Dear Members, Honorary Members, Partners, colleagues and friends, the ICCA Consortium is very pleased to pass on to you this third edition of the Newsletter, from which you will have a glance at the breadth of events that occupied us in the last months of 2012. As you will notice, while some are at international or regional level, others are mostly of value for specific countries and locations. Multi-level attention is thus re-confirmed as one of the characteristics of our work, on a pair with the close collaboration with our Members, highlighting and adding value to their initiatives. It was in fact a grand pleasure, during our 5th General Assembly in Pastapur, to hear how this is taking shape all over the world.

What are our highlights in 2012? On the one hand, we certainly consolidated our reputation as an international coalition dedicated to appropriate recognition and support to territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities. As you will read, CBD COP 11 was a milestone through the renewed legitimacy offered by our close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, the CBD Technical Series volume we co-produced with them, the wording of new CBD decisions (as part of, but also beyond protected area provisions) and the opportunity offered by CBD Aichi Target 11 to highlight ICCAs as both officially recognized protected areas and “other effective area-based conservation measures”. A further important step was the approval of a clear Resolution on ICCAs by the IUCN 5th General Assembly, which opens the road towards momentous achievements at the next World Parks Congress. And yet… we are still engaged in promoting an appropriate “understanding” of ICCAs— a concept and practice that merge attention and care for bio-cultural diversity, sustainable livelihoods and human and indigenous peoples’ rights. We regularly find that some indigenous peoples are suspicious of organisations and ideas that sound even marginally “conservation oriented” as much as conservation constituencies continue to be wary of organisations and ideas that promote development and rights, despite progress made in the last decade to demonstrate that indigenous peoples and local communities can be very effective actors in conservation. The Consortium is often called to strike a difficult balance. Through publications, events, videos and the on-going interaction with existing and potential Members, as we describe in this Newsletter, the meaning of “ICCA” and our own “image” are hopefully becoming clearer, while losing nothing of their richness.

Meanwhile, some countries are already well ahead and have shifted gear from the focus on exemplary ICCA single cases to developing ICCA coalitions and federations at the national level. This is exemplified by the Philippines (Manila declaration), Madagascar (Anja declaration), Nepal (national ICCA network) determined to become a federation, despite strong political resistance), Iran (Brugerd declaration) and the RDC (Kinshasa declaration). Federations and coalitions augment the voice of IPs and LCs in national situations. In Senegal we
are also seeing an NGO created by one of our Members with support from the Consortium specifically to make sure that the current wave of interest in ICCAs is not exploited and wasted by copycat operations without integrity... a risk that is all too real in many countries.

Something impossible to imagine ten years ago has thus actually happened: international conservation policy cannot ignore or bypass ICCAs. Yet, we must go beyond that for ICCAs to find a meaningful and solid place in national policies and practice. This is becoming ever more urgent as progress on acknowledging the “conservation value” of ICCAs has ushered a renewed threat of inappropriate or inadequate forms of recognition, in particular in view of CBD Aichi Target 11. In a similar vein, acknowledging the “carbon stocking value” of ICCAs has amplified the threats of misappropriation. Conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities should be fully respected, appropriately recognized and sufficiently supported. The Consortium is committed to support its Members and their countries to achieve just that.

INTERNATIONAL WORK & KEY ISSUES

CBD COP11 – Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012
By Aurélie Neumann, Programme Assistant, Holly Shrumm, International Policy Assistant

Possibly the most important international gathering in which the Consortium took part in 2012 was the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in India (Hyderabad) from October 8th to October 19th. Various representatives of the Consortium and its Members attended this major event to keep ICCAs firmly in the agenda. We may say, in fact, that ICCAs reached at COP 11 a new level of maturity and momentum, exemplified by the one-day Colloquium dedicated to ICCAs that we co-organised with the CBD Secretariat and by the strong support the CBD Executive Secretary, GEF SGP Global Manager and the Director of IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme reaffirmed in the occasion. The challenge for the Consortium is to make sure the national policies that will be developed on the impulse of COP 11 are appropriate and in accordance with the needs and choices of the relevant indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs).

