

Kigali Declaration, July 2022

We, representatives and support organisations to Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas – Territories of Life (ICCA-Territories of Life), meeting at Centre St Paul, Kigali, Rwanda from 14th to 15th July 2022.

Taking into account the following:

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations (Dec 1966),

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (June 1981),

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (May 1992)

United Nations Convention on Desertification (June 1994)

Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

Durban Action Plan, 5th IUCN World Parks Congress, targets 8, 9 and 10 (2003)

Abidjan Convention Concerning Cooperation in the Protection and Development of Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Western, Central and Southern African Region (March 1981), and its additional protocols

World Heritage Convention (Paris, 1972)

IUCN Guidelines for the Application of Management Categories to Protected Areas: "Matrix of Governance Types and Community Conservation" (2008),

United Nations Strategy 2030: "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1-Eradication of poverty; 2-Fight hunger; 3-Health and well-being; 6-Clean water and sanitation; 13-Climate change; 14-Protection of aquatic life; 15-Ecosystem restoration and biodiversity; 17-Global partnership to implement the SDGs (2015);

Declaration of African custodial communities: "Recognition and protection of sacred natural sites and sacred territories and customary governance systems in Africa" (2015);

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)

World Bank Standard 7 "Historically Disadvantaged Indigenous Peoples-Traditional Local Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa" on the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights (2021)

Thanking nature for the many goods and services it gives us (food, oxygen, medicines, spaces for initiation), the wisdom it teaches us and the peace it gives us;

Thanking our ancestors for their work, perseverance and wisdom in the service of life, for the path they have blazed for us and for the assistance they continue to give us;

We note the holding of Assemblies of ICCA-Territories of Life at national level in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Benin and the holding of various preparatory meetings in other countries of the West African sub-region (16-19 November 2021 in Ouagadougou Burkina Baso 2021), the holding of the General Assembly of ICCA-Territories of Life in Central Africa (7-9 March 2022 in Goma, DRC), the General Assembly of ICCA-Territories of Life in Madagascar (6-9 July 2022 in Antananarivo);

Aware of the role of communities in the different issues and policies of these texts and conventions,

Concerned about our well-being and that of future generations,

Concerned about the preservation of natural and cultural values, both tangible and intangible, respect for customary norms and rules, solidarity and pride in identity.

Aware of the various social, environmental and economic functions that ACPAs-living territories perform for the conservation of nature and the well-being of local communities,

Conscious of the current threats to ICCAs-Territories of Life, including a decrease in respect for the sacred, modernisation, overexploitation, land grabs, deforestation, poaching, corruption, demographic pressure, urbanisation, conflict, the presence of armed groups and the loss of biodiversity.

Concerned about the low level of consideration given to ICCAs-Territories of Life in most national legislation and the failure to recognise the land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities,

Determined to sustainably preserve our territories of life that ensure the persistence of our customary values and our continued survival.

We commit to:

1. Increase the awareness among Indigenous Peoples and local communities of the values of their territories and strengthen their mobilisation for self-determination in the governance and management of these territories
2. The creation of national networks in all African countries
3. Support communities to better document, advocate for legal recognition and defend their ICCA-Territories of Life;
4. The establishment of an African sub-regional entity of ICCA-Territories of Life
5. Organise an annual regional forum on community-based management on a rotating basis by country;
6. Share experiences between ICCA-Territories of Life through exchange visits as an effective tool for the self-building of Indigenous Peoples and local communities by consolidating the achievements of the countries most advanced in the process.
7. The inclusion of ICCA-Territories of Life in the WCMC international register
8. Develop communication plans on ICCA-Territories of Life in Africa and strengthen communication between ICCA-Territories of Life, Members and Honorary Members of the ICCA Consortium.
9. Intensify dialogue and advocacy with state institutions, faiths and aligned technical and financial partners;

10. Establish mechanisms to recognize the implementation of best practices and exemplary work
11. Establish mechanisms to motivate and promote young people to remain custodians and stewards of their Territories for Life”
12. Bring in new members, especially from Southern Africa and Madagascar and
13. Support active participation by all through enhancing translation of materials and interpretation of discussion and debate
14. Ensure that gender is taken into account in the governance of ICCAs-Territories of Life

We call for:

1. The legal recognition of ICCA-territories of life by all African countries, accompanied with legal guarantees such as ABS and traditional knowledge directives.
2. Stop evictions of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the name of conservation.
3. The inclusion of ICCA-territories of life in national policies, regional and international conventions.
4. Support from civil society organizations in the process of recognising ICCA- territories of life.
5. Strengthened relationships of trust, partnership and complementarity with government structures and decentralized authorities.
6. Observer status for ICCA-territories of life actors in sub-regional bodies.
7. Support for the increase in awareness of Indigenous Peoples and local communities of the values of their territory of life and strengthen their mobilization for self-determination in the governance and management of these territories.
8. Support for communities in their self-capacity building to better document, advocate for legal recognition and defend their territories of life.
9. Intensified dialogue and advocacy between ICCA-territories of life actors with state institutions and aligned technical and financial partners.
10. Support for a quality assurance monitoring group that can accompany ICCA-Territories of Life in the sub-region.

Kigali, 15th July 2022

ICCA Africa Regional Assembly

Signature



Christian Chatelain, Coordonnateur Afrique du ICCA-Consortium