, improved website, and even stronger linguistic support, including some publications in languages beyond the usual English, Spanish and French; and
  - Management of the Secretariat, including continued improvement of internal systems and ways of working together, and continued fundraising efforts with aligned funders. We would like to shift to include some level of peer feedback at mid-year.
- Levels and thematic streams of work: Documenting, sustaining and defending, youth and intergenerational, and gender equality.
- - **Local:** supporting specific Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their self-strengthening processes (with the diversity of options and opportunities, including governance and leadership, documentation, livelihoods, health and wellbeing, defending territories, etc.) in nearly all regions.
  - **National:** supporting national networks in specific countries with their self-strengthening processes (e.g., governance and leadership, documentation, communications and media, policy and legal advocacy, celebrations and cultural events, fundraising, etc.).
  - **Regional:** facilitating peer learning, experience-sharing, solidarity exchanges and cultural events within and between regions on a range of cross-cutting and thematic streams of work (documenting, sustaining and defending territories of life, youth and intergenerational relations, gender equality, decolonisation, etc.), plus key regional events such as the Asia and Africa protected area congresses.
  - **International:** supporting Members' participation in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral processes such as on oceans and desertification; and producing briefs about emerging issues and opportunities such as diversifying and localising conservation finance and advocating for progressive implementation of the CBD post-2020 framework at national levels.

## **2. Important financial update:**

### (a) Banking situation in Switzerland:

- Broader context: since the September 11 attacks in 2001, American regulators have been pushing the global banking system to do more to address terrorism and money laundering. Known as “de-risking”, this process of increasing due diligence and compliance requirements has led to the restriction of banking services and even closure of bank accounts for many charitable organisations, particularly smaller non-profits with operations in the global South. Some countries such as India have taken even more drastic steps to tighten the regulatory environment for non-profits, as another form of closing of civic space. Switzerland, which is infamous for secrecy within its banking system, has been pressured especially hard by the USA to tighten regulations for international banking.
- Unfortunately, as a non-profit registered in Switzerland, the ICCA Consortium recently got swept up into this global trend of de-risking. In mid-December, the bank with which we have been working since our establishment in 2010 informed us without warning that they would be closing our account. Initially they only gave us only a few weeks until it would be closed, but eventually gave us an extension until the end of June. They confirmed that we have done nothing wrong in our operations,

but they also wouldn't reverse their decision and we couldn't do anything else about it. Obviously, this took us by surprise. Sarah and I discussed it with the Executive Committee to seek a solution.

- Specific to our situation, the bank likely made this decision because of a combination of four main factors: (1) countries from which we are receiving funds, including the US; (2) countries to which we are sending funds for in-country and regional activities or personnel, including so-called 'sensitive' countries; (3) a large Council with several people who might be considered "politically exposed" and therefore risky for banks; and (4) people and countries featured on our website more generally, including our historical ties to Iran through Cenesta and our founding President, Taghi. Plus, we do not bring in enough money to make it 'worth the risk' for the bank.

(b) Options: we rapidly explored a range of potential options, including setting up a new bank account in Switzerland or in another nearby country, setting up a new non-profit entity in another country, and many more. None of those options worked. After more than three months of working as hard as possible to find a viable solution, fiscal sponsorship in the US was identified as the best way forward in the circumstances, with the support and approval of the Council and Executive Committee. The Council of Elders and Secretariat were also informed along the way. We found the best fiscal sponsor we could after an extensive search and I'm pleased to share that we just recently signed an agreement with them and we are moving ahead with the transition process.