In margins of the official negotiations, the Consortium delegation organized a significant number of side events to disseminate information, trigger discussion and exchanges, and influence COP decisions on a wide array of issues. These included events on legal and other ways to appropriately recognise and support ICCAs, on governance of protected areas, on national federations and networks of ICCAs, on the role of ICCAs in fostering food sovereignty, on the involvement of IPs & LCs in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, and on the potential of ICCAs to achieve the Aichi Targets. Some recommendations to the Parties and the CBD Secretariat were formulated in all cases. Three main guidelines publications on ICCAs were launched and/or distributed at COP 11 and the Consortium participated actively in the official negotiation sessions and working groups, particularly the ones related to Article 8(j) and related provisions, marine and coastal biodiversity, biodiversity for poverty eradication and development, climate change, inland water ecosystems, protected areas, and sustainable use. Amongst the 33 decisions adopted on the final day of COP11, there were many indirectly related to ICCAs, and a few also directly mentioning community conserved areas the most notable being Decision XI/14 on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. The Consortium will actively follow up on activities outlined in the five sections of this lengthy decision.

► Download The Consortium Participants Report from COP 11
► Read more about the COP11 decisions
ICCA Consortium 5th General Assembly – Pastapur, India, October 2012

Taking the opportunity of having several of its Members, Honorary Members, Steering Committee members and staff gathered in Hyderabad (India) to attend the CBD COP11, the ICCA Consortium held its fifth General Assembly in Pastapur-- an inspiring field location close to Hyderabad, on October 20-21. Our group of 30 participants from various countries was kindly hosted by the Deccan Development Society, an Indian NGO that empowers Dalit women and support their local organisation (sangham) to keep governing their ICCAs, conserving agro-biodiversity and water resources, and providing sustainable livelihoods for them and their villages. During the first day in Pastapur we visited various initiatives developed by the women sangham. We begun with their fields where they grow multiple crops together and then moved to a local radio and film documentaries station, a seeds bank, an innovative school, etc.. The second day was fully dedicated to the Consortium General Assembly, with the reports by the president, the global coordinator, the treasurer and auditor of accounts (in absentia) followed by passionate discussions over improvement of the Consortium’s current and future work. Different groups were formed to take these forward – which Members and Honorary members are most welcome to join (for that please contact (aurelie@iccaconsortium.org).

▶ Download the GA minutes in English, in French and in Spanish

23rd IUCN World Conservation Congress – Jeju, Korea, 6-15 September 2012

The most policy-relevant result of the World Conservation Congress in Jeju that Consortium’s representatives attended in September 2012 was a motion, sponsored by CENESTA and co-sponsored by several IUCN Members, adopted by the 5th General Assembly as Resolution 94: Respecting, recognizing and supporting Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Territories and Areas. The Resolution focuses on three main operative paragraphs: 1) calling upon IUCN (members, Secretariat, and Council) to respect and appropriately recognize and support ICCAs by promoting, adopting and fully implementing laws, policies and programmes that recognize and uphold Indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ rights under international law (including to self-determination and self-governance); 2) urging IUCN to strengthen support to the CBD Secretariat and collaborations with the ICCA Consortium to enhance commitment and capacity of Parties to the CBD in various areas; and 3) urging IUCN to call upon global financing mechanisms to ensure appropriate recognition of and support for ICCAs and associated rights and responsibilities in all aspects of their funding processes.

▶ Download the Consortium Participants report
▶ Read more
Reflections from a participant in the Symposium “Protected Areas: are they safeguarding biodiversity?” – Zoological Society of London, 8-9 November 2012
By Emily Caruso, Regional Programmes Director, Global Diversity Foundation (Member)

The author, who works for an organization that is a founding Member of the ICCA Consortium, participated in the second day of this symposium. Staff of conservation NGOs, students and representatives of governmental, intergovernmental and research institutions attended the meeting. The symposium sought, amongst other goals, to “identify components of the current protected areas portfolio; how is it funded, managed and monitored, and to ask how protected areas have performed from a biodiversity conservation perspective” and “how we can most effectively manage the portfolio into the future, and identify the new tools and technologies, including governance and financing mechanisms”.

Survey of ICCA global extent
By Ashish Kothari, Kalpavriksh (Member) and ICCA Consortium Steering Committee member

One question that we are often asked is: what is the extent of ICCAs in your country, or in the world? We have no comprehensive answer to this, for several reasons: lack of documentation on ICCAs, some fuzziness about what constitutes an ICCA, the fact that many ICCAs are ‘hidden’ within official protected areas, etc. There is also the need for caution in applying this term to a wide diversity of local practices and names that indigenous peoples or local communities themselves use. ICCA must be understood to be only a convenient term denoting some essential similarities amongst various territories and areas, rather than in any way subsuming their diversity and self-definition.

Within these limitations, some of us attempted to put together available information on ICCA extent, resulting in Table 2.3 (‘Number and extent of ICCAs in select countries’) in the new publication on ICCA Recognition and Support. The data here, even if from a very limited number of countries and submitted to various caveats, clearly show that ICCAs are widespread, numerous, and substantial in area coverage.

The Consortium has initiated a follow up to the above compilation, by seeking information on the number and extent (in hectares/acres/sq.km) of sites that could come under the definition of ICCAs. Readers are encouraged to write to us if they have such information, or know of persons/resources that could help, especially from countries not covered in the above-mentioned table. If you are sending data and information, please do mention the source, with a full reference citation as appropriate. As a small incentive, we would be happy to send you a printed version of the above study on ICCA Recognition and Support, if you would like to get a copy. Thanks! Please contact at ashishkothari@vsnl.com.
From Confucius to Blackberries: telling stories through photos...
By Vanessa Reid, Communications Officer

The 5th Century BC Chinese philosopher, teacher and politician Confucius allegedly proclaimed ‘a picture tells a thousand words’. I wonder if he realised how true his words would ring with today’s society infatuated with social media, instant picture messaging and 24/7 telecommunication. The 200 millionth smartphone was reportedly shipped in September 2012. Inspired by this new wave of alternative social and visual media, a few years ago the ICCA Consortium and UNDP GEF SGP began discussing photo stories as tools for documenting and raising awareness concerning ICCAs. Since then, a number of pilot photo stories have emerged either replacing or complementary to written reports detailing ICCAs. A photo story is essentially a short video (normally between 4-5 minutes) consisting of photos accompanied by running script (on the screen) and/or voice/music narration. It can easily be uploaded and available to anyone with access to Internet.

‘Our disenchanted youth’: discussions on an ICCA Youth Network...
By Vanessa Reid, Communications Officer, and Sudeep Jana (Honorary Member)

With a global population having sped past the 7 billion mark, if biodiversity loss is to be halted, human-induced environmental catastrophes stopped and climate change mitigation realised, human beings must start working in harmony with the natural world around them. Ghandi’s much used dictum ‘nature provides for everyone’s needs, but not for everyone’s greed’ has reached such acclaim for the simple reason that it is so frustratingly true, and undeniable. It forces us to stop in our tracks examining how fragile our human existence is, and how dependent we are upon an equally fragile set of interconnecting ecosystems: our natural environment, our biosphere. Throughout the world ICCAs represent this synergistic balance between man and nature that Ghandi was so oft referring to. The specific term ‘ICCA’ just did not exist then as it does today.

Those whose livelihoods and basic survival is dependent upon the natural environments they inhabit and sustainably conserve are often, in more cases than not, the best suited to govern and conserve them (i.e. ICCAs). The acute and subtle understanding of indigenous peoples (IP) and local communities living within and protecting their ICCAs, thanks to age-old traditional knowledge and an intricate web of understanding ranks them as some of the world’s most worthy, and intelligent ‘conservationists’. The term traditional however, often implies knowledge belonging to older generations: knowledge that youngsters are often accused of not being interested in, or capable of acquiring. Within IP rights movements, so oft we hear of the wisdom of IP elders, of their knowledge, of their message to the outside world. In the face of rapid globalisation however, and rapid cultural shifts where does this leave the younger members of these communities? What is their role as they watch their ancestral homes being ‘awarded’ to multinationals, often foreign, companies? Where is their platform to speak out about the violation of their human rights and the futures of their children?