(c) What is fiscal sponsorship and what are the implications:

- In the US, a fiscal sponsor assumes legal and fiduciary responsibility for another organisation or project, and provides their non-profit and charitable status in the US.
- Having a fiscal sponsor will enable the ICCA Consortium to continue operating financially BVPCBrç operations, and greater access to donors. However, it also comes with an administration fee, which we have to build into our existing budgets and grants and future proposals.
- Sarah Ryder and I are responsible for managing this arrangement, with the direct oversight of the Executive Committee, within their existing mandate and responsibilities.
- Note that this arrangement specifically concerns our operations - in essence, the Secretariat and our operational and programmatic funding. Until the association decides otherwise, the ICCA Consortium will continue to exist as a non-profit association registered in Switzerland, with our membership, General Assembly, Council, etc. continuing to exist as usual.
- We are now working on the administrative transition. This requires moving over all of our grant agreements, funds, personnel contracts, accounting systems, etc. from our Swiss entity and bank account to the new fiscal sponsor in the US. Over the past few months, this situation has led to some unfortunate delays in receiving and disbursing funds from some of our grants. However, if the transition process goes smoothly, we will be fully operational with the fiscal sponsor in June and there shouldn't be any other major impacts on our programmatic work or personnel. Hopefully most of you will not notice anything about this process.

### **3. 2022 budget:**

- With that context in mind, I will share a brief overview of our 2022 operating budget. As presented in the Secretariat report on Monday, our total expenditure per year has increased significantly in the past couple years. This is partly due to successful fundraising efforts and partly due to reallocations between years because of pandemic restrictions on travel and in-country and regional activities. A significant amount of funding that we had secured in 2020 and 2021 was pushed further into 2022, so our estimated budget this year is by far the highest we've ever had. We will actually be in a pretty good position to secure a similar amount in 2023 and onwards, if we continue to have fundraising success.
- In 2022, the total budget is USD 1,472,000. This is shared between five main budget categories:
  - regional and in-country activities (more than half of the budget at nearly \$780,000), including assemblies, community self-strengthening processes, national networks, consultations and workshops, etc.;
  - communications and publications (nearly \$60,000);
  - programmatic travel and meetings, including participation in the UN CBD negotiations (nearly \$70,000);

- personnel consultancies and administration (around \$520,000), including nearly 30 Secretariat members and collaborators, still paid very modest rates; and fees for the fiscal sponsor and audits; and
- organisational governance and management (less than \$50,000), including costs of the annual General Assembly and regular Council and Secretariat meetings.
- NOTE: It's possible that some of this will be shifted again to 2023 so the actual expenditures might be lower, but this is what is currently budgeted and planned.

## Closing ceremony - UAPASHKUSS

### **Dolorès André (Member, UAPASHKUSS)**

Congratulated all Member organisations and community actors from around the world for their work over the past year. Welcomed the new Members and wished everyone success. Throughout the General Assembly, I have held onto my goose feather which comes from nature and is the symbol of my culture and my identity.

Introduced Réal Mckenzie (Kaiensh), singing to the sound of the traditional Innu drum; Anne-Marie André, who is the founder of the group of Innu sacred sites; and Jacques Mckenzie (Taby), President of UAPASHKUSS.

**Réal Mckenzie** - Fathers, help us...help us Father! Grandfathers, help us... Mothers, help us... Animals, help us... We give thanks to our Fathers, we give thanks to our Mothers. We must not forget the Child within us, who is in the four directions with the caribou skin of the drum and thus respect Mother Earth and honour our grandfathers and grandmothers every year.

**Anne-Marie André** - I thank the Creator for having been with us all winter and I ask him to help other peoples, those who have lost a piece of their territory or all that grows on their land. We must help each other even if we are far away, it is the Earth that unites us. Today is Earth Day and we must be together because it is the Earth that feeds us, it is the Earth that shelters us, it is the Earth that warms us and for this reason I thank the Creator. And I ask for help for the people who live in misery in the world, for the land that has been burned or robbed. It is only in this way that I can help from afar.

**Jacques Mckenzie (Taby)** - Today, everything that happens to us on our Mother Earth, the protection we give her, all the animals that we protect and that have protected us...And now, since deforestation the animal doesn't know where to go, they call us to help them and in turn we call on the whole world of the Earth to be heard. By protecting the Earth, we also protect the loggers and the governments, everything. I thank the Creator. Today there are no more caribou because of deforestation, pesticides and I see only desolation. We must connect together, reconcile with ourselves to understand each other so everyone will be reconciled. I thank you Father.