After much heated discussion at a Consortium General Assembly in India, proceeding the CBD COP 11, the Consortium decided to explore the creation of an ICCA youth network. Inspired by stories of young people from indigenous and local communities setting up initiatives to protect their ancestral lands across the world, the Consortium is seeking to investigate if and how a youth network could be effective. We would like to know your experiences, thoughts, and insights relating to all of this! Please send your responses to Sudeep Jana (janasudeep@gmail.com) and Vanessa Reid (vanessa@iccaconsortium.org).
CENTRAL AFRICA

Recognising ICCAs in Central Africa: DRC moves first!
By Christian Chatelain, Regional Coordinator for West & Central Africa

The workshop « Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) in Democratic Republic of Congo: towards respecting indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ rights for biodiversity governance » took place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from November 5th to November 9th. The network of indigenous peoples and local communities for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the DRC (REPALEF-DRC), the ICCA Consortium and the GIZ originated, organised and provided support to this five-day workshop. With the ICCA concept and practices at its core, the work of the 37 participants – many of them representing indigenous peoples and local communities from the 11 provinces of the country – focused on information, exchanges, analysis and initial planning. Two representatives of the ICCA Consortium visited Kinshasa to facilitate the workshop and provide technical reference (documents, presentations, tools, etc.) and support. All the provinces of Congo—North Kivu, Maniema, South Kivu, Province Orientale, Kasai Occidental, Kasai Oriental, Bandundu, Equateur, Katanga province and the city of Kinshasa—were well represented.

► Read more
► Read the full report and the Kinshasa declaration

SOUTH AMERICA

Second meeting of “Territories Conserved by Native Peoples”: an ICCA network emerging in Chile?
By Lorena Arce, Regional Coordinator for the Cono Sur

Something is changing for conservation in Chile. Traditional ways of understanding conservation are being challenged by those who live (and have lived since ancient times) in places that today are widely valued for their biodiversity and landscape. Last December, the second meeting of “Territories Conserved by Native Peoples” (TCPO, Spanish acronym) was held in Osorno, where representatives of different peoples –Kawásqar, Mapuche (Huilliches, Pehuenches, Lafkenches) Lican Antai, Aymara and Rapa Nui– met to discuss about conservation vis-à-vis Indigenous Peoples in Chile. Their aim was to advance in the development of an initiative to fully recognize the TCPOs’ contribution to conservation. The Consortium is carefully following the progress of this in Chile, hoping the indigenous peoples can have a break-through for the proper recognition of their rights, traditional knowledge and practices.

► Read the full article in Spanish
**SOUTH ASIA**

**Dalit women sanghams: independence through sustainable livelihoods**

By Isis Alvarez, Global Forest Coalition (Member)

Preceding the General Assembly, ICCA Consortium participants to COP11 in India had the chance to visit an amazing initiative, lead by a group of women (their governing institution being called a sangham) from Pastapur, with the support of DDS. The project, which started 25 years ago, was a women’s initiative and they had to try very hard to come to what it is today: a strong development society that strives for community empowerment, food sovereignty and trade of their products, managing their own media, and maintaining a complete seed bank.

[Read more](#)

**SOUTH ASIA**

**4th ICCA Network Nepal National Gathering, 17 - 18 December, Kathmandu, Nepal**

By Jailab Rai, Forest Action Nepal (Member)

The ICCA Network Nepal, Forest Action Nepal and a few ICCA Consortium members co-organised the 4th National Gathering of ICCAs in Nepal in December 2012. The gathering was used as a platform for representatives from nearly thirty ICCAs from all over the country to meet one another, share experiences, discuss concerns and issues, plan ahead for policy advocacy and lobbying and further work on a National ICCA Federation in the country. Towards the latter the participants decided to officially register four ICCA–based organisations, as the law requires a minimum of 7 registered organisations with similar names for a National Federation to be created. In order to coordinate this process, the gathering also appointed a coordination committee of four members. Besides financial constraints, it seems clear that the ICCA Network faces some political resistance, possibly arising out of fragmentary understanding of ICCAs and/or clear resistance to devolution of power among influent groups in the country. But the Network is determined to become a legally registered National ICCA Federation in the coming year, and the ICCA Consortium will do its best to help. For any inquiries, please contact Jailab Rai: jailab@forestaction.org.

[Read the proceedings of the gathering, as well as other interesting reports](#)

**SOUTH ASIA**

**South Asian ICCAs are getting connected!**

By Neema Pathak Broome, Regional Coordinator for South Asia & China

Kalpavriksh, in collaboration with the ICCA Consortium and the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), organised a half-day workshop at COP11 (Hyderabad, India, October 8-19) on the potential to achieve the Aichi Targets through Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in South and East Asia. Experiences were shared by participants from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, India and Taiwan. A large number of threats and issues facing CCAs emerged during the event. It was
broadly understood that these issues and threats are more or less the same for all countries and emanating from same or similar forces and processes. One common voice from all was a need for recognition of CCAs in all countries in the manner appropriate and acceptable by the concerned communities, instead of imposed and inappropriate legal means. Towards this, many expressed a desire to better connect with each other to provide strength to each other’s efforts and struggles. The meeting led to a number of suggestions including: organisations and communities could become Members of the global ICCA Consortium but also have smaller discussion groups within South Asia; they should stay connected with each other through some joint actions; and they should support each others’ struggles through alerts. A publication entitled ‘Community Conserved Areas in South Asia: Case studies and analyses from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka’ was released during this event, bringing together the efforts of a number of partners from various countries (supported by UNEP-UNDP SGP and published by Kalpavriksh).

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**SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

**A 3-day trip, 13-hour travel, 3 vehicles, 3 drivers, 3 speakers for a 3-hour ICCA Planning Workshop in the Philippines**

By Giovanni Reyes, Executive Secretary, KASAPI (Member)

“A 3-day trip, 13-hour travel, 3 vehicles, 3 drivers, 3 speakers for a 3-hour Planning Workshop” an untiring Dave de Vera, Executive Director of PAFID would say about the whole activity. It summarizes the kind of work often encountered for ICCAs—harsh but exciting. The objective of the field workshop was to conduct a community consultation with three different barangays (villages) of Balbalan municipality on how to document, map, and conduct resource inventory of ICCAs within their ancestral domain. The three barangays included Pantikian, Talalang and Balbalasang. Participants were provided with an overview of the ICCA concept and the step-by-step activities to document traditional practices, including their Lapat system (traditional governance). Results included the following: identification of community representatives (CPR) to conduct the ICCA documentation project; organization of CPRs’ training for the project implementation; updating of the 3D map for reference in community planning and action planning; identification of timeframes for completion of the action or activity required (including the person(s) responsible).

[Read more](#)

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**SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

**Training on ICCAs documentation, Imugan (The Philippines)**

By Sam Pedragosa, Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia

27 participants attended a training on ICCA documentation held at the Dagwey Training Center of the Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF) in Imugan, Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines. The indigenous communities that participated included the Balatoc and Banao peoples of Kalinga, the Aeta of Banawan, Zambales, the Dumagat of Polilio Island and Nakar, Quezon, and the Tau-Buhid of Mindoro Island. They were joined by the project staff of the NewCAPP partner organizations which include the Koalisyon ng mga Katutubong Samahan ng Pilipinas (KASAPI), Anthropology Watch (Anthrowatch) and the Concerned Citizens’ of Abra for Good Governance (CCAGGI).
The NewCAPP is implemented by the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project seeks to expand the coverage of conservation areas through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The NewCAPP considers that recognizing and supporting ICCAs as effective area-based conservation measures would greatly contribute to biodiversity conservation and in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, specifically Target 11.

The participants were trained on basic community mapping and profiling, participatory resource appraisal, and natural resource inventory. The methodologies included instrumentation on Global Positioning System (GPS) and basic Geographic Information System (GIS) processing. The training was conducted by the Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID) in partnership with the Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF). The KEF, a long time partner of PAFID, manages the first ever community forest recognized by the Philippine Government in 1974 which paved the way for the adoption of the community-based forest management scheme in the country. It is also pioneering the efforts on community-based forest carbon measurement and monitoring in the Philippines.

**SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

**Proclamation of Mt. Kitanglad (The Philippines) as an ICCA**

By Datu Migketay Victorino L. Saway, Talaandig Elder (Honorary Member)

The efforts of the Talaandig, Bukidnon, Higaonon and Manobo tribes have been focused on strengthening their Cultural Guards to secure and protect their sacred mountain, Mt. Kitanglad, as a worship area and a landmark of their cultural history and identity as peoples. The next step was to declare Mt. Kitanglad as an ICCA and enforce customary rules to govern the entire mountain.

For the first time, Native Title rights (as provisioned by the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act – IPRA of 1997) have been recognised by a big corporation, the Unifrutti Group of Companies. A “Sacred Customary Compact” was signed between the group, represented by its CEO John Perrine, and the keepers of the boundaries – who represent their genuine and authentic leadership – of the four tribes’ traditional territories in Misamis Oriental, Iligan city and Bukidnon, on December 16. This process was facilitated by the Hineleban Foundation and based on a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and partnership to protect the rainforests of Mt. Kitanglad. The proclamation and signature were attended by many officials: Nereus Acosta (Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection), Rolando Cusio (Office of Political Affairs), Richard Dee (who represented Ambassador Howard Dee), Commissioner Cosme Lambayon (National Commission on Indigenous Peoples), and Governor Jose Ma. Zubiri Jr. (offering a final message of support mentioning the possibility of providing honoraria to the Talaandig Cultural Guards).

Previously, on November 22-25, a community gathering had taken place to build consensus on a draft compact, which resulted in the Declaration on the Coverage of the Traditional Territories of the Talaandig, Bukidnon, Higaonon and Manobo Communities by Native Titles and Proclamation of Mt. Kitanglad as a sacred area. The activity culminated with a *Bigela*, a ritual strengthening the unity of the Traditional Peace Pact Holders and Border Keepers of Iligan City, Bukidnon Province and Misamis Oriental.
You can have a glimpse at the Hineleban Foundation work with the Talaandig people in our film “Waway Saway and the Talaandig tribe band”. Please disseminate this video to support us!

- See the film
- Read the declaration of Mt Kitanglad

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

Growing recognition of ICCAs in Iran

By Morvarid Kamali, Cenesta (Member)

Like many other countries, Iran has innumerable ICCAs that are increasingly being understood, recognised and supported. This is in response to both domestic demand and the realization of the importance of ICCAs and of the need to meet obligations under international instruments and commitments. In recent years, following the national and international efforts for the recognition of ICCAs and community rights and the establishment of tribal community investment funds and indigenous peoples’ federations and unions (such as UNINOMAD), such recognition has steadily gained ground. Conservation and livelihoods projects have concomitantly brought about some hopeful results. For instance, an action plan prepared jointly by civil society organisations, indigenous peoples, the Iranian Forests, Rangelands & Watershed Management Organisation (FRWMO) and the Iranian Department of Environment (DoE) led to territory-based ICCAs to be included in the Law of the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan. This was accompanied by numerous declarations and commitments by FRWO top administrators in support of nomadic and local communities’ ICCAs and by the de facto acceptance of ICCAs by government through GEF-SGP projects. On the ground, which is what counts the most, we can mention that the Namdan Plain Wetland ICCA and the ICCA of the Farrokhvand tribe of Bakhtiari tribal confederacy have been recognised and legally protected by the DoE.

- Read more

EUROPE

Linking ICCAs to the Italian tradition of common property and civic uses

By Marco Bassi (Honorary Member)

During the 18th Riunione scientifica of the Centro Studi e Documentazione sugli Usi Civici e le Proprietà Collettive (University of Trento) held in Trento on November 15-16, 2012, a Honorary Member of the ICCA Consortium had the opportunity to present on recent Consortium’s achievements. This is the most relevant Italian forum on common property bringing together community representatives, academicians, experts and policy makers. The role of the European Union emerged as a key concern in Italy. Some Italian ICCAs could access the financial instruments of the EU, which could have an important positive impact in terms of both environmental management and capacity building. However, most ICCAs for various reasons were not eligible to apply and thus de facto excluded from the EU policy. It is therefore urgent that in application of CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and considering the CBD Aichi Targets the EU integrates ICCAs into its environmental strategy and adopts specific policy to support the European ICCAs, including recognition of the conservation role of “the commons”, for which appropriate procedures should be devised.

- Read more
A small island on a Baltic sea called Vilm is a place where people from around the world come to learn, teach and exchange experiences about nature conservation issues. The same Vilm was the venue of the final workshop for the project called “Governance of Protected Areas in Eastern Europe – case studies on different governance types and lessons learned”. The workshop was convened by the International Academy for Nature Conservation among experts and representatives of relevant ministries from Eastern European countries, as well as experts from NGOs, networks and organisations, including the ICCA Consortium.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Recognising & Supporting Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities – CBD Secretariat Technical Series 64**

This publication provides details of the range, extent and values of ICCAs, the threats they face, and the efforts being made by governments and civil society at recognizing and supporting them. Drawing lessons from 19 country case studies (covering all continents), and a range of other documentation, it offers lessons on how best to provide recognition to ICCAs. It was published by the CBD Secretariat, based on a study undertaken by the ICCA Consortium, coordinated by its Member Kalpavriksh.

**Legal and Institutional Aspects of Recognizing and Supporting Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

The ICCA Consortium Member Natural Justice coordinated a study on the effects of international and national laws, judgements, and institutional frameworks on the integrity of ICCAs. It also explored the ways in which indigenous peoples and local communities are working within international and national legal frameworks to maintain the resilience of their ICCAs. The full study comprises an analysis of international instruments, judgements, guidelines, decisions, resolutions, and recommendations that relate to ICCAs; as well as regional overviews and 15 country-level reports. This publication sets out the key findings of this body of research and proposes a number of important recommendations for state Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, among others, about how to improve their legal and non-legal recognition of and support for ICCAs.
The Living Convention on Biocultural Diversity: A Compendium of Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’ Rights Relevant to Maintaining the Integrity and Resilience of Territories and other Biocultural Systems

Developed by Natural Justice using an integrated rights approach, the Living Convention provides a range of the most important provisions relating to the linkages between biological and cultural diversity. It sets them out in an ordered manner, grouping similar provisions under the same heading to help the reader to be able to quickly assess the extent of international law relating to specific issues. In this way, the Living Convention aims to democratize international law by providing a straightforward resource for Indigenous peoples, local communities, and their supporting organizations to refer to when seeking to understand their international rights.

▶ Read more
▶ Download the publication

Recognising Sacred Natural Sites and Territories in Kenya

A new Report, “Recognising Sacred Natural Sites and Territories in Kenya”, published in November 2012 by the Institute for Culture and Ecology, African Biodiversity Network and the Gaia Foundation calls for greater recognition of Sacred Natural Sites and Territories and their Community Governance Systems. The Report reveals that many Sacred Natural Sites and communities in Kenya, such as the Kaya forests, and across the planet are under threat from mining, tourism and other development. There is inadequate recognition of communities’ customary governance systems of Sacred Natural Sites and Territories – a view shared by Natural Justice’s Kenya Legal Review 2012 in the context of ICCAs. There are however significant opportunities for change and the report serves as a timely training and advocacy tool for all those seeking to defend these sanctuaries of biocultural diversity from growing threats, and to secure recognition of communities’ rights and responsibilities to govern and protect Sacred Natural Sites and Territories on their own terms.

▶ Read more
▶ Download the report

REPRINT - Bio-cultural diversity conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities: examples and analysis

This document provides many examples and the analysis that underlie the main policy advice provided by the ICCA Consortium addressing governments, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities engaged in collaboration, support and joint learning about ICCAs. The document describes in detail concepts concerning ICCAs and illustrates with examples eleven lessons learned in recognising and securing them all over the world. It has been reprinted in English and French in October 2012 with support from GIZ, and can be ordered free of charge – only mailing costs should be covered - from the ICCA Consortium (please contact aurelie@iccaconsortium.org ).

▶ Download the publication

[Image: Télécharger la publication]

**LIFE OF THE CONSORTIUM**

**New Members & Honorary Members**

The Consortium is delighted to welcome eleven new Members:

- **Anthrowatch**, a national NGO based in the Philippines
- **Brod Ecological Society**, a local NGO based in Croatia
- **Deccan Development Society**, a local NGO based in India
- **Fondazione Mediterranea Falchi**, a national NGO based in Italy
- **Foundation for Ecological Security**, a national NGO based in India
- **Kereimbas**, an indigenous people organisation from Bolivia
- **REPALEF**, a national federation of IPs&LCs in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Savia**, a national NGO based in Bolivia
- **UNICAMEL**, a national federation of tribal camel herders in Iran
- **UNINOMAD**, a national federation of tribal nomadic peoples in Iran
We are also warmly welcoming three new Honorary Members:

1. Charles Besancon, Programme Officer, CBD Secretariat, based in Canada
2. Corinne Arnould, Paroles de Nature, based in France
3. Jeffrey Campbell, Director of Grantmaking, The Christensen Fund, based in the USA

The Consortium is happy to welcome a new Regional Coordinator for Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa, Mr. Joseph Itwonga. Joseph is an indigenous Walikale from the North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He graduated in Rural Development and is currently Coordinator of the Network of indigenous peoples and local communities for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems (REPALEF) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Since March 2012, he is also a member of the technical committee of the similar network that covers the whole of Central Africa (REPALEAC). In addition to creating his own organization, Shirika La BAMBUTI, whose work he coordinates in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema, Joseph has been director or coordinator of several local or provincial organisations defending human and indigenous peoples’ rights. As such, he assured a number of times their representation in international meetings of the UN, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Bank. You can contact Joseph at: itojose2000@yahoo.fr.

We are also happy to be joined by Sergio Couto González as the new Consortium’s Regional Coordinator for West & South Europe. Sergio is a Spanish biologist whose original background is related to multidisciplinary, participatory and innovative approaches to the study, management and conservation of vertebrates and their ecosystems. Among other institutions, he has worked as a technician and researcher for the Pyrenean Institute of Ecology (CSIC), the European Commission and the Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO/BirdLife). He was also a consultant on wildlife management and inventory for the private sector and administration on several NPAs. Sergio’s professional experience on biodiversity conservation projects focused in developing quality tools to enhance local community participation and commitment on biodiversity conservation goals, especially in rural areas. His work led him to understand the crucial positive role of ICCA in our past and for our future, not only for their environmental, cultural and democracy rooted values, but also for their potential to help solving many of the environmental, social and economic challenges of our time. More recently Sergio has produced a national case study on ICCA recognition and support in Spain. You can contact Sergio at: sergiocouto@yahoo.es.
New: The Consortium blog!

Visit the blog at: http://iccaconsortium.wordpress.com
An accompaniment to our website, the blog is a hub of information for ICCA and Consortium news. It is managed by the Communications Officer, Vanessa Reid and most of its content comes from Consortium Members and Staff. It lists outcomes from local to international events, press releases, ICCA-related articles and publications, the work of Consortium Members and Staff and anything else related to ICCAs and the mission of the Consortium. If you would like something listed within the blog, write to Vanessa: vanessa@iccaconsortium.org. Please also remember to visit our Facebook page ‘ICCA Consortium’ and Twitter account ‘@iccaconsortium’ to keep up to date with the Consortium’s news.

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